

AUSTRALIAN SOUTH DEVONS

NEWSLETTER 1. 2020.

Welcome to the first newsletter for the New Year.

My apologies for being quite a bit later than planned with this newsletter, but like everyone else, we have had a very hectic schedule recently.

FIRST UP; The AGM and Dinner planned for Sydney Royal.

As we all know, Sydney royal has been cancelled. This means that the AGM which was to have been held on Friday night 3rd April has been rescheduled as per the latest email from David McDonald. It will now be a telephone meeting on 28th April- details in the email.

Editor.

Our flights were booked directly with Qantas and we have already been able to change them to a voucher to be used by the end of this year. We could have just cancelled and received a full refund. I'm sure other airlines will have to follow suit. But good on Qantas for being so quick to have their solution up and running online.

No doubt there will be numerous other shows, field days etc - Toowoomba cancelled, Lardner Park Field days probably also cancelled or postponed due to this insidious virus. I don't think we can imagine the final cost this is going to inflict on people and the economy.

a quick reminder – if like us you've been a bit slack and not yet renewed your membership – better do it promptly or you will be ineligible to vote; both in the election of councillors if an election is required and also at the AGM. Our membership renewal and FIS return has now been posted!!.

News from the Bolte Family. – Thanks Sarah!

"We have had a busy few months at Ebenezer Park in southern Victoria!

January had us busily getting heifers and Paddy ready for the Stud Beef Victoria Handlers Camp that's held at Geelong. This was my girl's first handlers camp and safe to say they had an amazing time. This camp is all about teaching the basics and having fun along the way. This year we also donated some ballot animals for kids/adults who don't have cattle of their own to bring along.



Girls in one their classes



Katherine with
Ebenezer Park
Queen Athena
talking to the
judge.

Katherine placed
3rd in this class.

Stephanie with Ebenezer Park Queen Clarion came first in one of her classes.



Ebenezer Park Queen of Hearts and Hannah earn



themselves a reserve champion.

Ebenezer Park Queen Ellinor and handler Damion with a 2nd.



Ebenezer Park Paddy and Laura

On Tuesday the 4th February Ebenezer Park participated in beef week that is held at the Mt Gambier Show ground where a group of local cattle breeder come together as the limestone coast combined to have 8 studs on display. This year saw a noticeable drop in numbers but that was to be expected with trying conditions a lot of people are experiencing. ☹

Photos courtesy of Stephanie Bolte who convinced the principal to give her a day pass to come along to beef week!



Yearling bulls on display



24 month old bulls on display

Next was Tyrendarra show on Saturday 8th February

The girls put the skills they had learnt from handler's camp into practice for the day with Ebenezer Park Queen Athena and Katherine receiving a champion ribbon and Stephanie coming away with a 4th in a handler's class with a lot of older more experienced kids. Peter helped me with Ebenezer Park Paddy and we also come away with a champion. The best part of the day would have to be watching the kids talk to the public about our cattle and



farm life.



News from John and Sue Harvey; TORR DOWN SOUTH DEVONS

“We are now into our 53rd year of breeding South Devons, but still justifiably more motivated than ever, because of the positive feedback from recent purchasers of our bulls, especially those used in crossbreeding herds.

Our Herd is now small but elite and the cattle the best we have ever bred, as it should be, and all purebreds are polled.

We have been joining our first calving heifers to Akaushi / Red Wagyu semen for the past three years and are very happy with the progeny. Very small at birth with good growth and scanning very well .

In our 38 years since emigrating from South Devon U.K. with a nucleus of 21 Pedigree South Devons, we are finding the interest and rave reviews in our breed to be at an all-time high, which is very special and rewarding for us personally in the twilight of our career.

This summer has been very kind to us with good rainfall in January and February, giving us a possible early Autumn break.

Open day on February 2nd saw a steady stream of visitors, genuine interest, previous purchasers, past South Devon breeders and finally a couple we hadn't seen for over 30 years, which was a lovely surprise.



Since then we have sold the two bulls we had on offer, Torr Down Dynamo has gone to a Red Angus breeder in Gippsland, who purchased his first South Devon bull from us 18 months ago. He is so delighted with the resultant calves, that he wanted a second South Devon.

Since then we had a call from a Hereford breeder, who also purchased his first Torr



Down bull 18 months ago. After seeing a photo of Torr Down Mikado 1 a Red Wagyu X South Devon he jumped at the chance of introducing this particular bloodline into his Herefords, after raving about his Hereford X South Devon calves. “

Editors note; we made a quick visit to Torr Down in January, just before the Open Day. The cattle looked

wonderful, and if Dynamo had the really short coat that North Qld cattlemen prefer, he'd have been relocated to tropical Qld.

News from Davelle. Thanks to David and Rochelle Leese.

"A steady flow of visitors at Davelle inspected the South Devons , Composites and Droughtmaster cattle we had on display. In all, about 20 people were looked after with refreshments and a BBQ.

There were 3 South Devon bulls available for sale, all sons of MJB Cool 548C and all ranked high on the \$profit analysis. Rising 2 year old bull Davelle Black Accelerate P9 sold to David Whittaker of Ardrossan SA. Although we had no SD females for sale, a persistent couple from Caltowie West, SA, bought a 5 year old cow due to calve in autumn.

WE still have 2 18 month old bulls for sale, both black and sired by MJB Cool 548C.

The South Devon composited (50% SD 25% Angus 25% Simmental) yearlings attracted interest. It will be good to compare what they look like now as calves with what they will look like next year. We have kept 5 bulls.

The Droughtmaster bulls will head to Alice Springs show and Sale in July. This will be our first time at this event.

It has been a tough selling period; we've sold 6 bulls (4 x South Devon; 1 x Composite and 1 Droughtmaster). Females sales have been good, and timely given the season, with 42 heading off to Dalness farming in Tasmania."

Photo shows David Leese with Davelle Cool Beau N51



[A request for help from the editor;](#) We will be producing a “Review” for distribution by November 2020 (in time for the World Conference). If you have any bright ideas on articles that will remain topical for three years, could you please forward them to me asap? I was hoping to be able to do some brainstorming at Sydney, but covid 19 changed that plan. I’d like to hear from people prior to the AGM so that I can have some sort of an outline to put to the meeting on 28th April.

I’ve included a couple of funnies to hopefully brighten your day (courtesy Sue Harvey).



Next edition will be as soon as I can after the election of Councillors/AGM has occurred, so early May at this stage. Any contributions gratefully received. Please send written contributions as ‘word’ docs so I can copy and paste.

Happy Reading.

Stay safe and keep washing your hands!

Heather Lindsay.

Newsletter Editor.

gh.lindsay@bigpond.com