

Victorian Red Poll On Farm Challenge

19-23 February 2013

This year's On Farm Challenge commenced on a Tuesday with Judge Robert Burness of Moa Vale Red Poll Stud, Coolangatta assessing Doug D'Oliver's cattle at Leongatha. Robert and Doug then moved on to Lang Lang to see the herd of Mark and Elke Harris and then north-west to assess Nell and Ian Staff's herd at Pheasant Creek.

On Wednesday, Robert completed the examination of the remaining entries at Pheasant Creek and was then driven north by Don Castle to Bunbartha to see the Almora cattle of Merle Hipwell and Olive Halliday. They then pushed on to Shane Storm's herd at Barham, NSW. With daylight a problem after the long driving time, the last animal was assessed on Thursday morning.

From there, Don and Robert moved south-west to Gay Wuchatsch's cattle at Pirron Yallock and then on to Don's own cattle at Carpendeit and Stoneyford. On Friday, the travellers journeyed to Greg Abbott's herd at Kolora and Mortlake, followed by a visit to Robert and Terry Nutting's herd at Hawkesdale.

On Saturday, a get together of Red Poll participants was held at Pheasant Creek to witness the Judge's explanation of his judging system and words of wisdom about evaluating structure, milking ability and fertility assessment in cattle. The presentation of awards followed with the results shown below. All told, there were 70 females and 18 bulls entered from 9 herds. Greg Abbott's cattle reigned supreme by winning both Champion Bull and Champion Female.

The Judge used his own Classification System, which contains a range of scores from 1 to 10 for 19 to 21 characters. The top score of 10 is preferred whilst animals with characters scoring less than 5 would have a problem.

He stated that for productivity, the most important features to consider in assessment were structure, temperament, flat muscling and production assets. He stressed the importance of selecting animals with good legs and feet and cows with well-structured and textured udders, good teat placement, smooth shoulders and suitable hip to pin lengths and width of pins for easy calving.

When commenting on the animals assessed, Robert stated that he saw a high quality of cattle, evenness of stock and serious faults were a rarity.

He reiterated that Red Polls are highly underrated in the Beef Stock Industry and should be considered as leaders in Fertility, Fertility, Productivity and Ease of Doing. The great results of Red Polls in Carcase Competitions, where Judges' breed preferences in On the Hoof Competitions are annulled, provide proof that the long flat muscling in Red Polls is a highly desirable characteristic that produces high muscle volume and dressing percentages (>60%) and is used by knowledgeable breeders in their cross-breeding activities.

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Results: Female

Class 1. 9-16 Months

1. S. Storm & Son	Stormley Lara
2. G. Abbott	Turanga Annabelle Hero
3. N & I Staff	Sophonites Olivia

Class 2. 16-24 Months

1. G. Abbott	Turanga Fussah's Hero
2. G. Abbott	Turanga Merry Hero
3. Hipwell & Halliday	Almora Felix

Class 3 24-36 Months

1. D. D'Oliver	St Cerry Eva Two
2. R & T Nutting	757
3. M & E Harris	Ketlang Ursulee

Class 4 3-5 Years

1. D. D'Oliver	Stormley Jodie
2. G. Wuchatsch	Koallah Park Bright Lass
3. G. Abbott	Turanga Florence
3. Hipwell & Halliday	Almora Keto

Class 5 Over 5 Years

1. Hipwell & Halliday	Almora Alyshia 2
1. R & T Nutting	CL7
2. N & I Staff	Sophonites Cara
3. D & B Castle	Koallah Park Emily

Results: Bulls

Class 6 9-16 Months

1. G. Abbott	Commercial
2. D & B Castle	Koallah Park Sinatra Bos
3. N & I Staff	Sophonites Nickelodeon

Class 7 16-24 Months

1. G. Abbott	Turanga DA Hero
2. D & B Castle	Koallah Park Bryce
2. D. D'Oliver	Turanga Mandy's Hero

Class 8 2-5 Years

1. G. Abbott	Eurimbla Ajax
2. D & B Castle	Koallah Park Red Patrick
3. N & I Staff	Oakwood Zorba of Olympia

Class 9 Over 5 Years

1. D & B Castle	Sophonites Rooibos
2. S. Storm & Sons	Stormley Strad Dale

Class 10 – Two offspring, one Sire under 18 Months

1. G. Abbott	Sire – Turanga Hero
2. N & I Staff	Sire – Yongerellen Romeo Englander
3. Hipwell & Halliday	Sire – Almora Galaxy

CHAMPION FEMALE G. Abbott Turanga Fussah's Hero

CHAMPION MALE G. Abbott Eurimbla Ajax

JUDGE - Robert Burness, Coolangatta, NSW.

Red Poll Websites: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~redpoll>
<http://redpoll.org.au>

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