

— New Zealand —

# RED DEVON

— Cattle Breeders Association —

## Newsletter January 2021

Happy new year to all members, lets hope 2021 is kinder to us without the droughts, covid, and Donald Trump that have made 2020 a year to forget.

Council's last meeting at Cambridge in November was covered by Dirk in the December newsletter. With the Christmas break there are not many developments to report on, council members are continuing with their respective work streams, finance Brendon B , promotion Heughan and Brendon B, review of register and standards of excellence Dirk and Heughan, new members package Brendan M and Maggie, website Maggie and Dirk, field day/stud visit Maggie and Colleen, Colleen to liaise with Northern members. Feel free to contact the above with any suggestions relating to the areas they cover.

Maggie has asked for the following update to be included:

### **NZ Red Devon Cattle Association Website**

As Dirk has mentioned the new website is up and running and we encourage everyone to:

Submit photos for the gallery

Advertise their stock on the website

If you are looking for any Red Devon cattle, please email either Dirk Sieling on [dirk@sieling.nz](mailto:dirk@sieling.nz) or myself Maggie Hutchinson on [maggie@hutchinson.co.nz](mailto:maggie@hutchinson.co.nz) with a blurb of what you are looking for.

We are putting a new section under the "Buy Red Devon" called "Cattle Wanted" and we will then post it under this section.

if you have any news with regards to your Red Devons or advice you wish to share with members we could post it under the news section.

Remember.... A website is only as good as the content that is on it.

### **Field Days**

Dirk mentioned in his newsletter that the Association would like to do 3 Field Days per year.

The first one we wanted to have mid-February, however we haven't had feedback from members whether they would be interested in attending one up North. Could you please come back and advise whether you would be interested in attending.

If our members have any ideas with regards to field days or wish to host one, could you please email either [maggie@hutchinson.co.nz](mailto:maggie@hutchinson.co.nz) or Colleen Hunter on [reddevonbeef@hotmail.com](mailto:reddevonbeef@hotmail.com)

Further to this council has decided the first field day will be at Maggie's Ahuroa Stud, details by separate attachment. For those of you unfamiliar with Ahuroa, they are one of our larger breeders having taken over a significant number of Tinopai females and will have good stock and facilities to view.

### **Millstone/Hawkes Bay Update.**

On 1 July the Millstone herd moved to a new property at 368 Boyle Rd, Ashley Clinton. It is a 480ha block, comprising flats to steep hill, under the Ruahine Ranges east of Waipukurau about an hour south from where we were.

The effects of the prolonged dry spell last summer and autumn still linger. Whilst we are now experiencing great growing conditions and have a surplus of feed the ground water levels remain low. Calf weaning weights in April were 50kgs lighter than normal and the 400 day weights in November were over 120 kgs back. This is despite 2 unit loads of supplementary feed. The yearlings are now putting on 2 kg/day though so hopefully will make some of that back up by the autumn. Mating cut off weights for the yearling heifers have had to be lowered from the normal 350kg average as only a couple were above that mark. Have mated 26 heifers and had to go down to 280kgs minimum this year to get enough. I hope the growth continues so they grow out for a trouble free calving in the spring.

With the increase in property size we have mated 130 females this season so hope to carry 110-120 after culling some in autumn. The cows are in great condition and calves are doing well so things are looking good for 2021, a huge difference from this time last year.

Despite the drought conditions last summer the Millstone cows performed well, vets reported high dry cow rates in Hawkes Bay (10% or above) but my cows only had 2 dry from 90 and 3 dry yearling heifers from 30, and made it through the winter in good condition with limited feed. On the plus side calf birth weights have been at least 5kgs lighter from the same matings the previous year. The 50 weaner bulls have probably struggled the most with the drought and are well behind so am hoping for some compensatory growth to catch them up.

Despite some adverts to the contrary Red bulls do not have wings. While shifting farms in July I put the older breeding bulls in a gorge, 1 slid down into a gut and was trapped. Despite cutting tracks through dirt and trees to get to him he refused to budge so after a couple of days the helicopter was called, the bull harnessed and lifted out. All was going well until the pilot made a sharp turn to sweep over some pines and bully came loose at about 150 ft. A high diver would have been proud of the somersaults that followed but the landing was a complete failure, much to the delight of my dogs.

Surely 2021 can only be an improvement on 2020 in all respects.

Heughan Gordon, Millstone Red Devons

**Late Sale Notice:** From Warwick Gardner: Herd Number 1787: Sonny Boy Horned, Tag 34/13 Herd Book Number 1707 13034. Sonny Boy has a good temperament. His calves grow well. Few calving problems. Reason for selling - Has purchased a polled bull. Email [mariongardner@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mariongardner@xtra.co.nz) This listing will also be placed on the website.

## COUNCIL:

|                   |                  |  |
|-------------------|------------------|--|
| Dirk Sieling      | Ph. 021 154 0123 | <a href="mailto:dirk@sieling.nz">dirk@sieling.nz</a>   |
| Heughan Gordon    | Ph. 0278746195   | <a href="mailto:hcgordon@xtra.co.nz">hcgordon@xtra.co.nz</a>                                     |
| Maggie Hutchinson | Ph 021940860     | <a href="mailto:maggie@hutchinson.co.nz">maggie@hutchinson.co.nz</a>                             |
| Colleen Hunter    | Ph. 0210479471   | <a href="mailto:reddevonbeef@hotmail.com">reddevonbeef@hotmail.com</a>                           |
| Brendan McQuade   | Ph 021430202     | <a href="mailto:brendanmcquade@hotmail.co.nz">brendanmcquade@hotmail.co.nz</a>                   |
| Brendon Barnes    | Ph 021411498     | <a href="mailto:Brendon.Barnes@quaysideholdings.co.nz">Brendon.Barnes@quaysideholdings.co.nz</a> |

## Secretary

Lindy Lawrence

Ph.: 06-323 4484 / fax: 06-323 3878  
Mail: PO Box 503, Feilding.4740  
e-mail: [lindy@pbbnz.com](mailto:lindy@pbbnz.com)

## 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)

