



Executive Officer's Report

Welcome to the 2018 April edition of the Red Poll Newsletter.

There was an excellent showing of cattle at the Sydney show this year with the judge Andrew Green commenting on the quality. Exhibitors are to be congratulated on their efforts. The Red Poll Executive, all of who were able to attend the show in conjunction with an official meeting, made a special note of thanks to all exhibitors and their supporters.

The next big event for the year will be the Red Poll Feature to be held at the Royal Melbourne Show with details to follow in this newsletter.

Importantly, the election of regional representatives on the Federal Executive will occur this year. Gay has also reminded the Executive that her term as President will be over at the AGM and in the interest of succession planning the remaining Executive need to consider a replacement.

Please note the ARPCBI Youth Award for 2018 is now on offer. This provides a scholarship to the SA Junior Heifer Expo held in Adelaide, **16th - 19th July 2018**. Entry forms with this newsletter and on the website.

This year there were 13 exhibitors and 37 cattle.

- Babana—A Leicester
- Baladeen—R Wilkinson
- Kookabookra—Hancock Family
- Lagoon—Light Family
- Lilvale— L Newberry
- Moyle Park—R & K Daley
- Omega 3 - N & P Lee
- Red Cactus—R Draper
- Red Rush—K & N Usher
- Redward—G Ward
- Stormley—Storm Family
- Wirakie—G Mulcahy
- Yongerellen—M Williams



SENIOR AND GRAND CHAMPION BULL

Lagoon Oreo

L- R Andrew Green & Jill Coghlan holding the ribbon, exhibitor Tim Light with RAS officer.

Sydney Show Roundup

2018 Sydney Royal Competition Winners

Judge: Mr Andrew Green, Kyneton, VIC

Junior Champion Female:	S Storm & Sons	Stormley Ruby
Reserve Junior Champion Female:	S Storm & Sons	Stormley Renee
Senior Champion Female:	N & P Lee	Omega 3 Gabriel
Reserve Senior Champion Female:	S Storm & Sons	Stormley Paris
Grand Champion Female:	S Storm & Sons	Stormley Ruby
Junior Champion Bull:	G Ward	Redward Barnaby
Reserve Junior Champion Bull:	R Wilkinson	Baladeen Monty
Senior Champion Bull:	Lagoon Stud	Lagoon Oreo
Reserve Senior Champion Bull:	G Ward	Redwood Forest
Grand Champion Bull:	Lagoon Stud	Lagoon Oreo

The Brigadier G S Hurst Perpetual Prize for Grand Champion Bull - Lagoon Oreo

The W K Cowlshaw Perpetual Trophy for the Best Red Poll Exhibit - Stormly Ruby



SUPREME EXHIBIT

Stormley Ruby

L-R
Judge Andrew Green, Alex Cowlshaw presenting the Cowlshaw Trophy, handler Lacey Kelleher and owner Trent Storm with Shannon Lawlor of International Animal Health.

New South Wales Region

NSW Region has made some excellent efforts to promote the Red Poll breed in the first quarter of 2018. We've achieved this through our Facebook page, new Promotional material, Beef Week, Sydney Show & other regional shows.

We are hugely grateful to Margaret Sorial who administers our Facebook page: *Red Poll cattle – Information and Classifieds*. This page has continued to grow and now has around 230 members. It's proved to be a great source of interest for our members to discuss and share their information. Please like and share this page with your colleagues and friends so we can help to spread the 'Red Poll' word.

Margaret has also been instrumental in designing and printing our new promotional material that includes a banner, brochures, flyers, postcards & pens. We launched this material at Sydney Show to great acclaim. The banner was like a beacon that easily identified the whereabouts of Red Polls and we had to regularly replenish our display of brochures and flyers, so hoping our members will receive some good response. NSW region is happy to support other regions with this material if required.

Sydney Show was a great success with Red Poll exhibits from every Region in Australia.



Red Poll steers again proved their worth in the carcass competition where from 11 Red Poll steers exhibited, 8 steers received awards with the breed's average point score being 82.8.

607: McSorial/Prairiewood High, bred by McSorial Reds. 85.5 points - Silver Medal.

713: Hancock Group, bred by A J & R M Hancock. 84 points -Bronze Medal

715: Garrick Mulcahy, bred by Garrick Mulcahy. 85 points - Bronze Medal

716: McSorial/Prairiewood High, bred by McSorial Reds. 80 points - Bronze Medal.

1016: Miss P Hancock, bred by Miss P Hancock. 87.5 Points - Silver Medal.

1017: Aidan Leicester, bred by Aidan Leicester. 84.5 points - Bronze Medal.

1018: Prairiewood High School, bred by Baladeen Red Polls. 89 points - Silver Medal

1111: Garrick Mulcahy, bred by Garrick Mulcahy. 87.5 points- 3rd in class, 1st place virtual taste test and Silver Medal.

A huge thank you to G Mulcahy, A Leicester & the students of Prairie wood High & McCarthy Catholic College for their work in preparing the Red Poll steers.



Sydney Royal Easter Show



RED POLL

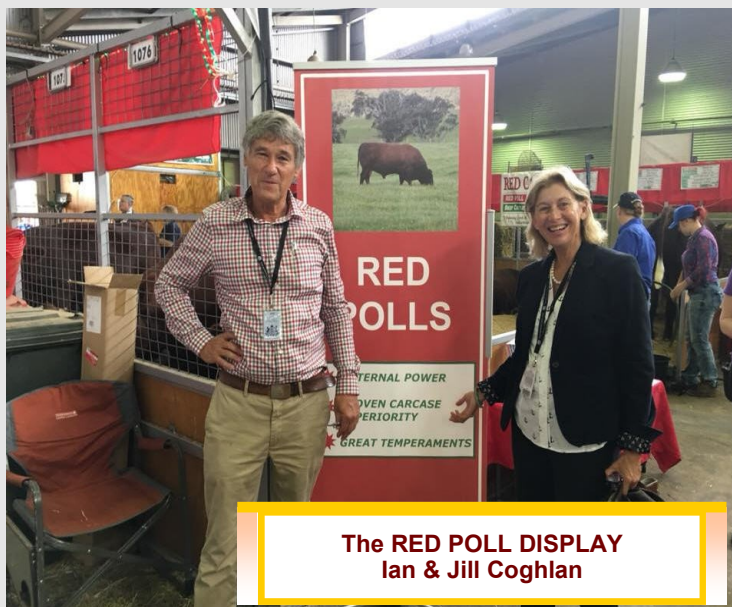
BEEF CATTLE

**SENIOR CHAMPION
FEMALE**

**Omega 3 Gabriel
with calf Genevieve.**

**Owner and exhibitor
Prue Lee, handlers
Stuart Hobbs and
Oonagh Bolton and
Sponsor Richard
Wilkinson of Baladeen
Red Poll stud**

**A Popular Choice!
Red Poll Junior Handler Awardee
Lilleah Newberry**



**The RED POLL DISPLAY
Ian & Jill Coghlan**

**Judge Andrew Green and Victorian region
president Trent Storm.**



New South Wales Region cont'd

Congratulations to the producers of these steers as well as Garrick Mulcahy, Aidan Leicester and their great team of students from Prairiewood High who prepared most of the them.

Our thanks to Andrew Green for his excellent judging with the Supreme Exhibit & Cowlshaw Trophy being awarded to the **Storm family's Stormly Ruby**. I'd also like to comment how special it was to see quite a few past members attending the judging. Thank you for your continued interest in our wonderful breed. We also thank Alex Cowlshaw and family for attending the judging and Alex for presenting the Cowlshaw Trophy. Alex has kindly written a report for this newsletter on the Arrow stud that his father, Ken Cowlshaw ran at Dubbo. We capped off the judging back at the shed with a presentation, drinks and light supper that continued well into the night.



The Eurimbla Stud was open for Beef Week in January with Red Poll friends coming from Gippsland, Colac, Yass as well as locally. We were also lucky enough to get some rain on the day which lifted everyone's spirits.



The NSW Region is now planning for the National AGM & Tour later this year.

Dates and details of the itinerary will be made available as they come to hand. We ask that you keep in mind this occasion as it's soon after Victoria's Feature Show and Sale at Melbourne Show in September and will obviously require some planning to be away from home for two important occasions happening so close together.

In closing, I hope we all get a good soak very soon.

Please contact me anytime if you'd like to discuss anything Red Poll.

Jill Coghlan,

CONGRATULATIONS
Bowraville Central School

Born 19/03/18
First Red Poll calf

The kids named him "Puddles"

Victorian Region

The most recent Victorian Red Poll event was our very successful On-Farm Challenge (26 February – 3 March), for which internationally renowned cattle judge, Alan Wilson (from Brentwood, South Australia), travelled around the state judging over 100 cattle entries, on farm and in paddock condition. After arrival at Tullamarine, Alan was driven to herds in eastern Victoria at Nar Nar Goon and Leongatha. He was then taken to Pheasant Creek and further north to Gooram, followed by a trip across the border to herds in Gerogery and Barham. The next journey was to the far west of Victoria at Stoneyford and Kolora, followed by the return to Pheasant Creek for the presentation of awards. Thanks to Don Castle, Frank Moya and Doug D'Oliveira for providing transport.

Alan Wilson is a veteran of on-farm judging, having co-judged the SA Beef Week Heifer Challenge in 2016. For the Red Poll challenge, Alan applied a judging system in which every animal entered was given a score for each of 23 commercially-relevant characteristics, including structural attributes.

At a luncheon on Saturday 3 March 2018, held at the Pheasant Creek property of Ian and Nell Staff, awards were presented to the exhibitors with the highest scoring entries.

Frank Moya



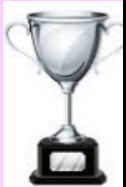
Recipients of Championship trophies (L to R): Shane Storm and Trent Storm (Barham NSW), judge Alan Wilson (Brentwood SA), Greg Abbott (Kolora VIC), Jill and Ian Coghlan (Gerogery NSW)

Victorian On Farm Challenge 2018 at Eurimbla – Ian Coghlan, Alan Wilson and Don Castle



Class 1: Female – 9-16 months
Don Castle: Koallah Park Thelma Patti
S. Storm & Sons - Stormley Rosa-Mae
Greg Abbott – Turanga 500

Class 2: Female – over 16–24 months
S. Storm & Sons – Virangra Portia
Greg Abbott – Turanga Rose Petal
Carlie Mackelmann – Glenwyn Millie



Junior Champion Female
S. Storm & Sons - Virangra Portia

Class 6: Bull 9 – 16 months
Carlie Mackelmann – Glenwyn Hugh
S. Storm & Sons – Stormley Remington

Class 7: Bull over 16 – 24 months
Ian & Jill Coghlan – Eurimbla Hondo
Anne & Frank Moya: Sophronites Sherman
Ian & Jill Coghlan – Eurimbla Legend



Junior Champion Bull
Ian & Jill Coghlan -
Eurimbla Hondo

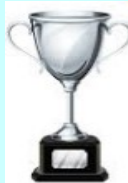
Class 3: Female over 24 – 36 months
Greg Abbott – Turanga Constinne
Don Castle: Koallah Park Beckie Prudence
Greg Abbott - Turanga EDA Mary Anne

Class 8: Bull over 24 months – 5 years
Ian & Jill Coghlan – Eurimbla Boomer
Greg Abbott – Turanga Lawrence
Greg Abbott – Turanga Betta Boy

Class 4: Female over 3 – 5 years
S. Storm & Sons – Stormley Princess
Ian & Nell Staff – Sophronites Clementine
Ian & Jill Coghlan - Eurimbla Nimble

Class 9: Bull over 5 years
Greg Abbott – Virangra Wally
Greg Abbott – Almora Amos
Carlie Mackelmann – Stormley Landfill

Class 5: Female – over 5 years
Greg Abbott – Turanga Rose's Aj
Ian & Jill Coghlan – Eurimbla Marge
S. Storm & Sons - Stormley Lara



Senior & Grand Champion Bull
Ian & Jill Coghlan –
Eurimbla Boomer



Senior & Grand Champion Female
Greg Abbott - Turanga Rose's Aj

Class 10: Two offspring of one sire up to 18 mths

Ian & Nell Staff - Sophronites Stephanie and
Sophronites Sabrina sired by Red Cactus
Merboy.

Carlie Mackelmann – Glenwyn Nala and Glenwyn
Nyla sired by Stormley Landfill.

Ian & Nell Staff - Sophronites Venus and Sophronites
Sigourney sired by Red Cactus Merboy

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RED POLL

BEEF CATTLE

Lardner Park Farmworld



Red Poll Site at Lardner Park with Anne Moya (centre) explaining the virtues of Red Polls

Red Cactus Jessie and her bull calf, with Redward Throwdown.



Lardner Park Red Poll Site at Warragul

The 2018 Farm World was set up by Anne and Frank Moya, cattle were provided by Gay Ward and Ross Draper and the site was manned by Anne and Frank Moya, Doug D'Oliver, Sue and Mitchell Wainwright, Daryl Johnson and Nell and Ian Staff. Flags, banners and promotional materials were on display and annuals, pens, bags and other materials were distributed to interested visitors.

Interest in the cattle, and sale animals on display and as advertised was very good with Redward Throwdown being purchased on the first day and other sales being quite imminent.

Financial sponsorship of the event was gratefully received from the Moya Family and Gay Ward.

Anne Moya

RED POLL FEATURE SHOW AND SALE AT ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW 2018

THIS YEAR WE ARE PREPARING FOR OUR FEATURE SHOW AND INVITE ALL MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE VIA ENTRIES, SPONSORSHIP, PURCHASES AND ATTENDANCE.

Judging date is Saturday 29th September at 11am with the Sale to take place approx. an hour after the completion of judging. There will also be a Breed dinner on Sat. night with details to come. A great opportunity for everyone to get together.

PLEASE HELP US MAKE THE EVENT A TRULY MEMORABLE ONE

oooooOoooooooooooo

We're looking forward to another great challenge in 2018!

Victorian Members Score well at the Sydney Royal Easter Show 2018.

This year, the Victorian Region was represented by three herds, Stormley, Red Cactus and Redward in the Sydney.

We were overjoyed to see Gay Ward's Junior Bull – Barnaby - be awarded Junior Champion Red Poll Bull and her Senior Bull – Forest- the Reserve Senior Champion Bull.

Shane Storm & Family's Junior Heifer – Ruby – won her class, Junior and Grand Champion Red Poll Female, Best Red Poll Exhibit and the WK Cowlshaw Perpetual Trophy. Their Senior Cow – Paris – was awarded Reserve Senior Champion Female.

I Staff - Secretary VIC Region



**VIC On Farm
Challenge**

CHAMPION BULL

Eurimbla Boomer

ARROW RED POLL STUD by Alex Cowlshaw

The Arrow Red Poll Stud was founded by my father, Ken Cowlshaw in 1945 at "Raymond Hill", Dubbo, NSW, with females & a bull, Bundaleer Beau Valet, purchased from the Perry Brothers "Bundaleer" stud at Tarana NSW & other females from Brigadier George Hirst, of "Lark Hill" stud at Goulburn NSW, as well as some females from a Mr Piggot, who I think may have lived at Narromine.

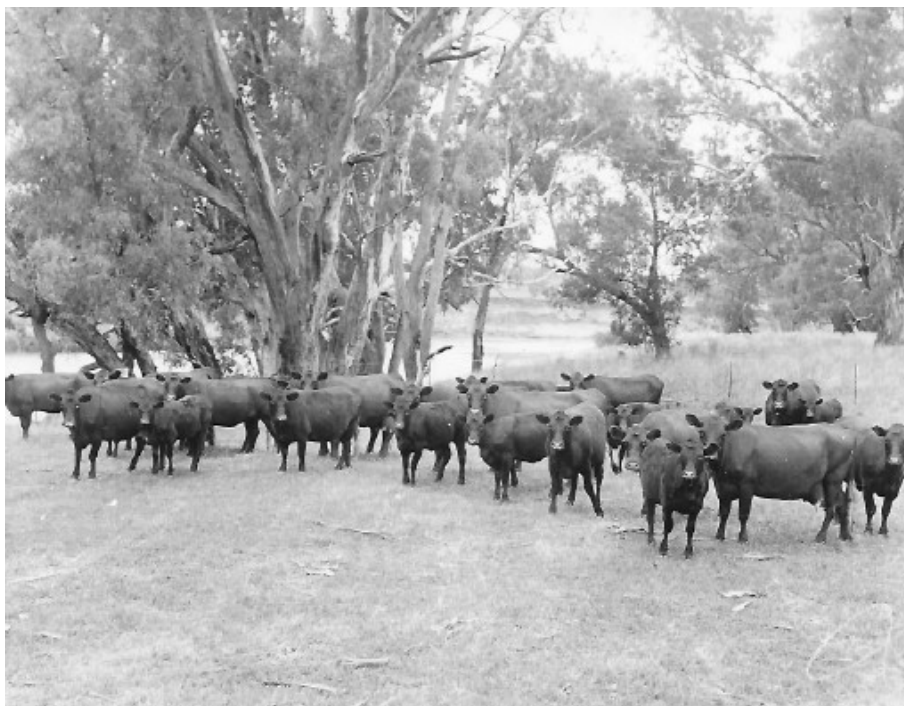
Teams were sent to Moore Park for showing in the RAS from 1949 up until 1956, & numerous prizes were won including championships.

In 1949 Arrow Ballerina was Junior Champion heifer, while in 1952, the Junior Champion Bull was Arrow Barrage & the Junior Champion heifer was Arrow Gyp, who was also Reserve Champion Female. In 1954 Arrow Barsay was awarded Reserve Junior Champion Bull.

Led steers were also exhibited in 1955 & 1956 with success, gaining First prize in the Under 18 months with Arrow Tyson in 1955, & 2nds & 3rds in other classes.

Ken was passionate about his Red Polls & in 1959 he took 4 bulls to Alice Springs, along with a group of other breeders of British bred bulls for a Sale, which was quite successful, as the Bos Indicus breeds were not yet prominent. Shorthorns & Herefords were the prominent breeds at that time & some of the cattlemen up there favoured the horned cattle because they could tear down branches from the scrub for some green fodder in the dry times.

Ken was on the NSW Red Poll society committee from 1948 -1964, being Vice Chairman from 1952 -1962 & Chairman in 1959 & 1960. He was on the National Executive (then known as the Federal Council), from 1949 -1964, & in that time he was Vice Chairman from 1958 to 1961. Ken was also involved with the then United Stud Beef Breeders Association which has become the ARCBA (Australian Registered Cattle Breeders Association) & was chairman for some years.



**Welcome new members
Alex & Diana Cowlshaw,
NSW**

Arrow Stud Cows

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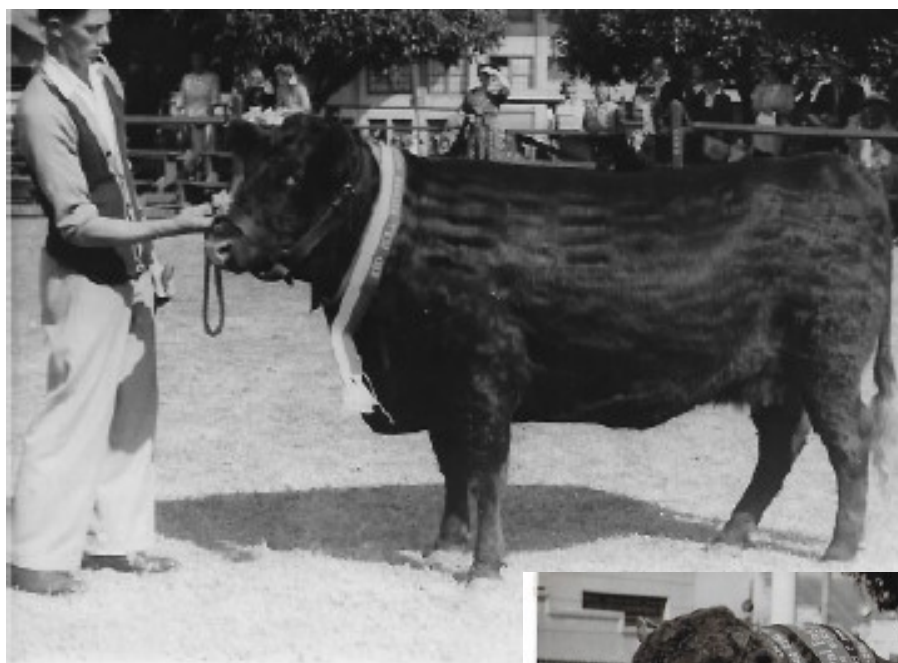
RED POLL

BEEF CATTLE

I was actually the instigator of The W K Cowlshaw Memorial Trophy for the best exhibit which was first awarded in 1994 after Ken's death in 1993, as a tribute to his association with the Red Poll breed & his contribution to the beef industry. It was won by Ian & Jill Coghlan with Eurimbla Gladys, with a six month old bull calf Eurimbla Gladstone at foot – both of their pedigrees can be traced back to Arrow Terry 2nd, whom Bill Coghlan had purchased at the RAS bull sales in 1956.

The Trophy was first presented by my step sister Fran Armitage of Armidale at the RAS when the Red Poll breed was the feature breed & the World Congress of Red Poll breeders was held in Sydney in 1994.

Arrow ceased to register animals in the early 1970's when "Raymond Hill" was sold & my father moved to Glen Innes where he continued to breed Red Polls & Poll Herefords on a commercial basis.



"I was only 5 at the time Dad founded the stud - but I do remember going to Bundaleer & Larkhill."

The photos are some that Dad had in an album which I of course have & I thought they were very good examples of the type of cattle he bred."

Arrow Beatrice

1949



Arrow Billy

1952

Vale Ken Baxter of Cloverlea Red Poll Stud

1928—2017

Ken and Margaret established Cloverlea in the late 1950's. Ken was a Life Member, very well liked and respected.



On the 21st of October 1928, Kenneth George Baxter was born, son of George Richard Baxter and Adelaide Thompson, and younger brother to Alan.

Ken attended North Mooroopna Primary School, Shepparton High School and Dookie Agricultural College. He was a keen Young Farmers member at Tatura, where his love of livestock started, showing Old English Game Bantams at the Local shows.

After college Ken was working as a herd tester when a good friend, Vera Whithers asked him to partner her at her deb ball. When Vera was unable to continue Ken thought he had been let off the hook but his Auntie Barbie had other ideas. Barbie found him another girl to partner, and after the first deb practice with mum he knew it was love at first sight. When he got home that night he lit the candle and went into Uncle Rupert and Auntie Barbie's room to excitedly tell them about the girl he just met.

While a student at Dookie Agricultural College, doing a diploma, Ken noticed an advertisement in the paper for a herdsman.

Ken applied for and got the job as a herdsman at the Payne's in Kilmore. He always said he owed Mr. Payne everything, and that his belief in Ken gave him a great start. Although this was an exciting opportunity for Ken there was only one catch – he had told his new employer that he was married. He raced up to Shepparton proposed and married Margaret on 11th October 1950 at the residence of the Methodist church in Archer Street.

Their wedding breakfast was fish and chips at the Neo Café before Margaret walked back across the street to work at Fairley's and Ken went back to Kilmore.

A few days later Ken returned in his little prefect ute to collect his bride, all her goods and chattels in the back. Margaret wasn't impressed with the accommodation at Kilmore but put on a brave face for Kense's sake – only sobbing in disappointment when he wasn't around.

During their time at Kilmore working for the Paynes, Ken developed an enduring interest in Red Poll cattle.

One of Ken's earliest privileges was to get a team ready for Melbourne and Sydney Royals. To get there he had to take the cattle from Kilmore to Newmarket, then to Wodonga by train, changing trains to get to Sydney, where Woodburn was the most successful Exhibitor, with Champion and Grand Champion senior Bull, Woodburn Imp, who was also champion at Melbourne. A photo was featured on the front page of the Red Poll journal of that year.

When Ken left Kilmore he started his own Stud. He bought Red Poll cows from the State Farm at Werribee, where his good mate from Dookie, John Banfield was a stud master.

He placed his stud cattle on agistment at his uncle's place, Kilmarnock at North Mooroopna, where Ken would later live out his last days. Ken made many great friends through Red Poll including John Frank, Harold Spaulding and Douglas Payne, with whom he had an association for over 65 years, and best mate Frank McCormick of whom Ken used to say that the only thing wrong with Frank was that he barracked for Melbourne instead of the Magpies.

Ken and his friends were instrumental in starting a breakaway group of breederjks, called the Association of Red Poll breeders from the Society, which caused a great rivalry between the two groups. Ken eventually became President and Margaret was registrar and secretary for well over a decade.

Ken and Margaret had many broad ribbon champions and they were very successful exhibitors at Melbourne Royal, and supported Red Poll feature shows. He was also privileged to Judge at Melbourne Royal.

Two of his favorite Red Polls were Bushfire 1 and 2, who won many championships. Ken always managed to borrow the best bulls from other breeders to improve his herd. One of Ken's best days of showing was when he took a team to Gundagai Feature Show, where his senior bull Bushfire 2 took out the champion and grand champion Exhibit, and went on to be the be interbreed Champion. Dad was very proud, as Bushfire 2 had beaten 14 of the best Red Poll bulls he had ever seen. So proud in fact he requested Bushfires photo to be on his order of service.

Ken was a Red Poll man for 66 years and well respected in the Red Poll Community.

As quoted by Gay Ward, the current president of the Red Poll Breeders Association "Ken was, and always will be a very popular and well respected member of the Red Poll family who we will all miss. Ken is also a life member of our organisation, which we all hold in very high regard.

A year after marrying Margaret their first child Garry was born, followed by Jennifer 2 years later, then Peter 2 years after that.

After 7 years at Kilmore they rented a house on an orchard in Shepparton East, 12 months later they moved to a house with 10 acres on new Dookie road in Grahamvale. Ken was a herd tester for a short time and milked a small herd at New Dookie Road. One time the Inspector was there and commented that everything was fine with the shed except there were too many flies around. Dad then asked him 'how many do you think I should have?

During this time Ken bought a back-hoe and started channel cleaning with his mate Trevor Rickard, for farmers in the local Katandra area, and as far away as Tocumwal. Ken laid water mains in Wyndham Street, under the Bonnie Doon Bridge, Wanganui Estate, Katamatite and worked as far away as Donald. He also did the footings for Campbell's Soup.

While in Grahamvale the family was completed with the arrival of Mark in 1958 and David in 61.

In 1958 Ken began the infamous Katandra bus run and the Baxter Bus was born. Many good times were had back in those days, which we will hear about later on. The bus run remains in the family today, with Mark taking over the Baxter's Bus run in 2006.

So with Kens pipe laying, channel cleaning and bus run, juggling these commitments was quite the feat. These jobs sound straight forward, but we know with Ken nothing is straight forward, hence the entertaining stories and conversations around the Baxter dinner table at family gatherings.

As many of you would know, Ken loved his Collingwood Magpies, and watching their games every week was a must. Ken and Mark would have long phone conversations discussing the pies performance and what the players should have done better. Mark will miss the banter and the weekly chats.

As Ken got into his golden years, GP visits were more and more frequent. Ken being the joker would always have a gag ready to go, leaving Mark or David twiddling their thumbs wondering when the consultation would begin, an if they should have booked a longer appointment.

Ken has 11 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren, who have all had the pleasure of spending time with him, whether it was riding around the farm on motorbikes, collecting eggs from the chook pen for breakfast, riding horses and following him around the farm. Joshua was lucky enough to live with Ken and Margaret for a short time in which they became very close, with Ken treasuring the time they spent together. Ken was over the moon to meet his latest great granddaughter Emmy, getting to share a special moment with her in his last days.

The laughter and joy Ken shared over the years, the jokes and tales of his misfortunes and near misses, resulted in sore faces and aching bellies, but as Kate said, it was mandatory at every visit.

Even in his last days in hospital he wouldn't let up. On numerous occasions Mark reminded him to "shut up, your suppose to be dying, you'll be put back into a 4 bed room", with Ken responding, "yeah I've been thinking about that myself ". But that fell on deaf ears, as the nurses were left laughing and shaking their heads in disbelief of his sharp wit and cheeky humor.

One moment sticks in my mind with my first-born Whitney. She would have been 3 years old, loved to sit on grandpas knee and give him cuddles and kisses. On one occasion Ken thought it would be a good idea to play a prank on poor Whitney and told her to hit him on the back of his head. With that his teeth flew out of his mouth onto her lap. Well you could imagine the shock horror across her face as she leapt from his lap. This is one of Ken's unfortunate tales that backfired as Whitney didn't sit on his lap or offer up kisses for quite a while.

Because Mark and I were childhood sweet hearts I have embraced Ken as a second father figure, he was so easy to love. Coming from a family myself of 5 girls, kisses and cuddles were mandatory in our house. So if he knew I was dropping in, the teeth would be in and the face clean and shaven, knowing he would receive a kiss for his efforts. If we dropped in unexpected, or his teeth were misplaced (this happened frequently) it was a kiss on the forehead to his disappointment. And if he knew my daughters were coming with me, his eyes lit up knowing more kisses were in store.

On a final note, it has been a privilege to deliver Kens Eulogy today, he was a very precious man in my eyes and as my daughter Jaimi put it beautifully..

Today we lay a legend to rest. A man full of life, love, and most of all laughter. We are going to miss you so much, especially the continuous love you gave us all, and the sore cheeks we were left with from laughter. We wish you didn't have to leave so soon, and guess that grandma wanted you with her sooner, so we are ok with that. We will forever be grateful to have shared so many special memories with you and will hold them close to us always. We will never forget you.

Bus Days Tribute to Nobby Baxter courtesy of Wardle Family Reflec- tions.

21st December 2017

It is with great honour and privilege that I have been invited by the Baxter Family to share **"The Bus Days"**

I would like to share with you some reflections and stories from the Wardle family members about Nobby and his Katandra Bus run. I am sure these stories will resonate with the many families who travelled on the bus over many years.

The Wardle family with 11 children moved from Melbourne to Katandra in October 1975. The community had heard of the large family coming to the district and with the new influx of children were excited about boosting the local primary school numbers and the possibility of additional teaching staff.

The community hadn't anticipated our parent's; Marie and Ray Wardle's choice of a catholic education for us which required travelling to Shepparton. That was when we met Nobby. We were the first primary school kids to go on Baxter's bus.

I was in Year 7 as the eldest and Jess was in Prep, so seven of us began many years of travel on Baxter's bus. My nickname was "Mum" in those days. Our family continued to grow with 14 children in total. Nobby drove all 14 of us to school for the whole of primary and secondary education. There were many other families who travelled on Baxter's bus.

You are a true legend Nobby and thank you for being part of our awesome childhood memories.

We love you Nobby, rest in peace!

When the Baxter family asked us to share our memories of the bus days, I messaged the family to send me their stories. I would like to share these with you all.

Jess; I was in prep when I first met Nobby. Who would have thought that at the tender age of 5 I would find my first love – yep Nobby Baxter.

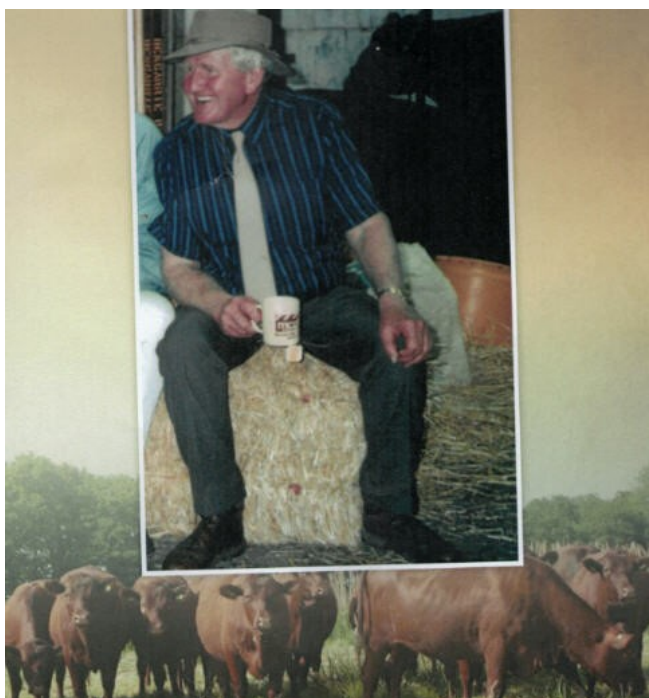
One day I snuck around to the right-hand side of him near the window and reached around and kissed him on the cheek. He blushed and from that moment on I WAS HIS FAVOURITE, yep me not any of those other Wardle's!!

I loved it in the winter months sitting on the motor canopy warming my bottom and talking to Nob or sitting in the single front seat chatting about our days. He always showed a genuine interest. I was very put out when he turned the single seat into the "naughty kid seat" as there seemed to be someone in it more often than not!! Never a Wardle though.....

We loved it when the bus would break down, which happened a few times. We would sit on the side of the road and light a fire. Back in those days there were no mobile phones so Nob would have asked a student to walk to a farm and get them to ring one of the families, who then would ring another family, who would then ring another family.....till eventually all the parents would know and cars would come to retrieve us.

With a lot of the families been dairy farmers it wasn't easy to drop and run so a length of time could go by before we were rescued – not one kid was annoyed with that, great memories.

In the last weeks of the school year when the secondary schools started to finish and numbers dropped on the bus a cry of "Stop at the shop, Stop at the shop" would start to ring out as we were getting closer to the Congupna shop. Nob would stop and go in and buy a box of icy poles and hand them out. Those words still ring out in my head each time I drive pass the Congupna shop.



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BEEF CATTLE

Gabrielle; The bus always seemed to break down when Gary was driving. What about...." The bus is coming down Hickey's road" every morning, which meant hurry up and get out the front. The Baxter's Bus Reunion was a brilliant day. Everyone we contacted wanted to be there for Nob, a testament to what he meant to them. Thanks Nob for turning a blind eye when I took the bus for a spin down the main street of Katandra – that was awesome.

Annie; "Nobby was the most awesome bus driver ever!! From stopping at the Congupna Shop for icy poles on a hot day, with all of us getting off the bus and using the shops tap to fill up our water bombs that we had stashed in our pockets, so that they could be unleashed inside the bus...FUN!!! I don't think Nobby cared that he had to go home to Margaret absolutely drenched. Annie & Bridget shared a special day with Nob, The 11th October is both of their birthdays and also Nobby and Margaret's Wedding Anniversary, so he always knew that they wouldn't let him forget his anniversary every year. It became a competition as the bus doors opened in the morning, who would say it first, "HAPPY.....". Annie reckons Nobby was the only bus driver she knew who would let her drive the bus in primary school; she would change the gear and indicate under Nobby's guidance. Annie didn't understand why the relief drivers wouldn't let her "drive the bus".

Kieran; One time on Nobby's bus, we broke down on the Katty (Katamatite) Rd on the way to school. It was winter so we started a little fire on the side of the road to keep warm. We eventually got picked up by another bus. When we were on our way home that afternoon we drove past the spot where we had broken down that morning and the side of the road had been burnt for about 500 meters. Nobby looked at it and said oh no (shit) and kept on driving. On another occasion Nob, ran over a duck. He stopped, and picked it up. It was still alive. He had it sitting next to him on the bus, took it home and ate it.

Bridget; He used to make the naughty ones sit up the front next to him for a week. I remember Nob arriving on the first day with the new bus, wearing a very swish navy suit and Mercedes tie to match his new wheels. I didn't talk to him for a week

Tim; Nob used to hit the brakes when he wanted someone to sit down. One day he hit them too hard and I went flying out of my seat and smashed my knee on the back of his seat. I didn't talk to him for a week

Lou; I remember thinking how funny he looked when he got out of his seat, which didn't happen very often. If he did you knew he wasn't happy with someone. Think we got used to him sitting.

Jamie; We had a massive water bomb fight after being banned for ages. Nob surprised us by having his own stash of filled water bombs in a bucket beside his seat. Little did we know that we would have a new bus the next morning. Our relationship with Nobby and Margaret extended beyond the bus, they became great family friends and were always included in family celebrations. Nobby drove the bus as the wedding vehicle when I married my husband Gary nearly 25 years ago. There were 18 in our bridal party, so the bus was perfect. Nobby's generosity in driving us will never be forgotten.

In closing, thanks Nobby for taking care of so many families throughout their school years and being a true friend to many beyond the school years.

You weren't just our bus driver but a part of our families.



Western Australia

Cropping programs are underway in the grain growing areas, although in most places it is dry seeding. Some summer rains occurred creating big spray operations, in some cases more than once, to control summer weeds.

Most livestock are being supplementary fed, in a variety of forms, looking for season opening rain and some green feed.

Some private sales of bulls have occurred with the only Red Poll Bull offered at auction, Red Sands Unison, selling for \$6000 at the Narrogin Invitational bull sale in Feb. (Quentin may have a picture if you would like it.)

The region welcomes new Junior Member Oliver McLeary to our ranks. Oliver is 14 years old and his family live in Corrigin. He is studying at Kent Street High School in Perth and boards at the Rotary Residential College. He started working with the Yongerellen, Red Sands and Le Topaz red polls prior to the 2017 Perth Royal show and is hopeful of exhibiting his own animal this year.

Murray Williams

Welcome new junior member Oliver McLeary, WA

The Australian Red Poll Cattle Breeders Inc. will offer a junior member of the ARPCBI the opportunity to attend the South Australian Junior Heifer Expo.

Entrants to eligible must be between 14 years and 23 years (inclusive) as of the 1st July 2018.

One person will be awarded a scholarship to the South Australian Junior Heifer Expo held in Adelaide, **16th -19th July 2018**.

SA Junior Heifer Expo

This is a great opportunity for junior members to meet others within the industry and enhance their cattle handling skills.

**Nomination forms distributed with
this newsletter, on the website or
from this office.**

New website due out soon

For a wider audience consider advertising online.

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