



# AUSTRALIAN SOUTH DEVONS

## NEWSLETTER

July 2021

Welcome to the latest newsletter.

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**PLEASE NOTE; I HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS (AS PER THE LAST NEWSLETTER) IT IS [athlonesouthdevons@gmail.com](mailto:athlonesouthdevons@gmail.com) .**

Can you please only use this address for emails pertaining to South Devon news

While I am talking newsletters ;

Can you please put the name of the animal on your photo before you send it to me? I am still receiving emails with photos of animals attached with only 'img xyz' and the name of the animal is somewhere in the text of the email. It is so much quicker/easier for me to only have to save the photo of the animal direct to one of the hard drives than to have to work out which animal it is and then name it as I save it.

**Another reminder.** Can you please send me your reports as word doc attachments and NOT in the body of the email? It makes it quicker and easier for me to save your news, and I'm like everyone else – time poor, so I appreciate any help you give me.

## ANOTHER WIN FOR WATINGA IN THE SOUTHERN CARCASS CLASSIC. (South Australia).

Congratulations to Neil and Yvonne Hagger for their repeat success. Thanks to Neil for the following information and photos.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> annual Southern Grainfed Carcass Classic.**

Teams of 10 steers were delivered to Teys Feed lot at Charlton on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. They were all run together in 1 pen so all animals had exactly the same conditions and rations. After 110 days they were processed by Teys and all bodies graded to mla/msa classifications.

Entry weights were 350 to 500 kg with a Bovilis MHR vaccine at least 10 days before delivery. They could be any breed or cross as this was a commercial feeding as for any other feedlot consignment. We only had 14 steers within the weight range at that stage so it was a quick look in our records to see what their mums had produced in the past then a final visual selection if it was a first calver.

Our team was of a fairly high South Devon content, 15 months old and weighed 484kg av. on entry. Average carcass weight was 355kg.

Some individual highlights were highest daily gain of 2.25 and 2.23 kgs per day which were the highest in the comp. Therefore tag 4 who entered at 498kg put on 245.5 to finish at 743.5 and dressed 401.5 with an ema of 119sq cm.

Only 5 animals in the competition had ema of 100 or more and 3 of those were in our team. We had an average ema of 99sq cm.

It was interesting to note that most carcasses had a meat colour of 3 whereas the grassfed competition generally has meat colour of 1c or 2. I wonder if the darker colour was due to the rations fed or the animals being exposed to the weather or maybe a combination of both.

Most of our team had MSA Marbling of 400 to 440 with average MSA index of 62.4.

Our overall top point scorer was a Black South Devon who scored 14/15 for market specifications [missed 1 on meat colour], 35/35 for saleable meat yield with an ema of 106 sq cm, and 42.17/50 for eating quality to give a total of 91.17.

The 2 slowest gainers were of course the lightest muscled animals. We feel the whole competition has shown that our breeding program is meeting our aims. Our preferred product is still a properly finished animal on grass with a 300kg carcass at 18 months. As not all seasons allow us to do that it is good to know our stock will suit another market.

As an extra our entry results in National Beef Rockhampton have just arrived and our grainfed entry averaged 88.82pts, that is slightly higher than the Teys hosted competition where we averaged 85.38. Teys competition average was 76.55. Did any other South Devon breeders enter?



The Watinga steer which had the highest daily weight gain in the competition.

Below; some of the Watinga steers.







Cattle in the Southern Grainfed Carcase classic competition. As Neil stated in his report, all cattle were penned together. Obviously there had been a considerable amount of wet weather.

#### LARDNER PARK STEER TRIALS.

Brejayanne and Bennettswood South Devons both have entries in the Lardner Park steer trials this year, and as in previous years, the SD steers from Brejayanne are performing well. The Garratt family have learned from previous years (when their steers were penalised for too much weight gain), and this year have started off with their lightest contestants ever. For those who read Gaylene's Facebook post, I'm sure we all totally agree that impressive weight gains can't be seen as a bad thing.

The SD X Angus steers entered by Bennettswood are also performing well. Updates will be included in newsletters as they come to hand but it goes without saying that we all wish both families all the best. It's always good to see South Devons out there competing in any field, and there is always a place in this newsletter to report on their progress and hopefully to report on their ultimate results.

# Farmfest 2021



Farmfest week proved to be a very busy one for our National President, as James kicked off the week judging steers at Toogoolawah Show's Led Steer Spectacular on the Saturday before returning home to set up the Farmfest site on the Sunday and returning to Farmfest on Monday with Kath and the cattle.

Farmfest was held once again on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 at Kingsthorpe Park, Qld (between Oakey and Toowoomba on the Warrego Highway). Farmfest is an institution on the Qld Farming Calendar and once again the weather gave us its usual variety. Those who attended experienced classic Farmfest weather - 3 types of weather on each of the 3 days. Brilliant Sunshine on Tuesday, Rain on Wednesday, and Frost on Thursday

The South Devon Society had its stand there with Ashlea, Jambili and Kildare all representing the breed. There was a lot of interest in our breed and some positive outcomes with several Kildare bulls finding new homes as a result.

The livestock area was noticeably smaller this year with a few sites remaining vacant. This did not deter those who exhibited as the enthusiasm was high and attendance steady.

The livestock competitions were run again this year with the exception of the Cattlemen's Cup.

The Jambili Stud exhibited cattle on all 3 days. Led Steer Competition on the Tuesday, Battle of the Bulls on Wednesday, and Fantastic Females on Thursday. They managed a 3<sup>rd</sup> in the lightweight section with a South Devon x steer on Tuesday. Jambili Radradra was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in his Junior British Section, and Jambili Quesada 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Senior British Section on Wednesday, and Jambili Rapunzel placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in her Junior British Female section on Thursday. The McUtchens were very happy to receive ribbons with all of their stud entries, as there was



an average of 12 entries to a class. Kildare exhibited Kildare Quince on the Wednesday but he was placed just out of the ribbons.



***Jambili Quesada***



***Jambili Rapunzel***



***Photos show the 2 Ashlea bulls which were displayed at Farmfest. Q28 at the top on the left and Q24 below.***



# EKKA

Kildare and Jambili now look forward to flying the South Devon Flag at 2021 Royal Queensland Show, with South Devon Stud Cattle, and South Devon infused led and prime steers being shown. This year's Ekka has had some changes made to the judging dates. For the first time Led Steers will be judged on the Thursday and South Devons judged on the Saturday. Please keep a watch out on our Facebook page for more information as the dates draw closer. We hope that they will live stream the judging again this year.

## Chinchilla Show Results

The Jambili Stud took a fresh team of South Devon infused Led Steers to Chinchilla as an outing prior to Farmfest. This proved to be a very successful decision as their team of 6 came home with 7 ribbons including Champion Led Steer with 'Doodles' (*pic right.*) They managed to win all three classes which was a fantastic result for James, Callum, and Alannah.



## CASINO HIGH SCHOOL - BEEF WEEK 2021.



This year Beef Week looked a little different to other years, however the team still had a great day. Our South Devon Bull 'River' won a first in his under 12-month class against a very good Braford Bull. The judge making wonderful comments about the structure and

functionality of our South Devon Bull as well as what she believed would be his longevity in a breeding herd. The students worked really hard on the day and thanks to all the parents and carers and family members who came to support



us on the day. Next show up is EKKA !! Late news; NSW students have been banned by NSW Dept Ed from travelling, so it looks like no Ekka.

**Due to my email problems, the following contributions arrived too late for the previous newsletter - apologies to Daphne and Mauree.**

A poem courtesy of Mauree Rees to bring a smile to your face.

### **THE LOCAL ELDERS MAN**

When you're living in the country in the land of bush and scrub  
And you're twenty "K's" from neighbours another fifty from a pub.  
When you haven't seen a soul for days, let alone a postman's van.  
Well never fear, a visit's near, from your local Elders Man.  
He's a cheerful friendly fellow with a twinkle in his eye.  
He brings the daily papers and spare parts when he drops by.  
He's your link with civilisation in your isolated spot,  
And when it comes to sights he's seen, he hasn't missed a lot!

When you're living miles from anyone you may think you're not observed.  
And a false sense of security makes you think you can't be heard.  
Your city sister daily may have visitors pop in,  
And so, by eight, she's looking great, the house like a new pin.  
For you, by eight, the kids are off, cow's milked, you've fed the chooks,  
You've been so bloody busy you haven't cared about your looks.  
With hairy legs, daggy shorts, and that funny little hat,  
Odd socks adorn your Rossi's- who the hell would fancy that?

But does it really matter? - As there's no-one there to see,  
Or so you thought 'til the Elders man call unexpectedly.  
If he thinks, "By God, she's ugly - if I only had a gun!"  
He never shows it on his face - acting lesson number one.  
He never mentions unswept floors, no comments on the sink  
That heaves and groans with breakfast plates that teeter on the brink.  
He understands that farmer's wives are busy all the time,  
And that when he sees you next in town you'll be dressed up looking fine.

Last summer, hot as hell, north wind blowing fit to bust,  
The chook bin stank, the house pump seized - I had to brave the dust.  
I stuffed the baby in pram, and dragged the toddler out,  
The pram wheels jammed, the scraps tipped up, I began to yell and shout.  
I arrived exhausted at the shed to find the chooks were dead.  
"This God forsaken Hell Hole! Wish I lived in town instead!"  
The wind roared loud, I cursed and swore and fell and beat the ground -  
I failed to hear the Elders Man had arrived without a sound.

He bent down sympathetically and offered me a hand.



I thanked him, extricating from my mouth large gobs of sand.  
He said to me, "Well, isn't this a bugger of a day?"

As if it was quite normal finding women in this way.  
He put the children in his car, the toddler on his knee  
And probably thought, "She ought to be in an infirmary!"  
But nothing more was ever said, though there was worse to come.  
"WORSE?" - You say - much worse, I fear. Just listen to this one.

Two weeks later, I decided it was time to mow the lawn.  
The husband and the workman had gone off at crack of dawn.  
I was alone and mowing hard, and working up a sweat,  
So, I stripped off to my underwear to cool me down a bit.  
The engine throbbed, the sun shone hot - I thought - "Oh, what the hell,  
I don't want strap marks on my back!" - Off came my bra as well.  
Singing loud, whilst working on my great all over tan,  
I mowed around the corner - BANG! - Into the Elders Man.

I wish I had been calm and cool and smiled and said "G'DAY!"  
Instead, I screamed, blushed, clutched myself, and swiftly ran away.  
With T-Shirt and my shorts back on I met him at the door.  
"I turned the mover off, love," was all he said - no more.  
So, when you're living in the bush just remember this advice,  
Expect the unexpected, or you'll end up losing face.  
Prevent yourself from fits of passion and those weird quirks if you can,  
Or you'll get caught for certain by the local Elders Man!

\*Victoria Brown, Hills Plains, Esperance

### **World News from Daphne Lines (our World Council Delegate)**

With much persuasion over many months the proposed annual meeting of the World Council took place in October. A general discussion of the situation world-wide, centred not surprisingly on Covid and its effects, and the postponement of the New Zealand tour. I put the proposal from Australia in relation to tour segments and was assured by New Zealand that they had "learnt their lesson" and would look at alternatives for the future tour. They had barely reached the magic "go ahead" number when cancellation became necessary. The plan, then, (i.e., in February) was to re convene, with an amended itinerary in 2022, - that still awaits confirmation. It was also agreed to retain the Office bearers as they were, as the South African climate was volatile and John Miller, (Vice President) was not comfortable in taking on the position. When we meet again as a whole the election will come from the floor not the Council as it has previously.

The outcome from this meeting was then implemented in February this year. Some of you were able to connect to the Zoom meeting, others frustratingly could not, I was included in the latter as I know was David Corker. The suggestion of a speaker that

may have been to address the NZ conference was taken on board and I understand that was received well. An open meeting will be held again in August, watch out for information to come, and the future of these Worldwide discussions will be assessed by the World Council following this. As your representative I would appreciate your feedback. Time zones pose a problem and I commend the Canadian member, who was online at 2.30am. Please note the times will change for the August hook up to try to be more world friendly, I guess we might all have to take our turn with early morning meetings.

I thank you for the opportunity to be your representative on the World Council.

#### **South Australian News.**

With us all remaining close to home we have not met as a group since September 2019, but all have been doing their best to fly the South Devon flag. Davelle and Hi ridge held open days in February as part of the South Australian Beef Field Day series. Like our counterparts in other states, we have been enjoying the fruits of our labour with returns like we have never seen before for our stock. Watinga have entered into the Southern Classic sponsored by Teys Bros, (Charlton) and again many schools will be preparing steers for the Royal Adelaide Show hoof and hook competition. We await the break of the season as it remains very dry over most of the state, lower SE being the exception.

#### **NEXT ISSUE – DUE ABOUT THE END OF SEPTEMBER.**

RESULTS FROM; Ekka, Melbourne Royal, hopefully a Lardner Park update, and any other news you care to share about the doings of our SD members and their cattle.

Don't forget there is a Zoom World Council meeting in August.

I would love for us to have a Zoom meeting; just a general catch up for everyone. Not necessarily a formal meeting, more like a Zoom tea party. Let me know if you think it would be aa good idea – [athlonesouthdevons@gmail.com](mailto:athlonesouthdevons@gmail.com) .

Happy reading – stay safe and well.

*Heather Lindsay* – Newsletter Editor.