

New Zealand

RED DEVON

Cattle Breeders Association

Newsletter  July 2022

Hi to all.

Steve Harris here, having sweltered through our extended summer in the Waikato, Autumn arrived late but quickly. Five to six weeks of constant rain has gone some way to replenishing the soil moisture reserves. Finally, a few weeks ago after waiting months, the replacement parts arrived for our wood burner which was fortuitous as we are now getting frosts on a regular basis. Thankfully they have put paid to the annoyingly persistent flies and unwanted paper wasps.

As a newly elected member of Council I am looking forward to the challenge of helping raise the profile of Red Devons as a viable alternative to other beef breeds. I have farmed independently for over 40 years, both dairy and beef, with a family background of pedigree beef cattle. I am comfortable in the belief that in Red Devons we have a breed that is well placed to meet the various economic and environmental challenges that farming faces in the future.

The initial job that has been given me, because of my interest in cattle genetics, is to re-visit a task previously attempted. That is to try and establish if possible what Red Devon bull semen is currently held by breeders in New Zealand. Also whether breeders are willing to offer a portion of their stored semen up for purchase by other members of the Association. Having previously done a casual analysis I believe we have a wide genetic variation of semen stored that compares well with other countries.

With MPI's new requirements for the importation of genetic material, the sourcing of fresh bloodlines from overseas may become prohibitive. So it is becoming more important that we combine resources and catalogue what is on hand. Please contact me if you are happy to put any stored semen on a register, or even better if you have a portion that you are prepared to sell.

Stephen Harris,
Member of Council

2022 AGM

The AGM attendees included in person: Heughan Gordon, Dirk and Kathy Sieling, Rick and Danielle Boven, Colleen and Ross Hunter, Stephen Harris, Jarred Sircombe, Helena Barrio, Louise and Greig McConnell, David and Sue Dreadon and for a first time effort we had several members participate via zoom, specifically Jeremy Stead, Christina Carden-Holdstock and Lesley. It may have been challenging for the remote members to participate, but their patience was appreciated and they were successful in providing input.

The President advised that there are currently 947 registered stock and 30 breeding members of the Association.

There was a lengthy and useful discussion around the semen in storage and genetics. Stephen contends New Zealand is not short of genetics, makes the point that we need to look at 'what' new impacts add to the breed, and he advises that we keep it pure and not relax the rules but either way feels the Council should seek to make the Association position clear on this.

Decisions were taken to fully distribute the Priorton Magnate straws to the only members requesting: Christina Carden-Holdstock and Colleen Hunter. The Tillbrook Prince semen is to remain in storage.

Note was made that charges to be per head were not fixed for each Association as planned, per gracious suggestion of other larger entities. Clarification was made regarding transfer fees due on registered cattle in cases where the stock were sold to a secondary purchaser from an initial purchaser who did not maintain registration. In these cases the transfer fee is to be paid by the new registered owner, upon approval of the original breeder, if feasible. In the event of death or incapacitation of the original breeder, the Red Devon Association Council has to make that approval.

Social media was raised in further discussion. Chris observes the last post on Facebook for the Association was 2017, she'd like to see this updated regularly and did not seem averse to support generation of content. Jeremy Stead reported that he has an employee who can help coordinate the posting of content. A remaining obstacle was identified that no one has access to the existing facebook account. If any members have a lead on this, please contact a member of Council.

A decision was made to pursue further coordination and cooperation with the Australian Red Devon Association. The \$250 fee for registration of overseas cattle has now been removed.

The AGM was completed with directions provided to Helena and Ed Barrio's for the farm visit.

Changes in Council membership

Maggie Hutchinson of Ahuroa Stud returns to the Council. Long time member Stephen Harris of Wickton Stud joins the Council with objectives as described in the outset of this newsletter. Jarred Sircombe of Marble Mountain moves swiftly from new member to member of Council.

Best wishes and appreciation to departing members Brendon McQuade, Colleen Hunter, and Gavin Cooper.

Te Pahu farm visit

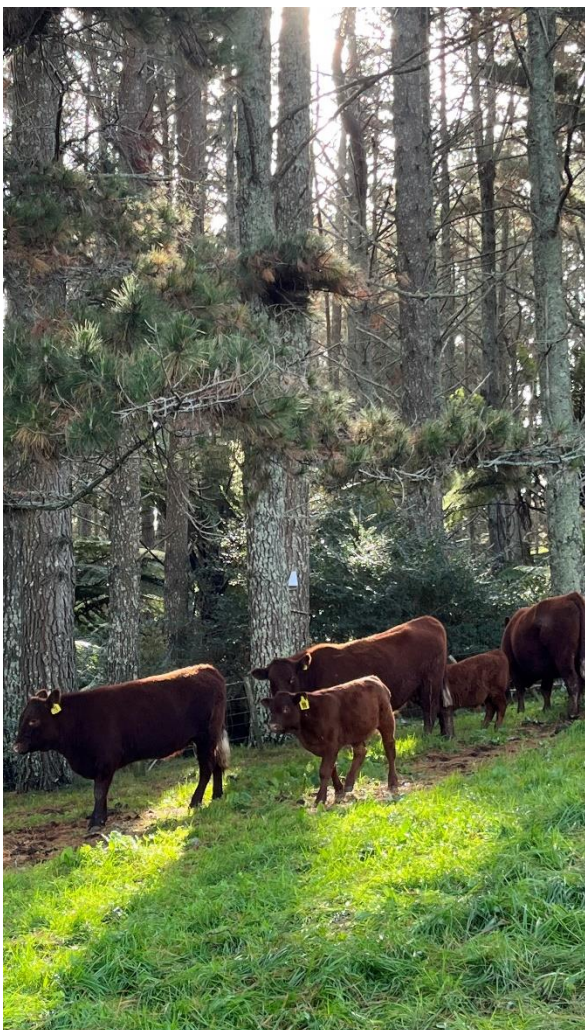


After a businesslike AGM interspersed with socialising, and fuelled by the catering ably provided by the local W.I. we headed conveniently around the road to Helena and Ed Barrio's farm.

First port of call was a paddock by the lower stock yards where we walked amongst a group of mixed aged bulls, chief of which was senior stock bull Charles, a solid bodied Cutcombe Jaunty son who has passed on his muscling capacity to his progeny.



Another younger bull that caught the eye was Valentino, a two year old half brother to Charles who is by Ashott Barton Millennium Falcon.



Onward and literally upwards, the drive's steepness highlighting the challenge the Monte Pahu Herd faces on varying terrain. Stopping by the farm buildings and a second set of yards, we viewed the Cow herd with their Autumn born calves, many of which were by Charles with light birth weights but filling out rapidly. Helena was kept busy with a raft of questions which continued inside the house where we were enveloped in welcoming heat. We were invigorated with cups of tea and coffee coupled with a variety of sandwiches etc with the delicious option of fresh baked scones topped with homemade clotted cream, Yum.

Stephen came away thinking Traditional English Genetics certainly have their place in New Zealand herds, as Helena and Ed are finding through weight recording and ultrasound scanning. Next time any cattle grumble from behind their winter breaks on flat/rolling property they ought to be reminded of their counterparts on Helena and Ed's hills.

It is always a pleasurable experience meeting up with fellow breeders and making new acquaintances. Hats off to those who travelled great distances, your presence and support is vital to the future of the breed.



Marketing

Advertising efforts made last year are likely to be repeated, with plans to be discussed at the next Council meeting of 4 August. If you have suggestions on how to expand on those efforts, drop a message to a member of Council prior to that meeting.

There was a substantial request put in late last year by Dave Woolridge of Mt Cass Station, for up to 60 heifers. Between timing and some constraints unique to the organic operation on the South Island, this request was not fulfilled. He has made another request for this year and has refined his request as follows:

Seeking 45 nulliparous Red Devon Heifers. They don't necessarily need to be registered but they do need to be really good quality. Looking for polled stock only and am happy with autumn calving stock if available.

Dave also advised that he prefers the heifers to be in calf, but it is not required. He has recently taken receipt of 15 and is pleased to begin the process of incorporating Red Devon genetics in the Mt Cass herds.

The Council continues to support the market by sharing data on pricing, anonymously. Please advise the value of recent transactions by contacting Dirk or any other member of Council.

Contact challenges addressed

If you have used the contact page on the website and not heard back from anyone, the mystery is solved: the emails were scuffled up into a spam folder and seen by no one. Apologies, this has been corrected. Reminder that you are always encouraged to reach out to Council members using the contact information following, and at the end of every newsletter.

COUNCIL:

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Members List

[\(click here\)](#)



Important Dates to Remember

30 th June	Animal Disposal List (ADL) sent out
30 th July	Deadline to return ADLs, by post or email to Linda Rule at PBB lindar@pbbnz.com Please note no cow credits for ADL's returned after the 15 th August
10 th August	Calf Entries sent out
30 th September	Annual animal pre-list dam fees invoiced
31 st December	Balance Date; end of financial year
31 st January	Calf entry sheets cut off
30 th April	Membership Subscriptions Invoiced
May 2023	AGM
2 nd of every month	Group Run Cut off for the performance recording reports

www.reddevoncattle.co.nz