

RED POLL

BEEF CATTLE

AUSTRALIAN RED POLL

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RICHARD DALEY

PRESIDENTS POST

Recently, I attended a Santa Gertrudis sale in S.A. just to see how other breeds were fairing. The cattle had all been on feeders for some time and were in very good condition. They were big framed and what I would consider to be big boned with large joints compared to our Red Polls. Some of the heavier animals, at 18 months, were around the 700kg mark. Most demonstrated the floppy sheaths of the Bos Indicus and had on average testicle circumferences around 34cms and often these were “held up”. From the gallery around me I often heard, “he’s got good bone” or “look at the size of him”. The sale was not a great success and of the 49 bulls offered 16 were passed in at \$2500 with a number only getting a bid at this price. Selling bulls in Northern S.A. is difficult because it relies on the Alice Springs and S.A. pastoralists turning up and being financial after good seasons. For the three vendors, who had put a lot of effort into promoting the sale and I would imagine considerable funds, the exercise would not have been profitable. This breed enjoys considerable favour in the show ring and I feel that it is more to do with bone and size than performance.

The number of cells that make up all tissue, particularly bone and muscle, are the same for all cattle, which poses the question; do the bigger boned breeds have less bone density than the Red Polls? Bone is not a fixed structure but varies in response to function of muscle. Although our red poll cattle do not have big joints, they are a more moderate frame size and demonstrate a flatter and finer bone profile but carry as much or more muscle development than most breeds as the yield % of our carcase winning steers demonstrates. My local transporter when I asked him for a quote to take 20 steers to market later in the year said that he would have to take into account that they were Red Poll as he had been caught before when trying to pack Red Polls onto his truck he had to leave one off where with other breeds he would have got it on. He was saying that the Red Poll was more solid and therefore took up more room.

At home, my 18-month bulls would be around 600kgs without being on grain. Red Polls will keep on growing at a steady rate up to 1000kgs at 4 years just on good pasture. In the last 2 years I have sent two stud bulls that have worked for 2 years to sale by live weight straight from the paddock and after 3 hours in a truck they weighed 935 kgs [4.5 years old] and 1030 kgs [5 years] and I suspect you all have similar stories or better. Bos Indicus cattle have the advantage of tick and heat resistance and they will eat “hard tack”, but when you

compare their loose sheath and testical dimensions to our breed, you wonder how they ever get anything in calf. This comparison, and I could go into it in much greater depth, reminds me of what a great breed of cattle we have. You can “buy” only so much market favour but in the end, you have to have a product that can perform.

Our Victorian region held the annual Whittlesea sale with good sales recorded. This happens to be the only sale held for Red Poll cattle at present and it is extremely well run by Ross Draper and his team. Another well run event has been the youth camp held by the Queensland region, this time under the leadership of Tim Light, who has signed up a few junior members for the breed. Our Federal Executive has had one meeting this year and the upgrading register was discussed in response to a request from a member. We do have provision for upgrading in our rules and regulations but, as yet, no mechanism to guide, control and record the process. This is now being developed and will require an FIS fee for each stage and DNA testing.

The ARPCBI has hired a site for Beef 2012 and Jill Bockman and the Queensland region are quite advanced with preparation. The Executive has had 4000 copies of our brochure, “We have Australia Covered” updated and printed. Copies of this new brochure will be available to members after Rockhampton. A review is under way of the judging list in the recent herdbook as some of those listed are no longer with us. Our World Congress committee has also had a phone conference in February and now has a workshop planned for April 14th in Adelaide. Once the regional input is finalized a tentative tour itinerary with cost will be promulgated. The committee has put in a lot of effort so far and have a lot of work ahead of them.

Most of you would now be aware that Aimee Klabe has replaced Cheryl Green as our registrar and Keryn tells me she has settled in well. Our office had a few problems with arranging a graphic designer for our annual which had to be out sourced in the end. With the Christmas rush and companies closing down for the break we intend to start production of our annual a month earlier. This means you will need to get your advertising underway earlier and as many people sent in a copy well after the deadline we hope this prompts you to act sooner than in previous years.

Well, this is the first newsletter of the year and I hope it will be a good year for Red Polls in general and for each one of you in particular.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA REPORT

It has been a relatively quiet beginning for the region in 2012, a warmer than average summer has just finished, early autumn rain wasn't quite welcomed but as long as it continues, we are due for a good season.

In the show ring Yongerellen and Red Sands exhibited cattle at the Wagin Woolarama with Red Sands Jill winning any other beef breed champion female. Harvey show is on April 28th with Bellahway and Ranfurley studs to exhibit.

A regional meeting will be held on May the 12th at the Coranning stud. It will be good for everyone to catch up, several members have been touring around W.A.

looking at possible venues to visit for the upcoming World Congress in 2014. As a region, we have spoken to the cattle stewards at the Brunswick Show. They are excited about the tour and have offered their assistance in staging one of the biggest one day shows in Australia.

Bulls were offered for sale at the inaugural Narrogin sale, with one Yongerellen bull and one Red Sands bull on offer, the Yongerellen bull sold for \$4000.

As a region we hope everyone has a great season and that cattle prices continue to hold up.

WAYNE OWSTON

PROFILE: CHALLENGING ROLE SUITS WAYNE'S ZEST FOR MILKING COWS



Wayne Owston's passion for farming was nurtured as a child on his family's property at Warragul in Victoria.

The road to making a living in the industry has taken him a long way from that farm - most recently to the Karnet Prison Farm at Serpentine where his appointment as Dairy Manager is creating a completely new set of challenges. In addition to revitalising the farm's Holstein herd and managing the dairy section from pastures to pasteurisation, Wayne is teacher and mentor to prisoners assigned to dairy work.

So far, it's been an enormous learning curve; however, Wayne is excited about the work that lies ahead, especially about updating and improving the dairy herd's genetic base. "We are currently milking 155 Holsteins in a 12-aside swing over. All calves are reared, with the heifers retained for herd replacements and the bulls sold as poddies at the Mundijong saleyards.

Wayne's family is well known in the Warragul district, having developed one of the nation's premier Guernsey studs ('Mainvu'), as well as a Limousin herd. It's here that his interest in genetics was born.

A young Wayne was tutored by extended family and honed his skills in cattle nutrition, genetics and showmanship while helping in a variety of hands-on roles on the farm. His father was in the Navy and in Wayne's teenage years, his immediate family relocated to Western Australia following his father's posting here. Keen to continue in dairy farming and with the family living at Serpentine, Wayne sought weekend and school holiday dairy work with Peter Kargotich and family at nearby Byford.

Marriage to Belinda Lutey further strengthened Wayne's ties to the cattle industry, as Belinda also has a passion

NEW SOUTH WALES REPORT

2012 SYDNEY ROYAL COMPETITION *Winners*

Judge: Peter Falls

Junior Champion Female:

Mrs C Smith - Belault Glitter

Reserve Junior Champion Female:

Mr Ross Draper - Red Cactus Donna

Senior Champion Female:

Mr Ross Draper - Red Cactus Jolly

Reserve Senior Champion Female:

Mrs C Smith - Belault Fable

Grand Champion Female:

Mr Ross Draper - Red Cactus Jolly

Junior Champion Bull:

Mrs C Smith - Belault Grantham

Reserve Junior Champion Bull:

Mr Ross Draper - Red Cactus Jethro

Senior Champion Bull:

Mrs C Smith - Belault Faerleagh

Reserve Senior Champion Bull:

Mr Ross Draper - Red Cactus Fiscal

Grand Champion Bull:

Mrs C Smith - Belault Faerleagh

Best Exhibit:

Mrs C Smith - Belault Faerleagh

The W K Cowlshaw Trophy For Best Exhibit, donated by the Family of the late W K Cowlshaw (Founder Of The Arrow Red Poll Stud):

Mrs C Smith - Belault Faerleagh



Grand Champion Red Poll bull owned by Mrs C Smith, Tarago with judge Peter Falls, Finley, Robert Drysdale, Rowland's Plains and Letisha Salzke, Wagga.

Photo: W. Jenkins.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA REPORT - CONTINUED

for dairy cattle and has been a familiar face in the show ring with her Brosalinda Holsteins and Jerseys. Wayne and Belinda are also developing their Ranfurly Red Poll and Charolais studs. They regularly show at Perth and other State shows, in addition to assisting Bob and Joan Haywood, Margaret River with their Westhaven cattle.

With the couple's young daughter teething at the 2011 Perth Royal, they were particularly pleased to be named most successful Red Poll exhibitor of the show, amid all the sleeplessness!

Wayne hopes that one day he will get permission to exhibit Karnet cattle at local shows.

HOOFFNOTE: Karnet Prison Farm plays a vital role in providing work experience for minimum security prisoners. The focus is on preparing prisoners for successful re-entry into the community, giving them job skills linked to agricultural production.

The prison farm supports the breeding of cattle and sheep and has an abattoir, dairy, poultry farm, market gardens and an orchard.

Source: The Landmark Livestock Informer, February 2012, Vol 2, Number 1

VICTORIAN REPORT

VICTORIAN RED POLL ON FARM CHALLENGE 7-11 FEB 2012

This year's On Farm Challenge commenced on Tuesday with Judge Grame Hopf of Murwillumbah assessing Sam Henson's cattle at Buninyong. He and Sam then moved on to Mortlake to see the herd of Greg Abbott, followed by Gay Wuchatsch's cattle at Pirron Yallock and President Don Castle at Stoneyford. On Wednesday, Don and Grame took a long drive to Shane Storm's property in Barham, followed by a visit to Hipwell and Halliday's property at Bunbartha. On Thursday, an early morning start saw a visit to Ian and Jill Coghlan's herd at Tallandoon, near Tallangatta. Then a change of chauffer occurred with Doug D'Oliver driving the Judge to his property at Leongatha North, onto Judy McAninly's cattle at Won Wron, and to Mark Harris' herd at Lang Lang, then on to Ian Staff's property at Pheasant Creek. Saturday, a get together of Red Poll members and visitors 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. Awards were presented with results as tabled. In total, there were 96 females and 21 bulls entered from 11 herds. Ian and Jill Coghlan's cattle reigned supreme by winning both Champion Bull and Champion Female.

The Judge used the Australian Beef Type Classification

Reporting System, which contains a range of scores from 1 to 9 for 21 characters. The median score of 5 is preferred whilst animals with scores tending towards 9 or 1 would be too extreme.

He stated that the most important features to consider in breeding were fertility, temperament, management and cow families. He stressed the importance of selecting animals with thin, loose skin, fine hair, flat bones, and cows with well-structured and textured udders, good shoulders, long heads, good spring of rib and rear feet with plenty of heel.

When commenting on the animals assessed, Grame stated that he saw a great improvement in quality and evenness of stock since his previous judging tour of the On Farm Challenge in 2009.

He reiterated that Red Polls are highly underrated in the Beef Stock Industry and should be considered as leaders in Fertility, Femininity and Ease of Doing.

We were all saddened by Sam and Vicki's loss of 11 cows (some of the best) through accidental poisoning by cuttings of boobialla (*Myoporum*) on their leased property soon after their judging.

IAN STAFF

CLASS/AGE	1st	2nd	3rd
FEMALE			
1 9 - 16 m	Hipwell & Halliday Almora Kyla 242	G & K Abbott Turanga Phillah's Hero	M. Wuchatsch Koallah Park Christiana
2 16 - 24 m	I & J Coghlan Eurimbla Becky	M & E Harris Ketlang Lilly	M & E Harris Ketlang Ursulla
3 24 - 36 m	G & K Abbott Turanga EDA Endeavour	N & I Staff Sophronites Bella	I & J Coghlan Eurimbla Next Door
4 3 - 5 yrs	I & J Coghlan Eurimbla Petticoat	N & I Staff Sophronites Veronica	G & K Abbott Turanga Rose
5 Over 5 yrs	S Storm & Sons Stormley Pen Gladly	N & I Staff Sophronites Shosholoza	S & V Hensen Red Hot Philis
BULL			
6 9 - 16 m	G & K Abbott Turanga EDA Endeavour	N & I Staff Sophronites Corker	M & E Harris Ketlang Garmont
7 16 - 24 m	N & I Staff Oakwood Zorba of Olympia	G & K Abbott Turanga Zorba	M & E Harris Ketlang Brutus
8 2 - 5 yrs	I & J Coghlan Eurimbla Leopold	Hipwell & Halliday Almora Kelby	S & V Henson Red Hot Seppam Boy
9 Over 5 yrs	D. Castle Rhyd-Talog Bryce	S & V Henson Red Hot Incredible	
10 2 Offspring 1 Sire	Hipwell & Halliday A. Kyla & A. Felix	N & I Staff :Sire Sophronites Cosmo with S Sarah & S. Charlene	G & K Abbott: Sire Turanga Hero - T. Phillah's Hero, T. Snowah's Hero

RESULTS

VICTORIAN RED POLL ON FARM CHALLENGE

CHAMPION FEMALE
Eurimbla Petticoat:
I & J Coghlan,
Tallandoon/Gerogery

CHAMPION BULL
Eurimbla Leopold:
I & J Coghlan,
Tallandoon/Gerogery

RED POLL AND MAINE-ANJOU SALE AT WHITTLESEA

Buyers were busy at the Red Poll and Maine-Anjou Sale on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at Whittlesea Showgrounds despite the rainy weather where Landmark Embling put on the usual Helmsman Sale.

Of the 23 Stud Heifers on offer, 16 were sold at prices ranging from \$1000 to \$2300 with the average at \$1300. This was despite Mike Bassula's inability to bring his seven heifers because of mechanical failure of his truck. However, he did manage to photograph the heifers and displayed the photos on his hi tech iPad on the day. Top priced female at \$2300 was 2 year old Red Phoenix Big Sister offered by Mike and purchased by new member Sally Davidson of Yarrambat.

All 10 commercial heifers and cows and calves were sold at an average of \$1400 with demand exceeding supply. Major purchasers were Juleen and Greg Crowe of Benalla who took home 9 stud and 5 commercial heifers. Top Priced Red Poll of \$3000 was a young bull offered by Ross Draper who went to Ivan Leeder of Donald. Ivan is one of our members of long standing and is now 89 years old. However, interest in the other bulls on offer was lacking.

Thanks go to Ross Draper and Daryl Johnson who did a lot of work to clean up the muddy yards on Friday and Graham, Lorelle and Melissa Neal who managed the breakfast, morning tea and lunch on Sale Day as well as all other volunteers who assisted. The catalogue was ably prepared by Bridgid Fry of Knowsley.

All unsold registered heifers were later sold to a Red Poll Commercial Breeder who inadvertently missed the sale, but managed to make up for his absence.



Top-Priced Red Poll Red Cactus Heyou with new owners - members of the Leeder Family: Bruce, Ivan, James and Ross Draper.

FIELD DAYS

Sungold Field Days at Allansford were organised by D Castle on Feb 15-17. G Abbott, N & I Staff also contributed.

The Seymour Alternative Farming Expo was attended by Ross Draper's Red Cactus Stud on 17-19 February.

Lardner Park at Warragul (March 23-26) was organised by M Harris, D. D'Oliveir, N & I Staff, R Draper. A Walker's Raedean Red Angus and Red Poll Stud was also in attendance.

Although attendance at these functions could be considered to be expensive, the virtue of attending is reflected in better sales at our Whittlesea Sale and other private sales of cattle.



ON FARM CHALLENGE PHOTOS (Clockwise): Champion Bull Eurimbla Leopold, Judge Grame Hopf & breeder Ian Coghlan, Champion Female Eurimbla Petticoat with calf.

PROMOTIONAL GOODS



The Victorian Region has now had small Red Poll Flags and Pens for distribution as a promotional incentive.

Our next Feature Show will be held on 21st October at Kyneton. More details will be released closer to the event.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA REPORT

The Region met at Balaklava for a lunch meeting on February 10th with an excellent turn up of members. We meet at Balaklava as it is centrally placed for all studs. This meeting is as much a social occasion as business, however, this year with the World Congress on the horizon we had a lot to discuss. Our newest members, Sue and Gavin Harris sent their apologies.

Moyle Park had participated the week before in the S.A. Beef field days with a good crowd of visitors all day. It was particularly pleasing to have two young men, from the Angus and Chaolais breeds, who have worked for Moyle Park at the Adelaide show, show interest in the breed. Both

are keen young cattlemen with good connections in the industry and understand the value of Red Polls.

Schools have again sought cattle from our breeders and some have already arranged to pick up steers. It is pleasing to note that the school teachers who are very keen to do well are the ones that seek our cattle. We know that our animals are going to good operators.

As autumn is now upon us cropping takes over as the major agricultural interest in S.A. so those of us in the livestock industry take a back seat for awhile. The next major event for us will be the Heifer Expo in July.

RICHARD DALEY

For Sale



TOP CLASS RED POLL SIRE BROSELINDA PARK 'IMPRESSION'

Impression is a rising 3 year old bull sired by Kingmaker and out of our now deceased Ridgee Vaseline. Very rare pedigree stack here. Shown at Perth Royal Show in 2010 and 2011, winning Reserve Senior Champion Bull in 2011, dam winning Reserve Senior Champ Female at Perth in 2007 aged 10 at her first ever show.

Has calves on the ground now, used over heifers with no problem, including Grand Champion Female PRS 2011.

BVDV tested NEGATIVE, photos are of working paddock condition, regretful sale, able to travel anywhere in Australia

*Price on enquiry, once in a decade opportunity,
please contact Wayne on
(08) 9525 7566 or 0428 116 103
or ranfurlyrp@yahoo.com*

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2012 CALENDAR

May 7 - 12	Beef Australia, Rockhampton QLD
Jun 5 - 7	Farmfest Field Days, Toowoomba QLD
July 10 - 13	Stud Beef Vic Handlers' Camp, Melbourne VIC
July 18 - 21	Junior Heifer Expo Adelaide
August 15 - 24	Royal Brisbane Show
Sept 7 - 15	Royal Adelaide Show
Sept 22 - Oct 2	Royal Melbourne Show
Sept 29 - Oct 6	Royal Perth Show
October 2 - 4	Elmore Field Days, Elmore, VIC
October 5 - 7	Red Poll Youth Camp, Glen Innes, NSW
October 18 - 21	Geelong Show
October 19 - 22	Royal Hobart
November 3 - 4	Whittlesea Agricultural Show
November 10 - 11	Farming Small Areas Expo, Hawkesbury, NSW

Newsletter Production Dates

Deadline for material: **July 13th 2012**

Newsletter posted by: **July 30th 2012**

Advertising accepted: Contact the Federal Secretary for rates

Suggestions and story ideas welcome!



PROFILE

Gemma Wilkinson joined ABRI in February 2012 and is a member of the team responsible for processing BREEDPLAN performance data. Gemma is also a Technical Officer with Southern Beef Technology Services (SBTS).

Gemma grew up on her family's mixed farming property near Young, southern NSW. In 2010, she completed her Bachelor of Livestock Science, with 1st class Honours, at the University of New England, Armidale. Before joining ABRI, Gemma spent seven months in Denmark working on a beef feedlot. Her industry experience also includes time spent jillarooping on a cattle station in Queensland

FROM KERYN



Greetings to all and welcome once again to another edition of the ARPCBI newsletter. The year has certainly gotten off to a flying start with the On Farm challenge, Sungold Field days, Whittlesea sale and Canberra and Sydney shows now over. All credit to members, who organised, attended and supported these events.

We now have Beef 2012 looming with the breed to have a display of trade cattle in an outdoor site, plus a number of studs exhibiting. The site is well placed to display not only purebred Red Poll cattle but also Brahman cross to showcase the advantages of Red Poll genetics to the Northern beef herds.

The World Congress Committee is well on its way organising the detail of the event to take place in 2014. The Face-to-face meeting held recently in Adelaide was very productive – thank you to the committee members who attended and shared their ideas. It was hard work but we “knuckled” a lot of detail out in the end. The obvious experience and expertise

shown by the committee members, and the willingness to work together as a team made the weekend an outstanding success.

It is essential that you, ARPCBI members, also be a part of this event and I have included a list of activities in which you can participate. I cannot stress the importance enough of working together to create an event that will make a difference to the breed.

- Development of sponsorship strategies with suggestions and/or financial contributions
- Volunteering for the events and projects before and during the Congress
- Showing your best stud animals in lead up events
- Participating in fund raising events
- Share feedback to help the committee accommodate your needs
- Spread the word among family, friends and neighbours
- Connecting with International breeders to publicise the event

KERYN HUTTON
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2014 WORLD CONGRESS COMMITTEE

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Murray Williams	yongerellen@activ8.net.au (08) 9645 5220	Educational program, slogan, booklet, scholarship
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Wayne Owston	ranfurlyrp@yahoo.com (08) 9525 7566	Electronic communication, Youth program
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