

# AUSTRALIAN SOUTH DEVONS – NEWSLETTER NO 3 2019.

Welcome to The Latest Newsletter.

In this issue we have coverage of the Lardner Park Farm World Field days; Farmfest Field days at Toowoomba and also another excellent carcass result.

Due to the quality and quantity of the reports submitted to me on the SD AGM and tour, and the South Coast Steer Show, I have made them into a separate report which will follow very closely behind this newsletter.

## **Another win for South Devons in a carcass Competition.**



Last night (Friday 5th July), the McUtchen family (Jambili South Devons) were awarded the prestigious Grand Champion Carcass award for their steer (SD x Brahmousin) in the Callide Carcass Competition at Biloela in Central Queensland. Full story on the next page. Following on from the win by the Watinga cattle in South Australia, That's two big wins for South Devons at opposite ends of Australia. Congratulations to James and Kath and the kids.

Most of you will have seen the proposed itinerary for the 2020 World Conference to be held in New Zealand. My reaction when I saw it was 'wow – that's on the expensive side', and I was hoping for it to be less than three weeks because that is quite a long time to be away when you have cattle. HOWEVER, it was our intention for Graham and I to attend, but our truck has just died and has to be replaced so that may have rather drastically altered our travel plans. I would urge any members who can attend to do so. You will have wonderful memories forever and the friendship of the world South Devon 'Family' is something to be treasured.

Sue McDouall asked me to pass on a very big 'Thank You' from her to the 'South Devon family' for the assistance provided to her during the recent AGM and tour. She said she could never have managed it without the care and consideration shown to her by the members and supporters, and she just wanted to acknowledge how much she appreciated everything that was done for her.

## Jambili's Cattle Perform on the Hook

This year's 31st Callide Dawson Carcase Competition at Biloela was their biggest yet, Tey's Biloela processed 784 head from 75 exhibitors for the Grass and Grainfed Competitions judged over 11 classes, making this competition Queensland's largest Carcase Competition. The Grainfed cattle are all fed at the Warnoah Feedlot, Moura. Steers are fed for 100 days and heifers for 70. Grassfed and Grain Assisted cattle are prepared by the exhibitors before being trucked to Tey's Biloela to be processed between the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of June.

The McUtchen Family have been entering for the past 11 years, enjoying varying degrees of success almost every year. James said, 'Our Cattle aren't just bred to look pretty for the show ring, they have to be able to hang up as well, ultimately that is where our profit is.' This year they had just the one South Devon Entry in Class 11 Grain Assisted Single Steer or Heifer not exceeding 4 teeth. This competition provides detailed carcase feedback which is vital to assist them with their breeding programs. This year their home bred steer really hit the specifications winning the class in front of 55 other entries of varying breeds.



The Steer, South Devon (Ashlea bred) x Brahmousin dressed 371.8 kg and had an EMA of 121cm<sup>2</sup>, fat 12/10. Milk Tooth scored a total of 169.85 points.

The Family decided it would be a good night and made the 9-hour round trip to attend the presentation dinner. "We are over the moon with our success - it really was an amazing night." Kath said.

The McUtchen family were interviewed by Pip Courtney and will appear on a Landline programme later in the year. In 2009, James and Kath also won the competition with a South Devon x Brahman steer. James and Kath will continue to support the competition as funds raised from it supports various charities as well as local show societies in the Callide Dawson Region. Kath - 'It's a very well-organized competition and I would encourage everyone to enter, the feedback you receive is invaluable'





Rick and Sue McDouall of Kildare have successfully negotiated the sale of 60 pure South Devon heifers (PTIC and calves at foot) to a large multi-national farming company in Tasmania, where they will be joined to English Longhorns to provide quality meat

for their restaurants. Glan and Daphne Lines (Gumhill) just happened to be at Kildare on the day all the action was happening, so Daphne has provided us with the following photos. The cattle were transported by road and then shipped across Bass Strait by ferry. The heifers and progeny all arrived safely at their new home. Although the weather would have been a stark contrast to Northern NSW, the Tasmanian weather greeted them with a chilly -5

*Photo Above is the team having a smoko break either during or after the vet checking of the heifers.*



*On the left is a photo of the heifers which were relocated to Tasmania.*



‘We have been visiting Kildare over a 10 year period and have never seen the paddocks this bare – the cattle look very well considering the length of the drought there – a credit to their feeding program.’  
(Editor)



## Changes in the Chevalley South Devon Stud

Chevalley South Devons owned by Colin and Helen Chevalley has had a very difficult past twelve months.

The continuing drought and health issues have forced them to make the hard decision to scale back the size of their herd and deregister females. "Fortunately, we have been able to maintain our South Devon, South Brahvon and Brahman breeders".



*Photo above right is a Chevalley South Brahvon cow.*

*Below far left is a photo of the terribly dry paddocks at Colin's.*

*Middle is a young South Devon female and the pretty heifer is one of Colin's gyrs*



~

***Gaylene Garratt has kindly provided the following report from the Lardner Park Farmworld Field days earlier in the year. Without members like the Garratt family (and the Daley's before them) there would be no south Devon display at these field days, and the breed would be all the poorer.***

## 'FARM WORLD 2019 – LARDNER PARK VICTORIA

Farm World 2019 was held at Lardner Park Victoria from April 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>.

In what was a very dry start to the year, all four days were sunny and mild with some very cool nights.

We took four animals this year. **Brejoyanne Patrick**, (**Brejoyanne Titan** x **The Bend Jazz**), a young bull with an exceptional temperament (see photo below), his mum **The Bend Jazz** who had never really been handled but took to the halter like a champion and the two big heifers **Brejoyanne Nandina** (**Brejoyanne Titan** x **Brejoyanne Daisy**) and **Brejoyanne Natalie** (**Davelle Ace Remington** x **Brejoyanne Mia**).



We had some great feedback over the four days and had strong interest for bulls and semen. Those that had South Devons or have had them in the past had some great stories to tell. A man visiting from England came up to us almost in tears. He explained that as a young man growing up in England, his involvement with South Devons helped him through some really tough times and he was surprised to see them at Farmworld as they are not a widely known breed.

Many others came past not knowing much at all about our breed, so it was great to be able to get them out there for all to see. There was definitely more interest and enquiries for animals this year than has been in the past.

Mia, very social for those that don't know her, had an absolute blast. She was right in her element and loved to do her Mooer Minute updates on Facebook... and pat and brush the animals just as people walked past. She sure did attract some crowds to her brushing demonstrations. Many of the kids who visit Farmworld are from the city and have never been up close to big animals. They were amazed by how quiet the cattle were.... And by her brushing skills. It was beautiful to watch.



Thankfully the family all pitched in to help in various ways to make it all happen. Emily at 8 months pregnant still went out early morning on the four days and spent the days helping out on the site. The boys all helped out with the tools and the campervan, which sadly didn't quite make it home in one piece. Let's just say that were we to be sleeping in the ends when the top decided to collapse, we would have been stuck like jaffles in a jaffle iron.

**Have a good look at these lovely**

### heifers!

It is exhausting to try and coordinate the four day outing each year with work commitments but definitely worth it for the promotion we can get out there for the breed. They do attract a lot of interest and we had a lot of comments about how quiet and content the cattle were.

There was also a lot of discussion about the value of entering carcase competitions. For those breeders that haven't got time for the show ring, like us, please consider entering Carcase Competitions. They are a valuable tool for our breed, and we can excel in them as was the case with Neil and Yvonne Hagger's' win in the Southern Grassfed Carcase Classic. Our nations' largest grassfed carcase competition. What a fantastic result!

We will be back to Farmworld 2020, to be held in March. Any other studs are most welcome to come along and join us. Just contact us through our Facebook page if interested. The facilities are fairly good for the animals, not so good for the humans, there is a bit of camping involved.

We hope you are getting some rain, wherever you might be in this big brown land of ours.

Gaylene Garratt.

Brejayanne South Devons.'

~

### Farmfest 4-6 JUNE 2019 – Kingsthorpe Park, Queensland

This year the South Devon Breed was represented by two studs at Farmfest, Ashlea (Ross & Del Cauley) and Jambili (McUtchen Family) however genetically Ashlea, Athlone, Bolinda, Davelle, Jambili, Kildare and Torr Down Studs were all on display. This variety of genetics gave the public the opportunity to view the different styles of South Devon Cattle available, all had the amazing temperament quality our cattle are famous for. The Jambili Bull **Nonu** proved to be a favourite amongst the younger attendees as his docility allowed them to get up close and personal.



Farmfest began on Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of June welcoming everyone with icy winds clocking 50 km/h with a -5 degree wind chill. This saw everyone rugged up and the hair on even the smoothest coated cattle standing on end. Tuesday is a day for led steers and the junior judges and paraders competitions. Our breed was represented by the Downlands School who exhibited South Devon x steers.



Wednesday's weather proved to be a complete turnaround with the day beginning with a light frost and progressing into a very warm Autumn Day with no breeze. This saw everyone shedding their layers and enjoying the sunshine. This also brought members of the public out to enjoy the cattle. The Battle of the Bulls competition was judged in British, European and Tropical classes with Juniors up to 19 months and Seniors 19 months and over.



**Jambili Pocock** (10 months) *Photo left* competed in the Junior Bull British Class, he paraded well but finished middle of the class as older bulls were placed above him. *Photo below is Jambili Nonu*

**Jambili Nonu** (27 months) competed in the Senior Bull British Class he placed second between



two Murray Grey Bulls, which was a very pleasing result.

Thursday saw the Judging of the Fantastic Females and the announcement of the winner of the Cattleman's Cup. **Jambili Nala** (21 months PTIC) and **Bolinda Blossom** with **Jambili QT** (Kildare Monsieur) at foot paraded in the Senior British Females class, although both finished out of the ribbons, they paraded well and received favourable comments from the Judge.

The Cattleman's cup is a competition which animals are weighed and scanned. This year Jambili presented 5 bulls and their Heifer Nala for scanning. All of the Cattle scanned extremely well with **Jambili Naholo** winning his bull class and **Jambili Nala** receiving a Highly Commended. Both Animals were led out to the main ring to be presented to the public and their figures discussed by the competition organiser Leon Martin from Natural Eco Systems Group. **Jambili Nala** received her highly commended due to her high IMF score of 6.1, her EMA of 119cm<sup>2</sup> and as a previous class winner in 2018. In his comments Leon highlighted that this kind of score in a young female was almost unheard of and was expected in females around the 4 years of age. Both animals were out of Athlone Cows by Torr Down Merlin 20 (Grand Champion South Devon Exhibit Royal Qld Show 2017). What was most satisfying was that all South Devon cattle scanned in the Super Elite Group. The overall cup was won this year by a Simmental Bull.



Jamb

Overall the three days proved to be a great opportunity to showcase our breed to the public. The interest shown in our cattle was tremendous, our fingers (and toes) are now



crossed for that initial interest to grow into something more.



*For those who like to read scan figures, here they are.*

Jambili Nala – 22mths – 610 kg – rib 10 – rump 15 – imf 6.1 – ema 119.23

Jambili Poidevin – 9mths – 330kg – rib 6 – rump 6 – imf 4.3 – ema 79.27

J Polota Nau – 10 mths – 308 kg – rib 3.8 – rump 5.3 – imf 3.8 – ema 96.37

J Pocock – 10.5 mths – 389 kg – rib 6 – rump 6 – imf 4.3 – ema 97.14

J Naholo – 21 mths – 714 kg – rib 8 – rump 9 – imf 5.2 – ema 117.39

J Nonu – 26 mths – 1042 kg – rib 11 – rump 19 – imf 5 – ema 138.58



Next edition of the newsletter will have Brisbane Royal Show results plus any other show/competition results that anyone would like to supply.

If anyone has good photos of calves – either pure South Devon or South Devon cross, I will add them to the newsletter. Please include an explanatory story with the photos. As always, I need the script as a word doc and the photos as jpeg. My email address is; [gh.lindsay@bigpond.com](mailto:gh.lindsay@bigpond.com)

**The next newsletter is due out at the end of August, so I need contributions by the middle of the month please.**

**Till then – Happy Reading.**

Heather Lindsay – Newsletter editor