

New Zealand

RED DEVON

Cattle Breeders Association

Newsletter 🌸 October 2019

Greetings from the Council to all our members.

Due to work commitments Karen Schumacher has resigned as president of our Council. Karen had already indicated that she would not be available after the next AGM, but events at home forced her hand early. I would like to thank Karen for the commitment and passion she has brought to her role.

Kevin Fletcher had some time ago indicated that he wanted us to find a replacement webmaster and your Council is working with Kevin to facilitate a smooth handover in the coming months. Kevin's selfless and passionate support for our members over many years has been massive and we owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

Unfortunately the World Conference and Tour had to be cancelled as we did not reach the target numbers to make running the event feasible. Your Council will meet again on November 21 and we will consider planning the event in 2021 instead.

Performance recording is crucial to reliable EBVs and your Council wants to see more of our breeders collecting data and entering these on Breedplan. Entering data electronically can be challenging initially and in the next newsletter Heughan will provide some guidance on how to go about this. Maggie is taking over my work of looking into establishing a DNA database for the benefit of our members. Brendan is putting together an improved induction package for new members. Not to be confused with Brendon Barnes who has been co-opted as a non-voting committee member. I look forward to his input.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all our stud members to have a webpage on our site. It is free and all you need to do is write up a text and send some e- photos to Kevin at k.fletcher@inspire.net.nz . Do it now before Kevin retires!

Some good news about our bull VJ Awhitu, he was accepted in the Dairy Beef Progeny Trials this year and semen was successfully collected on farm and sent off. Although Angus and Hereford dominate with 6 bulls each in the lineup, I am hopeful VJA will do well as it could provide a massive boost for the popularity of our Devon breed.

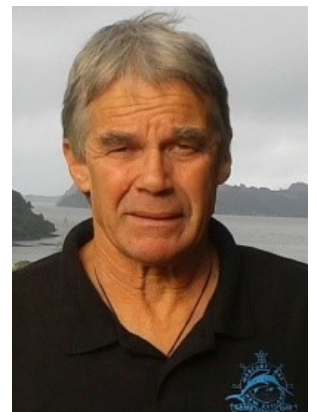
Finally I had the opportunity to visit 4 studs in the last few months and have been impressed by the passion our breeders show. I also picked up negative comments about engagement and promotion of the breed. Your Council has taken that on board and as a first step we would like to hear from you what your thoughts are. In terms of promotion and engagement let us know what we could have done better, what we have done well and what we have failed to do. Your views are important but we need to know them in order to act on them. *Please contact myself or one of the Council members with your views.* We will treat your views as anonymous.

Your Council will meet again on November 21.

DIRK SIELING

ACTING PRESIDENT

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Members List

[\(click here\)](#)



Important Dates to Remember

31 st December	Balance Date; end of financial year
31 st January	Calf entry sheets cut off
30 th April	Membership Subscriptions Invoiced
May 18th	AGM
30 th June	ADL's sent out
30 th July	ADL's must be Returned (no Cow Credits for ADL's returned after the 15 th August)
10 th August	Calf Entries sent out
30 th September	Annual animals fees cows invoiced
2 nd of every month	Group Run Cut off for the performance recording reports