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President's Message

Winter is well and truly upon us with Mother Nature more than flexing her muscle, minus 20 degrees in Twizel, the Manawatu and Wanganui Districts under water, while North Canterbury is still battling drought. However despite the conditions, farming carries on.

Bull sales are in full swing around the country with solid prices and good clearances being recorded by all breeds, including South Devons. Beef Expo was a success. Congratulations to the Loch Lomond Stud exhibiting the champion South Devon Bull, Loch Lomond Fox 5, who sold for \$9000. The Reserve Champion Bull, Wainuka Double T 1310, (exhibited by the McKenzie Family) sold for \$7700.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors of Beef Expo - NZX Agri, Pivot Design and Merial Ancare. Their generous donations of product were greatly appreciated by our members. I would also like to thank our judge, Malcolm McConochie, from Lake Station Herefords.

This year's AGM/Herd Tour was held in Marlborough. My first job as your new President was to present Arnold van Asch with a Life Membership to the South Devon Cattle Society. It recognises his 40 plus years of breeding, showing and promoting South Devons.

James Donaldson was awarded the President's Trophy for his outstanding efforts as Treasurer. It is as a direct result of James' abilities and toil that the Society is in the sound financial position it is.

I would like to acknowledge the businesses that supported the AGM Tour. Merial Ancare, Farmlands, Rural Livestock, Zoetis, Ravensdown, Astrolabe Wines and Elevate Bar and Function Centre. Without their collective generosity much of the Tour would not have been possible. I encourage members to consider these businesses first when choosing your service providers.

Elevate treated the tour group to a sample of their South Devon Selection Menu with Head Chef, Dave and owner Paul Goodwin travelling from Christchurch to Seddon to serve lunch at Burtergill.

Paul has now sold Elevate and purchased Monteith's Brewery Bar Merrin Street but has retained his South Devon Menu, due to its popularity. I wish Paul and his wife Tessa, all the best in their latest venture and trust members will continue to support them when in Christchurch.

I would also like to welcome our newest member, Jeff Hocking. Jeff's grandfather had the Trethvas Herd in England and Jeff has founded its namesake in Mayfield, Canterbury.

Moving forward challenges I anticipate the Breed Society will need to face are:

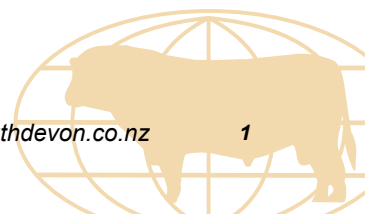
- Attracting new members while retaining our current ones. The Board of Management has several initiatives in the pipeline hoping to address this but ideas are always welcome.
- DNA parent verification of progeny. Breeder integrity is paramount in the seed stock industry and while all sires have to be DNA sampled that is only half the equation. Discussion will need to take place around the cost benefits or otherwise of dam testing. Again member input will be invaluable in developing these protocols.
- Educate and encourage members to embrace and utilise herd recording, BREEDPLAN and technology in order for the South Devon Breed to maximise genetic and economic gain.

"The price of doing the same old thing is far higher than the price of change".

Bill Clinton

I wish all members the best with calving and look forward to receiving any feedback, ideas or suggestions.

Kind regards
Richard van Asch



2015 SOUTH DEVON AGM & TOUR BLENHEIM, 25-27 MARCH

Written by Fraser Wilson



The NZ South Devon Cattle Society held its 45th Annual General Meeting and Tour from Wednesday 25th March to Friday 27th March at Blenheim.

The tour was extremely well organised by Richard van Asch under Arnold's watchful eye. Everything went like clockwork as you would expect from Richard, who in his other life is an extremely busy and expert dog handler for the NZ Police Force. The weather was excellent in Marlborough, New Zealand's sunniest province.

After an early afternoon Board Meeting the tour members went for an enjoyable cruise on the 'River Queen', a look-a-like paddle steamer, down the Opawa River which meanders through vineyards and picturesque farm land close to Blenheim. The AGM was held on the River Queen, fortunately no seasickness or men overboard; however there was a change at the helm of the good ship South Devon, with Richard van Asch taking over as President from Brian Thomson. Brian was a hardworking and conscientious President for the previous five years, helped of course by his lovely wife Ann. His organising ability and leadership has been recognised by the World South Devon Association and he has been elected as the new World President.



The River Queen.

Thursday morning saw the bus taking us to Spring Creek near Blenheim where the weaner trial organised by Richard van Asch and run and managed by Brian Dodson, on Brian's property, has been run for several years. Despite a dry season these now 18 month old South Devons were in excellent condition with Brian getting them all killed before the second winter. He has been very pleased with their temperament, growth rates and yield.

Then it was on to Koromiko to view Richard and Denise's cows and calves, which were looking very well despite the drier season in what is usually a higher rainfall area closer to Picton. Not only were the Burtergill South Devons of high quality but the booklet detailing their cattle was beautifully produced (including photos) - obviously Richard's wife Denise is multi-talented.

Then on to an excellent lunch at John Holt's Woodah woolshed up the Wairau Valley and an inspection of the Woodah cattle, descended from the original South Devons brought out to New Zealand by John in 1973. His South Devons have come through a difficult season well on a well-balanced property with higher hill country and nice flats. John has probably forgotten more about South Devons than

most of us will ever learn, and has made a big contribution to the genetic base of New Zealand's South Devon cattle.

From Woodah we travelled back toward Blenheim and spent several hours at the wonderful Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre featuring First World War Fighter and Bomber planes. We would recommend this museum as a must see for anybody visiting Marlborough.



Richard van Asch presenting Arnold van Asch's Life Membership.

Thursday evening was spent at a very enjoyable dinner at the Blenheim Quality Inn where Arnold van Asch was presented with a Life Membership of the South Devon Society and the annual prize, a most well-earned accolade to the Godfather of New Zealand South Devon's.

The President's Trophy was awarded to James Donaldson for his outstanding efforts as Society Treasurer.



Brian Thomson presents the President's Trophy to James Donaldson.

Friday morning we travelled out toward Seddon to Burtergill, Arnold & Joan van Asch's property. A large proportion of the flat land has been converted into vineyards, the return from grapes being much more profitable than livestock, in Marlborough probably the premier Sauvignon Blanc growing area in the world. The van Asch bulls and heifers were in wonderful condition, a credit to the breeders. Then it was on to Bonaveree, Doug Avery's property near Seddon. After listening to him for an hour we all felt lucky to be alive and on the way to visit Yealands Family Wines near Seddon.



Arnold van Asch's Burtergill South Devons.

Peter Yealand is a truly inspirational person and we were lucky enough to listen to Peter speak about their wonderful vineyard which has to be seen to be believed. About 1000 hectares of rolling land beside the sea, the property is beautifully landscaped with grapevines being balanced with plantings of trees and shrubs and well thought out ponds in gullies. They pride themselves on being environmentally sustainable and it is all pretty amazing as is the whole transformation over the last forty years of Marlborough from being drought prone sheep country into what now seems like a giant vineyard.

Overall a most enjoyable three day tour and thank you very much Richard & Denise, Arnold & Joan and John. Also thank you to Elevate Restaurant from Christchurch for the excellent barbecue at van Asch's and the interesting and tasty meat cuts from South Devon Beef. The highlight of the tour for many members was helping to celebrate Arnold & Joan's 50th Wedding Anniversary at the Burtergill lunch on 27th March 2015.



Viewing cattle at John Holt's Woodah South Devons.



The 2015 Tour Group.

2014 SOUTH DEVON WORLD CONFERENCE

Written by Brian Thomson



The South Devon Tour and Conference was held in America from 13th September to 4th October 2014.



We started at Fort Worth Texas travelling through 14 states covering 10,000kms by bus, ending up at Estes Park Colorado where the conference was held.

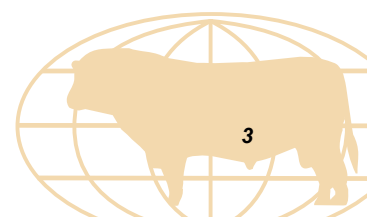
I was elected as the new World President, taking over from David Corker (Australia) and the new Vice President is Mervyn Rowe from the UK.

52 South Devon members from around the world took part; they were from the UK, Australia South Africa, Canada along with American members, all travelling by bus.

We all had a very enjoyable trip indeed viewing varied countryside, visiting farms and seeing lots of South Devon cattle and how their farming practices are put in place.

The next World Conference is scheduled to be held in South Africa April/May 2017.

Dar Giess from America asked everyone on the bus to write down a poem or ditty covering our travels. Ann put pen to paper and her poem on the proceeding pages pretty much sums our trip up to America.



"WE'VE BEEN EVERYWHERE"

Poem written by Ann Thomson



Fort Worth, Texas was where the tour started
Thought we were living in the Wild West
Went to Billy Bobs, watched a street parade
The Rodeo was entertaining & the very best

Oklahoma was our next stop
We visited the biggest seedstock in America there
Clydesdale horses were in pens in the shed
Which the Amish helped restore 1998 was the year

Oklahoma Kingfisher we saw our first cattle
Scott & Barbara put out their hand
They fed us and provided entertainment
It was Larry Ford's Band

Branson Missouri was our next stop
We arrived at the Joplin Stockyards first
Followed by Dolly Parton's Dixie & Dinner Show
We ate so much food I felt I could burst

Kansas was to be our next stay
We saw cattle and a jumping mule along the way
We visited Kansas State University here
We caught up with Lane, he showed us the beer

The bus took us to a shop, it was all purple
The name of the shop was all K-State
The McDouall's wandered down the street somewhere
Arriving back to the bus a bit late

We called into Fink Beef Genetics
A great set-up including an Auction room there
A Dad & Mum & daughter run this operation
Following a talk they kindly offered us a beer

We visited Clay USA Research Centre
They kindly gave us a bag full of lunch
We then stopped at a gas station to refuel
Having dinner at Iowa Community Centre,
the ladies were a lovely bunch

Still in Iowa we viewed Hillcrest cattle
Moving onto Pella a nice lunch we did eat
We also saw their big trucks and racing car
Oh boy that really was a treat

Minneapolis we went to Target Field
To watch the Big Baseball Game
The Minnesota Twins versus the Cleveland Indians
In front of 28,400 people the Twins show to fame

Valley Hill Farm was next on the list
Followed by the Creamery where they make curds
We had an overnight stay at Red Wing
This tours been fun we've seen many herds

Still in Minnesota we went to Joel Popken's place
Viewing the cattle amongst the coloured trees
The food was so good ...
4 More ice cream and maple syrup please

Motley Minnesota we stopped at Thompson Land Cattle Co
Then on to the Whites Farm in Wadena
Their two daughters enjoying showing cattle
You really wouldn't find anyone keener

Next ranch was the Schiefelbein's place
Then Dar & Lynn's place which is just now ahead
A hayride first then dinner wine & beer
With the fine cattle mooing in the big shed

It's time to head west now
To Morris Minnesota to visit Wulf Cattle
On to Gary South Dakota to Terry Kenyon & Family
But the rain came down proving a bit of a battle

South Dakota we visited a couple of ranches
For lunch we were given a brown bag
The Dahl family gave us a horse display
Everyone enjoyed it including the dog his tail did wag

North Dakota was more relaxing
Some of us shopped but some were sick
The doctor dished pills out like lollies
But boy they sure did the trick

Badlands here we come
What different scenery here
We did a 37 mile round trip on the bus
The formation of land was unique and rare

Medora North Dakota a Boots Barn we ate a meal
Next day we went to the Big Horn Battlefield
Where Custer's Last Stand took place
It all seemed so real

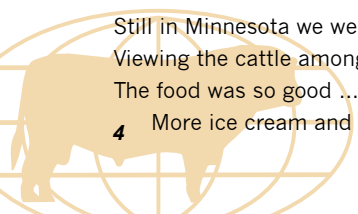
Billings Montana we arrived at Jim & Mary Brown's
We viewed their fine cattle
A competition you could partake
We sat out in the open enjoying a meal and juicy steak

Midland Bull testing station was next
Steve and his wife gave a talk
On to Jack & JoAnne's ranch in Bridger
And then Red Lodge to shop and have a walk

Cody Wyoming had a fantastic museum
It was all about Buffalo Bill
Then on to George Farm dairy operation
The coughing on the bus means some are still ill

Yellowstone Park we travelled through
Seeing geysers and Old Faithful too
We also saw buffalo and elk
Yahoo

Idaho we saw Keith Elkington's cattle
On to his daughters place for lunch
We ate in the gym, their house was amazing
While the family was another friendly bunch



Jackson Hole Wyoming was a very scenic resort
I ate salmon for tea it was med/rare
I saw a painting in the gallery
Brian said No, No that is far too dear

We stopped at Jackson Lodge for lunch
Then called into Jenny's Lake
It was a lovely trip through the hills
We even saw a snow flake

We stopped at the Riverton Sheep Centre
Where a lady talked about the sheep
We carried on to Casper
It was a long day on the bus and many were fast asleep

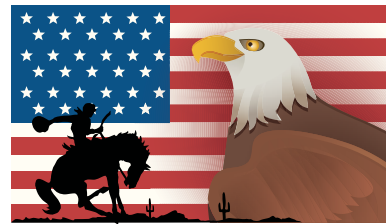
Cheyenne Wyoming was a nice wee town
Some went shopping & others had a rest
The Outlaw Saloon was such fun
But the dancing was the best

Colorado we stopped at a sheep feedlot there
But we didn't get off the bus
The rain made the ground very muddy
Our driver might of kicked up a fuss

Leachman Cattle Seedstock, Colorado State University and Five
Rivers Feedlot we saw
Last stop was where they brew Budweiser beers
We drank a sample, held up our glasses as said Cheers

We continued on to Stanley in Estes Park
Through the gorge with windy roads too
But when we finally arrived there
It was a picture with a beautiful view

All good things must come to an end
What a great experience we have all had
And I say with a grin
Many thanks with gratitude to our dear friends Dar and Lynn



SHOW RESULTS: OTAGO, GORE, UPPER CLUTHA, WINTON, INVERCARGILL & TE PARI BEEF EXPO



Otago Taieri A & P Show – January

Judge : Will Gibson, Middlesmarch

COW WITH CALF OVER 2YO

1st Burtergill Zion Helen
Champion Female
Supreme Exhibit at Show

YEARLING HEIFER

1st Loch Lomond Teds Tess
Reserve Champion Female

YEARLING BULL

1st Loch Lomond Fox 5 – Champion Bull
2nd Loch Lomond Fox 3
3rd Wainuka Double T 1310

BULL CALF

1st Loch Lomond Syd Junior

Gore A & P Show – February

Judge : Alan McCall, Gore

COW WITH CALF AT FOOT 2YO

3rd Burtergill Zion Helen

YEARLING HEIFER

1st Loch Lomond Teds Tess Junior Champion Female

YEARLING BULL

1st Loch Lomond Fox 5 – Champion Male
2nd Loch Lomond Fox 3 – Reserve Champion Male
3rd Wainuka Double T

PAIR YEARLINGS

1st Loch Lomond

CALF

1st Loch Lomond Syd Junior

KANE TROPHY CHAMPION YEARLING

Loch Lomond Fox 5
Reserve – Loch Lomond Teds Tess

Upper Clutha A & P, Wanaka – March

Judge : Thomas Condon, Westland

HEIFER CALF

1st Loch Lomond Syd Tess 7
2nd Wainuka Hilda

BULL CALF

2nd Wainuka Buster

YEARLING BULL

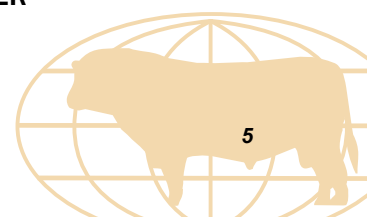
1st Loch Lomond Fox 5
2nd Loch Lomond Fox 3
3rd Wainuka Double T

PAIR BULL & HEIFER CALF

1st Wainuka
3rd Loch Lomond

PAIR YEARLINGS BULL & HEIFER

1st Loch Lomond



SHOW RESULTS – CONTINUED



Upper Clutha A & P, Wanaka – March

Judge : Thomas Condon, Westland

PAIR PROGENY TWO ANIMALS UNDER 24 MONTHS

1st Loch Lomond Fox 5 & Fox 3

JUNIOR HERDSPERSON

1st Jake Eden
2nd Ebony Eden

Winton Show - January

BULL 1 YEAR LARGE BREEDS

Judge: Anton Gibson

1st Wainuka Double T
4th Loch Lomond Fox 3

CHAMPION MALE

Wainuka Double T

ALL BREEDS BULL 1 YEAR

Judge: Wayne McLaren

1st Wainuka Double T
3rd Loch Lomond Fox 3

RESERVE MEAT & WOOL CUP

Wainuka Double T

HEIFER CALF LARGE BREEDS

4th Java Sam

NOVICE HERDSPERSON

1st Ebony Eden (Java Sam)

Invercargill Show – March

LARGE BREEDS HEIFER CALF

Judge: Casey Robertson

3rd Java Sam

ALL BREEDS HEIFER CALF

Judge: Clarence Timperley

1st Java Sam

ALL BREEDS CHAMPION BEEF CALF

Java Sam

NOVICE HERDSPERSON

1st Ebony Eden (Java Sam)

Te Pari Beef Expo

On Monday 11th May the 11th South Devon Show began with led judging at Manfeild Park. The sale followed on Tuesday 12th May.



The cattle were judged by Malcolm McConochie of Lake Station, Nelson.

RESULTS AS FOLLOWS:



NZX Agri Supreme Champion South Devon – Loch Lomond Fox 5



Pivot Design Reserve Champion South Devon – Wainuka Double T

Thanks must go to our sponsors of this event.

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