

AUSTRALIAN SOUTH DEVON NEWSLETTER NO 2 – 2019.

Welcome to the latest newsletter.

In this issue we have a couple of excellent carcase results for South Devon cross cattle in two very different parts of Australia, plus some show results from Victoria and Queensland. Also, some results from the Davelle sale, which unfortunately I didn't have for the previous newsletter – David sent them but they are still lost in cyber space somewhere. The Lardner Park field days report will feature in the next edition – it was unavoidably delayed.

By now all members should have received their ballot papers for the upcoming AGM.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE .

First cab off the rank this edition is the wonderful result achieved by Neil and Yvonne Hagger in the Grass fed Carcase competition in South

Australia, where they won the Champion Carcase Award. Neil sent this report – he's a man of few words!!



'The Southern Grass-fed Carcase Classic has been conducted at Teys Australia in Naracoorte for the last 11 years. Originally growers selected 1,3 or 10 animals from their herd to be killed in October/November. The number of animals selected depended on which classes a grower wished to enter. About 300 carcasses a year were originally assessed for the competition.

The restricted delivery dates did not suit all districts so for 3 years competition animals have been taken at the works from late



September to February, so all growers have the chance to deliver stock in prime condition. Carcases are now assessed from a complete consignment of eligible grass-fed MSA accredited cattle. Consignments ranged in size this year from 10 to 170 animals with 38 growers delivering 1619 competition animals.

We delivered 38 eligible steers 18 to 24 months on 9th November last year. From those entries we came 4th in a team of 10, 3rd with a team of 3 and also had the Grand Champion Carcase.

The top carcase had been 1st in its class of 260 to 340kg. The 315kg carcase had eye muscle area of 94sq cm, 11mm rib fat and 13 mm rump fat. It scored maximum points for market specifications and saleable meat yield. The outstanding feature was its MSA marble score of 580 which boosted its eating quality points and an overall total of 91.29.



The top steer was by a pure South Devon "Watinga" G100 out of a $\frac{3}{4}$ South Devon commercial cow also by a home bred bull G111.

Overall, we had a 96% MSA compliance compared to 92% for all competition animals.

We have always targeted the EU grass-fed market and these results show we are supplying what our market wants.'

An excellent result – well deserved!

Sarah Bolte sent me the following three pages of photos from her local shows, where the Ebenezer Park cattle very capably promoted our breed – and gave a lot of pleasure to the kids.

Tyrendarra Show February 2019



Ebenezer Park Pablo was Champion South Devon Bull



All 3 kids took part in junior parading under 14 years. It was a big class that ended up being split up into beginner and more experienced.
Stephanie & Nigel



Katherine & Pablo



Peter & Paddy

Friends giving the kids some pointers/help.

Kids hanging out with the bulls





Balmoral Show March 2019

Girls took over and led the bulls for the day.



3rd in
pairs



Handler Class



Katherine & Paddy won reserve grand
champion bull and champion South Devon



Stephanie and Nigel

Rick McDouall reports that Kildare and another (British) breed of cattle both put 200 steers on feed at the same time. The first 25 steers ready to go were all South Devons – more proof of South Devon feed efficiency.

News from Davelle;

David Leese sent the following report from Davelle South Devons, regarding their sale held earlier this year.



'Lot 11 Davelle Cook Kobie N59 was one of the first sons of new genetics imported from the USA (MJB Cool 548C). An August 2017 bull, he weighed 520 kg as a yearling with an EMA of 88 and fats of 3/3 and an IMF of 1.3. He had a \$Profit of \$19711 top 0.5%. Sold to Oliver Nominee Avenue Range for \$5000. They liked his

overall performance and balance, "just a real good bull".

Lot 7 Davelle Black Rich N45 an MJB Cool 548C son sold to CG & J Coe, Henty NSW, to be used in their cross breeding programme where the South Devon is used to produce cross bred females. The black South Devon suits their programme. He had a \$Profit index of \$17320 top 2.2%. Sold for \$4000.

Lot 4 Davelle Black Nate N15 \$Profit 16410 top 3.8% sold to Rn & YM Hagger Bordertown SA for \$3000.

All black South Devon bulls sold. They are gaining in popularity, crossing over Angus females and keeping the F1 females as future breeders. They add hybrid vigour while maintaining the British look.

Lot 10 Davelle Cool Prime N56 an MJB Cool 548C son \$Profit \$16933 top 2.8% sold to long term clients Willybee Pastoral, Wudinna for \$3000. 2 bulls were kept for private sale; DVPN 50 and DVPN 52.

15 South Devon females were offered with no sales. It's disappointing to see good cows sent off to slaughter as there is limited feed to take them through to calving.

A tough sale for a small beef breed.'

Carcase win for South Devon cross steer in Qld.



In the Burnett region of South East Qld, a small South Devon presence is making its mark on the show scene, with cattle from the Brian Smith family consistently winning and placing at local shows.

Star performer so far has been this good looking steer which won the Carcase competition at Gayndah show. He weighed 630 kg, with an EMA of 111 and total points of 78, a clear 7 points ahead of the equal second placegetters.



Two more winners have been this heifer who has consistently won and placed at the local shows in the South Burnett, and the weaner (photo below) who commenced his career with a win at Mt Perry show. All of these cattle are by a South Devon bull out of Droughtmaster females.



Congratulations to the Smith family – good to see our breed getting out there in Open competition.

More Queensland South Devon doings.

The McUtchen family from Jambili Stud are out and about again in the showring this year. At the local Jandowae show and then Toowoomba Royal, the following awards were won.



Jambili Naholo – 17 mths (Torr Down Merlin 20 x Athlone Faith).

Jandowae – Junior Ch British bull. Supreme British bull.

Toowoomba – Junior and Grand Champion South Devon bull.

(This bull is a real Qld effort on the female side with a mixture of

Athlone, Ashlea and Twin Vales bloodlines.)

Jambili Nonu – 24 mths. (MJB United x Davelle Fearless Iris)

Jandowae – Senior Champion British bull.

Toowoomba – Senior Champion South Devon bull.



Jambili Pocock – (Athlone Mack x Davelle Fearless Rose).

As you can see, Callum has taken control of Pocock.

Jandowae – 1st in Class

Toowoomba – Calf Champion bull.

Jambili Nala (Torr Down Merlin 20 x Athlone Gardenia)

Toowoomba – Junior and Grand Champion South Devon Female.

There are some steer placings, but I will hold them till next edition and include photos.



For some more photos of McUtchen kids with SD x cattle, how about these two from the junior handlers? First up is Callum and Alannah with their two steers and then the two girls, Erin and Alannah(at the front) grooming **Bricky** prior to heading in to the

ring.

Callum is leading **Whodat** and Alannah has **Brick with Eyes** (aka **Bricky**).



BITS AND PIECES.

Graham and I won't be at the AGM this year – there's a lot of stuff going on at the moment with our move, and we just can't be in two places at the same time. We've tried to do it a couple of times recently – and it doesn't work!!

We would have loved to go, as we have never been to that part of NSW. I hope it is a very good week and we wish the organisers all the best. Could I please have a report (with photos, including the steer competition, from one of them (Mick?) for the next newsletter.

Next newsletter will start with the AGM coverage and go from there. Any news from shows, field days, carcass competition etc gratefully received. I need the info by the middle of June so I can have the newsletter out by the end of June.

I know there are a lot of South Devon bulls in particular that have been sold to commercial breeders. How about SD breeders do a follow up story on where their bulls have gone and what their progeny are doing?

It is no secret that I think the strength of the South Devon breed is in their ability to cross well with just about every breed and impart South Devon attributes to the cross. We must have pure South Devons to maintain the core supply, but it is the commercial (and usually cross bred) cattle that will advance our breed.

As has been seen in two articles here, there are stories of successful SD cross cattle out there. We need to track them down and tell everyone about them!

Happy Reading

Heather Lindsay

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