

# RED DEVON

## Newsletter April 2020

Welcome to the April Newsletter from your Council.

The drought has bitten even harder since the last newsletter and a quick survey of some of our members has confirmed that grass covers are desperately low and supplementary feed is next to impossible to find. Some rain has fallen to kickstart growth but a lot more is required to replenish depleted water tables. The Ohuka Devons are starting to show the effects of the prolonged drought and we are carting in supplementary baleage from as far away as Levin so the cows can keep feeding their calves. The costs will take care of this season's profits! Our yearling bulls have been at the bottom of the feeding ranks and left to clean up some of the pine forest on our farm, so they don't look as glossy and well rounded as they usually do.

### COUNCIL UPDATE

Your Council met via ZOOM last week. We aim for transparent and inclusive governance and the minutes of the meeting are available, for members only, on request. As there was no information available on dates for the end of the Covid19 lockdown or start and finish of other levels a new date for the AGM has not yet been set. To be clear Council is planning to proceed with an AGM. The options are to have face to face meeting as usual, a ZOOM meeting or a combination of the two, i.e. a traditional meeting with added ZOOM capability. Our current rules are not prepared for the lockdown eventuality and we are considering the legalities around not being able to meet the requirements of our rules. Also on the one hand we are considering that some of our members may be technically challenged by ZOOM and on the other hand some may be wary of travelling if Covid19 is still a risk. If ZOOM is in the mix Council will consider a trial session for members.

One of our members had applied for the approval of Belmur Clay13 as a sire and is planning the importation of semen from this Australian bred bull that has been extensively used in the Americas. The approval was duly granted at the March meeting of Council and the importation is set to proceed

### WEBSITE

After receiving quotes, your Council has agreed in principle to a complete website revamp by Pivot, one of PBB's partners. The management of the website is old and clunky and the new version promises to be much more manageable. There will also be a refresh of pictures so please send in your best photos to Maggie. It will take some time to get the new website off the ground.

A small handful of our members are in arrears with their fee payments and I encourage them to rectify that situation. All fees valid for this season will remain as they are until the next review.

### RULES

As you may be aware Council is reviewing and updating our rules. This will result in a proposed rule update that will be brought to the AGM for your consideration. Most changes will be pretty

minor tidy-ups and just bring our rules into the modern age. There is however one change that Council is discussing that we would love to hear your thoughts on it. The proposal under consideration is that the AGM chooses 6 Councillors and no President or Vice President. Instead the 6 Councillors will amongst themselves select a Chair and Vice Chair. It would bring improved continuity to our governance and most importantly the Chair will have the confidence of his or her colleagues and personality conflicts should be minimised. The drawback is that it diminishes the control the members have over who becomes Chair. Please email or phone myself or one of the Council members with your thoughts

## STOCKBOOK

For those of you who did not get this from PBB, below is a link to their invitation to trial STOCKBOOK which will make management of your herd data much simpler and it would be particularly useful for our members with larger herds:

<https://mailchi.mp/pbbnz/highwall-heavy-duty-footbath-save-54-with-pbbnz-1349905?e=df99e9e700>

## MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS

Thanx to Gayle Couch from Devand stud for drawing my attention to an article from Global HQ about one of our members, Lee Askew. The passion and dedication that our members have for their cattle and properties shines through in this article that also contains a great video. Lee does us all proud. The link is below, enjoy:

<https://farmersweekly.co.nz/section/other-sectors/on-farm-story/askew-is-living-the-good-life>

Helena Barrio from Monte Pahu Stud has advised us that she has collected semen from Monte Pahu Charles and it is available at \$25+GST per straw. Here is the link to Monte Pahu Charles:

[http://www.montepahureddevons.co.nz/Monte\\_Pahu/Monte\\_Pahu\\_Charles.html](http://www.montepahureddevons.co.nz/Monte_Pahu/Monte_Pahu_Charles.html)

**Please consider sending us your stud report or other interesting info for inclusion in the next newsletter. Your comments are always welcome via myself or the other Council members**

**Dirk Sieling, Acting President**

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## Members List

[\(click here\)](#)



## Important Dates to Remember

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

**[www.reddevoncattle.co.nz](http://www.reddevoncattle.co.nz)**