

AUSTRALIAN SOUTH DEVONS – NEWSLETTER NO 4 – 2019.

Welcome to the latest newsletter.

Unfortunately, too many of us are still battling this dreadful drought, with some bushfires thrown in just to really try things, and people, out. Because of the continuing adverse weather conditions, it was decided at the recent council meeting that the next edition of 'The South Devon Review' will be put on hold until the AGM next April. Hopefully by then more favourable weather conditions will allow members to do some forward planning for advertising. If anyone has ideas for feature articles for the 'Review', I would be very pleased to hear from them at any time. I would like to have some, if not most, of the feature articles ready to go by April so we only have to include the advertising and we'll be ready to roll.

In this edition of the newsletter we have results from both Brisbane and Adelaide Royal Shows plus some bits and pieces of general interest.

As always, I invite people to submit articles, photos and results for inclusion. Can you please submit written articles as a word doc so that I can cut and paste straight to the newsletter – saves me having to retype the article. My grateful thanks to the contributors who are already doing this for me.

Our 2020 AGM will be held in Sydney during Sydney show, which is from Friday 3rd April to Tuesday 14th April. Exact dates for the AGM and dinner are not yet available, but members will be responsible for booking their own accommodation. There will be no group booking done by the SD society. General opinion seems to favour staying in the city with access to the train for transport to and from the showgrounds. Keep an eye on the Facebook page (Australian South Devons) because I can update that as soon as I have a firm date. I would expect that the sooner you book, the better choice and price of accommodation will be available.

Lee Pippard from Tannoch Farms has kindly agreed to take on the role of **Website co-ordinator**. I'll put contact details for Lee in the next newsletter, so send anything that needs doing in the next few weeks to me and I'll forward it. I am very thankful that Lee has taken on this role, as Graham and I have just moved to a permanent address and we have an enormous amount of work to do. We have 100 acres of good scrub country, but it has been vacant for some years and is in pretty ordinary condition.

BRISBANE ROYAL (AKA 'THE EKKA').

This year Graham and I were only able to attend for the day of the South Devon judging, so Kath McUtchen has provided a report of the happenings from the Jambili/Kildare show team.



'2019 Saw the McUtchen Children enter their first ever steer in the Junior Led Steer Section 'Pick Pocket' was a South Devon X steer bred by the children out of their South Devon Cow Pocket Rocket (See South Devon Magazine 2015) Gorgie Plowman a friend of the McUtchen Family was kind enough to parade the steer on their behalf. Pick Pocket was shown in Class 17 400-450kg live weight, he went over the scales at 417kg.



Junior Led Steers were judged by Travis Iseppi Ellendale Simmentals, Travis deliberated quite a while before placing Pick Pocket second and then Reserve Champion behind a striking Speckle Park steer. This broad ribbon not only gave the South Devon Breed additional recognition but also allowed the McUtchen children to sell their steer through the Led Steer Auction the following day. Gorgie was also kind enough to finish what she'd started by leading

him in the sale, where he was purchased by Woolworths for \$8 per kg, which proved to be the second highest price for the Junior Steers. Unfortunately Pick Pocket didn't receive a ribbon for the hook as just Champion and Res are awarded. No mention yet what the kids plan to do with their winnings. ***That's a front and back view of Jambili steer Pick Pocket.***

Friday August 9th, 2019 saw the judging of South Devons at the Royal Brisbane Show, (otherwise known as the Ekka.) The day produced an enthusiastic crowd of supporters, some who travelled from as far as Mackay to attend the judging. Our breed was represented by the Kildare and Jambili Studs - although small in numbers the quality was very high.



The day belonged to **Jambili Nonu**, being named Champion South Devon Bull and then named Grand Champion South Devon Exhibit. While making his comments Judge Tim Light described Nonu as a 'Game Changer' for the breed. Nonu also was a hit with the public posing for many photos and allowing school children to get up

close and personal.



Bolinda Blossom with **Jambili QT** at foot was named Champion South Devon Female. Judge Tim Light commented on her capacity and her exceptional udder conformation, he also commended her on the job she was doing growing her calf. QT and her parader Callum McUtchen (Jambili) were also as popular as Nonu being photographed by the media and interviewed for television again.



Reserve Champion Bull went to **Jambili Naholo** who stood 2nd to

Nonu in their Senior Bull Class. Naholo was placed ahead of junior class winner Kildare Pharaoh. Naholo's genetics are no stranger to broad ribbons at the Ekka his sire Torr Down Merlin 20 took the stripes home in 2017.

Kildare Pharaoh (below left) the only black South Devon Bull exhibited he won his class over **Jambili Pocock** (below far left). Judge Tim Light commented that it was growth for age and ring presence which placed him over the younger Jambili entry.



All of the bulls scanned exceptionally well;

Jambili Nonu	138cm2	20/13
Jambili Naholo	126cm2	12/12
Kildare Pharaoh	96cm2	8/5
Jambili Pocock	104cm2	7/5

We look forward to Ekka 2020 and would encourage more exhibitors to consider showing our breed. This year was the first year all stud cattle were housed in the dual purpose cattle pavilion. This building is normally a multilevel carpark for the other 49 weeks of the year. The new structure has increased water pressure as well as twice the number of wash bays and tie up spaces. It is designed for maximum air flow which ensures the comfort of the stalled animals and exhibitors.'

ADELAIDE ROYAL / NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

I have received three reports from South Australia; from David Leese, Kaye Arnold and also Daphne Lines. Because I appreciate the effort that has gone into providing these reports, and also because everyone sees things from a slightly different perspective, I will use all three of them in the order in which they were received.

First up is the comprehensive report from David Leese.

"2019 Royal Adelaide Show Carcass Competition

9 South Devon steers were exhibited at this year's show. Steers came from Neil and Yvonne Hagger (Bordertown and Coomandook schools), David and Rochelle Leese (Jamestown and Faith schools and 3 themselves), Willybee Pastoral (Wudinna school) and Angus Anderson (brought from David and Rochelle Leese to compare Charolais and South Devon).

There were changes this year, with the competition brought forward with judging on the Sunday. The change caused about 40 steers not entered as many schools didn't want to be there over the weekend and for some schools made it a very long show with steers, goats, sheep, etc.

The new format gave an extra day to settle the steers and to have a range of education events for the schools. The TFI Teams selection was made throughout the day. The South Devon team consisted of entries 44 Davelle Black Nant, 43 Davelle Nant and 159 Willybee Jagga.

Saturday night saw a member's dinner at the Arkaba with many in attendance, Roy and Joy Scragg, Glan and Daphne Lines, Kaye Arnold and Ray, Neil and Yvonne Hagger and David and Rochelle Leese. Yvonne Hagger gave a report on their win in the Southern Grass-fed Carcass Classic.

Hoof judging started 9am Sunday with the Breeders Steers. Highlights being Davelle steers coming 3rd and 4th in their classes. School steers were next, Faith school scored a 4th.

The steers were sent to Teys at Naracoorte for hook judging. Presentations were held on Wednesday evening. It was amazing to see the scores. It was the best carcass results ever seen. The winner was a Simmental steer that scored an amazing 97.44 points.

Some results –

Breeders Heavy Domestic – the first 8 steers scored over 90 points. Angus Anderson came 4th with 91.06. Davelle steers didn't get a place with scores of 90.79 and 88.57.

Breeders Export – Davelle steer came 4th with 90.63 points

Schools Heavy Domestic – Bordertown school (Hagger) steer came 4th 89.94 points, Coomandook school (Hagger) 87.06 points, Jamestown school (Davelle) 85.18 points and Faith school (Davelle) 85.11 points.

Schools Export – Wudinna (Willybee) came 3rd 89.27 points

In all a fair result for the breed, all steers met or were very close to specifications. The biggest difference I saw in the whole competition was Marbling and how that influences overall scoring – the high scoring carcasses had very high MSA Marbling scores. Eating Qualities now account for 50 points in the scoring.



TFI Team Steers from left to right Wudinna, Davelle and Davelle came overall 4th

From Kaye Arnold;

Royal Adelaide Show Led Steer Summary.

The team of 3 SD's did very well, as did the other 6 SD animals resented.

No wonder John Burston and I had a difficult time selecting the SD team of 3 to compete against the other breeds, when there were only 5.95 points between the top SD carcass (91.06 pts) and the bottom (85.11).

The individual scores were really good for all of the 9 SD steers. The team of 3 came 4th overall (when adding the hoof points and the carcass points together for the Thomas Foods International Trophy).

Interestingly the SD team came 2nd in the team of 3 for Overall Carcass points.

WE lost points in the live judging only gaining 62.6/100, coming 11th out of the 12 breeds competing, with the Simmentals winning the on the hoof points section with 86.6.

So, we started the carcass section with a considerable handicap. Our team of three collectively scored 268.63/300 for carcass, coming second to the Simmentals with 273.7.

Our carcass results have always been the breed's biggest asset in the competitive arena.

Congratulations to the breeders for the excellent line up of very good cattle.

The overall Competition had 162 head entered.



FROM DAPHNE LINES;

A magnificent line up of South Devons was presented once again at the 2019 Royal Adelaide Show, and despite being overlooked on the hoof, the carcass results again proved the quality of the breed.

The team of 3 (Thomas Food Trophy) selected by John Burston and Kaye Arnold, though unplaced on the hoof, scored second place on the hook with a combined score of 268.93 – the

winners having scored 273.7. Hoof scores by the judge were a low 62.6 points, with the winning team scoring 86.6, so we were behind before hanging.

The even carcasses showed only 5.59 points difference between all entries, with good placings achieved.

Top scoring SD carcass was shown by Angus Anderson with 4th placing in the Heavy Domestic Class – 91.06 points. There were 27 entries in this class and 7th and 12th placings were taken by South Devons.

In the Heavy Domestic 251 – 300 kg class, school entries from Bordertown with 89.94 placed 4th, Coomandook 14th, Jamestown 16th and Faith College 17th in a class of 30 and were a credit to the participating schools. From the 9 South Devon entries, 4 ribbons were gained.

Congratulations to all who participated.

ED NOTE; Congratulations not only to the school students who presented the South Devons, but also to the breeders who supplied them with steers. These things don't just happen – there's a whole lot goes on behind the scenes.



Photo from the South Australian South Devon dinner.

BITS AND PIECES.



Immediately after the judging at Ekka, Kath and I were approached by a lady with a very small girl who wanted to get up close and personal with a 'big cow'. We handed the little girl through the fence and she then proceeded to tentatively pat, then rub all over, and then sit on Nonu. Eventually she was prised off and she and her mother left. About 20 minutes later they were back with another sister who also wanted to sit on the 'big cow'. Ella and Zara spent a considerable amount of time looking over Nonu, checking

out his tail, counting his feet, giving him lots of pats and admiring the size of his nose. They even wanted to take him home to their backyard. When the Interbreed judging was on, they and their mother were in the audience cheering for Nonu – their new friend. This is priceless advertising for the temperament of our breed, as most other breeds do not encourage this sort of interaction with the public.

Early in 2019, the Gadsby and Richter families approached Jambili to purchase a SD X steer which would be suitable for their young families to show. A striking yellow steer was chosen and named **Radar**. His gentle, easy-going nature made him a perfect choice for them.



Radar competed at Toogoolawah and Boonah shows before heading to the Ekka for the Open led steer section. He was such a hit with his young owners that he even had his own merchandise and cheer squad on judging day.

‘The rapport the Gadsby and Richter families had with **radar** makes it easier to part with our cattle. Knowing that their new owners receive as much enjoyment from them as we do when we see them being presented by others really means a lot to us’ says Kath. She then went on to say that ‘**Radar** was my pick for the show team; he had been a favourite of mine since he was a

few days old. When Jamie and Aiden came to select a steer, it was easy to let him go because we knew he was going to a good home.’

During **Radar**’s show preparation, the McUtchens would often receive photos of his progress and the pampering he was receiving from his small custodians.

On his final outing, **Radar** paraded exceptionally well but unfortunately placed out of the ribbons. *The photo above shows **Radar** and his cheer squad in their supporter shirts in centre ring at the Ekka.*

Just because I have a spare space on the page – here’s a photo of the brand new Ekka cattle stalls. This was on the third floor, with an immediate view over sideshow alley – you could watch the cattle with one eye and the people on the wild water ride with the other.



Don't forget to keep an eye on the Facebook page for the dates for the agm and dinner in Sydney next April.

My new postal address is;

Athlone South Devons, 1159 Carmila West Road, Carmila QLD 4739.

Email and phone numbers are still ; gh.lindsay@bigpond.com and 0427630711.

Stay safe everyone, hopefully the rain will come soon.

Happy Reading. Heather Lindsay – Editor.