

Australian South Devons

NEWSLETTER 5 2018

Welcome to the latest newsletter.

While some areas of the country have had relief rain, and indeed some areas are having a brilliant season, there are still large areas which are struggling in the grip of a horrendous drought and our thoughts are very much with those people.

This edition contains some results from Adelaide Royal Show; an update on the Lardner Park Steer Trials in Victoria; some unexpected and very welcome results from a Carcase competition the Bolinda cattle excelled in (NSW); a report on the Qld group field day and farm walk as well as news of an exciting business opportunity for some Victorian SD breeders and photos of South Devon cattle from around Australia.

As usual, and especially now as we will be moving to the Whitsunday area of Queensland after Christmas, I rely on news and photos from you, the members, to fill this newsletter. **Can all reports please be sent as word documents attached to an email?** This way I can just cut and paste, and it makes the newsletter so much easier to put together. **Otherwise I cannot include the article as I do not have time to retype them.** I have neither the software nor the skills to transpose pdf's into the newsletter. Photos that arrive as jpeg's can simply be inserted. At present I write 6 newsletters a year, roughly every second month. I need contributions to be on my computer two weeks prior to publishing – it takes time to put it all together into a coherent newsletter. Priority will always be given to reporting on field days, shows etc where SD members have their cattle out in front of the world promoting our breed. These people, through their own efforts, are our public face and ambassadors and I will always support them.

We have had a few of our members suffering indifferent health. I hope they are now on the mend and will be back enjoying their cattle by now.

CLASSIFIED AD;

South Devon cattle for sale; bulls and females, red and black. Variety of bloodlines, proven performers. Kildare – 02 67827245; 0427827245.

Kildare is in one of the parts of Australia that had enough rain to be hanging in there but not thriving. Hence the need to reduce numbers.

LARDNER PARK UPDATE.



Leonie Daley has sent me the latest weights for the Lardner Park steer trials, and as expected the SD entries are doing extremely well. I'll put three weights for each SD (X) steer here, so you can see how they have gone right from the start. I'll also add the group figure

for a comparison.

The photo above shows the Brejayanne steers which are SD x Charolais x Murray Grey.

All the steers appear to be around 12 months old when they go into the steer trials.

OWNER	BREED	TAG	1st wgt 1/8/18	2 nd wgt 5/9/18	3 rd wgt 10/10/18	LWT gain o'all	Av Daily gain o'all
Garratt	SD/Char/MG	11	319	371	433	114	1.63
Garratt	SD/Char/MG	12	332	401	477	145	2.07
Daley	SD	57	321	378	451	130	1.86
Daley	SD	58	345	405	480	135	1.93
Herd average			322	377	433	111	1.58



These are the Daley steers (bred by Peter Hutchinson). As you can see by the state of the pens, the weather has been a bit ordinary – especially by Queensland standards!

Still in Victoria; John and Sue Harvey from Torr Down have sent the following information and photos about SD happenings in their area – this new enterprise showcasing South Devon beef sounds very promising.

“SOUTH DEVON'S ON THE “MOOO” VE IN VICTORIA!!

A few months ago, John & Sue Harvey's neighbours, Brad & Trish Gooch, Winter Creek Farm, sent two pure 21-month-old South Devon steers, that they purchased from George Stephens as weaners, sired by Torr Down Hallmark 16, to be processed by a West Melbourne butcher. They dressed out at 271 & 279 kgs. The butcher was so delighted with them that he said, “I can handle one hundred bodies a year”! A tall order for this area when finding fifty would be a struggle.

However, with two Torr Down Bulls sold last year, to a Red Angus and a Black Angus herd recently producing fifty to sixty first cross calves, we could be on our way.



Jenny Strong, Seymour, bought T.D. Magnifico 8 out of T.D. Natalie 124 our top cow to go over her thirty plus Red Angus and is delighted with ease of calving and the “chunky conformation” of the calves.

David & Jo Nelson, Meredith, near Geelong, who bought Magnifico 11, sent us this email last week. “Starting a new venture can be a little daunting, but to hear words of



encouragement like yours, gives us extra motivation to succeed. We are confident that the South Devon breed will be part of our success, so thank you both for giving up a lot of your time and knowledge and for introducing us to the breed, they will play a part eventually in our label, Moorabool River Beef”.

Meanwhile Torr Down have just



sold the last of their 2-year-old bulls to Bernie and Margaret Blackshaw's nephew Rowan Blackshaw, at Thorpedale in Gippsland. He will be using them on 64 South Devon X Angus cows purchased from Bernie and Margaret.

We have retained T.D. Pioneer 4 our top scanned bull out of our best (in our opinion) cow Natalie 124 – see photo with her present heifer calf at foot. Pioneer will be used over our Magnifico bloodline females.”

QUEENSLAND PROMOTION GROUP FARM WALK. – my thanks to Kath McUtchen for this report – I didn't manage to get there.

'Sunday 16th September 2018 saw a small but enthusiastic group join South Devon Supporters Jim and Jenny Cross at their property 'Sapling Springs', Kumbia for the Qld South Devon Supporters Group Farm Walk. The morning began with a warm welcome from Jim and a short introduction about the 3 speakers who were going to be presenting sessions about advances in Farming Technology.

David & Melita Smith, co-founders of the Ceres Tag, gave an insightful presentation on their development of this new interactive style of NLIS tag complete with a GPS and a new double pin system guaranteed to minimise loss. This new tag is



being developed in conjunction with the MLA, the Federal Government and a number of other research facilities. The tag is currently in a research and development phase but will offer producers a greater insight into their cattle growth rates, feed conversion, location and where they like to graze. The tag will be interactive with MLA software and will be able to be down loaded onto smartphones for greater access to information at your fingertips. Tags can be set with a boundary so that you can be notified when an animal is outside of their designated paddock and the location will be a time saver when mustering as the cattle will have nowhere to hide.



Ceres Tags are working with Phil Tickle from CIBO Labs who is providing farmers with satellite imagery of their farms to assist with identifying bio mass density on their properties. Ultimately giving farmers a greater insight in to how much cattle feed is in their paddocks and allowing them to develop the less productive areas this is giving the farmers an option of increasing their carrying capacity. This technology can also be used when

deciding where to locate watering points in your paddocks as they can be positioned to greatly enhance the grazing efficiency of the cattle. This satellite imagery is currently being utilised by the government for vegetation management and through Phil's program we will be able to access them too.

The final Speakers of the day were Paul & Kay from JVA electric fencing. Paul is currently using 'Sapling Springs' as a test site for the one of their largest units they manufacture. JVA is proudly the only 100% Australian owned and manufactured electric fence energisers.



Paul and Kay brought with them a display of the variety of products which they currently have in their range, JVA offer both energisers which are mains powered and solar powered, some are also fitted with a Wi-Fi receiver which allows you to track the fencing and will alert you to any faults in the fences through an app on your smart phone or a link on your computer.

The end of Paul's presentation was the beginning of



the farm walk to inspect his products at work in the field. Jim and

Jenny utilise this technology to allow them to effectively manage the grass cover on their land. They also believe that this type of fencing is a cost-effective way to fence their property. Whilst on the farm walk Paul showed the group the model currently working at 'Sapling Springs'

and gave an outline of its capacity and highlighted the importance of having an effective 'earth' when using electric fencing. 'Often much of the power which the fence is generating is lost due to an ineffective earth' Paul explained.

The conclusion of the inspection of the electric fence and Pauls presentation signalled lunch and the start of the afternoon session, which was a tour of Jim & Jenny's property to view their South Devon x cattle. Lunch was interrupted by one of their dorper x ewes who decided to birth her twin lambs during that time (much to the delight of the McUtchen Children, two of whom had set up their camp chairs to watch the action earlier on.) After the excitement of the births we moved onto the afternoon session firstly viewing a selection of bulls which Jim and Jenny use in their breeding program including a selection of South Devon, Brahmans, Belmont Reds and Cross bred bulls.



We then moved onto the yards where Jim and his daughter Bec kindly showed us their South Devon X cows and calves. This was the completion of the day's activities which proved to be very insightful and gave those who attended something to think about when forward planning their own properties and herd management.

Many Thanks to Jim & Jenny and their family for allowing us to visit them and for their hospitality.'

NEWS FROM ADELAIDE ROYAL/South Australia.

From Daphne Lines;



"The Royal Adelaide Show has become the meeting place of our members and this year was no exception as we met at the Arkaba Hotel for our annual meeting and dinner, with a good representation of members present.

We welcomed the new owners of the Paltarra herd, Mr and Mrs Peter Gregory, who joined in the spirited discussion around our breed, its potential and problems associated with being a numerically smaller beef breed. We also took the opportunity to present Kaye Arnold with her Life Membership award.

13 steers were entered in the Beed Carcase section of the show. This competition gives students an exposure to the breed and opportunities to prepare a show animal. Much of the state is now in drought conditions, especially the Northern, Western and Mallee regions.

The Lower South East and Lower Eyre Peninsular have had average or above rainfall, and the Lower part of the Upper South East is presently doing OK.”

Thanks to Kaye Arnold for the following information.

‘Thomas Foods Award selection;

The selection of team of 3 is as follows. Individual breeds judge their own cattle on the hoof and have the scanned data for fat cover and EMA along with the weight available to them. The SD selectors are Neil Hagger and John Burston. **TFI team photo at bottom of page.**

Each steer is evaluated firstly by estimating the possible carcass weight (using anticipated dressing percentage – usually around 56% for SDs). This allows selectors to put them in the 3 main classes which all have a minimum and maximum carcass weight.

Light Domestic	200-250kg	fat range P8 (rump) 6-10mm	12/13 rib 5-8mm
Heavy domestic	250.1 – 300 kg	8-13mm	12/13 rib 5-9mm
Export	300.1 kg +	12-17mm	12/13 rib 7-12mm

The fat cover varies for each of these 3 main classes. This can be tricky as some dress out higher at say 60% and may go into a higher class which requires a higher level of fat. It is better to estimate the carcass weight by using a higher dressing % to eliminate this problem. As a judge for the breed, this has to be a strong consideration and any steers which could go into either of two classes may not be worth the risk.

So, the top 3 steers are chosen based on the electronic data plus visual, and whether they will meet the criteria for the class you estimate they will be in. These steers are nominated by ear tag number and submitted the night before the actual main judging.

The live judging classes are allocated on their live weight, again using the 3 main classes, they have smaller classes within these classes of about 15 entries each. Whilst they may start out as a light domestic steer on the hoof, that may change when they are slaughtered.

All teams are allocated points out of 100 on the hoof during the official judging. This score

is added to the carcass score of overall 300 points – the total points for each carcass in the team (out of 100 ea) is



combined. Highest score wins.

The SD team consisted of two export steers and one heavy domestic.'

Editor's note; Those SD members who attended the AGM in Adelaide a couple of years ago may remember the South Australian members airing their concerns with the scanning results from Adelaide Royal because there appeared to be significant discrepancies, I wasn't aware until this year, that the Adelaide steers are weighed and scanned prior to live judging and then again at slaughter (Brisbane only weighs prior to live judging and scans at slaughter). Having read the scan figures from before and after slaughter at Adelaide, I can see why the members voiced concerns. If we are to move to a commercial slaughter system that is scan based, so therefore supposedly much more accurate, how can there be a significant difference in scan figures in a matter of days? Technology is supposed to improve accuracy, but there appears to be a way to go yet in this area.

Scans pre-judging for the TFI team are shown in black, **carcase figures in red**;

No 43(Davelle); fat 8/6 **carcase 6/3**. EMA 108 **carcase 111**. Points lost on fat cover 20

No 156 (Paltarra bred; shown by Mt Compass Area School); fat 17/14 **carcase 20/11** EMA 107 **carcase 109**. Points lost on fat 8

No 104; (Davelle bred; shown by Faith Lutheran College); fat 10/7 **carcase 8/6** EMA 107 **carcase 98**, lost points plus 11 points for fat. This steer was a dark cutter which is unpredictable live.

Adelaide Royal Steer results for South Devon entries.

Reserve Champion Light Domestic Carcase – Booleroo Centre District School – Digger

Class 409. Purebred Export. 3rd DC & RD Leese

Class 512 Schools Light Domestic 2nd. Booleroo Centre District School.

SA Branch of SDCSA prize for Highest Scoring SD carcase; Karoonda Area School – Gum Hill Granger.



This is Paltarra Bentley – the very last of Kaye's Paltarra bred steers. He weighed 754 kg at 17 months, placed 2nd on the hook and was part of

the TFI team. Unfortunately, he was too feed efficient and lost points for too much fat.

Bits and Pieces from here and there.

The Bolte family have been out and about at local shows.



This is Ebenezer Park Nigel who was placed 3rd in the British bull 18 – 24 months at Coleraine show and was then used by all three kids in the Junior Encouragement Handlers classes, where they placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The judge then invited them to take part in the Junior Judging. Coleraine show is to be commended for their wonderful support of Juniors, as they added extra classes and the judge gave plenty of time to the encouragement classes.



Last hoorah for Bolinda cattle.

In the final competition for Bolinda bred cattle, the pen of three steers entered by the James Family in the Hunter Carcase Classic kept up their record by winning **Champion pen on the hoof**. They then went on to score 1st place with 90.96 points and 2nd place with 88.92 points in the light



Heavyweight unled section, also Reserve Champion. To top it off they were further awarded the **Champion pen of three carcasses**. Talk about going out on top!! **Huge congratulations to the James family.** These are two of the winning steers. Thanks to LachlanJames for the photos and information.

I have been assured that the following is based on a true event involving our dear Lion Mauree.

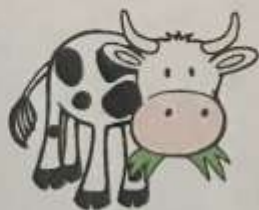
By H. Gouda

A while after selling Mauree a new pick-up, an auto dealer, we won't mention his company's name, called her about buying a cow.

Mauree said the cow would be "about \$500."

The car dealer arrived at the farm to find the following hanging on the stall:

Basic Cow.....	\$499.95
Extra Stomachs	\$79.25
Two-tone exterior.....	\$142.10
Deluxe dual horns.....	\$59.25
Produce storage compartments.....	\$126.50
4-spigot high-output drain system..	\$149.20
Heavy duty hay chopper.....	\$189.60
Automatic fly-swatter	\$88.50
Genuine Cowhide upholstery	\$179.90
Automatic fertilizer attachment.....	\$339.40
4-by-4 traction drive assembly.....	\$884.16
Farmer Adjustment.....	\$300.00
Pre-delivery wash and comb.....	\$69.80
Delivery.....	\$33.75
Total price, including options.....	\$3,141.36



That was supplied by Mauree so we could have a little chuckle.

I have some photos I am going to add on this page just because I like them.



These cuties are at Brejyanne in Victoria.



That's all for this issue folks – stay well and safe.

My email address is; gh.lindsay@bigpond.com

I hope you enjoyed this edition of our newsletter Can I please have stories and photos of youth and SD for the next one?

Heather Lindsay, Editor.