

New Zealand

# RED DEVON

Cattle Breeders Association

Newsletter  December 2020

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2020

What a year it has been, with major drought in NZ and a global pandemic to boot. The changes at your association have been more mundane but quite relevant nevertheless. The AGM unanimously agreed on a change to the constitution that saw the abolishment of the presidency and the introduction of a Council elected Chair and Deputy instead. The AGM has confirmed Brendon Barnes from an appointed to an elected Councillor and I am very pleased to welcome new incoming Councillor, Colleen Hunter from Rockview Stud. Colleen addressed the AGM with a well received and impassioned plea for all breeders to put aside past differences and work together for the interest of our beloved Devons. The sitting and incumbent Councillors are Heughan Gordon, Maggie Hutchinson, Brendan McQuade and myself. Tuppy Jones (Thelmara stud) was unanimously confirmed as an honorary life member, congratulations Tuppy and thank you for the passion you have shown to advance the breed over many years. Although, due to overwhelming work commitments, it was not my intention to become chair I reluctantly accepted the role until the next AGM in May when hopefully one of our current Councillors will step up to take over the position. Heughan was elected unopposed as deputy.

## WORK STREAMS

The new Council considered some of its work streams ahead with an eye to development and expansion of the breed in NZ. The new website is still a work in progress and new photos and a gallery will be introduced, as will more downloadable documents. As per the discussion at The AGM the website needs to be fully developed to become our primary advertising tool and most of our advertising will be based on driving customers to our website. So your presence on the website as a breeder becomes more relevant. Maggie and I have undergone training to administer the website, so if you want to have a stud page or have cattle or semen to sell please advise Maggie and myself. Brendon Barnes, who is a CIO (chief investment officer) for Quayside Holdings in his day job, has taken on the responsibility of looking after our finances and approves the incomings and outgoings. Brendon and Heughan are also jointly taking responsibility for promotional materials, incorporating our new logo. Colleen is in discussions with competing suppliers so we can get the best deal. Brendan M is putting together a new member introductory package.

Heughan and I will review the standards of excellence as there are some minor areas that could do with clarification, such as a white tail swish. No major changes are expected to be considered. We will also review the registry with a view to bringing it a bit more in line with the Australian registry, this may result in adding a column or two and hopefully make the sort and search functions simpler.

The AGM expressed a desire for more regular communications and from here-on in newsletters will be monthly and produced by Council members on a rotational basis. Please assist by providing updates about your herd or any other items that you think may be of interest to other breeders.

Your Council is also considering how it can add better value for its members, both stud and commercial breeders. A number of studs have stopped recording, which is problematic but understandable when pedigree cattle only fetch minor premiums over commercial cattle. Recording

is the lifeblood of our association and this is a very real issue that our association needs to face up to. Any ideas or thoughts you have are eagerly sought by Council. Feel encouraged to contact any of us. The one thing we all have in common is a passion for the breed and its future development

### STUD VISITS and AGM

A stud visit day in Northland, visiting two studs, is planned for the middle of February and Colleen and Maggie are in charge of that. So if you are interested or have anything to contribute please contact one of them. The subsequent stud visit will be Ohuka Stud and coincide with the AGM which is to be held on Saturday May 15 at Whitianga. Keep the date free and consider an overnigher as Whitianga has lots of beach side attractions and is usually not too busy that time of the year. There will also be an opportunity to see Ohuka Farm's dairy farm and logging operation.

### CERTIFICATES

Registration certificates will in future be emailed, so members can print them off if they desire. This will save our association time and money.

Lastly on behalf of Council I wish you all a relaxing and cheerful Xmas and a grass filled New Year

**Dirk Sieling**  
**CHAIRMAN**

### COUNCIL:

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### Secretary

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### Members List

[\(click here\)](#)



### Important Dates to Remember

30 <sup>th</sup> April	Membership Subscriptions Invoiced
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 animal pre-list dam fees invoiced
<b>15<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b>	<b>AGM in Whitianga</b>
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)

