

New Zealand

# RED DEVON

Cattle Breeders Association

Newsletter 🌸 September 2022

Welcome to the September newsletter

Ohuka Polled Devons had another successful year and we have just finished our mating season. Continued selection of the best breeding stock, sourced from a large number of NZ herds combined with a carefully considered breeding program has resulted in excellent genetic diversity in a herd that we are proud of. To achieve this we typically run 4 small mating mobs.

Assisted births are a rarity and we can safely pick up each newborn calf to weigh and tag in the paddock. Overly protective/aggressive mothers get culled. Animals with foot problems get culled and even cows with untidy udders. Heifers get mated at 15 months and typically weigh 340 to 360 kgs. All bulls are kept until at least 18 months at which stage we can select the most promising ones. It is important that we maintain the good qualities of the breed, such as docility, ease of calving and hardiness. Only a very small selection of bulls that represent the well known Devon traits are offered to fellow breeders with the balance going commercial. The current commercial bulls are pre-sold and once again we are hanging on to the top 2 or 3 bulls in case they are needed by other studs. One is 179121124 out of VJ Awhitu (AI) and we will also retain the best of our 5 sons of Tilbrook Prince for now.



Two years ago we knowingly took a risk purchasing a well bred young bull that exhibited exceptional growth rates and good conformation, both leggy and stretchy. We weren't sure of his temperament as he was one of those animals determined to hang around the back of the mob, which is usually not a good sign. His first crop of calves, on the ground now, is looking really good but we continued to be a bit wary of him. Although he has never charged us, he just gets into your space too readily. Wanting to have access to his good qualities, including being homozygous polled, we recently, in a departure from our usual policy, put him over our entire herd before dispatching him to Greenlea.

We will then select herd replacements from his offspring, giving special consideration to temperament. The legginess and growth rates of this bull should provide male progeny with

sufficient reach and size to mate mature Friesian cows by their second spring when they are just 17 or 18 months old.

Our stud needs to reduce sires and we are considering selling VJ Awhitu, registration number 172917037, one of our two main stud sires, now 5 years old. He is a quiet very well put together AI bred animal out of Australian bull Vix Jurassic and we have all the daughters we need from him in our herd. He does have a single smoke ring, see photo below. Only one of his progeny to date has sported a smoke ring. He was selected for the Dairy Beef Progeny Trials and is currently in that program.



Contact me if you are interested.

Last season we sold 4 tidy young cows to a lifestyle blocker in Hauraki. Kirsten has sold her land and has offered these cows, in calf to up and coming sire 179120075, back to our members. They are listed on the Association's stock for sale pages.

As flagged in an earlier newsletter Ohuka is sending a mob of bulls to the South Island on about October 20 and anyone who has buyers in the South Island can hook into the transport by letting me know or phoning Stockline.

One of our newest members Jacqui Hughes has passed away unexpectedly and our thoughts are with her son Richard and his family. Richard, who bought a dozen cows of us last year, told me she spent a lot of time in the paddock with their Wainui stud cows and calves, just for the pleasure of observing them.

Finally, your newsletters are produced courtesy of a rotational system adopted by Council and it was my turn this month but I would like to remind you that all members are encouraged to contribute a newsletter, or even small items that can be incorporated in one.

May your grass grow and your stock do well.

Dirk Sieling

Deputy President and Member of Council

## **Standard pricing guidance for Red Devon**

As mentioned in the last newsletter, interested buyers are regularly seeking guidance on pricing. The Council has been able to compile the following guidance table based on sales reported in the newsletter, their own experience, and the publicly available pricing indications provided by some breeders.

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Category	Price, NZ\$ + GST
Calves of all types, newly weaned 7-10 months	750-1250
Heifers, 10-18 months	1200-1300
Bulls, 10-18 months	1500-2200
Heifers, 20-30 months	1500-1700
Cows 2-5 years	1850 and up
Cows 5+ years	1700 and up?
addition for in calf, depending on sire	+300-800
addition for calf at foot, depending on sire	+500-1000
Bulls, 20-30 months	2300-3000
Bulls, over 3 years	upwards from 3000 as demand dictates
Please note that some breeders are willing to offer more favourable prices for prospective members seeking to establish themselves with Red Devon stock. Queries on this should be taken to the Council with an indication of stock type and numbers sought, and intentions of membership. Handled on a case by case basis.	
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Review this table against your experience and provide feedback to [danielleboven@gmail.com](mailto:danielleboven@gmail.com) for collation and consideration as we finalise this information.

Once finalised and agreed this table will be shared on the website to inform prospective buyers and potential new members. If you have further input to refine this, please contact a member of Council.

We will continue to provide datapoints on recent sales, information which was relied on to generate this table and will update it in the future. Sales reported for this month include two yearling bulls sold at \$1750 + GST, for delivery to the Chatham Islands.

**Welcome to new members, with regretful condolence**

As Dirk mentioned above, a new member has left us sooner than intended. I composed the message below in collaboration with new member Jacqui Hughes and in the process came to very much look forward to future communications. I regret that I will not get to learn more in the way I planned, of her and from her, but it is consolation that her son Richard will continue with her plans for the land and stock. In sharing to compose her original member introduction, Jacqui noted how much her adult children were helping to protect and enhance the property, and Richard was noted to have put special effort into her acquisition of the Red Devons. The new member introduction as composed with Jacqui follows:

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Hughes and Associates runs a small farm in an enviable location back of Ohiwa Harbour, half way between Whakatane and Opotiki. Jacqui Hughes runs the farm with the able assistance of her adult children, Kelly, Richard, and Cinnamon. They are managing about 50 acres and have been busy

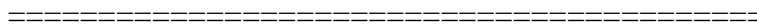
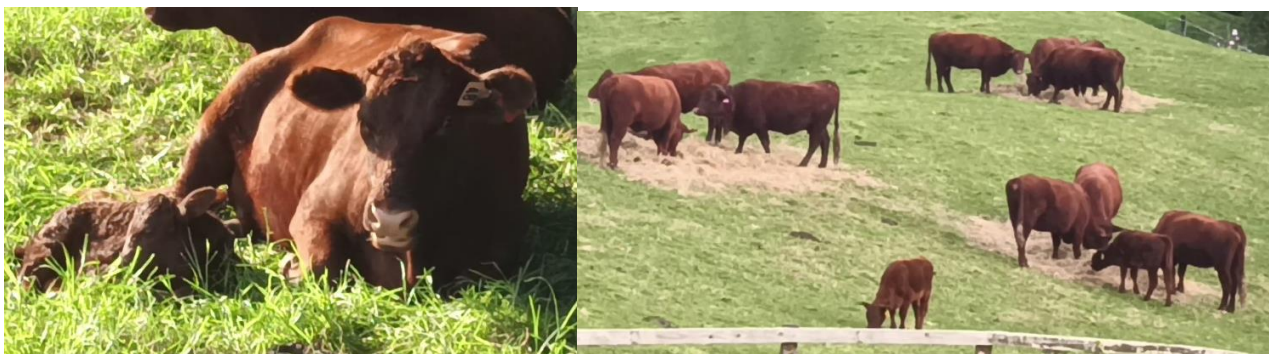
fencing off steep sections, planting trees, and protecting wetlands, which has retired maybe half of the land from production.

Jacqui was born on a farm in the Hawkes Bay and has always had relatives with farms, but worked in community development and education, which led her to Whakatane. Now she spends part of her week in Whakatane and the remainder at the farm property, plus weekends and lockdowns, of course!



Over the previous decade they had Charolais on the farm, but the wet weather of recent years made Jacqui concerned that the Charolais may be too heavy for the conditions and land. She has always been interested in Red Devon, considering them a pretty cow with good credentials so decided to make a change. After some research, Richard arranged the purchase of 12 Red Devon cows of various ages from Dirk Sieling of Ohuka Stud in the Coromandel. Pictured above on the left are the Red Devon at arrival, and on the right the introduction of Red Devon to Charolais. The two breeds overlapped by a year so the Charolais could guide the Red Devon through paddock transitions.

It has been over a year now and the cows have all calved, nine of additions were female and Jacqui plans to keep all of them. In the long run, based on the Charolais experience, Jacqui expects to keep 20 breeding cows and their calves. She joins the Red Devon Association looking for advice in managing and breeding the stock she has. She feels credibility is required to regularly offer stock to the market with pedigree, and looks forward to doing so.



While we regret that Jacqui does not remain in the membership as planned, we are pleased to welcome Richard and the entire family to the Red Devon community.

### Welcome to new members

We welcome new members Mark and Robyn Telford of Dannevirke and look forward to introducing them with more information in the next newsletter.

## Transport to South Island

Increasing membership and interest from the South Island has led to more and more frequent transportation arrangements between the North and South Islands.

As flagged in an earlier newsletter, Dirk Sieling of Ohuka Stud is sending a mob of bulls to the South Island in late October, likely around the 20<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who has buyers in the South Island can hook into the transport by contacting Dirk via the details at the end of the newsletter or phoning Stockline directly.

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**Members**

[\(click here\)](#)

**List**



### Important Dates to Remember

30 <sup>th</sup> September	Annual animal pre-list dam fees invoiced
31 <sup>st</sup> December	Balance Date; end of financial year
31 <sup>st</sup> January	Calf entry sheets cut off
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Membership Subscriptions Invoiced
May 2023	AGM
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Animal Disposal List (ADL) sent out
30 <sup>th</sup> July	Deadline to return ADLs, by post or email to Linda Rule at PBB <a href="mailto:lindar@pbbnz.com">lindar@pbbnz.com</a> Please note no cow credits for ADL's returned after the 15 <sup>th</sup> August
10 <sup>th</sup> August	Calf Entries start
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)**