

WORLD CONGRESS

RED POLL

BEEF CATTLE

NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER
2014



Well, it is all over now after three years of planning and considerable effort made by members. This Congress has been memorable. The commitment made by the studs who hosted a visit was extraordinary.

Early in the preparation the organizing committee sent out guidelines to the hosts who had ideas of their own and took their obligations to another level. For those of you who did not get to a host site, you missed out on the wonderful meals and extras provided for the guests by your fellow members. All the touring party expressed their gratitude to the Australian Red Poll Breeders for their generous and genuine hospitality.

The tour started in W.A. with the region setting a standard that was not surpassed. Our welcome dinner at Frasers Restaurant, with its view at night of Perth over the Swan River, was superb. Many of the region's members made an extra effort to attend. One image that will linger on is of Helen Mancey from the UK beaming from ear to ear after wading in the clear waters of the Indian Ocean alongside the Busselton Jetty. Another was of Norma Webster from Jamaica looking at the long descent by stairs into Lake Cave, south of Margaret River, with doubt written all over her face and then the joy expressed after she emerged from the wonderful experience of the cave.

The flight to Adelaide in a Virgin jet of Brazilian origin was also a pleasant surprise. Although smaller than the average jets it has two seats on either side and appeared to be more comfortable. Once in S.A. Simon Temple of the UK probably was the standout tourist. He ventured into the paddocks to view cattle in his sandals and socks. Understandably he had to throw his grass seed laden socks away. We awarded his optimism with a new pair of grass seed free socks at the farewell events. After a short break in Adelaide the tour arrived at the Crown Promenade Hotel at the casino in Melbourne.

A small community hall in central Victoria at Stoneyford with the locals all pitching in and more than willing to engage everyone on tour in conversation was just a lovely Australian moment. Later

the same day the tour was exposed to some Australian history at the sound and light show, Blood on the Southern Cross, at Sovereign Hill, Ballarat. The last day in Victoria was hosted at Whittlesea Show before heading to our conference at Albury.

The conference was an event not to be missed and was well attended by our members who were confronted by five varied and interesting speakers. Fairfax Agricultural Press took lots of copy as well as presenting the scholars with RM Williams jackets that evening at the dinner. The copy and interviews at several host sites along the way, resulted in two pages of Red Poll editorial in four major rural papers across Australia. The tour and conference has generated a perception that Red Poll cattle are a breed that has an important role to play in the cattle industry in general.

After Albury, a bus trip over Mt Kosciuszko provided a fascinating part of the tour as the tourists were introduced to the marvel of the Snowy Mountain Scheme. In Canberra, visits to the War Memorial, the old and new Parliament Houses, emphasised to the tour that we are a strong stable democracy. They were impressed by the city in general. For some light relief we left Canberra to visit the Dubbo Open Plains Zoo where some of the party enjoyed riding bikes around the zoo.

As we proceeded north, the reality of drought became obvious and the temperature increased. On the way to Glen Innes our only minor disaster occurred. The bus broke down with the party stranded on the roadside for about an hour before alternative transport could be arranged. Luckily, our arrival in Glen Innes was only delayed a short time enabling the young members of that region to conduct the program they had arranged for the day. Seeing the Red Poll youth go through their paces had a big effect on the tour group.

The final leg of the journey to the Gold Coast included a visit to Rangers Valley feedlot where 50,000 Angus and Wagyu cattle on long feed were observed, a mind boggling experience for some of our guests. This was followed by the viewing of Richmond

PRESIDENTS POST



Hello Everyone, We've had some changes and quite a busy time since our last Newsletter. At our National AGM in November the following changes took place to positions within the Executive:

Gay Ward - President, Dean Jensen - Vice President, Ross Draper - Treasurer.

Murray Williams joins the Executive as the WA representative. Richard Daley, Letisha Salzke and Garrick Mulcahy continue as representatives.

Congratulations to all and we look forward to working together with all Regions to continue to forge Red Polls further ahead and throughout the Industry. In relation to my new position, thank you for the nomination, it is a role I take seriously and I hope I can serve the Breed and our Members as all have done before me. Thanks to those who have already been in touch to offer congratulations and support.

To our outgoing representatives, as President Richard Daley, Treasurer Jill Bockman, WA Representative Wayne Owston, thank you very much for all your efforts and input during your terms.

Australia's World Congress has concluded and overall has been an outstanding success. Many thanks and congratulations to the Organising Committee, Studs who graciously opened their farms, participants and Exhibitors at Brunswick Show in WA,

Whittlesea Show in Vic, the cattle and Junior Handlers & Judging display conducted at Glen Innes NSW. Everyone worked tirelessly to provide our overseas guests with a remarkable display of Red Poll cattle laced with our genuine hospitality and our active and keen Junior members also to the fore. Our guests really appreciated how much effort everyone had made and found it very thought provoking for their own Country's particularly in relation to Junior Members. The Tour Groups willingness to learn, appreciate and absorb everything we had to offer was great to be a part of.

Riding on the crest of the wave that was the World Congress and all the positive publicity Red Polls received, we have our next major event which is Feature Breed at Sydney Royal 2015, to be the Feature Breed at Sydney Royal is not to be underestimated particularly in how much focus and promotion it can do for the Red Poll breed. However most of that is up to us, the more we support the event the more we and the Breed will benefit as a result.

Significant dates are included in the newsletter and specific detail is available on the Sydney Show website or from Members of our NSW region. While visiting Studs and groups of Members throughout the Tour it has been great to hear how much interest and intent there has been amongst Members in relation to Sydney Show and the Feature. I encourage everyone to do whatever they possibly can to support and promote this significant event for Red Poll Cattle.

Wishing everyone a Merry Xmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

GAY WARD

WORLD CONGRESS

Dairy in Casino. Although this place was highly mechanized and most of the production is in sterile environments we were able to appreciate the efficiency and productivity of this industry.

As our Jamaican friends had to leave early on the final day and would miss the Farewell Lunch an impromptu farewell was arranged. This turned out to be a lot of fun with the presentation of three light hearted awards, a song about Kingston Town by Jasmin Holness with us all joining in on the chorus, a duet by Jasmin and Mary Jo Schmiesing and the reading of a poem by Allan Bridson about the tour group. The Scholars, Eric Owino, Heather Wellington and Rachael Hancock made presentations regarding the tour.

Under the shades on the Sofitel deck we said our last goodbyes

over lunch, promising to do it all again in two and a half years time in the USA. The Australian Red Poll Breeders had provided a tour to remember and we were able to send our overseas colleagues home with a great appreciation of our country and our cattle.

Congratulations to every one of you!

RICHARD DALEY

[14th Red Poll World Congress Organising Committee]

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In my last report we had a good winter and were looking for spring rains. Well, the rains didn't eventuate and so our season finished earlier than we had hoped. Also some of us in the higher regions experienced frost damage to our crops with many having to be cut for hay.

However, with drought well established across Australia, hay is a sought after commodity so we must consider ourselves fortunate to have farm gate returns when our colleagues elsewhere are so desperate.

Activity in our region has centered on the visit by the World Congress. On arrival in Adelaide they were given a brief tour of Adelaide and lunched on the banks of the Torrens River

overlooking the new Adelaide oval before heading north to Clare. Richard Sampson took over the role as guide and everyone was impressed with his depth of local knowledge.

Oakwood hosted the lunch on the first day and on return to Clare, Viranga was visited. The next day the tour was hosted at the Jamestown Aerodrome for lunch and Maleer and Moyle Park were visited. On both days good press coverage was achieved, including a session on the ABC country hour.

Our next events will be the S.A. Beef Field Days and our annual lunch at Balaklava in February.

RICHARD DALEY [South Australian Region Chairperson]

VICTORIA

Royal Melbourne Show was attended by Red Cactus, Redward, Roselee and Stormley Studs. Congratulations go to the Storm Family who won the Supreme Red Poll Champion Award.

We also held a Regional Meeting at the Showground to make final preparations for the Whittlesea Red Poll World Congress Show.

This Show, held on November 2 was a great success with 55 Red Polls exhibited by Baladeen, Lynbarry, Redward, Red Cactus, Sophronites, Stormley, Sunset and Turanga Studs. Once again the Storm Family triumphed with Supreme Red Poll Champion Stormley Lara.

This wonderful exhibition of Red Polls was ably judged by Grame Hopf. Koallah Park, Raedean, Redward, Red Cactus, Turanga and Summer Brae Studs also entered Steers in the All Breeds Carcase Competition and a Red Cactus Steer won Grand Champion Carcase followed up by a Lynbarry Red Poll being awarded as Reserve Champion Carcase.

The International visitors greatly appreciated the Show and the hosting provided by the Region and the Whittlesea Agricultural Society. We also thank all those who assisted the Victorian Region by sponsoring the Whittlesea Show.

In Victoria, the Congress also made visits to Studs of Don Castle, Greg Abbott, Douglas Payne and Mark

Harris to whom we are greatly indebted.

Thanks also go to Mark Harris, Gay Ward and Ross Draper who donated Red Poll meat to the Restaurant in Albury for the Congress Dinner.

Their contribution was well received. Red Polls have also been shown at various Country Shows with excellent results in order to promote the Breed. Once again, Ian and Nell Staff displayed Red Polls at the Elmore Field Days in early October.

Entries are now being accepted for the Red Poll and Maine-Anjou Sale which will be held on March 14, 2015.

See www.redpollvic.com for details.

Congratulations go to Gay Ward who has been elected as National President and Ross Draper who has been elected as National Treasurer.

IAN STAFF



Stormley Lara with Cody & Trent Storm (photo courtesy of Stock & Land)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The last three months have been extremely busy for members of the WA Region. With preparations for the 14th World Congress involving all members, numbers of cattle exhibited at Perth Royal Show were lower than in previous years.

This had been a planned decision made at the previous Show with priorities being given to displaying herds for the Tour. All exhibitors, including one new exhibitor gained at least one broad ribbon.

Members put on a most impressive display at all sights for the Tour group, with some very impressive cattle on display along with a range of other things of interest. The non Red Poll visits during the Tour were also greatly enjoyed.

An impressive line up of cattle were presented before judge Dr Karl Wellington OJ at the Brunswick Show. This was an outstanding achievement from studs who had already been visited and those who were to be visited later in the same day.

Logistics were difficult but achieved with aplomb, and a great deal of help from many friends.

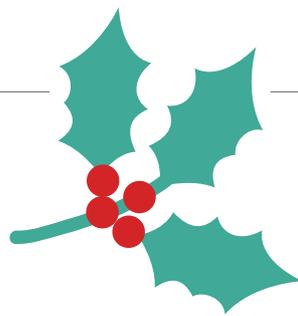
Exhibitors were keen to see how a Judge from overseas would rank the animals but as it turned out animals from the top of their classes at Perth Royal stood in similar positions under Karl.

Red Sands Q who had not been at Perth took out the Senior and Grand Champion bull Award with Ranfurley Jahraza winning the Senior, and Grand Champion Female and supreme exhibit. 27 animals were on display with a most impressive line up of senior females.

A people's choice was made in this class by the Tour participants and while the winner was the same as the judge, every cow in the class received at least one vote.

The region is looking forward to a quieter time over the next few months.

MURRAY WILLIAMS



NEW SOUTH WALES

RED POLL FEATURE SYDNEY ROYAL

Season's Greetings to all Red Poll Members. Over the past 12 months the NSW region has been working hard planning the upcoming Feature Show at Sydney Royal. We are intending to promote how good our cattle are and what they can do for the beef cattle industry.

For us to be able to do this we are asking all members to help us by:

- Entering cattle for the show - to ensure the Feature is successful, we need numbers.
- We have managed to secure a large range of classes, so let's fill them.
- The schedule can be downloaded from [http://sydneyroyal.com.au/2015BeefCattleScheduleWeb\(4\).pdf](http://sydneyroyal.com.au/2015BeefCattleScheduleWeb(4).pdf)
- Entries for the 2015 Sydney Royal Beef & Steer Cattle Show Competitions have officially opened and entries close on the 30th January 2015.

All classes for the 2015 show will have cash prizes on offer:

1ST PLACE - \$75

2ND PLACE - \$50

3RD PLACE - \$25

Judging for the 2015 Red Poll Feature Breed will be on

Saturday 28 March 2015.

If any members are interested in sponsoring a class for the Feature, please contact:

Judy Robbins 0416 407 711

Garrick Mulcahy 0418 417 899

JUDY ROBBINS

Further information regarding the beef cattle competition:

Sarah Sanderson

Coordinator

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NNSW & QUEENSLAND RED POLL YOUTH CAMP

Friday morning arrived and instead of throwing on my usual work clothes and shoes I threw on the clothes and shoes that I will live and breath for the next three days. My cattle clothes and boots! I threw my bag and swag over my shoulder grabbed my car keys and hit the road towing my own heifer Truffle to Glen Innes, NSW to participate in the National Red Poll Youth Camp for the fourth year in a row.

Once arriving at the Glen Innes Show ground where the camp would take place for the next three days. I unloaded my heifer and set up my stall for the weekend, my main focus being that all my gear was easily accessible. I then went and had some morning tea and got to know some of the other camp participants.

The morning session was allocation of cows and getting to know your animal more. It was then lunch time and the food is to be complimented highly on. At lunch we were told we were going to three lectures today. Well I thought I was back at school but once I got into the lectures they were informative and I learnt something in every single one, that not only helped me on the weekend but with my own breeding program for my stud which I feel is also important.

Afternoon tea came and I was so thankful because my body needed some energy and brain power. We all then handled, fed and watered the animals and then had a delicious dinner. But it wasn't bed for us we played games and laughed till it was time for bed.

The sun rose on the second day and everyone in the camp was up and straight to work making sure that every animal had feed and water. Then it was off to a big breakfast. We were told that we would be participating in informative hands on demonstrations in areas of clipping, show prep and parading. I was glad that these ones were hands on, I couldn't handle another day of just sitting and listening. I listened intently at all of them knowing that it would give me a leading edge on show day. I was glad to see lunch time roll around.

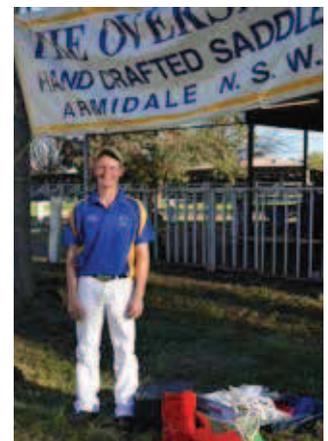
After lunch it was Prime Beef Cattle Judging and I knew this was a weak area for me but I focused on the job at hand, referred back to the lectures, shock the nerves away and I spoke with confidence. Then it was all down to the judge. We then fed and watered our animals. After a long second day and knowing tomorrow was big we had some dinner, made some rope halters which was a good laugh and jumped into bed too.

The morning of the third day was here and it was the big day. Today was parading and judging. At Breakfast everyone was very touchy and nervous but not me I was trying to stay cool, calm and collected. My first task for the day was to help my junior prepare their animal and themselves for the day ahead. After helping my junior I washed my cow and gave her a quick brush. To me she looked fine so that is all that matters.



2014 Youth Camp Participants

It was photo time. I was looking hot as I always do. Then it was morning tea time I was starving it had been a long time since breakfast. I was glad to see that the kitchen still had a huge supply of food for a growing boy like me. It was then junior judging I just stayed calm and remembered everything I had learnt over the weekend hoping it would get me over the line. Judging was very draining and I needed some food so I was glad to see lunch time. After lunch I quickly went and prepared my heifer and she was ready. I also made sure my junior participants animal was ready and that the participant was ready as well. They were both ready for the event. As well as helping out anyone else that needed the extra help. I was then ready for parading. My cow was looking good and I was looking even better. I was just hoping for a good outcome.



Ben Sullivan, reciever of the Youth Camp Member Award

It was then presentation of the awards. I was not expecting anything but amazingly I received: 3rd Senior Paraders, 1st Stud Beef Judge, 1st Prime Beef Judge, Champion Judge, Overall Highest Score Judging Red Poll Junior Member Award.

I would really like to thank everyone that made the camp possible and look forward to joining the committee for the National Red Poll Youth Camp to help make 2015 camp successful for other youth members.

I strongly encourage others if you have cattle or not to put in an application next year because it will be the best three days of your lives. You will meet great people, have the best food and the best experience.

BEN SULLIVAN

Performance Data Key for Red Poll

Improving performance recording would both increase the rate of genetic improvement within the Red Poll breed, and allow the breed to better market itself in the beef industry.

This was a common sentiment shared with the 14th International Red Poll Congress conference, held in Albury, NSW, last week.

Eurimbla Red Poll principal Ian Coghlan, Gerogery, told the 60 conference attendees the Red Poll breed has a good product, but need to up the ante when it comes to marketing

"It doesn't matter how good our product is, it doesn't matter how hard you work, unless we understand the market and get the marketing of our product right, it isn't going to happen for us," he said.

"We need to be focused on what commercial breeders want, and fundamentally they want money in their pockets.

"If our markets primary motivation is profit, then we need to breed cattle that will achieve that."

Red Poll cattle do have the traits to help farmers increase their profit, Mr Coghlan said, but the breed needed to provide more evidence of the quality.

"We should identify excellence through performance recording, and then look at the animal and learn to like that animal - we have it the wrong way around.

"If you look at the high performing animals, they are invariably the best looking animals anyway - the reason being is that they are high performing because they have those foundation traits of structure and temperament."

Lawson's Angus principal and beef industry stalwart Don Lawson, Yea, Victoria, also spoke on the need for more evidence of the breeds traits, telling conference attendees they were in both the food business and information business.



Ian Coghlan, Eurimbla Red Poll stud, Gerogery, with a selection of his stud cattle on display during the visit by attendees 2014 Red Poll World Congress

"The whole integrity of our business relies on being able to keep accurate records," he said, while giving an address on 'the beef industry in perspective'.

"Our business uses estimated breeding values and multiplies up large numbers of proven genetics...As a beef industry we haven't multiplied up proven genetics," he said.

"We have to start identifying and multiplying up our superior stock, because the number of inferior cattle going into feedlots that run at a loss is pretty high.

Victorian beef producer John Buxton, Gippsland, supported the need for more performance data, and said he will not buy cattle without it.

"Kilograms of beef per hectare drives the profit in beef production," he said.

"Estimated breeding values (EBVs) relate to dollars I can make in my business.

"So if you haven't got the records on your cattle, and you haven't got them on the Red Poll data base with their breeding values there, I am not looking at them - this is how you get your bull at the front of the shop window."

JAMIE-LEE OLDFIELD

Red Poll Progeny Test Group

In my forty years of being involved with Red Poll cattle there have always been breeders who have joined forces to work together with such things as sharing a bull, collecting embryos, importing semen and holding joint sales. This is, and has always been, their commercial right.

Some months ago several breeders started talking about how it may be possible to work towards improving the commercial acceptability of Red Poll cattle. Some of those breeders had been utilizing Red Poll BREEDPLAN and felt that the charts indicated a plateau of the commercial traits they were measuring.

They wanted more data from which to make their choices and even started looking at whether they could import semen from overseas which had performance data that would improve the Australian herd.

Others within this initial discussion group were not using BREEDPLAN but did have the view that we somehow had to be able to demonstrate the commercial performance of Red Polls.

The group met several times to discuss what may be a way forward and decided to ask the National Executive if they could form a Performance Group as a sub committee with the intent of making the group open to any members wishing to join.

This application unfortunately created some very passionate discussion within the National Executive and the matter was not voted upon. Rather it was requested that it be sent back to Regional level for discussion with each region to provide feedback to their Executive representative.

The group then made a judgment that it would proceed as a group of individuals, rather than try to arrange through the Regions for Committee status. They felt that to do so created a huge risk of division with no certainty of achieving a positive result.

WHERE TO NOW?

The group met on Nov 25th and made the following decisions.

- To advise that it is not a closed group and if any members are interested in joining they should discuss this possibility with the Chairman Richard Daley.
- The group will focus not on the individual animals but the potential of their progeny and as such will be known as The Progeny Test Group. This opens up a number of possible activities through which the breed may be better able to

substantiate any claims made about the performance of the breed.

- They will carry out some programs which in larger, more financial breeds, may have been done through Breed Development Officers.
- They will set about evaluating overseas sires to make comparisons with the top measured Australian sires.
- They will continue to seek out the top performing animals across a variety of traits within the Australian herds.
- The group is acutely aware that opportunities for the advancement of the breed as outlined by speakers at the World Red Poll congress Conference are dependant on being able to document the potential performance of the cattle.
- The group will periodically provide to open forum progress and results of their work

UP AND RUNNING

As an initial project the group has placed an order for semen from a USA based bull to be used in nine herds, starting with Autumn 2015 matings, to provide a meaningful comparison with Australian bulls.

MURRAY WILLIAMS



Still For Sale

Wynfield Noble Justinian 34 straws
Mundi Mundi Kingmaker 22 straws

\$200 FOR THE LOT!

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E : red.poll@abri.une.edu.au

FROM KERYN



Once again the end of year is upon us and what a year it has been. Members are to be congratulated on the success of the 2014 Australian Red Poll Congress. The total distance travelled in Australia alone came

to approximately 7,496 kms, a huge effort by all. It is now up to the American Red Poll Association to take the reins for the next congress. I wish them every success.

A special thank you to our former President, Richard Daley, for all his hard work on behalf of the Society. Personally, I would like to thank Richard for his consideration, his sense of fairness and enthusiasm throughout the four years of his Presidency. Thanks also to both Richard and Kay for their hospitality in 2013 when Brian and I visited on our tour of the Barossa and Clare valleys.

I welcome Gay Ward as new President of the Society and look forward to working with Gay in the interest of members and for the advancement of the breed. Please ensure you contact your ARPCBI representatives on the Executive, or this office, if you have any concerns or items for discussion.

Congratulations to Wayne and Belinda Owston for winning the Parker Performance award for most successful exhibitor in 2013 and the Wilson family for winning the Brigadeir Hurst award for the most successful prime steer exhibitor.

The Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI) has appointed Alex McDonald as Managing Director until a replacement for Deon Goosen is employed. Alex has considerable experience within the industry and we welcome his return. For those of you who know Colin Rex, former Executive Officer of the ARPCBI, he leaves ABRI to take on the position of General manger of the Charolais Society.

As I write I can see the storm clouds building with the promise of rain. The New England region has been exceptionally dry over the last two seasons and it is only in December that half decent falls have been recorded. Let's hope it continues.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and hope the season is all that you can wish for.

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