



AUSTRALIAN SOUTH DEVONS

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

WELCOME TO THE SECOND NEWSLETTER FOR 2021.

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I know I always seem to start with a comment on the weather, but we are all dependent on the weather to such a large extent because of our involvement in the cattle industry, that I am not going to change this time either.

I sincerely hope that everyone has had some reprieve from the dreadful conditions that beset most of us in 2020, and that there is at least some green grass in the paddocks and water in the dams. I wish I could report that everyone has had a brilliant summer and are heading into the cooler weather with abundant feed and water, but I know that Mother Nature has remained her unpredictable self and there are still patches of dry to very dry country.

2021 has seem somewhat of a return to 'normality' with Canberra and Sydney Royal Shows being held in the south, as well as quite a few local shows and Toowoomba Royal in Queensland. It is very heartening to be able to report that South Devons have been well and truly on display, and show reports appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

By now you should have received your nomination forms for Council, with completed forms required to be in the hands of the Secretary by 5pm 30th April. Our Councillors are the engine room for our Society, so please give serious thought to the direction we need to take in the future. Please also note; **ONLY CURRENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS ARE ENTITLED TO VOTE.** If you have not paid your membership, you will not be voting.

Following on from Council elections (if they are necessary) remember that the AGM this year will be held on 19th May, using the Redback conferencing system. David McDonald will be emailing (contacting) all members with details, so keep an eye on either your emails or your mailbox.

SOME QUICK HOUSEKEEPING REQUESTS FROM ME;

When you send me articles for inclusion in the Newsletter, can you please send them as an attachment and not in the body of the email. If they are included in the body of the email, I have to retype the whole thing, whereas if you add them to the email as an attachment, I can copy and paste.

Also, can you please caption your photos so that I can just save them straight to my computer? If you send me the photo with the details separate, I then have to make sure that I get the correct details saved for each photo. This may sound like a rather trivial thing, but I get hundreds of photos sent to me and it adds considerably to the time taken if I have to save them individually while adding in the details as well. AND I would hate to get the details incorrect!

HAVING SAID ALL THAT, I RELY ON YOU SUPPLYING ME WITH INFORMATION AND PHOTOS TO KEEP US ALL CONNECTED, SO PLEASE KEEP SENDING THEM.

Something I have learned during the production of this Review. I need you to send me your photos to go with articles for the newsletter. If I take them off Facebook (or elsewhere), they are not necessarily of sufficiently high resolution to reproduce well.

A little more on emails to and from me. If you send me an email and I have neither acknowledged it nor answered it within 3 days, please either text me on 0427630711 or message me on Facebook to make sure I have received the email. Telstra can be very temperamental here at times and for some reason it seems to be worse with emails than the internet – I have no idea why.

Braxton Stud News. (courtesy Stephen Harris)



Braxton South Devon Stud had two heifers prepared and shown at the 2021 Canberra Royal show by a local Agricultural High School. The students loved working with South Devons for the first time, especially appreciating their good temperaments, and the kids became quite attached to them. The two heifers were favourably commented on by the Judge, with Braxton Q7 Queenie (*shown on the left*) sashed Supreme South Devon Exhibit.

Braxton also donated a purebred steer for preparation and showing by the same school at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Braxton Roger was the first steer to be sold and he paraded very well. The Head Ag Teacher was surprised by the number of enquiries that followed regarding Roger and his breeding.

(Photo of Braxton Roger parading)



Show results from Queensland. (courtesy Kath McUtchen)



This is one of the promotional flags the Society has purchased for use at shows, field days etc on display at Toowoomba Royal.

2021 Qld Show Season has started off strongly for the South Devon Breed. Kildare and Jambili have both represented South Devons on the Darling Downs Show Circuit. Broad Ribbon Results have been as follows;

Bell Show;

South Devon Grand & Senior Champion Female; Kildare Dianna 104 (Pictured Below Left)

South Devon Grand & Senior Champion Bull; Jambili Quesada



Junior Champion Bull; Jambili Radradra

Res. Junior Bull; Kildare Quince (B)

Junior Champion Female; Jambili Rapunzel

Oakey Show (Interbreed Classes);

Reserve Champion Senior British Bull; Jambili Quesada

Reserve Champion Junior British Female: Kildare Sassy 31 (B) (photo right)



Reserve Champion Steer; *Jambili Which One?*



Junior Champion British Bull; Jambili Radradra

Res. Champion British Bull; Kildare Quince (B)

Jandowae Show
(Interbreed Classes)

Grand Ch. British Female;
Jambili Poppet

Grand Ch. British Bull;
Jambili Quesada (photo left)

Junior Champion British
Female; Kildare Sassy 31

Res Junior Ch British
Female; Jambili Rapunzel

RASQ Toowoomba Royal Show

Grand & Calf Champion SD Bull - Jambili Radradra (*photo bottom of page 6*)

Grand & Senior Champion SD Female - Jambili Poppet

Junior Champion Female - Kildare Dianna 104

Res Junior Champion Female - Kildare Sassy 31 (B)

Junior Champion Bull - Jambili Quesada

Res Junior Champion Bull - Kildare Quince (B)

Female Calf Champion - Jambili Rapunzel



Jambili Poppet with calf

The 2021 Toowoomba Royal Show proved to be one of the most successful events for the South Devon breed to date. Not only did the South Devon breed have one of the largest breed representations at the Toowoomba Show, Jambili Radradra was placed 5th in the top 5 for the Junior Interbreed Competition out of approx. 20 other breeds. The junior interbreed competition was introduced to give the Calf and Junior Champions a chance to be acknowledged and rewarded. It is often known that the younger animals are overlooked when competing in the Open Interbreed competition against Senior Cattle. This category also gave us an opportunity to parade our cattle in front of a different audience for a second time. Callum McUtchen (age 9) and Radradra proved to be a popular combination winning bragging rights over his mother Kath and Quesada. Though Kath still maintains that she and 'Sardy' are the better team as they have more broad ribbons, this show season. This friendly family competition is known throughout the Qld Show Circuit, and it is often joked about during the judging, when one family member is placed above the other. This friendly banter used to be just between James and Kath, however it now extends to include their children.

We now look forward to attending Beef 2021 in Rockhampton early May. We would love to catch up with anyone planning on attending.

South Devons will be judged at 12 noon on Wednesday the 5th of May, Tammie Robinson is the lady who has been given the opportunity to Judge our Breed. There has been no word as yet as to whether the judging will be live streamed. We will be in Ring 6 and housed in the 'Dawson' Tent for those wishing to find us.



Jambili Radradra at Toowoomba Royal.

Stud Beef Victoria Handlers Camp. (courtesy Sarah Bolte)

The kids and I attended the Victorian Stud Beef Handlers Camp that was held in Geelong during the first week of the school holidays. This year saw a smaller group of kids attend, but I think this came with a positive angle in that the kids got a lot more time with each instructor.

On Thursday afternoon, Stephen Valentine kicked things off with a walk through the shed discussing animal structure and pointers for the Junior Judging that took place just before dinner.

Friday was packed with heaps of hands-on stuff with leading, washing and grooming in the morning. After lunch Rob Yelland gave an awesome talk about reproduction and brought along semen, eggs, and embryos for the kids to look at through a microscope. Lastly, we finished off the day with some fun games and activities to make sure the kids really slept well!

On Saturday it was time to put what we had learnt into practice with 2 handler's classes and the Stud Beef Victoria Challenge. The challenge was a bit of group fun where the kids had a set time to present their allocated animal with only 6 items of their choice. The night was finished off with plenty of dancing, music, and fun.

Sunday morning was presentations followed by the dreaded packing up and long drive home for parents.

Photo below; Stephanie Bolte & Ebenezer Park Rosie

Sire: *Davelle Awesome Reg* Dam: *Ebenezer Park Maybelle*





On the left; Katherine Bolte & *Ebenezer Park Roxy*

Sire: *Tesbury J107*

Dam: *The Bend L48*

Below left; Nephew Bailey Hall & *Steer Roy*

Sire: *Ebenezer Park Paddy*

Dam: *Ebenezer Park Patsy*

Below right; Shared Ballot Heifer – *Ebenezer Park Ruby* (1st Cross)

Sire: *Tesbury J107*

Dam: *Hereford Cow*



**The Caps Are
Here!!**



Thank you to our Councillor Will Randall from Dalness Farming for his generous donation and to Toby Bowron for his creative flare and initiative! I look forward to seeing photos of you all wearing your caps in the years to come!!



The photo above shows South Devon Steers from Watinga (Neil and Yvonne Hagger) on their way to compete in the Southern Grassfed Classic (South Australia). It goes without saying that we all wish them well and hope to hear how successful they were in the not too distant future.



The colourful characters on the left are South Devon x English Longhorns calves at Will Randall's Dalness farming in Tasmania.

This impressive steer is an F1, also at Dalness farming.



THE next newsletter will be a Beef 2021, NSW School's Steer Spectacular and AGM Special and I hope to have it out in early June.

For the following one, about mid-July – could I please hear from people who are doing Boxed Beef? Or supplying a specific butcher shop/restaurant? I will need copy and photos by the end of June.

This is a newsletter for all breeders of South Devon cattle (and I include SD cross cattle in that term), not just stud ones, and if I can help someone to expand or promote their business, when that business involves the use of South Devons either on the hoof or on the hook, then I consider that to be a good thing.

Meat on Maitland (in the Bingara area of NSW) has already expanded due in no small part to the quality of the SD meat being sold there, and there are quite a number of 'boxed beef' enterprises in Victoria that are doing well with their SD beef.

Maybe we can make some positive gains from the problems Covid caused, because it is a definite fact that many more Australians than ever before are looking to source their food as directly from the producer as they can. If we, as SD producers, can work together to raise the profile of SD beef, it can only be a positive thing. It does mean that we have to keep promoting and breeding our cattle to a greater extent than ever. There is no sense in creating a market and then not being able to fill it.

I hope you all stay safe and well, enjoy your ASD Review when it arrives in the near future, and keep sending me any news and photos you think may be interesting . I would still love to include at least one stud profile per newsletter, so we all get to know each other or renew old acquaintances.

HAPPY READING – WE'RE OFF TO BEEF 21 in Rockhampton on Friday. It's only a 3 ½ hour drive now instead of over 7, so we're nearly local!!

Heather Lindsay

(Editor).