Newsletter, Edition 3 June 2020

From the Editor.

It is with incredible sadness that I advise members of the sudden and unexpected passing of Queensland member Thames Delaforce on Friday 19th June. It is just two years since we mourned the loss of Doug Delaforce (Thames father), and Thames had stepped up to take on the running of the South Devon cattle that had been Doug's passion for so long. In fact, Thames was to take delivery of two new young bulls this coming week. Our deepest and most sincere sympathy is extended to Simone and the children, and also to his mother, Michele.

As expected, due to the continuing Covid 19 restrictions on travel, the World Conference which was to have been held in New Zealand in November/December of 2020, has been postponed till November/December 2021. Conference organisers will keep intending participants up to date with happenings. Hopefully, all those who had intended to participate will still be able to do so. World Conferences are a wonderful opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones.

During the recent council meeting, the production of the next issue of the **South Devon 'Review'** was discussed at length. It was decided to produce the magazine in time for distribution at Beef 2021 which will be held in Rockhampton in early May.

Indicative advertising costs for members are; \$880 full page; \$440 half page; \$350 one third page; \$300 quarter page. Centre spread, inside front and back covers incur an additional \$200 and the back cover an additional \$250. There will be room for some editorial content attached to the larger advertisements.

Commercial advertising costs will be; \$500 for a full page; \$275 for a half page, and \$180 for a quarter page.

Could you please indicate your proposed advertising requirements by email to the Editor by the end of August so further planning can be undertaken at the next Council meeting?



James McUtchen

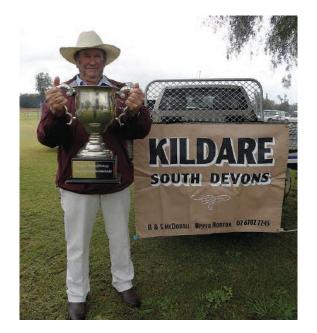
National President

James McUtchen of Jambili South Devons, Jandowae Qld was elected by the Councillors to the position of National President of the Australian South Devon Society for 2020.

James first became interested in South Devons after purchasing a bull from Jim Litfin at Proston in the early 2000s. James was (and still is) an avid shower of led steers, the purchase of 'Bob' proved to be a positive one, with his South Devon cross calves proving to be popular in the show ring and in carcase competitions. In 2015 James and his family officially joined the Australian South Devon Society. James has been actively promoting the South Devon breed ever since, exhibiting and promoting our breed all over Queensland. James was elected as the President of the Qld Promotional Group of the South Devon Society in 2018 and still holds the position and as a Councillor in 2019. James is delighted to have been elected and is looking forward to working with all the members towards the betterment of the breed.

Rick McDouall National Vice- President

We welcome South Devon Life Member Rick McDouall, Kildare South Devons, Upper Horton NSW to the position of Vice-President. Rick is a familiar face to the South Devon Society, having been breeding and promoting them forever (Sue's words not mine). Rick first saw South Devons at Sydney Royal Easter Show, and he was so impressed that his first purchase followed shortly after. Rick runs both Red and Black South Devons on his property 'Kildare' and is an active community member in Upper Horton. Rick is a progressive member of the society and was recognised for his dedication to the breed when he and his wife Sue were awarded a Life Membership to the Society in 2018. Rick is looking forward to working with the members to increase our breeds exposure in the cattle industry.





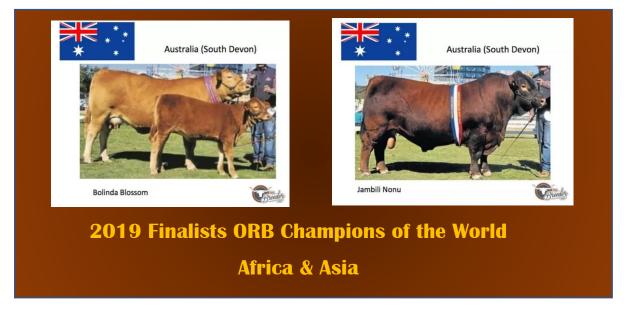
Entries are Now Open and will Close 1 October 2020 for the competition.

Please email bull and female entries to pjbudler@gmail.com

- 1. Picture of animal taken in 2020 (No editing or manipulation of animal itself)
- 2. Name of animal
- 3. Name of Breed
- 4. Owner Information
- 5. Country
- Open to registered beef and dual-purpose cattle.
- The 4 official judges will select country representatives in October.
- The official judges are:

Hector Bonomi (Uruguay) Stuart Robbie (New Zealand) Rosalish Goulding (Ireland) Billy Estrada (Mexico)

- Any National/Premier show that does take place in 2020 will be used to qualify animals.
- The 3rd edition of the "ORB Champion of the World" competition takes place from 6-20 December 2020



This competition is a great opportunity to give the Australian South Devon Cattle worldwide exposure. To be eligible for last year's competition your animal had to have won a Championship at a qualifying show (2019 was the Qld Ekka) This year there is no qualifying show, all you have to do is take a photo of your chosen registered animal and email it through to the above email address. This is a great opportunity for those who do not show their animals to get some free promotion. Get your cameras out and start snapping those boys and girls, if we don't show the world what we've got no one else will!

BRAXTON STUD

Breeding high quality South Devon Beef

Southern Highlands (NSW) Update.

We hope this update finds everyone well and safe after an interesting few months during this Covid-19 Pandemic.



Braxton Stud has established a connection with the agriculture teacher and students of Elizabeth McArthur High School in Narellan NSW to show our Pedigree South Devon Cattle at Camden Country Show and Castle Hill Country Show. Unfortunately, the country shows had to be cancelled to due Covid-19 and the cattle returned to us, but the students had developed a good relationship with the cattle, finding them calm and easy to handle.

(left) P12 was to be shown as a heifer

The school is still keen to show our cattle when the country shows reopen.

Our local gourmet butcher also has been taking a few carcasses as he has had customers asking for Braxton beef, as customers want to support local suppliers and are enjoying the beef.

We also have been doing artificial inseminations using straws from Ungava Bruce; Davelle Bean 51; Dungrove 65

Looking forward to seeing the progenies on the ground.

Our first calf of the year was born late April – Bull Calf "Roger". Rogers's genetics are mix of older and newer South Devon bloodlines including The Bend, Elker, Dungrove, Ashlea and Gadara.



Wishing everyone a safe and well remainder of 2020 Stephen & Lisa Harris



The 3rd annual School Steer Spectacular was a very different event from those that preceded it, owing to impositions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the pandemic, which meant that none of the educational and parading activities could be held, the team at South Coast BeefTM worked to ensure the hoof & hook competition could proceed, following the generous donation of Dried Distillers Grain (DDG) pellets from Manildra as the base feed

Whilst some schools were able to provide their own steers, members of South Coast BeefTM partnered with schools and delivered animal over the period 20-24 February 2020, in anticipation of the Spectacular being held at Nowra Showgrounds on 5 & 6 May. As usual, the steers were a variety of breeds reflecting the diversity of beef cattle on the South Coast and adjacent areas.

For the South Devon's, we were fortunate to have Kildare (Rick & Sue McDouall) supply 5 steers and heifer to Tannoch Farm (Lee & Suzanne Pippard). One of those steers (Kildare 142), was provided to Nowra High School for preparation for the Sydney Royal Show. He was shaping up very well (although dragging him around on a lead was initially difficult) but when Sydney was cancelled, being then at competition weight in early April, he and his stablemate from Oakfield (Mick & Jennifer Hamilton), took a short ride to the local abattoir. This left four Kildare steers for competition and the heifer for parading duties. Two Kildare steers went to Karabar High (Queanbeyan) and the others to Picton High. Milton Beef (Janelle Wallace & Greg Wilson) provided one steer to a single student Kade King from Vincentia High. Oakfield supplied one steer to Bomaderry High for the Spectacular.



(4 x Kildare Steers, 1 x Kildare heifer, 1 x Tannoch heifer @ Tannoch Farm on 10 February – the fires were gone, and the creek was flooding)



(Tannoch Q24 at the Nowra Show, 8 February 2020)

Bomaderry High already had two steers from Tannoch Farm for the local shows, and they only were shown twice, in Nowra and Milton. Bomaderry kept the lighter steer Q24 for the Spectacular and returned the heavier steer Q25 to Tannoch for preparation as a parader, expecting him to be overweight for the medium weight class in May. Tannoch had the task of keeping Q25 on feed and training two heifers (Q26 and Kildare 8-240) as paraders (new ground for your correspondent).



(Tannoch Q25 at the Nowra Show, 8 February 2020)



(Kildare 145 (316 kg left) and Kildare 126 (256 kg right) arriving at Picton High, 20 February 2020)

Within 4 weeks of delivery of the steers, the pandemic lockdown was in force, and schools shut down. Our greatest concern was that the cattle would need to continue to be fed. One school withdrew and those steers were immediately collected, but all

other schools undertook to maintain feed to the animals given that such feed had already been supplied. Regrettably, the feeding of the steers, and their limited training was mainly done by teachers or assistants, with only a few students at some schools actively participating. Training of the paraders was suspended (but your correspondent may revive this for the heifers as they might show well in 2021).

(Oakfield steer prepared by Bomaderry



High)



(The Milton Beef steer prepared by Kade King, Vincentia High)

With the cancellation of the Sydney Show, South Coast BeefTM attracted a few enquiries by schools who had missed out on being able to show their steers. After some consideration, because such animals would be overweight for the light and medium weight classes, it was decided to run a heavy weight class. Further, judging on the hoof would be conducted in COVID

safe manner in the pens at the abattoir the day before the steers went up the ramp. After numerous logistical hurdles were surmounted (some being knocked over), the steers were delivered to the pens on 6 May, maintaining the original timeline for the Spectacular.



On hoof judging was conducted by Alastair Rayner of Rayner Ag (pictured left) on 7 May and streamed live on Facebook. Mr. Rayner provided most instructive consideration of every animal competing in the three classes, clearly articulating his reasoning for ranking the steer. Those who are interested in his words are invited to consult the Facebook page of the School Steers Spectacular for the recordings. (Note that this is a closed page and admission is via request – please explain you are a South Devon Society member). Significantly, whilst the steers were not being led, all were most well behaved in the pens, with the Judge at one time commenting on the temperament of the South Devons.



(Judging progresses)

On the following page are the full results, with South Devons from Oakfield (Bomaderry High) and Milton Beef (Kade King, Vincentia High) featuring in the Lightweight class, but with Square Meaters dominating the Medium Weight class.

Of course, the most interesting feature of the event were the carcass scores which, like previous years, afforded differences between the hoof and hook rankings of the animals. Carcass judging was conducted by South Coast BeefTM chief executive Rob

Stafford, assisted by Mick Hamilton. Most notable was a 99 point carcass by Cadfor Murray Greys, prepared by Chevalier College in the Medium Weight class. Yass High School took out Champion school with their Square Meater entries. Also, a big gong to Kade King from Vincentia and Milton Beef for Champion Carcass in the Lightweight Class.

Overall, given the circumstances, the Spectacular was a great success and the ability to use Facebook to live stream to teachers and students was the saving grace to maintain engagement and to maintain the energy of competition.

As an aside, your correspondent continues to learn much from this event, this year the most significant being – do not move your animals between locations and with different pen pals and expect them to perform. In this regard, Tannoch Q24 and Q25 were born in the same paddock one week apart and spent their whole lives together before Q25 was returned to the farm after the Milton Show, only to be penned with two heifers whom he'd never met. The Oakfield steer then joined Q24 at Bomaderry. Q25 arrived back at Tannoch at 399 kg, and 4 weeks later was 375 kg, despite eating a full ration. He basically lost 4-6 weeks. Q24 at Bomaderry did the same thing. Q25 went to slaughter at 417 kg but in February we expected him to be 480 kg or more. 70 days on feed and he put on 18 kg.

Lee Pippard

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Newsletter Contacts

Next issue will (hopefully) include Carcase competition results from Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland. I hope South Devon participants feature in the placings – in fact, I'd love to see them win everywhere.

Editor:

Heather Lindsay

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Find us on Facebook;

Australian South Devons



Website:

australiansouthdevons.com

However, win, lose or draw, they're <u>our</u> members out there showcasing <u>our</u> breed and they deserve our support and our recognition.

Please remember to email me (by the end of August) about your planned advertising for the 2021 South Devon Review - all I need at this stage is the size of the advertisement you would like to place.

We need definite indications of support so we can decide on the size of the magazine.

If anyone has strong business contacts and would be prepared to ask them to place an advertisement, it would be very much appreciated. As shown in the Editorial, commercial advertising is quite reasonably priced, and because the magazine will be distributed at Beef 2021 and also at the World SD Conference, it will reach a worldwide audience.

My thanks to the people who provided news/articles for this newsletter. If you have news or have prepared a stud profile, please forward it to me for inclusion in future editions.

Happy Reading. Stay safe and well.

Heather Lindsay