

# RED POLL

ANNUAL 2018

RED POLL

BEEF CATTLE





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**Front cover Image:** Red Poll heifer with her 6 month old heifer calf at foot - courtesy Eurimbla.

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# PRESIDENTS REPORT

Report by Gay Ward

Hello Everyone,

Well yet another year has passed by very quickly, there's so much we need and want to do but still there's not enough time to do them.

A key for me with our Red Poll cattle this year has been another consistent performance with our Carcase results. Jill Coghlan has compiled a more detailed report further in the magazine which highlights strong consistency; this is a great achievement for our Breed and one we should make plenty of noise about.

As we know but what perhaps many don't realise or take particular notice of, is that these results are with Purebred Red Polls, not cross bred, no need to have hybrid vigour, Red Polls can do it all on their own...

As I mentioned at our AGM, your Executive have been busy too with major highlights being the new Red Poll Marketing plan, which by now you would all have received for your review and further input. Please do take some time to provide any further comments you may have, it is for your Breed and its best interests that the Plan has been developed, the more we engage with this the more the Breed will eventually see in return.

Our Website is also being revamped and refreshed will be great to see once finalised however there is still some way to go before this is completed.

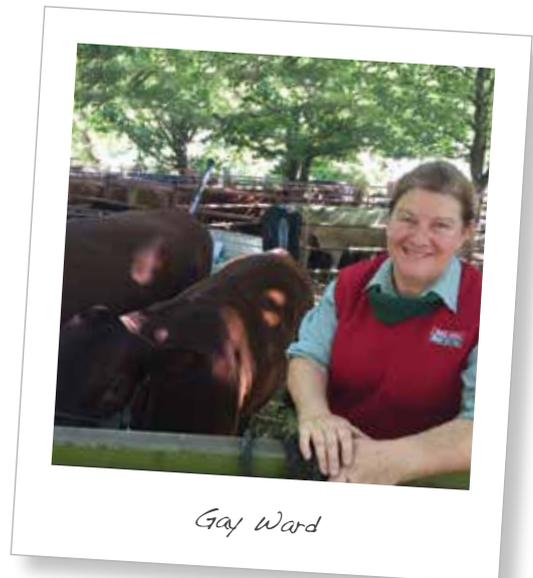
If you haven't already, please note on your Calendars the Red Poll Feature at the Royal Melbourne Show in September 2018. This will be a major event for our Breed and I urge everyone to try and Exhibit and be a part of this event.

Our next AGM and Stud Tour will be hosted by the NSW Region in 2018, with the exact dates to be confirmed however an indication is that it will be around a similar time of year to those which have been held to date.

This will be my last report for the Annual as President with my tenure finishing at the 2018 AGM having served 4 years consecutively. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have served on the Executive during this time for their efforts and support of the Breed and all Members who continue to support and recognise what a great breed Red Polls are. Thanks also to our Regional Presidents and their regional executives along with our Executive Officer Keryn Hutton and the Team at ABRI.

Best wishes to all for a safe and Happy Xmas, spending quality time with family and friends and all the best for 2018 and beyond.

Regards  
Gay



## RED POLL FEATURE SHOW AND SALE MELBOURNE ROYAL 2018



Enquiries: Trent Storm, Anne Moya, Ross Draper and Gay Ward

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Report by Keryn Hutton

It is with pleasure that I present you with the 2018 Red Poll Annual magazine.

This year I was fortunate to attend the Victorian region herd tour which showcased a number of different enterprises. No doubt, there is not 'one recipe for success' and the knowledge and capability of the Red Poll members involved was a real positive for the breed.

A strong breed identity, a sustainable society and most importantly a quality product are essential to the future of Red Polls. I would encourage all members to support the recently created Red Poll Marketing Plan. The hope is that this will provide a plan for the future which will result in a higher value product for markets that yield greater dividends for both stud and commercial Red Poll members.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Red Poll Executive members who have strived to represent all members in a fair and equitable manner. The Executive are striving to use member resources as effectively as possible while being conscious of the need to maintain services including publications and communications. Where possible documents have been emailed with hardcopies available on request, and as such it is important to have updated email addresses on file. If a member believes he has not been receiving communications from the secretariat please notify me.

The Red Poll website upgrade will need member input to make it an informative marketing tool for the breed. This is your website so please supply to this office ideas, news stories and quality images for display.

With Christmas and New Year just around the corner I would like to wish all Red Poll Breeders and their families' compliments of the season and best wishes for a happy and successful year ahead.

The year letter for 2018 born calves will be 'P'.



*Keryn Hutton*



MAGNIFICENT Red Poll steers - Oakwood's 2016/17 Southern Grassfed Carcase Competition winners - Photo courtesy of the Wilson Family.

# WILSON'S RED POLL CATTLE



*Oakwood Princess Gem 835 (RMW F73) and her 2017 bull calf, Oakwood Dakota (RMW T102)*

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# WHAT'S ON IN 2018

29 JANUARY TO 6 FEBRUARY <b>VICTORIA / NSW</b> Stock and Land Beef Week	2-6 FEBRUARY <b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b> Beef Week Moyle Park Feb 2	23-25 FEBRUARY <b>ACT</b> Royal Canberra Show	23 MARCH TO 3 APRIL <b>NSW</b> Sydney Royal Easter Show	MARCH <b>VICTORIA</b> On Farm Challenge
MARCH <b>NNSW/QLD</b> On Farm Challenge	12-15 APRIL <b>VICTORIA</b> Farm World Lardner Park Warragul	6-12 MAY <b>QUEENSLAND</b> Beef 2018 Rockhampton	JUNE <b>QUEENSLAND</b> Farmfest Field Days Toowoomba	JULY <b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</b> <b>RASV</b> Stud Beef Junior Handlers
16-19 JULY <b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b> Junior Heifer Expo Adelaide	10-19 AUGUST <b>QUEENSLAND</b> Royal Queensland Show	31 AUGUST TO 9 SEPTEMBER <b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b> Royal Adelaide Show	22 SEPTEMBER TO 2 OCTOBER <b>VICTORIA</b> Royal Melbourne Show (Incl. Red Poll Feature Show and Sale)	
22-29 SEPTEMBER <b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b> Perth Royal Show	EARLY OCTOBER <b>RED POLL NATIONAL YOUTH CAMP</b>	2-4 OCTOBER <b>ELMORE &amp; DISTRICT FIELD DAY</b>	OCTOBER <b>AGM &amp; STUD TOUR</b>	

O.

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# KNOW YOUR MARKETS

Collated by Prue Lee - Omega 3 Red Polls (Link: [www.msagrading.com](http://www.msagrading.com))

Meeting market specifications is an important part of a profitable beef enterprise. (Prime facts).

There are a number of principals involved in meeting market specifications.

1. Know the specifications and customer requirements of your target market.
2. Know your production system.
3. Implement a plan to market cattle to specifications on time, rather than sending cattle to a sale and assuming 'someone' will buy cattle with those specs.

Small producers tend to use the saleyard system. In the table below, taken from the National Livestock Reporting Service livestock buyers paid according to the degree of muscling, and therefore potential yield in all market categories. The top category was B muscled cattle (muscle volume or thickness) with a fat score of 3. B muscled cattle with a 2 for fat sold 8c lower per kg. D muscled cattle returned the lowest price.

Only 1% of cattle sold through the saleyards were in the top category. 85% were C muscled, but 74% had a fat score of 3. When the season deteriorates or there is an oversupply the hardest hit category are the plainer muscled cattle and the gap widens between C and D muscled cattle.

**PRICE VARIATION WITH MUSCLE AND FAT SCORE FOR YEARLING STEERS, 330-400KGS**

	MUSCLE SCORE B	MUSCLE SCORE C	MUSCLE SCORE D
FAT SCORE 2	284.1.	269.5.	240.3
FAT SCORE 3	292.1.	276.0.	252.9
FAT SCORE 4		278.9	

So, if your cattle have high muscle volume the saleyards may be the place for them.

Other markets available are, weaner sales, vealer production, feeder steers, backgrounding cattle for feedlots, bull beef, cull cows, pregnancy tested in calf heifers and cows, unjoined heifers, domestic and/or export trade finished cattle, animals for live export and niche market cattle. Each market has defined specifications for animals to return the highest price (MLA meeting market specifications).

Australian markets are gradually moving from a bulk product to a value one, abattoirs now buy only 16% of their supply through the saleyard (Angus Gidley-Baird, Rabobank). The remainder are bought through direct consignment from feedlots or producers. Strong relationships are important for both the producer and the buyer.

JBS processes 8,000 head per day, they are also the biggest purchaser of grass-fed beef (Mark Ingles, JBS Branded Beef). They buy 3 to 4,000 head per week for this market.

Mark Ingles, JBS suggested producer's log into Livestock Data Link, an MLA program that's easy to read and gives the producer information regarding the performance of their cattle, it also allows producer's to benchmark themselves against everyone in the state or beyond.

There are a number of grass-fed programs including, PCAS, Teys Pasture fed, and JBS Great Southern grass-fed, most require a marbling score of 2.

JBS have now added Little Joe. Cattle going into their Great Southern Beef grass-fed market can qualify for this category if they achieve a marble score of 4. Only 2 to 3% are currently doing this. It requires an msa score of 65+. The cattle need an early maturity pattern to reach 290 to 320 kgs dressed/600kgs live weight at 14 to 16 months off grass. They must also meet the market grid for fat and importantly marbling. JBS will contact the supplier if their cattle meet this standard. They are keen to work with the top performers.

Cattle processed at JBS, Scone, Hunter Valley NSW now all come from their pasture assurance program, they no longer process stock that are not in that program. Their price is approximately .47c/kg above the msa grid, so currently around \$5.47 for cattle 275-329 DW (600kgs. Live weight). Premiums may be as high as .80 cents during winter and lower when supply is higher.

Feedlots have a broader grid, individual feedlot requirements vary, some taking only steers, others heifers and steers, entry weights start from approximately 300kgs or higher. Marbling is also extremely important for the feed lot's profitability. If cattle fail to reach at least a marble score of 3, and 70% did not in a sample taken from 40,000 head (Slack-Smith, 2009), then the cost to the feedlot is \$105.00 per head.

Health is an important issue too. Elders, Killara Feedlot, Quirindi now only buys cattle that are vaccinated with Bovilis MH +IBR. They pay an extra \$30 for cattle with two vaccinations.

Red Poll beef is clearly in a top category, as shown by many carcass competitions, but professionalism is needed to hit the market specs consistently, know your market, plan grazing carefully, understand your cattle genetics, the maturity patterns, muscle volume and the ability to marble, grow and fatten. With good planning and sound knowledge Red Polls can be at the top.

# THE RED POLL STEER SUCCESS

The Red Poll breed has a proud history of success in steer competitions and in 2017 the breed again excelled. The significant success of Red Poll steers in carcase competitions is particularly impressive given the breed's relatively small number of entries in these competitions. In 2017 Red Poll breeders from NSW, QLD, VIC and SA entered steers in carcase competitions and in each of these states they produced winning steers. All competitions included Market Specifications and Saleable Meat Yield as well as MSA for Eating Quality.

**Wirakie Stud Principal Garrick Mulcahy, Baladeen Stud Principal Richard Wilkinson and Babana Stud Principal Aidan Leicester** from NSW won medals in several classes at Sydney Royal and combined to come 4th in the Stan Hill carcase competition, outscoring all other British Breeds except the Murray Greys. Aidan's Lightweight steer won a Bronze with 84 points, Richard's lightweight steer won a Bronze with 83.5 points and Richard's Middleweight steer just missed winning Silver with 87 points. Garrick's Middleweight steer gained Bronze with 84.5 points and one of his Heavyweight steers scored 85.5 points gaining a Bronze whilst his other Heavyweight steer achieved Silver with 87.5 points and also 1st in the Virtual Taste. In total, Garrick, Richard and Aidan were awarded 5 Bronze, 1 Silver and 1st Place for Virtual Taste. Their entries were over six classes ranging from Lightweight 350-370 kg to Heavyweight 530-560kg. All the steers achieved maximum points for Market Specifications and Richard's Middleweight steer also scored maximum points for Rib Eye Area with 92cm<sup>2</sup>.

## Photographs

**Bottom left:** Thomas, Degaris and Clarkson representative - Darren Maney presents the ribbon for Class 1, single steer or heifer, 0-2 tooth, 180-240kg to Alan Wilson Oakwood Brent.

**Bottom middle:** G Abbot and D Castle award winners at Noorat.

**Bottom right:** Daryl Johnson of Lynbarry red polls accepting the purple sash at the presentation dinner - 2017 Whittlesea Show.

**The Wilson's Oakwood Stud** also achieved excellent results at the Southern Grassfed Carcase Classic in Naracoorte, SA. Their Lightweight steer won Class 1 with 87.65 points scoring maximum points for Saleable Meat Yield that included an EMA of 76cm<sup>2</sup> which was also maximum points. Their steer was placed 3rd in Class 2 with 88.38 points and in Class 3 an Oakwood steer scored 85.44 points. In the Team of 3, Oakwood achieved 2nd place with an aggregate score of 262.88 or 87.66 average. Please note: These results were from the 2016 Southern Grassfed Carcase Classic but couldn't be included in the 2016 Annual because they were received after printing.

At Melbourne Royal the **Storm's Stormley Stud** achieved 2nd Place on the Hoof and went on to also achieve 2nd place on the Hook with a Speckle Park x Red Poll steer in the Lightweight class. They were very close to achieving maximum points for Market Specifications but were unlucky to get a 1 point penalty for a HSCW being 2kg too heavy. The steer scored 16/20 Market Specifications, 33.9/35 for Saleable Meat Yield and 38.6/45 for Eating Quality for a total of 88 points.

From the QLD region **Tim Light from the Lagoon Stud and Briony Looker** gained 1st and 2nd place in the Light Middleweight class at the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza in Scone. Lagoon scored 82.93 points for a Red Poll steer and Tim and Briony's Simmental x Red Poll steer came 2nd with 81.5 points. The Lagoon steer scored 17.5/20 for Market Specifications, 25.82/35 for Saleable Meat Yield and 39.61/45 for Eating Quality. The Simmental x Red Poll steer scored 16/20 Market specifications, 30.3/35 for Saleable Meat Yield and 35.2/45 for Eating Quality.

Congratulations to these breeders on your great results. You've shown that the Red Poll breed continues to be an outstanding carcase breed.



Congratulations to the **Johnson's Lynbarry Stud** for achieving Reserve Champion carcass at the Whittlesea Show. Their steer won Class 1 with 89.938 points and went on to win Reserve Champion overall. The Lynbarry steer scored 17/20 Market Specifications, a resounding 35/35 for Saleable Meat Yield and 37.938/45 for Eating Quality. EMA measured 78cm<sup>2</sup> and dressed at 59%. An excellent result.

Last and certainly not least congratulations to the **Abbott family's Turanga Stud** and **Don and Bev Castle's Koallah Park Stud** on their success at the Noorat Show. A Koallah Park steer won Class 3 and was also awarded Reserve Champion Carcass with 86.5 points. The same steer was also placed 2nd on the Hoof. A Turanga steer came 3rd in the class with 82 points. Both Red Poll steers scored particularly well in the Eating Quality section and the Koallah Park steer was 1 point of maximum points in Market Specifications. The Turanga steer scored 11/15 for Market Specifications, 29/40 for Saleable Meat Yield and 40/45 for Eating Quality. The Koallah Park steer scored 14/15 for Market Specifications, 30.5/40 for Saleable Meat Yield and 42/45 for Eating Quality.



*2017 Sydney Stan Hill Steers*



*Class 1 Reserve Champion Carcass overall in the competition*

## STOP PRESS...

Pakenham Agricultural Show Hoof and Hook Competition 2-5 December 2017

### There were 44 entries of steers and heifers and Red Poll Entries excelled

On Saturday night, On the Hoof Judge - Cameron Cuttler placed a steer submitted by Gay Ward 3rd in Class 2 (with 17 entries - 330-385 kgs Liveweight) and a steer entered by Ross Draper in Class 1 came 4th. Two Limousin Heifers were awarded Champion and Reserve Champion on the Hoof.

However, when the Carcasses were evaluated on Tuesday, 5th December at Radford's Abattoirs in Warragul, a very different picture emerged.

In Class 2, Red Polls were placed 1st (Gay Ward) (84.16 points), 3rd (N & I Staff), 5th (Gay Ward) and 6th (N & I Staff).

Then, in Class 1 (250 - 325 kg Liveweight), Ross Draper's steer was placed 2nd, and was awarded Reserve Champion overall in the Competition with 86.19 points. A Red Angus Steer was awarded Grand Champion Carcass with 89.51 Points.

Radfords Abattoirs allowed exhibitors to inspect the carcasses in their chiller rooms with the necessary safety clothing and this was greatly appreciated by all.

**Photographs:** **Left:** Gay Ward receives her 3rd Place Ribbon for the On the Hoof Competition. **Middle:** G Ward's Steer #32 - 1st Prize Class 2. **Right:** Andy Fyfe, Malcolm Ready and Anne Moya who received the Reserve Champion Trophies on behalf of Ross Draper.





## USING RED POLLS IN A COMMERCIAL SELF-REPLACING COMPOSITE HERD

Report by Megan Rowlands

Red Poll bulls are an important part of the breeding program for John and Megan Rowlands, whose property "Hilton" is located on the central tablelands of New South Wales. We run a self-replacing herd of 400-450 breeders which are predominantly Charolais/Angus, with an infusion of Red Poll genetics over the last five years.

Rather than focusing on a specific breed we focus on a resilient quality herd producing a live calf each year with the capability of achieving weights to meet their market specifications within the required time. At "Hilton" quality and weight gain efficiency are much more desirable traits than colour, although a solid colour (whether that be red, black, caramel or white) is preferred in the progeny.

Our markets include weaner sales generally through Auctions Plus, sales to feedlots (380-480 kilograms) for 14-16 month steers and sale heifers, and in favourable seasons taking some animals to an EU kill weight of 500-600 kilograms. In addition, we occasionally join heifers to be sold as PTIC - depending upon the season and the market at that time. Flexibility within our operation is important.

In the management of our herd we have moved to a moderate cow size and we particularly value our replacement heifers which keep our overall herd young. We calve late winter with a relatively young herd to make our cows less susceptible to grass tetany (which is caused by a magnesium deficiency) that particularly afflicts our district during our cold and often wet winters. We usually have at least one decent fall of snow during the winter months.

In the quest to continuously improve the calving percentage and production efficiency of our herd John came across the calving attributes and other traits of Red Poll bulls. After hearing about the success

of Eurimbla Red Poll steers in the Australian National Field Days competition, he inquired further and received high praise of the Eurimbla stock from our agent Michael Pratten and from prominent Rosedale Charolais Stud principal, Michael Millner. This led to our decision to purchase low birth weight Red Poll bulls from Ian and Jill Coghlan to join with our heifers. We are very pleased with the pregnancy, calving and weaning percentages from the Red Poll bulls over our heifers. They produce quality calves with often a beautiful red colour, some all-black and some all-white and all with solid colours which suits us. The weight gains of the heifer calves are very good and our yearling steers this year have averaged 1.05 kilograms per day over the cold and wet winter months. We will be selling most of these steers in mid-November 2017 at an average 480 kgs (460-530 kgs) direct to a feedlot, off-loading a little earlier due to the dry spring we are experiencing. The season naturally has a lot to do with this, although we need to have the right genetics to achieve these weight gains.

When selecting Red Poll bulls the focus is on EBV's of low birthweight, good growth and good muscle. We avoid extreme animals and tend to look for more moderate sized bulls. When it comes to choosing our replacement F1 breeders we look for moderate to growthy females with full colour bodies and sound structural attributes. We will select an animal firstly on quality and structure rather than on colour. Our infusion of Red Poll genetics has added hybrid vigour to our herd and enhanced its production.

Temperament is also a quality that we use in the selection of bulls. We join our heifers to Red Poll bulls separately to the cow herd, otherwise all bulls are run together at joining. The Red Poll bulls display good temperaments. Bulls with a stirry nature have a limited life on Hilton.

Grass management has a high focus in our operation. We run a time-planned grazing system, meaning that our herd rotationally grazes in cells of animals and are moved in response to pasture growth. The cattle have slower moves in non-growing periods (winter) and faster moves in growing periods (spring), focusing on the grasses we wish to encourage. This promotes a biodiversity of perennial pasture species and ground cover. Our heifers are calved and grazed separately to the main herd, to monitor the heifers having their first calf. This year we calved 83 heifers, all joined to Red Poll bulls and only assisted 4-5 heifers. We have a much better bottom line from every live heifer and calf achieved. The heifers and their calves are joined back with the main mob after calf marking for grazing management purposes.

Our bottom line is on a whole farm plan approach for the longer term. Production goals as stated include quality genetics and a sound breeding herd. Eurimbla Red Poll bulls are playing an important role achieving these goals. By operating a time-planned grazing system we have greater control of our pasture management and knowing how much grass we have ahead for forward planning. It also allows for a low-cost input operation. Megan monitors the business performance and we use this data to make sometimes reactive and sometimes opportunity decisions to keep our farm business profitable, resilient and going forward.

No doubt there will be never ending improvements in our business and our cattle herd in reaction to changing seasons, markets, consumer sentiments and setting our business and natural resources up for the next generation. We plan to be in a position to maintain long term resilience in this forever changing rural landscape.

**Photographs:** Top left: Progeny of Red Poll bulls x Charolais and Angus heifers. Below: 330 - 350kg progeny of Red Poll bulls x Charolais x Angus Heifers 2.



# EURIMBLA LOVE CHILD

	GL (days)	BW (kg)	200 day (kg)	400 day (kg)	600 day (kg)	MC (kg)	MILK (kg)	SC (cm)	Carcase WT (kg)	EMA (sq cm)	Rib fat (mm)	Rump fat (mm)	IMF (%)
EBV	-1.1	+1.4	+22	+37	+40	+39	+8	+0.2	+34	+1.4	+0.7	+0.7	+1.2
BREED AVG. EBV	-0.3	+1.7	+16	+23	+30	+30	+6	+0.4	+19	+0.5	+0.0	-0.1	+0.1

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# MOVING TOWARDS SNP PARENTAGE VERIFICATION

DNA parentage verification offers beef producers a tool to accurately determine animal parentage and reduce pedigree errors which may otherwise occur.

This article will explore how parentage verification works, the DNA markers that are used for parentage verification, and examine the best way for beef producers to manage the transition from microsatellite to SNP parentage verification.

## How does parentage verification work?

DNA parentage verification works by analysing a series of DNA markers in the progeny and in potential parents. For each DNA marker, one of the two variants observed in the progeny must have come from the dam and the other from the sire. Therefore, potential parents can be ruled out if their DNA markers do not match those observed in the progeny.

In the example shown in Figure 1, the calf and dam have been genotyped, as have five candidate sires. For simplicity, five different markers (Markers A, B, C, D and E) are being used. When we examine Marker A, we can

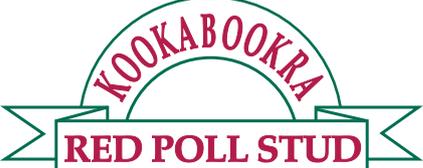
see that the calf has the genotype 'Aa', and the dam has the genotype 'aa'. In this instance, the dam must have passed on 'a' to her calf. Therefore, the 'A' must have come from the sire. Sires 1, 2, 3 and 5 could have passed on an 'A' to the calf, so are potential sires of the calf. Sire 4, having the genotype 'aa', could not have passed on an 'A' to the calf, so can be ruled out as a potential sire.

We can then repeat this process for Markers B, C, D and E. For Marker B, the calf has the genotype 'BB', so one 'B' allele must have come from the dam and the other from the sire. Of the five sires, Sires 1, 3, 4 and 5 have a 'B' which they could have passed on to the calf. Sire 2 can be ruled out. For Marker C, the sire of the calf must have passed on 'C' - once again this rules out Sire 4. Sires 2 and 4 are ruled out yet again at Marker D, where the sire of the calf must have passed on 'd'. For Marker E, the sire of the calf must have passed on 'e', which rules out Sires 1 and 5 as possible sires.

At the end of this process, the only sire left as a potential sire candidate is Sire 3. Note that this process does not "prove" that Sire 3 is the sire of the calf; rather, it does not eliminate him as the sire. In this simple example, five markers were enough to eliminate four of the five sire candidates from contention. In real life situations, many more markers are used to for parentage verification.

ANIMAL	MARKER A	MARKER B	MARKER C	MARKER D	MARKER E
CALF	Aa	BB	CC	dd	Ee
DAM	aa	Bb	CC	Dd	EE
SIRE 1	AA ✓	Bb ✓	Cc ✓	dd ✓	EE
SIRE 2	Aa ✓	bb	CC ✓	DD	ee ✓
SIRE 3	Aa ✓	BB ✓	CC ✓	Dd ✓	Ee ✓
SIRE 4	aa	Bb ✓	cc	DD	ee ✓
SIRE 5	AA ✓	Bb ✓	Cc ✓	dd ✓	EE

**Figure 1.** Parentage verification compares the genotype of a calf against the genotype of its dam and candidate sires. Here, five markers are used to eliminate four of the five sire candidates as the potential sire of the calf.



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## DNA markers used for parentage verification

The two types of DNA markers that have been used for DNA parentage verification in cattle are microsatellites and Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs). A **microsatellite** is a repeat of a particular base pair sequence at a specific location in an animal's DNA. The number of base pair repeats can differ between animals. Figure 2 shows a CA microsatellite, where animal 1 has three repeats and animal 2 has five. **SNPs** occur where there is a difference in a single base pair. This is highlighted in Figure 2 where A is substituted for T between the animals.

Historically, microsatellites were the DNA marker used for parentage verification. However, SNPs are replacing microsatellites as the genetic marker of choice because of their greater abundance and stability. The greater abundance of markers means more markers can be included in tests, allowing them to be more powerful and accurate, while the greater stability means the test will remain accurate over many generations.

ANIMAL 1	
MICROSATELLITES	ATGCCACACAATGC
SNP	ATGCCACCATGCCAT
ANIMAL 2	
MICROSATELLITES	ATGCCACACACACAATGC
SNP	ATGCCCTCCATGCCAT

**Figure 2.** There are two types of DNA markers; microsatellites (shown here as a CA repeat) and SNP (shown here as an A/T SNP).

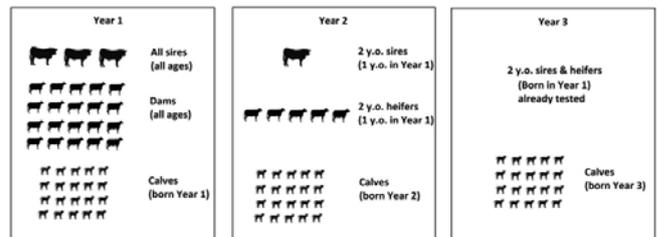
## Transitioning from Microsatellite to SNP Parentage Verification

While many beef cattle societies are moving away from microsatellite parentage verification tests to the newer SNP parentage verification test, one limitation to this upgrade is that microsatellites and SNPs are incompatible. Unfortunately, microsatellite profiles **cannot** be converted to a SNP profile equivalent. Therefore, animals which require parent verification via DNA need to have the same type of DNA profile as their parents. In situations where the calf is to be parent verified using a SNP profile, and the parents only have a microsatellite profile, then the parents would need to be re-genotyped to have a SNP profile.

Let us consider the best way to manage the upgrade from microsatellite to SNP parentage verification when full parentage verification is required (both sire and dam), as outlined in Figure 3. In Year 1, all sires and dams that have calves born in the Year 1 calving drop should be re-tested using SNP, as their microsatellite profile will not be compatible with a SNP profile. Their calves could then be parent verified using SNP. In Year 2, the only parents requiring a SNP profile are the new sires and dams coming into the herd (in this case, 2 year old bulls and 2 year old replacement heifers). The calves born in Year 2 can then be parent verified using SNP, as their parents would either have a SNP profile

on file from Year 1 or have been tested in Year 2. In Year 3, the 2 year old sires and replacement heifers coming into the herd were born in Year 1, and so already have a SNP profile from when they were parent verified as calves. Therefore, in Year 3 and beyond, only the new calves would need to have a SNP profile done.

Of course, not all breed societies require full parentage verification. Where only sire verification is required, a similar strategy should be employed. The only difference would be that the dams would not need to have a SNP profile taken (i.e. only sires and calves would require a SNP profile).



**Figure 3.** The upgrade from microsatellite to SNP parentage verification can be managed to reduce the number of animals that already have a microsatellite profile and will require re-testing to get a SNP profile. In this full parentage verification example, all sires and dams of the Year 1 calves are re-tested using a SNP profile, allowing the calves to be parent verified using SNP. In Year 2, the calves will have a SNP parentage verification test done, with only new sires and heifers entering the herd requiring re-testing to get a SNP profile. From Year 3 onwards, all new sires and heifers entering the herd should already have a SNP profile, so only the current drop of calves will require a SNP parentage verification test.

## Summary

The process of parentage verification, where a series of DNA markers are analysed in the progeny and potential parents, allows breeders to identify the most likely sire and/or dam of the animal being tested. While traditionally microsatellite markers have been used for parentage verification, the newer SNP parentage verification method provides improved accuracy and stability. In the upgrade from microsatellite to SNP parentage verification, some animals that have previously been tested via a microsatellite profile will need to be re-tested using a SNP profile. However, this can be managed effectively to reduce the number of animals that already have a microsatellite profile and require re-testing to get a SNP profile.

Should you have any questions on parentage verification, or wish to discuss transitioning from microsatellite to SNP parentage verification:

Please contact  
 Catriona Millen - SBTS Technical Officer  
 Phone (02) 6773 3357  
 Email [catriona@sbts.une.edu.au](mailto:catriona@sbts.une.edu.au)

## 2017 BRISBANE ROYAL COMPETITION WINNERS

*Judged by  
Erin Waters  
Lancefield VIC*



*Photo: Grand Champion female, Lagoona Qinta with Exhibitor Tim Light - Armidale NSW and handler Isabelle Leitch. Photo courtesy of Allison McCabe photography.*

JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	T Light - Lagoona Qinta
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	J Bockman & J Rhea - Tanamerah Lisbeth Taylor
SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	T Light - Lagoona Miss Pandora
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	N & P Lee - Omega 3 Gabriel
GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE	T Light - Lagoona Qinta
JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL	T Light - Lagoona Oreo
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL	C Jones - Rosalee Triple A
SENIOR CHAMPION BULL	J Bockman & J Rhea - Tanamerah Leonardo da Vinci
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION BULL	N & P Lee - Omega 3 Sage
GRAND CHAMPION BULL	T Light - Lagoona Oreo

## 2017 PERTH ROYAL COMPETITION WINNERS



*Photo: Grand Champion Bull and Supreme Exhibit, Red Sands Unison bred by Q & S Hooper. Photo courtesy of Kane Chatfield, Farm Weekly.*

JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	Q & S Hooper - Red Sands Valentine
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	Q & S Hooper - Red Sands Vintage
GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE	JH Williams & Co - Yongerellen Gracious Kin
JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL	JH Williams & Co - Yongerellen Royalty Paul
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL	JH Williams & Co - Yongerellen Zepplin Pasadena
SENIOR CHAMPION BULL	Q & S Hooper - Red Sands Unison
GRAND CHAMPION BULL	Q & S Hooper - Red Sands Unison
SUPREME EXHIBIT	Q & S Hooper - Red Sands Unison
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR	Q & S Hooper - Red Sands Stud

## 2017 MELBOURNE ROYAL COMPETITION WINNERS

*Judged by  
Diana Wood*



*Photo: Senior and Grand Champion Female, Stormley Princess with Cody and Trent Storm of Stormley Red Polls - Barham NSW. Trophy presented by A. Moya.*

JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	S Storm & Sons - Stormley Queen-bee
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	G Ward - Redward Sheeba
SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	S Storm & Sons - Stormley Princess
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	R Draper - Red Cactus Seah
GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE	S Storm & Sons - Stormley Princess
JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL	G Ward - Redward Throw Down
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL	G Ward - Redward Barnaby
SENIOR CHAMPION BULL	G Ward - Redward Forest
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION BULL	N & P Lee - Omega 3 Sage
GRAND CHAMPION BULL	G Ward - Redward Forest
SUPREME EXHIBIT	S Storm & Sons - Stormley Princess
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR	G Ward - Redward Stud

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## 2017 SYDNEY ROYAL COMPETITION WINNERS

*Judged by  
Mr Ryan Morris*



Photo: Grand Champion bull, Omega 3 Sage with Shannon Lawlor and judge Ryan Morris - Orange NSW, Greg Watson - RAS Cattle committee, Exhibitor Prue Lee, and handler Lachlan Ware - Quirindi NSW. Photo courtesy of Wayne Jenkins.

<b>JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE</b>	N & P Lee - Omega 3 Cherish Jude
<b>RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE</b>	JH Williams & Co - Yongerellen Ada Omo 2nd
<b>SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE</b>	S Storm & Sons - Stormley Princess
<b>RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE</b>	Q & S Hooper - Red Sands Tammy
<b>GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE</b>	N & P Lee - Omega 3 Cherish Jude
<b>JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL</b>	N & P Lee - Omega 3 Sage
<b>RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL</b>	Q & S Hooper - Red Sands Unison
<b>SENIOR CHAMPION BULL</b>	R Draper - Red Cactus Joe
<b>RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION BULL</b>	G Mulcahy - Wirakie Lockie
<b>GRAND CHAMPION BULL</b>	N & P Lee - Omega 3 Sage
<b>THE BRIGADIER G S HURST PERPETUAL PRIZE FOR GRAND CHAMPION BULL</b>	N & P Lee - Omega 3 Sage
<b>THE W K COWLISHAW PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR THE BEST RED POLL EXHIBIT</b>	N & P Lee - Omega 3 Sage

## 2017 ADELAIDE ROYAL COMPETITION WINNERS

*Judged by  
Neil Watson*



Photo: Moyle Park Pemberton. Junior and grand champion Red Poll bull Adelaide Show 2017 with handler Cassy Hughes.

<b>JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE</b>	RW & KL Daley - Moyle Park Lexi
<b>GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE</b>	RW & KL Daley - Moyle Park Lexi
<b>JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL</b>	RW & KL Daley - Moyle park Pemberton
<b>RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL</b>	RW & KL Daley - Moyle Park Lahore
<b>GRAND CHAMPION BULL</b>	RW & KL Daley - Moyle Park Pemberton
<b>MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR</b>	RW & KL Daley - Moyle Park Stud

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- > Royal Queensland Show
  - RNA Paddock to Plate

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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- > Adelaide Show Carcass Competition

## VICTORIA

- > Lardner Park Grass Fed Steer Trials
- > Melbourne Royal Show
  - Grand Champion Carcass
  - Marcus Oldham College Trophy - School or College
  - Borthwick Trophy - Interbreed Steer and Carcass
- > Pakenham Annual Hoof and Hook (carcass) Competition
- > Noorat Show Annual Hoof and Hook (carcass) and Eating Quality Competition
- > Whittlesea Agricultural Society Annual Hoof and Hook (carcass) Competition
- > Yea Agricultural Society Annual Hoof and Hook (carcass) Competition
- > Dandenong Agricultural Society Annual Hoof and Hook (carcass) Competition



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# RED POLLS GOOD FOR NATIONAL HERD DIVERSITY

Report by Alan Couch

Diversity tends to create a complicated conversation. However, one aspect of diversity in cattle should be relatively uncontroversial. I hope to show you that maintaining a sound unique breed such as Red Polls within a global set of breeds is a valuable thing to do in its own right - and not just because they are wonderful cattle with so many desirable traits.

In wild and cultivated species some genetic diversity is almost universally considered a good thing, although there is ongoing discussion about the extent and limits of desirable diversity. Recent technologies such as embryo transfer and cloning focus our attention on developing or maintaining genetic similarity, the opposite of diversity, particularly where it relates to desirable traits. The problem with extending this approach too far is that we are not yet certain about what is desirable and what is not. Furthermore, something that is desirable today may not be desirable in future, and similarly, something perceived as undesirable today may prove to be highly valuable in future. It is for this reason I want to make the point that maintaining individual cattle breeds is necessary and wise, and that avoiding a monoculture of beef and dairy cattle suited to some geographic type or mere fashion, is important.

There are many examples of traits we initially think are undesirable that prove to have desirable functions. I don't intend to discuss these but can we even imagine what traits we might be able to make use of from Aurochs (*Bos primigenius*) - ancestors of modern cattle - if they were not extinct? The last one died in Poland in 1627. We left this selection responsibility to our Bronze and Iron Age ancestors, but perhaps we would select traits differently knowing what we know now. In this context the extinction we are concerned about is extinction of genes and traits, rather than whole species. This is not to say that we should not produce herds that are concentrated collections of 'good' traits, with fewer 'poor' traits, just that we should do so while ensuring we do not eliminate breeds, genes and traits that we don't yet understand adequately.

One example of a trait previously unappreciated is the origin of adaptation to tropical conditions in Senepol cattle. Although widely believed to have originated from African taurine cattle the evidence now suggests it originated from Red Polls and thermotolerance arising from the slick locus (*Flori*). Of course this was done along with meat production and hornlessness phenotype, which are well known. Such a trait, thermotolerance and adaptation to tropical conditions assume greater

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significance in the context of the direction of expected climate change in many parts of Australia. The slick locus today is not limited to Red Polls but what genes are limited to Red Polls that we don't yet understand? Perhaps more importantly what combination of genes and traits exist in breeds that may prove useful?

Most of the cattle diversity today is found between *Bos indicus*, *Bos taurus*, and *Bos javanicus* cattle (Decker) but even within these subsets, genetic diversity is also important. So next time you are asked and consider why you focus on Red Polls, after a shout out to the long list of desirable traits, include a mention of the important contribution to maintaining a level of genetic diversity of the national cattle herd as a future investment. Resisting fashion and an assembly line approach to cattle will ensure we don't end up with monoculture of grey, 333kg over muscled animals that limit the options of our descendants to respond to crisis or opportunity. Much industry focus understandably tilts breeders behaviour in that direction, (see Andrews and Littler, 2007) but we should not ignore the other side of the equation.

As well as modest efforts within breeds there is also exists a very big picture approach to preserving genetic diversity of cattle. The Tauros Programme of the group Rewilding Europe is breeding an Auroch 2.0 for releasing into the wild mountains of Europe (Stokstead). The Auroch 2.0 will be as genetically similar to the original Auroch as is feasible. But this is a very different story, perhaps for another day.

Reference: Flori L., Gonzatti MI., Thevenon S., Chantal I., Pinto J., Berthier D., Aso PM., Gautier M. 2012. A quasi-exclusive European ancestry in the Senepol tropical cattle breed highlights the importance of the slick locus in tropical adaptation. PLoS ONE 7. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0036133. Andrews T., Littler B. 2007. Market Specifications for Beef Cattle. Prime Facts 621. Decker JE., McKay SD., Rolf MM., Kim JW., Molina Alcalá A., Sonstegard TS., Hanotte O., Götherström A., Seabury CM., Praharani L., Babar ME., Correia de Almeida Regitano L., Yildiz MA., Heaton MP., Liu WS., Lei CZ., Reecy JM., Saif-Ur-Rehman M., Schnabel RD., Taylor JF. 2014. Worldwide Patterns of Ancestry, Divergence, and Admixture in Domesticated Cattle. PLoS Genetics 10. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pgen.1004254. Stokstad E. 2015. Bringing back the aurochs. Science 350:1144-1147. DOI: 10.1126/science.350.6265.1144.



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# US CONGRESS TOUR 1ST JUNE - 25TH JUNE 2017

I have to say that one of the best things about the Congress Tours is meeting up with old friends!

Tour attendees were greeted by Dan Schmiesing on their arrival into Dayton, Ohio USA. To start a dinner at a winery, which was a Southern-style "boil up" of crab, prawns, jacket potatoes and corn. With tables lined with butchers paper, the staff brought out boilers and up-ended them up onto the tables! Our American hosts were extremely generous - handing out bags and mugs and the like, and as all previous Tours, fed us plenty!

**Day 1 Jackson Family's farm at Greensfork - Ohio** where we were treated to a very generous breakfast in their Red Poll barn decorated with Red Poll memorabilia. Cow mobs and a few tied show steers and heifers were on display.

**Spegal Family's Farm at Fairland - Indiana** - a new state where we enjoyed a BBQ lunch in their open shed with Red Poll signs, photos and show pendants, and as most tours have done in the past, onto the cow herd and the cows took it well. Some of these cows have some Bandaroo blood in them.

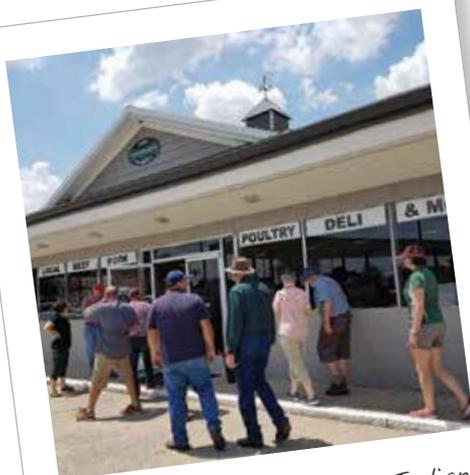
**Day 2 Shuter's Family farms near Frankton - Indiana**, where we viewed and had explained their cropping systems. They run a mixed farming operation of crops (mostly corn and soybeans), cattle and contract finishing of pigs on approximately 3200 acres. They have around 20 Red Poll cows, as well as a herd of Red Angus. We lunched in a park with a large creek and we saw Canadian Geese and American bumblebees. We also stopped at a butchery which is co-owned by Shuters. Mostly beef and pork is sold - approximately 2 carcasses per week of both. Chicken and lamb are not popular here, and very little is sold so they sell as frozen not fresh.

**Day 3 Carl's Farm at Huntington - Indiana** Another mixed farming operation of cropping (corn and wheat), cattle and pigs on around 2200 acres, although the cattle only run on about 60 acres. The herd consists of about 50 cows. The pastures are top dressed with crushed egg shells. The cows had free access to a very large barn and are also fed. Heifers and steers are housed full time. Part of the feed ration is recycled pig manure, collected from the settling ponds and dried off. Lunch was hosted by the Carl's at the local 4H grounds (4H is similar to our Rural Youth/Junior Farmers). One of the crops ground by the Carl's is popping corn, so we were give bags of popping corn along with other goodies! Then onto Shipshewana.

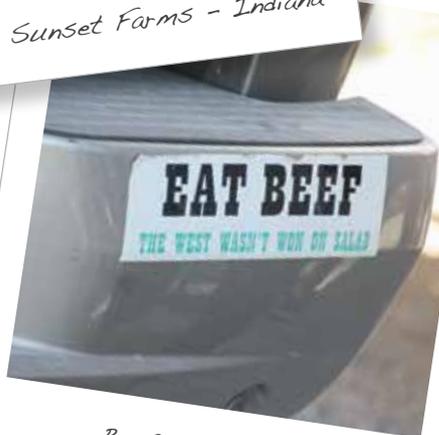
**Day 4 Red Poll free day**, but very interesting travelling around the Amish communities. We visited a camel dairy, met an Amish housewife and an Amish Bishop who explained about their Religion and culture. It's certainly a much slower paced life. Their craftsmanship was wonderful. I know I would have liked a few more days here! We did get a horse and buggy ride while exploring the town, thanks Gay!

**Day 5** Today we had some miles to cover before arriving at the Parks Silverthorn Farm. The main operation is mixed vegetables both in-field and in polyhouses. They grow tomatoes, cucumbers, broccoli, spinach, kale, lettuce, onion and more, they are looking to grown industrial hemp in the future as well. The herd is now quite small - just a few cows. Lunch consisted of some wonderful fresh salads all made from their produce.

**Day 6 Purdue University at Lafayette - Indiana.** Here we had talks on grass fed vs grain fed beef including a blind taste test and the Aussies and Kiwis picked and preferred the grass fed; meat grading including a chiller session; and cattle confirmation.



*Shuter Sunset Farms - Indiana*



*Beef Car Sticker*



**Day 7** More miles to cover and another state as we arrived at “The Warehouse” Peoria, Illinois for lunch with Red Poll meat hosted by the McKee Family and viewed old photos of McKee’s cattle right back to the 1950’s. Afterwards we went to the Caterpillar Visitor Centre, as Peoria is the home of Caterpillar. That night we watched a baseball game.

**Day 8** Marquis Energy ethanol plant which included a tour of the plant and description of how ethanol is produced. Then Marshall-Putnam Showground for lunch again hosted by the McKee’s. After lunch the country reports were given, then a general discussion on where the next Congress Tour should be, with South Africa/Kenya agreed proposed Tour and New Zealand as back-up.

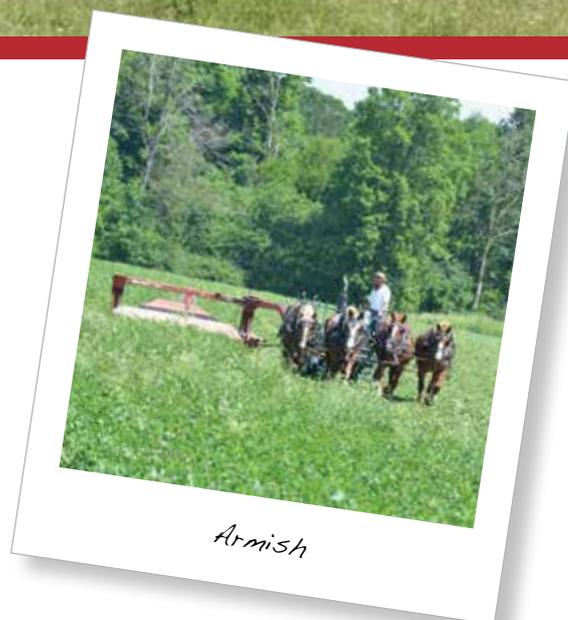
**Day 9** Another state – Missouri, with a wander in Hannibal on the Mississippi River. For those literature buffs, Hannibal is where Mark Twain grew up.

**Day 10 Womelsdorf Family’s herd at Colony - Kansas** They had a selection of their cattle in the yards for us to look over. This was a more moderate framed, grass-based herd, with what they describe as one of their top cows “Lucy” being 470kg and about to have her calf weaned at 8 months and 325kg.

**Day 11 Wiese’s Farm at Haven - Kansas.** They run both cattle and crop mostly wheat and sorghum. The frame size of the cattle was getting up here, although nice cows. Lunch was at their local church hall with some wonderful Red Poll memorabilia on display.

**Day 12 St Louis - Missouri.**

**Day 13** Tourist day, well partly! First up we visited the Purina research facility where they spoke about their research on stockfeeds, their feed mills and explained about acidosis. Then onto the Budweiser Brewery for a tour and of course taste testing!



**Day 14 Kentucky and AK Cattle Co (Kyle and Allison Young) at Shelbyville.** The Youngs had a lot on their hands with Allison having a little girl just 3 weeks before the Tour! They farm with Kyle’s Father and Uncle, cropping soybeans, tobacco and run a hay contracting business and the cattle. The cattle were very much in working condition, but some handy, moderately framed cows all the same.

**Day 15 Mike Reed’s herd.** Mike tries to use organic principals and runs a grass-fed herd. He had quite a few cross-breds and prefers moderate frames as they cope better with his pastures and extreme varying weather.

**Day 16 Belyew’s Farms in Big Sandy - Tennessee** (yes, another state) involved some interesting transport between their 3 farms – large trailers pulled by big pickups! Tennessee has a Farmer’s Co-op that encourages cattle producers to improve their herds by offering subsidies on things like buying registered animals and sheds for storing hay. The money was raised by a lawsuit against Tobacco companies.

**Day 17** Another day of mostly travelling, but a stop on-route at the Appalachian Settlers Museum.

**Day 18** A tourist day with a visit to Biltmore House built in 1895, which was very much like an English Estate. Then dinner at Winmock Barn, which is now converted to a function centre, but was part of the Winmock dairy that milked 400 Red Polls up until 1949. It was the highest producing Red Poll herd in its time.

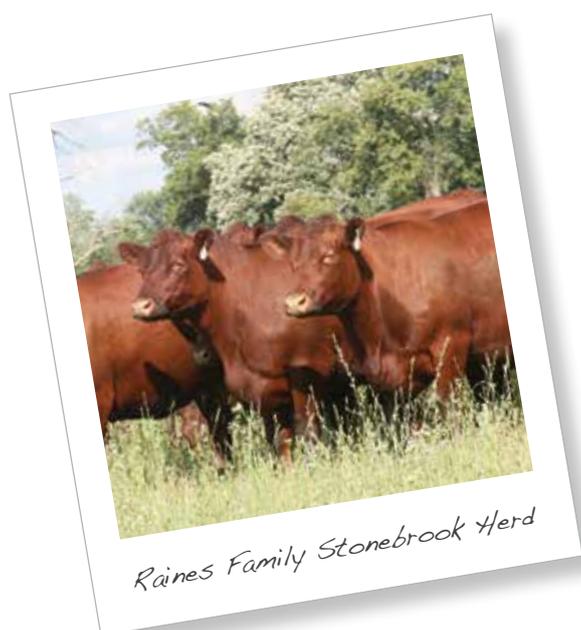
**Day 19 Bob Carson in Statesville - North Carolina**  
Bob runs purebreds, as well as some Simmental x Angus cows, which he puts a Red Poll bull over. Another grassfed operation, he uses a rotational grazing system. The current herd bull JF Big Bucks sparked some interest in the Tour Group. Following lunch, Bob had organised for us to have a winery tour.

**Day 20** This morning we visited Old Salem, which is a village with original buildings both privately owned residences and museum-like houses. After lunch we arrived at the Wiltshire herd. Here we viewed sons of Oakwood Zorba 2nd and NZ bull Tamihana Tom's Kingsley CP, and daughters of Oakwood Snowy River and UK bull Moreton Danny Boy. Some very handy cows here. A grass-fed operation, although slaughter cattle were finished on grain, as some are supplied to a local restaurant.

**Day 21** Travel day

**Day 22 Back in Ohio and the first herd visit was to Pasture Providence Farm.** Paul and Heather are another young couple who are passionate about organic and sustainable farming and local food miles. Their aim is to sell direct grass-fed, low chemical beef, lamb, poultry and pork.

**Day 23 The Schmiesing's herd,** where we saw some more Moreton Danny Boy's progeny. Mostly a grain-fed operation. Some cows with deep bodies. The barn was lined with Mary-Jo's beautiful quilts.



**The Raines Family Stone Brook herd.** A very well fed herd, both pasture and grain. We thoroughly enjoyed an American "Cook-out", pretty much our BBQ, and a silent auction to raise money for the Youth movement.

**Day 24** The final morning was spent watching the judging of the Youth Show. Afterwards many farewells to those leaving (and a few tears shed!).

Many thanks to the organisers and hosts of the Tour, and especially to Dan and Mary-Jo Schmiesing for all their hard work!

As mentioned, the next proposed Congress Tour is a joint tour to South Africa and Kenya. The Congress Tour is a wonderful way to make friends around the world, see other countries and of course Red Polls.

# Stormley Red Polls

## Stormley Princess



**Calf: Stormley Ruby**

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Supreme Exhibit of Melbourne Royal Show 2017  
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Lybarry Red Polls



Turanga Herd Viewing

## 2017 NATIONAL AGM AND STUD TOUR - VICTORIA

Written by Anne and Frank Moya

The Victorian region took great pleasure in hosting the 2017 Red Poll stud tour and AGM, which took place over the weekend of 28th and 29th October, and was a highlight of the Red Poll event calendar. On behalf of all tour participants, we congratulate and thank all studs and their helpers for making the tour so enjoyable and resoundingly successful. Some key features of each stud are outlined below.

### Koallah Park

The tour commenced at Don and Bev Castle's Koallah Park stud, on the vast volcanic plains of Western Victoria. A group of magnificent bulls were on hand to welcome us as we drove into the property, where the track wound over stony rises to open flats, where mobs of Red Poll females and calves contrasted against the lush green pasture. On arrival, Bev delighted us with a delectable morning tea, which energised us for the inspection of the wonderful cattle and new-born lambs. Don provided a fascinating commentary on stud, which was started in the year 2000 with bloodlines from some of the leading Red Poll studs.

### Turanga

The next port of call was the Turanga Stud, a half-hour drive away, where Greg, Kelli, Brittany and Annalise Abbott had divided the herd amongst small paddocks around the house. Each paddock was labelled with signs describing the cattle in that paddock, and this was enhanced with printouts of a spreadsheet that matched the management tag numbers of each animal with its breeding. In his welcome to the tour group, Greg gave a brief history of the stud, which was established by his parents in 1985. He went on to describe his vision for the herd, his innovative farming practices and the family business, which sells Turanga Red Poll meat direct to consumers. And the sensational lunch they provided showcased the exceptional eating quality of their meat!

### The Dunlop award

After lunch, the tour convoy headed towards the next stud, which should have been a 90 minute journey. Alas, the trip turned eventful when Alan and Marilyn Wilson's vehicle had a tyre blow-out, which must have been an unpleasantly scary experience. Fortunately, there was no personal injury; the same could not be said for the vehicle.

### Red Hot

Following the unscheduled pit stop, we reached Sam and Vicky Henson's Red Hot stud, located in a commanding position on the slopes an extinct volcano, Mt Buninyong, which affords breathtaking views across the basaltic plain which the volcano helped to form. The tour group was again spoilt with generous hospitality, which was very easy to take whilst surveying the spectacular landscape and the Red Poll bulls. Sam challenged us to burn off the extra calories by climbing the fire lookout tower at the top of Mt Buninyong, but the tight schedule to reach the AGM venue provided an ideal excuse to decline the challenge.

### AGM

The well-attended AGM, held in Ballarat, was followed by dinner at the venue, where numbers were further swelled by the arrival of those members who had opened their studs earlier in the day. This provided a great opportunity to socialise with fellow Red Poll enthusiasts from across Australia, and catch up with what had been happening since the last AGM stud tour in South Australia.

### Woodburn

The following morning it was with great excitement that the tour group visited the historic Woodburn herd, property and homestead, located near Kilmore - about 75 km north of the Melbourne CBD. The property is on

the Great Dividing Range, with an elevation of about 350 metres. Woodburn holds a unique and cherished place in the history of Red Polls in Australia, having been founded in 1917 by The Hon. T.H. Payne, and has been continued through the generations by TEN Payne, DN Payne and, currently, by our host, Douglas Payne. It was a pleasure and a privilege to visit Woodburn, and we thank the Payne family most sincerely for the opportunity.

### Lunch at Arthurs Creek

Ross Draper and Gay Ward excelled with the catering, providing a scrumptious lunch which featured more of the sensationally good Turanga Red Poll meat. After lunch there was a guided tour of the Red Cactus and Redward herds, where the cattle on display ranged from broad ribbon Royal Melbourne and Royal Sydney show champions to commercial cattle.

### Red Cactus

The show bulls on display included Red Cactus Jethro, the elder statesman of the herd, and Red Cactus Joe, who, a few weeks later, went on to be judged Grand Champion Male in the Interbreed competition at Dandenong Show - one of the foremost agricultural shows in Victoria. It was interesting to inspect the progeny of these heroes, which have themselves gone on to become show champions. In addition to the cattle, it was instructive to appreciate the collection of historic farm machinery and a Simplex milking machine from the 1940s - a relic from the days of milking Red Polls on the Draper family farm.

### Redward

Some of the show cattle were tied up near the house, which provided an excellent opportunity to inspect these show winners at close quarters. The impressive Redward bulls included Forest, Barnaby and Throwdown. Equally impressive were the Redward females, which included Tess, Sheeba and Marseille. A pen of successive generations of a prized female line was also on display, providing an insight into the stud's breeding program - which has produced champion carcass steers, as well as Royal show champions.

### Lynbarry

The final destination in the tour was the out-paddock across the road from Ross and Gay's place, where Barry, Lynette and Daryl Johnson did a superb job of displaying a sample of the Lynbarry herd. The yarded cattle included an impressive line-up of females, and Daryl provided an informative commentary on the breeding of these fine girls. A strong team of steers, many destined for various carcass competitions, populated the other pen. It's interesting to note that, just one week later, one of these steers was judged 4th on the hoof in the highly competitive 330 - 420kg class of the Whittlesea Show Hoof and Hook competition.

It was a fantastic effort by the Johnson family, who also worked tirelessly to help set up the displays of Red Cactus and Redward herds, and were invaluable to the success of the final day of the tour.

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# VICTORIA REPORT

Report by Mark Harris

The Victorian region has been quite active again this year with members involved in many areas of breed promotion. The breed had exposure at three annual field days again this year. The Seymour Alternative farming expo in February, The Lardner Park field days held in March and the Elmore field days in October. Thank you to all the members involved for once again making these events a success.

The breed has had success at the Lardner Park Grass-fed steer trial where a Red Poll steer was ranked in the top 5% for MSA score in the elite competition. A commercial members steers were placed 3rd overall in the same competition. The region once again held a successful On Farm challenge, with 11 herds participating. The event which was ably judged by Albert Hancock. Members of the region also exhibited at the Sydney Royal show with success once again. Congratulations to these members for their dedication to the breed in making the trip to the Sydney Royal.

The recent Melbourne show was once again well attended with a quality line up of Red Poll cattle. Congratulations to the broad ribbon winners and to all exhibitors for attending.

The organisation of the National AGM and herd tour has been another event our members have all got behind and have enjoyed immensely. Thanks go to the Victorian Members who prepared their stock and properties for the visitors.

The region has a feature show on the 18th November at Noorat. Congratulations go to the Exhibitors and other supporters. Thank you to the organising committee. The region has accepted an invitation to be the Feature Breed and Sale at the 2018 Royal Melbourne show. The planning has already started for this event. It would be great to get as many cattle and visitors to this Feature Show to be held in from the 22nd September to the 2nd October 2018.

At the regions annual meeting held in July, all positions were filled with Mark Harris being elected president and Trent Storm being elected Vice President. Ian Staff was re-elected as secretary/treasurer, with Judy Munro continuing her good work as merchandising officer, Greg Abbott and Anne Moya taking on the role of publicity. Trent Storm and Nell Staff looking after breed promotions. Ross Draper has the position of stud beef representative and the on farm challenge committee consists of Don Castle, Mark Harris, Doug D'Oliver and Ian Staff.

Once again thank you to all members for their contribution and we look forward to another successful year for the Red Poll Breed.

**Photographs:** Top left: Congratulations Brittany!! 2nd in the State Junior Judging Competition (15-25yrs old) at the Melbourne Show.

Top right: Congratulations R Draper. Bottom left: Red Polls in abundance! Some classes had so many RP entries that it was necessary to amalgamate rings. Bottom right: Supreme Beef Exhibit!!! Stormley Princess worked her way through the awards: Senior RP Female, Grand Champion RP Female, Supreme RP Exhibit, Interbreed Champion Cow, and the pinnacle - Supreme Beef Exhibit. In awarding this accolade, judge, Jake Phillips (holding the sash), commented that he could not fault the cow.



# WESTERN AUSTRALIA REPORT

Report by Murray Williams

In an unusually variable season across many parts of southern Western Australia producers are mostly happy with their harvest and years livestock results. Season saving rain in July and a 'soft' spring finish gave above expected yields in a year that seemed doomed in the middle after early rains which caused massive damage to roads and paddocks in the southern regions. Mid-year rain arrived too late to save crops in the north and north eastern agricultural areas where many paddocks failed or were never planted.

From a Red Poll perspective it was unfortunate to have a decline in membership with the resignation of Hayley Goad during the year. In earlier times her enthusiasm had driven some of the regions activities and the National Youth Committee.

The breed was again represented at Wagin Woolorama and the Perth Royal Show. Cattle at Perth were judged by Sean Kallady with awards being spread around the three exhibitors.

Supreme exhibit went to the Grand Champion Bull Red Sands Unison exhibited by Q and S Hooper who went on to be placed second in the Interbreed Senior bull competition.

Senior and Grand Champion Female was Yongerellen Gracious Kin exhibited by J.H. Williams and Co. who also exhibited the Junior Champion bull. Q and S Hooper exhibited the Junior Champion Female and were most successful exhibitor with L and A Longford picking up three place awards.

Red Sands and Yongerellen studs both exhibited cattle at Sydney Royal Show picking up two first and two second places and three Reserve Championships.

Cattle sales have occurred into both the agricultural and the pastoral areas where producers are seeking to optimise market choices with lower Indicus content cattle.

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*Photo by  
Kane Chatfield  
Farm Weekly*

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# NORTHERN NSW/QLD REPORT

Report by Tim Light (2017 NNSW/QLD Regional President)

The NNSW/QLD Region has been very productive again throughout the last 12 months. The year kicked off with a Red Poll Feature show at Inverell Show in March. Congratulations must go to the Lagoon Red Poll Stud on taking out the Grand Champion Red Poll bull and Supreme Red Poll exhibit with Lagoon Oreo. Oreo then went on to be awarded the Interbreed Calf Champion of the show. There was great support from all our regional members with more than 30 head of Red Poll cattle exhibited.

The next event on the regions calendar was FarmFest at Toowoomba QLD. This was supported by the Tanamerah and Wilanstie studs. They both had successful sales of bulls and cross-bred heifers. Well done to both of these studs on a great display of Red Poll and Red Poll cross cattle.

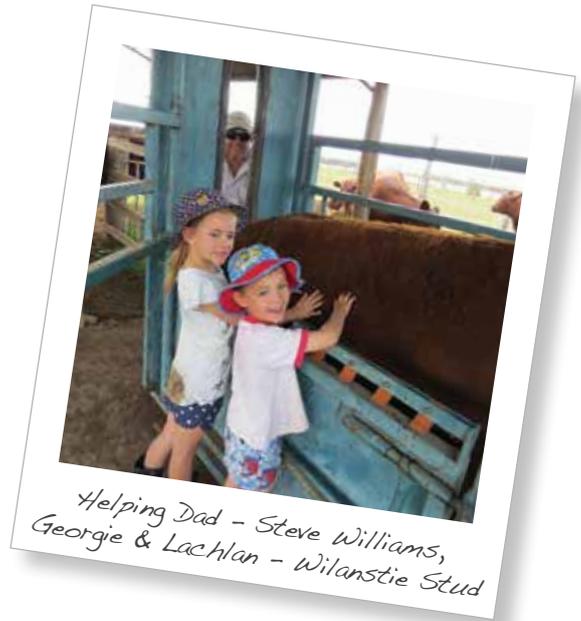
The New England season has been very delightful and with a bumper season came the movement and sales of bulls and females throughout the region.

Brisbane EKKA was the next big event for our region with 20 head being exhibited from 6 studs. This year was rather exciting for our exhibitors as we were lucky enough to be stalled in the very front row of the Stud Beef Cattle shed. With this location change we had a lot more interest in our cattle.

Well done the Lagoon Red Poll Stud on a very successful show. This year Lagoon took home the double of Grand Champion male and Grand Champion female in the Red Poll ring. Well done Tim!

The biggest event for our region took place in October, this being the National Red Poll Youth camp. Every year this event continues to increase in registrations and the calibre of this event continues to rise. This year saw 40 competitors coming from all over our region and further afield.

Congratulations to Koby Usmar on taking out the Red Poll Member award and huge congratulations to Koreena Dawson on taking home the coveted Overall



*Helping Dad - Steve Williams,  
George & Lachlan - Wilanstie Stud*

Champion Herdsman. Well done to all the competitors and all participants have a bright future ahead.

A huge thank you must go to our Cattle donors, as without them we could not run such a successful event. This year's cattle donors were: Tranquility Red Poll Stud, Kookabookra Red Poll Stud, Glen Leigh Red Poll Stud, Minyon Red Poll Stud, Red Rush Red Poll Stud, Lagoon Red Poll Stud and Lilvale Red Poll Stud.

A huge thank you must go to our hardworking Youth camp committee consisting of Rachael Hancock, Tim Light, Briony Looker and Kelso Looker. We appreciate the hard work and dedication all these committee members put in to make the event such an outstanding success.

We look forward to undertaking another jam-packed year for 2018, kicking it all off with a feature show at Manilla Show, followed by Sydney Royal, BEEF 2018, FarmFest, Brisbane EKKA and the National Red Poll Feature show at Melbourne Royal show.

We would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and safe New Year and we will see you all down the road in 2018.

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**Contact: Tim Light 0458 744 552 or 02 6775 1129 Armidale NSW**

## LAGOONA RED POLL STUD

# NEW SOUTH WALES REPORT

Report by Jill Coghlan

**Membership** in NSW has declined over the last months, especially amongst our junior ranks. There have been 13 resignations from our junior ranks, 2 full member resignations and 4 commercial resignations. On the positive side we've had 2 past members reinstate their full membership along with 2 other full memberships.

The junior membership resignations can be attributed to the dramatic increase in fees from Junior to full which is an extra \$200. Our NSW Branch will investigate opportunities for our junior members to encourage their long-term support for the Red Poll breed.

**Our Finances** are in good shape with no outstanding debt.

NSW has had some excellent **achievements** this year including setting up a Facebook page and getting National Executive's approval to conduct a Marketing Plan for the breed. I extend a special thank you to Margaret Sorial for taking the initiative for both these projects. The Red Poll Cattle Australia - Information and Classifieds Facebook page has been highly successful in uniting Red Poll members and friends from around the world as well as locally. Currently there are 187 members and Margaret does a great job providing links to informative articles as well as a great historical post each weekend. The Page really has become a daily ritual for most Red Poll members.

Margaret has done a great job with the Marketing Report and it is now at a stage where a Draft Copy is about to be circulated to Members for their comments. This Report will provide a great direction for the breed's future and our region offers its full support in seeing this important plan actioned.

The NSW region proposed to National Executive to update the Red Poll website and I'm pleased to report that this is proceeding. Several quotes were tendered with Eric Staff selected. Eric has already begun work on the website.

## Stan Hill Triumph: Red Polls shine against the big boys!!



Sydney Show was another great success with exhibitors from WA, VIC, QLD and NSW. A quarter of the exhibitors came from our junior ranks. Congratulations to Garrick and his team, Richard Wilkinson and Aiden Leicester who all scored 84 points or more resulting in Red Poll steers coming 4th in the Stan Hill Trophy outscoring all other British breeds except Murray Greys. Further information about their steer success is in the Steer Report of the Annual but overall their steers were awarded 5 Bronze, 1 Silver and the Virtual Taste Test.

Other highlights for NSW include offering free semen to NSW High schools with Red Poll herds. My feedback from the high schools is that we can expect interest and uptake of this offer to grow over the coming year. It's also been reported that school assessments will involve students using Breedplan EBVs from these bulls to make their semen selections. Thank you to Balla Balla, Lazytok, Omega 3 and Eurimbla for making this semen available.

Our **challenges** continue. How do we retain our junior members and how do we grow our membership? How can we develop a vibrant commercial market? These are the discussions we need to have.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to all members of the NSW region and in particular, the members of the committee of the NSW region. Your 'yes' attitude has made all our meetings inspirational. In addition, I'd like to extend a special thank you to Garrick who has been our secretary and treasurer and to Margaret who has done such a wonderful job in establishing and managing the NSW Facebook and for her work to date on the National Marketing Plan. I also thank Nagy Sorial for accepting the role of Federal Representative on the National Executive and my husband Ian, who will fill my position as Regional Representative on National Executive for the next 12 months. Thank you Nagy for also taking on the role of Chairing the Red Poll Performance Group.

### Photographs

**Left:** Stan Hill Triumph: Red Polls shine against the big boys!!

**Right:** Weaning made easy using nose paddles.



# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REPORT

Report by Peter Wilson

2017 in South Australia is looking like a good to average year, with some big variations in crop and pasture performance across out state. SA Red Poll bull sales have lifted in 2017 with reports of bulls being sold into a wide range of new and repeat regions. Steer process have also been strong, particularly early in the year with some 7 1/2 month old red polls making \$3.60 kg lw straight off the cow.

Our region hosted the 2016 AGM and stud tour in 2016 and this was favourably praised by Red Poll breeders from other regions. Many positive comments about the quality and number of cattle on display were a credit to our SA Red Polls and the breeders involved.

The inspection of the Virangra herd during this tour led to interstate purchase of JK Graham and Co.'s cattle. While we as a region are always disappointed to see herd dispersal, it is with great pride that we can say the Virangra Red Polls were such an important part of the SA and National herd. The carcass success speaks for itself and we as a region wish Kev, Virginia, Andrew all the best for the future. More time to buy poultry now Kev!

Oakwood had successful results in the Southern Grassfed Carcase Classic held from October to February, totalling over 700 entries. Oakwood achieved a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 8th and 11th in the various weight categories of the competition.

Moyle Park represented the breed in the SA beef field days and reported good interest and sales as a result of Richards's keen promotion of the Red Polls.

Red Polls were well represented at the 2017 SA junior Heifer Expo with Moyle Park providing 4 heifers, including one for a lad who won the Northern Territory Herdsman competition. Cassie Hughes finished 3rd in the Open section, a commendable result.



The 2017 Adelaide Royal saw just the single exhibitor, Richard Daley's Moyle Park Stud. Congratulations Richard for a good showing. The steer results were consistent and in the top grouping within classes but alas no broad ribbons. The Hughes family get mentioned again with younger sister Tiana coming second in the Open Junior Judging and Cassie winning the prestigious Senior Herdsman prize. Well done girls.

A personal highlight for me was being able to attend the 2017 USA World Tour for the Red Poll breed. I saw Red Polls in several different environments and breeders with varied objectives in mind. This was a great tour of 25 days duration, 10 states, 38 participants from 7 nations, 16 Red Poll herds, 17 hotels, 5,000 miles travelled and I lost count of the hamburgers.

I wish all Red Poll breeders all the best for the next 12 months; let's keep up the good work.



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# SOUTH AUSTRALIA JUNIOR HEIFER EXPO

Report by Cassy Hughes  
South Australian Youth Representative

During 2017 I once again worked closely with Moyle Park Red Polls on a breeding and stud level as well as preparing and showing of Moyle Park and Oakwood cattle. Unfortunately at the 2017 SAJHE there was no recipient of the ARPCBI award, however the breed had 4 animals attend all from Moyle Park. Our team consisted of first timers, Stuart Duncan-Tiver (Hallett) and Gilbert Paxton (Clare) return competitors Tiana Poulton (Booloroo Centre) and myself (Cassy Hughes, Booloroo Centre). It was great to be able to form a team to represent the breed and show new people an insight into the beef cattle world through the Red Poll Breed. The breed was once again well represented taking away a 3rd place in the senior's handler's class.

The heifers we had attend were all by Moyle Park Zepplin and naturally well-conditioned without extra feed, demonstrating the quality of the breeds genetics. We repetitively got asked if they were Shorthorns and when a lot of the younger competitors were told they were Red Polls very few had heard of the breed. This was rather disappointing and showed the importance of getting the breed name and quality that goes with it out there and advertised.

The 2017 SAJHE was more practically based around assessing cattle for breeding including a preg-testing simulator.

*"Coming from extensive sheep farming where every animal is the same compared to the intensive work and precision that goes into breeding of stud beef cattle. The lectures really opened my eyes to cattle markets."* **Stuart Duncan-Tiver**

*"I think it's a great opportunity to meet and connect and build friendships with people from all over SA/Aus."* **Tiana Poulton**

## Photographs

**Bottom left:** The Red Poll Team.

**Bottom right:** Cassy, Third in handlers class with Moyle Park Waratah 4.



It would be great to see more Red Polls and interstaters attend the event; I am looking forward to meeting the 2018 Youth Award recipient at the next SAJHE.

**Contact: Cassy Hughes**  
**Phone 0448 760 444 (Cassy)**  
**Email [casskylie@gmail.com](mailto:casskylie@gmail.com)**





2017 Red Poll Youth Camp

## YOUTH AMBASSADOR FROM THE CAMP

Report by Koby Usmar

In the spring school holidays I was very grateful to be able to attend the Red Poll youth camp. Over the three days we learnt things like handling, show prep, halter making, Judging criteria, public speaking and many other things to do with cattle.

UNE Kindly sponsored the camp also taught us lots of cool stuff.

I really enjoyed meeting other young people that enjoyed showing cattle. Camping out and playing games were fun.

I thought all the donated cattle were very good and they matched the handlers to a heifer to suit each person's abilities.

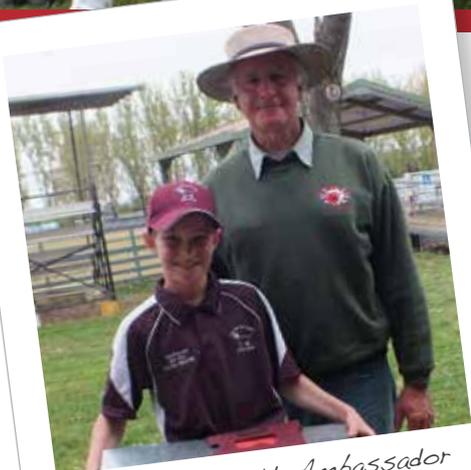
I am really thankful to the Red Poll society for choosing me as their young ambassador. I look forward to showing more Red Poll cattle.

## RED POLL NATIONAL YOUTH CAMP

As in past years the ARPCBI Youth camp held in Glen Innes was a major success. The NSW/QLD region has held the camp for many years now. Members involved spend an enormous amount of time in the preparation and running of this event.

All participants achieved great things and had a great time.

Congratulations to all the organisers. A job well done!



*Red Poll Youth Ambassador Koby Usmar with Albert Hancock*



*Camp breakfast*



*Preparations underway*



# TIPS FOR PURCHASING REGISTERED RED POLL CATTLE

**Priority one** - view the registration certificate and check that the information is current, correct and refers to the animal in question.

FOUR important questions should be asked at point of sale before any commitment to purchase:

1. Are dam and sire registered in the *ARPCBI Herdbook*. Go to <http://redpoll.org.au> or contact the ARPCBI Executive Officer.
2. Do the ear tattoos match those on the certificate and has the animal been verified for parentage? If so, ask for a copy of the DNA certificate.
3. Is the owner a current financial member and registered breeder of the ARPCBI at time of sale?
4. Has the vendor completed the transfer form on the reverse side of the registration certificate? The purchaser must also be a financial member of ARPCBI before transfer can take place.

## Husbandry tips

1. Ensure that the animal is healthy and has good conformation, keeping in mind such things as fertility, docility, sound feet and joints.

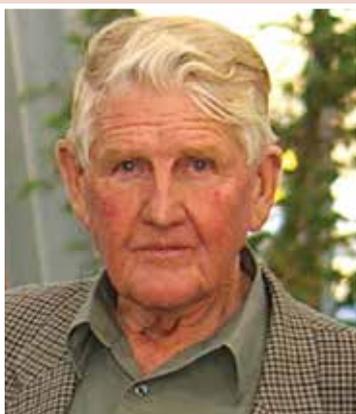
2. Obtain a full dossier on its past drenching, vaccination and veterinary programs.
3. Ensure your pasture program is sufficient to hold intended cattle numbers.
4. Ensure fencing and water access are also adequate, including loading ramp and head bail/crush.
5. Farm Biosecurity - ensure the animals have required certification, be aware of your responsibilities.

[www.farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au)

## Breed standards

Check the animals meet the breed standards of the ARPCBI which can be found in the Rules and Regulations: <http://redpoll.org.au/documents/RulesandRegulations>

Most importantly - Enjoy your Cattle!



## VALE KEN BAXTER

Ken Baxter of Cloverlea Red Poll Stud, Mooroopna, VIC passed away in December 2017.

With great sadness Red Poll members farewell another stalwart of the breed. Sadly Ken farewelled his life partner Margaret 4 years ago also in December.

Ken and his wife Margaret established their Cloverlea stud in the late 1950's and were enthusiastic competitors in the show ring.

Ken will be long and dearly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

*In your sorrow you do not walk alone, the friends who share your loss will be beside you every step along the way.*

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