



AUSTRALIAN SOUTH DEVONS

NEWSLETTER 3

May 2021

WELCOME TO THE LATEST
NEWSLETTER.

Please note my new email address. It is; athlonesouthdevons@gmail.com

2021 is definitely much busier than 2020. The show season seems to be in full swing everywhere, and South Devons are back out there in the ring and also in the carcass competitions in several states.

This issue of the newsletter will concentrate on the results from Beef 21 at Rockhampton, the South Coast Schools Steer Spectacular in Southern NSW, and the AGM.

Hopefully by now all members should have received their copies of the SD Review. If you require more copies to distribute anywhere, please contact James McUtchen.

On the following page is some important information from David McDonald regarding Breedplan and how the SDCSA interacts with that programme.

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SOUTH DEVON CATTLE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC

c/- 2 Mount Ballow Ave, Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Memo: members re South Devon BREEDPLAN

From: David McDonald, Society Secretary, 0481 833952

Date: 20 May 2021

I wish to correct the comment made by an individual member in the recent Review regarding South Devon Breedplan. This facility has NOT been cancelled. Indeed, it is “up and running” and **still available** to all members who wish to record their animals with the South Devon Cattle Society of Australia.

Your Society has changed to a “user pays” system consistent with that used by other breed societies. The ABRI **continues** to provide the South Devon Breedplan service using the SDCS database for enrolled members of the Society; and ABRI charges those members utilising the Breedplan service direct for that service.

The fees for South Devon Breedplan are billed direct by ABRI to members using this facility. Annual membership costs \$162.80 (incl gst) and fees per calf for processing data are \$11.44 (incl gst). The processing fee will be invoiced when the first post-birth performance record or genomic data are added to file for each animal. This fee also covers the subsequent processing of performance records for this animal.

Further information about South Devon Breedplan is available from ABRI staff phone 02 6773 3555 or email southdevon@breedplan.une.edu.au or the writer.

I congratulate those members who have continued to use South Devon Breedplan and would welcome other members who would like to utilize this service.

Council Elections from Meeting 18/5/21.

At the Council meeting held by phone hook-up on Tuesday 18/5/21, new Councillor Sarah Bolte was welcomed and retiring Councillor Narelle Rossiter was farewelled.

James McUtchen was re-elected at President, with Lee Pippard taking on the Vice Presidential position. The next Council meeting will be held using a Zoom type protocol on Tuesday 20th July, so if you have any issues you would like to bring to the attention of Council, please contact your Councillors prior to that date.

Their contact details are;

President	James McUtchen	ph. 0746686149 or 0400683325
Vice President	Lee Pippard	ph. 02 44478150 or 0418205354
Treasurer	Sarah Bolte	ph. 0427284235
Councillors;	Rick McDougall	ph. 02 67827245
	David Corker	ph. 08 97653061 or 0412390315
	Will Randall	ph. 0477443779
	Ross Cauley	ph. 07 46928260

One detail which was mentioned during the course of the meeting was that there are still some memberships yet to be renewed. It was decided that any membership not paid by 30th June will then be considered to be unfinancial and that membership will be lapsed.

We have recently welcomed 3 new members; David and Kim King of Berry, NSW; Katy and Jason Mekken of Newmerella, VIC, and John and Lynnette deRiter of Sale, VIC.

We have lost a South Devon stalwart with the passing of Stan Dorman in WA. A tribute to Stan appears later in this newsletter.

For those who did not ‘attend’ the AGM, here is the report from WA, courtesy of Peter Piavanini.

‘Firstly, it is with great sadness we learnt of the passing of South Devon stalwart Stan Dorman. Stan was the instigator of the introduction of South Devon semen from America and England. He was also renowned in the sheep meat breeds for introducing improved genetics.

WA is having one of it best opening rains across the whole agricultural regions, including the marginal Northern and Eastern Wheatbelts, as well as most of the vast Pastoral areas.

Cattle prices are at all-time highs, especially lightweight stores which are bringing above \$6 per kilo liveweight.

The South Devon cattle members are hanging in there, but it is an uphill battle with the popularity of the Angus breed, although South Devons have recently attracted the attention of several lot feeders.’

There were reports from other states/regional promotional groups given verbally during the AGM, but due to my ongoing email problems, I don’t have them to include in this newsletter, so they will definitely be included in the next one.

It was suggested (by me) during the AGM that we (as a Society) consider holding either a casual online meeting or simply a get together, to try and overcome the isolation that seems to have pervaded our lives in the past year. Our AGM get togethers and trips used to be an excellent opportunity to renew friendships. Graham and I only went on a few but we thoroughly enjoyed them, and they certainly cemented our Society together. We are so spread out that I really feel we have to use technology to our advantage until we can once again move around freely – whenever that might be.

Peter Piv suggested Adelaide as a possible venue for the 2022 AGM. There will be more news on that later this year.



Beef 21, a triannual week-long event which is held in Rockhampton Qld, has just wrapped up for what has been its 12th celebration of everything which is beef. Beef Australia attracted over 100,000 visitors and approx. 2,000 head of cattle.

For those who choose to showcase their breed it is a week of very early mornings and, more often than not, very late nights. Because Beef is celebrated only every 3 years, you have to make a good impression, otherwise you have to wait another 3 years.

Many of those who visited the South Devon display and cattle were first time visitors to Beef Australia. The most common comment which was made was 'we didn't realise it was so big!' Kildare, Athlone and Jambili were the 3 studs who chose to make the pilgrimage to Australia's Beef Capital to display their Registered Stud Cattle and South Devon cross Steers. Having the steers displayed alongside the stud cattle proved to be a great way to open the discussion with interested parties about the benefits of crossbreeding with South Devons. There were many information bags handed out during the week and quite a few serious enquiries made regarding the purchase of bulls.



The South Devon site at Beef 21

The caps proved to be a real eyecatcher as they made our breed representatives easily recognisable. The new flags were flying high and made us easy to find in the large marquees which housed our cattle. Each Marquee was a little larger than the average football field and housed over 400 head. You really needed to be there to see how much attention had been paid to the setting up of the display/information areas for the different studs. Our site was well set out with the new flags, stud banners and posters, plants, table and chairs and the TV with a PowerPoint presentation running continuously, but some of the larger studs had very opulent displays, complete with leather couches and coffee machines. Our exhibitors each walked an average of 8km per day, so we tended to sleep fairly well when we finally got to bed each night.

It was wonderful to see our breed supported by interstate members David and Mary Corker who made the trek from WA, and Glan and Daphne Lines (regular visitors to the Beef spectacle) arriving from SA. Other members showed their support by sending messages or watching the judging online (it was live streamed).



The Junior Led Steer competition was held on the Monday of Beef. 64 entries paraded before the judge. We were incredibly lucky to have Gorgie Plowman from Kingaroy lead both the Jambili and Athlone South Devon X entries in the competition. Gorgie did a wonderful job and displayed each animal admirably although we did not come away with any ribbons.

(Photo left shows James putting the finishing touches on Remington Steele (3/4 SD 1/4 Brahman) prior to showing. I was going to crop this photo, but it shows the new SD flags, and it also gives some indication of the sheer size of the marquees we were housed in.)

Noon Thursday was Judging Day for our Stud Entries. Dubbed 'high noon' by one of the exhibitors, the day proved to be very warm with 10 head were paraded before Judge Tammie Robinson from Toogoolawah Qld. The results were as follows;

Calf Champion Male

Res Calf Champ Male

Calf Champ Female

Junior Champ Female

Junior Champion Bull

Jambili Radradra

Jambili Rokocoko

Jambili Rapunzel

Kildare Sassy 31

Kildare Quince

Senior Champ Female

Res Champ Female

Senior Champion Bull

Res Senior Champion Bull

Grand Champion South Devon Female

Grand Champion South Devon Male

Kildare Dianna 104

Jambili Poppet

Jambili Quesada

Kildare Quizkid

Kildare Sassy 31

Kildare Quince



Thursday was the day for the Interbreed Judging and Parade of Champions. All animals paraded and displayed themselves well on the final day of competition, alas no ribbons. Our breed shirts were very distinctive with their bold stripes and clearly showed us as a separate breed entity.

Photo above left is Kildare Quince (Junior and Supreme Champion SD male) and photo left is Kildare Sassy 31 (Junior and Supreme Champion SD Female).



Jambili Quesada – Senior Champion SD Male (photo right)





Kildare Dianna 104 – Senior Champion SD Female.



Friday was a final day of Beef 21, culminating in the much-anticipated Rugby Union Game between the Beef Barbarians and the Classic Wallabies. James McUtchen our Qld and Australian National President is an avid Rugby fan (just look at the names of his bulls) and past player for the Dalby Wheatman since attending the Dalby Agricultural College in the late 90's. He has also played for representative teams such as Darling Downs, South East Qld, and Queensland Country Heelers on a number of occasions. While he was out in the ring during the Interbreed Championships, James received a 'call up' to play in the second row for the 'Baa Baa's' This was a great opportunity for him to fly the South Devon Flag as there were various other beef breeders playing including Ivan Price who exhibited the Supreme

Champion Female (Charolais) and Nic Job who exhibited the Supreme Champion Bull (Shorthorn). The Wallabies were the winners on the night; however, the Baa Baa's did not disgrace themselves. Apparently, the match was so popular that a repeat has already been planned for 2024. ***The photo above shows Pat McCutcheon (Wallabies player at the Rio Olympics) in the yellow jersey with James McUtchen after the match.***

We look forward to Beef #13 in 2024 – dates yet to be announced. Another marathon to look forward to, as it is a good 7 hour drive from Jambili to Rockhampton, while Athlone is a mere 3 and a half hours away, and of course Kildare is at least 12 hours.

Come and join us – it is something that just has to be experienced – just as well it only happens every 3 years though, because it is a major undertaking in so many ways.

TRIBUTE TO STAN DORMAN (Courtesy Alan and Bev Mountford)

Stan Dorman was one of the early advocates of breeding South Devon cattle in Western Australia. With foresight and quiet determination, he helped with the amalgamation of State based organisations into one successful Federal South Devon Society.

Romilly Hills South Devon Stud was known Australia wide due to his ability to select excellent breeding stock suitable for Australian conditions.

Stan's extensive use of AI and his early adoption and practical application of the new embryo transfer technology was of lasting benefit to the industry, and the property at Dale River was soon renowned in this field. In the early 1980's, successful negotiations led to the importation of a large number of pure English South Devon embryos into WA.

This importation of outstanding new bloodlines made a lasting contribution to South Devon breeding Australia wide. His importation of genetics from North America further enabled Australian breeders to broaden their genetic base so as to adapt to Australia's wide range of climatic conditions and management systems. Stan not only imported genetics, he also exported them worldwide, including live export of South Devon Bulls to China.

Romilly Hills South Devons were exhibited and sold with success Australia wide. With such recognised skills, Stan was invited to judge Cattle Shows around the world, including the prestigious English Royal Show. It was at this show that his honesty and integrity caused some consternation to the English Establishment. In his opinion, a South Devon Cow was clearly Best South Devon in the line-up of both Male and Female Champions. Therefore, he awarded the Female the Supreme Champion South Devon award. English tradition was that a bull was to be Supreme Champion Exhibit. Such was Stan's integrity, that despite the long held tradition, he backed his judgement, and for the first time a female was awarded a Supreme Championship at the British Royal Show. Despite the controversy, Stan later said that his judgement couldn't have been that bad because that particular cow went on to win many other prestigious prizes.

Stan's great interest in Agriculture and breeding technology was not confined to the cattle industry. He also imported new and relevant genetics to the Australian Sheep industry. In his own quiet and determined way, his contribution to the Australian Livestock Industry will remain for many years to come.

South Coast Beef™ School Steers Spectacular™ 2021

The 4th annual South Coast Beef™ School Steer Spectacular™ was held at Nowra Showgrounds on Wednesday 5 May 2021. This year, the competition was broken into 2 sections, Section 1 being the Manildra Championship of both Light weight and Medium weight steers, and Section 2 being an Open Championship for Light, Medium, and Heavy weights.

The distinction was to ensure that those animals competing in the Manildra Championship were constrained to a diet founded upon Manildra DDG (dried distiller grain) pellets, which are manufactured at the local factory at Bomaderry and for which Manildra donate one 600kg bag of DDG for each competing steer. The Open championship was envisioned for steers that were too heavy for the Manildra Championship or for schools who had excess cattle (just in case the Sydney Royal was cancelled again). There were no feeding restrictions in the Open Championship, but notably most competing animals were fed on DDG.



Bomaderry High with their Tannoch Steers (and the best mullet Lee has ever seen) Steers had been delivered to schools during the week of 8-12 February, commencing a 90-day feed trial period for which all schools were required to provide periodic reports of progress and upon completion, a written formal report for each

steer including feed intake, growth rates, problems, and the like. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Spectacular was limited to one day at the Showgrounds, regrettably again missing the one-day of educational seminars that distinguishes the Spectacular from other student-based hoof & hook competitions.

The day included not only the 38 steers competing in the hoof & hook competitions, but also a nice variety of other paraders, including a lovely Shorthorn heifer from Yass High, and some Brahman heifers from local identity, Gary Nelson, giving about 60 cattle in total. The show day commenced, under cloudy skies with rain forecast, with the Junior Judging competition. Three groups each of four animals were paraded by teachers and South Coast Beef™ members for all the students to judge. The groups included one of Angus steers, one of Square Meater heifers and cows (Nowra High's breeding stock), and one of South Devon steers, being those prepared by Chevalier College (2 x Oakfield) and Bomaderry High (2 x Tannoch). It was a busy time with 300 students divided into 3 groups rotating around the parading steers. Light rain had started falling and 300 students handed-in 300 soggy score sheets for the judges to review and collate.

Next was the all-important weigh-in where all 38 competition cattle were weighed and kill tags attached, with the students being required, at that time to then nominate the particular class (Light, Medium, Heavy) in which the steer would compete. For some, this is straightforward, for others it can be difficult and, as it transpired, critical.



Left; Students jostling for position to assess the pen of steers.

During the weigh-in, students were also required, as a Jackpot competition, to assess a pen of 5 commercial cattle from Tannoch South Devons which were present as part of the Members commercial section. Students were required to rank the pen in weight order and note any observations about the cattle. Your correspondent had weighed them two days earlier and had tagged them in age order, as they had all been born 9 days apart. The cattle had been taken out of the paddock on Monday, straight off their dams, being only the fourth time they had been handled in the yards since birth. They were quite docile and stood in one corner, so your correspondent obliged by jumping in and moving them around for about half an hour. At no time was there a kick or any

breach of good behaviour. Of the approximately 150 entries, about a dozen students correctly ranked the weights, but only one of those noted that one calf was a heifer. That student won the \$250 jackpot. None noticed that two of the cattle had questionable marking. The heifer was a confirmed Freemartin, destined only for a truck ride.

Students were also required to provide an oral presentation of their report on each steer, this also contributed to the overall school score for the Schools Championship.

The rain was getting heavier and problems with the electricity supply at the Showgrounds necessitated some investigation. The emergency electricians found a “hot neutral” on one of the boxes supplying the cattle sheds where the students were preparing the cattle. The box was at about 90 volts, so we made the decision to kill the supply (before it killed a student) and your correspondent rushed home to get a generator for the PA.

After the power induced delay, the Led Steer judging commenced under the scrutiny of Stuart Glover, assisted by Clare Anfrons (formerly of Nowra High) and Darcy Howard (formerly of Chevalier College). The Manildra Light Weight class included three South Devons, two from Tannoch prepared and paraded by Shoalhaven High, and one from Oakfield prepared and paraded by Chevalier College. None troubled the judges, who gave the chocolates to a Limousin X paraded by Narooma High.

The Manildra Medium Weight class include two South Devons with Chevalier showing another from Oakfield, and Bomaderry High showing one from Tannoch. The Oakfield steer was awarded 2nd place to an Angus X Speckle Park exhibited by Karabar High.

There were no South Devons in the Open Light and Medium weight classes with the prizes being awarded to a Squaremeater (Yass High) and a Simmental X Red Angus (Yass High), respectively.



Open Heavyweight line up, placings left to right. In the Open Heavy Weight class, Bomaderry High exhibited a Tannoch steer who was awarded 3rd place on the hoof out of a field of 4. Your correspondent listened carefully to Mr. Glovers words.

He said the South Devon was a great animal and would certainly eat very well, but he like the extra cover that the Limousin and the Angus X Limousin had. Admittedly the South Devon had two small dimples in the tail head, and the Limousin was a standout, whereas the Angus X Limousin, whilst well-muscled, look to me to be a bit light on fat (as he had been at the Nowra Show back in February when he won the Lightweight class against the same South Devon – watch this space).

Next the day progressed to the orals of the Junior Judging for selected students. Recused over judge Darcy Howard took a back seat as his younger sister Grace took the championship for Chevalier College.

The rain was coming down heavily by now and Parading competitions followed for each of Novice, Junior, Intermediate and Senior students. Due to a need to push along, at one stage almost every animal at the show was on the paddock with at times 40 students being considered by the judge, Clare Anfrons.

The day concluded at about 4:40pm. With no lights and heavy rain, it was almost dark with water rushing down between the sheds. We bedded the cattle down for the night and almost all the students had fled by 5pm. I rushed home to hopefully move my herd across my bridge and up the hill before the creek flooded.

Below are the hoof results,

School	Tag No.	Breed	Breeder	Live Wt	Hoof Award	Hoof Points 80pts	Report Present Score	Report Present Award
S1 Lightweight Class								
Narooma High School	1	Limousin X	J&D Cullen	324	First	School Steer Spectacular Reserve Champion Led Steer	80	36
Shoalhaven High School	2	South Devon	Tannoch South Devons (R36)	329			65	25
Shoalhaven High School	3	South Devon	Tannoch South Devons (R33)	342			65	
Elizabeth Macarthur High School	4	Limousin	Brendan Welch	249		Withdrawn	65	27
Elizabeth Macarthur High School	5	Limousin	Brendan Welch	276		Withdrawn	65	
Chevalier College	6	South Devon	M&J Hamilton Oakfield South Devons	365			65	35
Nowra High School	7	Angus X Hereford	Foxeround Peter Ryan	380			65	33
Dapto High School	8	Angus	Target Creek Farm Kangaroo Valley	352	HC		68	31
Dapto High School	9	Angus	J&I McCrossin	369			65	
Karabar High School	10	Angus x Speckle Park	Chris Englebrecht	371	Third		70	Bronze
Ulladulla High School	11	Angus	J&I McCrossin	345	HC		68	20
Oak Flats High School	12	Squaremeater	Oak Flats HS	319	Second		75	12
St. Gregory's College	13	Murray Grey	Cadfor Murray Greys	320			65	38
S1 Medium Weight Class								
Braidwood Central School	1	Simmental	Southern Black Simmentals	433			65	39 Silver
Narooma High School	2	Limousin X	J&D Cullen	352			65	36
St. Gregory's College	3	Murray Grey	Cadfor Murray Greys	366			65	38 Bronze
Chevalier College	4	South Devon	Oakfield	405	Second		75	35
Nowra High School	5	Angus X Hereford	Peter Ryan	393			65	33
Karabar High School	6	Angus x Speckle Park	Chris Englebrecht Denman	419	First	School Steer Spectacular Champion Led Steer	80	37
Ulladulla High School	7	Angus x Charolais	Ken Leslie	392	Third		70	20
Bomaderry High School	8	South Devon	Tannoch South Devons (R42)	390			65	39 Silver
Oak Flats High School	9	Black Limousin?	Spring Creek Limousins	429	HC		68	12
S2 Lightweight Class								
Narooma High School	1	Limousin	H&L Mitchell	353	Second			
Nowra High School	2	Angus	Peter Ryan	360	Third			
Nowra High School	3	Angus	Peter Ryan	355				
Yass High School	4	Squaremeater	Sue McCluskie Cowra	336	First	Open School Challenge Champion Led Steer		
S2 Medium Weight Class								
Braidwood	1	Speckle Park x Belgian Blue	A&L Dimarco	338				
Chevalier College	2	Angus x Simmental	Yallambee Angus	393	Third			
Chevalier College	3	Angus x Simmental	Yallambee Angus	409	Second			
Yass High School	4	Simmental X Red Angus	Newton Wood Limousins Murrumbateman	391	First			
S2 Heavy Weight Class								
Nowra High School	1	Angus x Limousin	Garry Nelson	455	Second			
Queanbeyan High School	2	Black Simmental	Ian Carey, Murringo	526				
Yass High School	3	Limousin	Sarana Limousins Crookwell	463	First	Open School Challenge Reserve Champion Led Steer		
Bomaderry High School	4	South Devon	Tannoch South Devons (R28)	471	Third			

Thursday broke to overcast skies but thankfully no rain (the rain had continued most of the night and the creek had flooded and half the back paddocks were awash). The 32 head for the hoof & hook competition, together with 6 Members Commercial cattle were loaded onto a truck for the run to Western Sydney Meatworks (Picton). South Coast Beef™ was most grateful to the meatworks for offering exclusive use of one spacious chiller for carcase judging on Saturday morning after the Friday kill. South Coast Beef™ executive members Rob Stafford, Mick Hamilton and Wayne Brown met the cattle on arrival and sorted them into pens based on class, so they could then be killed in tag order. A huge feat which paid dividends when it came to judging and collating the scores.

Carcase judging was conducted by Rob Stafford and Tim Morley-Sattler (Agriwest, Bomaderry), assisted (scrutinized) by Mick Hamilton and Wayne Brown. With all scores

collected and reviewed, 11 score sheets that could be contentious were returned to the chiller for the carcasses to be re-checked.



All 3 photos are of the Oakfield steer with the high scoring carcass (93.5 points).



Of note for SD members is the Oakfield steer in the S1 Lightweight Class. When nominating the class at the weigh-in, the students suggested the steer would dress at about 54%, which for 365 kg, puts him right at the top of the class, which runs from 160-200kg carcass weight. Ever present, Mick Hamilton corrected them, saying from experience, that he would probably go 56-58%. As it transpired, Chevalier nominated the Lightweight class, but he dressed at 57.04% giving a carcass weight of 208.2 kg and incurring a 3.5 point penalty for being overweight. Some other animals in that class were smashed for points for being significantly overweight. The Oakfield steer nevertheless scored top of the class at 93.5 points. Had the steer been presented in the Medium weight class, that penalty would not have

been incurred and with other measures contributing the same score, would have made 97 points. In any event, Mick graciously accepted prizes totalling \$750 from the NSW South Devon Group who had offered prizes for a SD carcass that won a championship or was highest scoring and exceeded 88 points.

The Tannoch steer in the Medium weight class(exhibited by Bomaderry High) was the second highest in that class with 84 points. He was hit hard for a small eye muscle but interestingly lost points for poor meat colour. This was surprising, but one of the Meatworks workers noted *"those South Devons were bloody hopeless – too quiet, they just wouldn't walk up the ramp – for one of 'em, we had 4 blokes pushing him"*. I would say he was stressed from being too docile and that affected the meat colour.

I now turn my attention to the Open Heavy weight class. The Limousin was indeed a standout at 94 points, but the Tannoch South Devon ran into 2nd place with a modest 79 point, just pipping his rival Angus X Limousin at 75 points. Interestingly, having been demoted by the hoof judge for lacking cover, the South Devon was penalised for having too much rump fat! The South Devon also got hit for a small eye muscle which is interesting, because his 2 full brothers who had competed in the Spectacular for each of the preceding 2 years, both had received healthy EMA scores, albeit in Light and Medium weight classes.

In the Members Commercial class, the winner was an impressive Angus who dressed much heavier than he looked on the hoof, certainly next to my pen of 5, whom he joined by jumping the rail late in the day. My pen of 5 was disappointing. They had been taken off their mothers on Monday, but our paddocks had turned in late March after the rain and some cold nights, and their mother's milk had suffered. They were good for the market then (probably for finishing school at a feedlot), but I held onto them for the Spectacular. They were all down on fat. The best score was the Freemartin heifer at 76, smashing her twin brother who had the worst score at 56. Another lesson learnt.

Lee Pippard

I hope you have enjoyed this long newsletter. When you have several important events happening at the same time, sometimes you just run over the usual size.

Next issue will have reports from Farmfest (Qld), the remainder of the reports from promotion groups, and hopefully good results from the Southern Carcase Classic.

If you have any news or photos that we can use in the newsletter, please forward them to me at the new email address; athlonesouthdevons@gmail.com by the end of the second week in July please.

Happy reading

Heather Lindsay

- Editor