

THE SOUTH DEVON

PGG Wrightson Livestock

NEWSLETTER 65
JUNE 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write bull sales are in full swing around the country with strong prices and good clearances being enjoyed by all breeds.

Winter has arrived with a vengeance after a truly phenomenal autumn. However, it really is a good time to be farming with all sectors, other than strong wool, showing good returns.

This year's AGM herd tour was in Canterbury. It began with a bus trip and a fabulous meal at the Flaming Rabbit Restaurant, owned by associate members Paul and Tessa Goodwin.

Over the next two days the tour group were treated to a post quake tour of the City, visits to the Rosehill, Trethvas and Snowview Studs and a tour of the Canterbury Plains Water scheme.

The AGM was held at the Methven Resort with the Board of Management remaining the same and all members returning for another term. The Treasurer announced a small profit for the year which was very pleasing.

I would like to thank the Canterbury members for their time and effort in putting together a very enjoyable package.

Planning for the 2020 World Tour is well under way with pricing and a provisional itinerary having been sent out to participating countries. It appears it is going to be very popular with a good number of overseas members having already registered and paid their deposits.

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

**"Whether You Think You Can or
Think You Can't, You're Right."**

- Henry Ford

Kind regards,
RICHARD VAN ASCH *President*

2019 AGM & TOUR



This year's AGM was held in Canterbury, Tuesday 2nd until Thursday 4th April. Meet and greet all began at the Copthorne-Commodore Hotel. Once everyone had checked in we all jumped on the bus and headed out to Paul Goodwin's Lincoln Restaurant, The Flaming Rabbit, speciality South Devon meats.

Early morning saw the bus tour driving around Christchurch post 2011 earthquake. Not only did we see the changes within the city, both those repaired and still under repair, but also tributes to the mass shootings only

weeks before our visit to the city. A City that has stood tall banded together to rebuild not only the city, but the lives devastated by these tragic events.

Leaving the city behind us we drove on to the Methven Resort for lunch and check in. After lunch we visited Rosehill Stud, Mt Hutt owned by Alister and Jeanette Maxwell. A few of the ladies enjoyed a visit to Jeanette's Craft and Wool Shop located at the edge of the farm.

That evening we all attended the AGM, congratulations to Richard Van Asch, President and Mark Eagle, Vice President. Following the meeting we regrouped in the dining room to enjoy a few drinks and dinner, along with an auction of a few items Dene had received from Farmlands. The money raised goes to the AGM costs. Well done Dene.

Thursday morning a slight frost greeted us but was soon forgotten once on-board the bus. First stop, Jeff Hocking's Trethvas Stud. Jeff gave us the run down on how he came about naming his stud his grandfather also bred South Devons.

Running well behind time we finally made it to Dene and Steph Wason's, Snowview South Devons, Sheffield. The amazing vista and alfresco dining certainly put the icing on the cake for a wonderful three days of South Devon. The tour finished with a visit to Central Plains Water Limited (CPWL).

Suggestions were called for the 2020 AGM and tour and the most popular suggestion was the King Country region. Peter & Caroline Foss put their hands up to organise this and they are already working on it.

MEMBER DETAILS

We would ask that members check their postal address details that are recorded with the society.

A full address must include your road number and name; RD number, town and post code. NZ Post have become very strict on correct addressing and the PBB office receives a lot of returned mail which is not fully compliant with the postal addressing standards.

Example of correct rural address below:

Joe Bloggs	Recipient
187 Lynwood Road	Road Number & Name
RD 1	RD, RD number
Otaki 5581	Town, Postcode

If you are unsure check the Post Code finder (link below)

<https://www.nzpost.co.nz/tools/address-postcode-finder>

BREEDER PROFILE

Java South Devon's

Java South Devon's runs alongside Fermoy Holsteins on a 200Ha farm in Northern Southland. Run by Stewart and Julia Eden. In 2013 we called it quits on breeding Dexter cattle, because of issues with temperament, conformation and feet, and moved to South Devon's.

We were drawn to the South Devon because of their temperament and potential to develop the breed to suit



our farming system. Milk production is primary and we needed a beef breed that was easy handle yet could still perform well being the "poor cousin" to the dairy cows. The beef cows have to perform while on "clean up duty" behind



LINE-UP OF KAIMOA SALE BULLS



the dairy herd, maintaining pasture quality. For this they must put weight on quickly over their dry period, have the ability to milk off their backs to rear a good calf, get back in calf themselves while only eating what the dairy cows had left behind. Our aim is for a cow to wean a calf that is half her body weight. This year we achieved this with about 25% of the herd, 60% achieved between 43-50% of body weight and remaining (mainly late calvers and 2-year olds) were under this.

We require prime animals to be fit for killing at 15-18 months of age. This is to achieve best schedule price, cashflow and to reduce stock numbers for our autumn calving dairy herd and preparation for winter. EBV figures while referred to are not the be all and end all of our breeding decisions, rather a combination of actual figures and EBV's.

Our first purchases were a pure in calf heifer, and 2 "D" grade in calf heifers. All three of these had heifer calves however the devastatingly we loss of the pure at calving.

In 2014 with the help of Jim Conroy and Semex we imported embryos from the Torr Down stud in Australia. Donor Dams were Torr Down Natalie 128 and Torr Down Primrose 4, the sire Torr Down Marvel 3. While experienced in ET work the pregnancy rate was not what we had experienced in the past 3 pregnancies from Natalie and 1 from Primrose. The "triplets" were all females and the Primrose was a bull.

In 2015 the first Gum Hill progeny arrived and we were very impressed. One bull in particular Java Gum Tonka

showed all the traits we were looking for. Growth rates in less than favourable conditions, impressive eye muscle and IMF scanning, good feet, temperament had calving ease and polled! Tonka is a prolific female producer in the beef herd so now is "borrowed" for the dairy cows!

We have purchased a few animals along with breeding up from foundation animals left after Dexter's moved on. These include a mixture of Dexter, Murray Grey's and crosses between the two. We have used South Devon Bulls over these cows and the progeny have fulfilled our requirements.

Today the herd stands at 18 cows 3 in calf heifers 6 heifer calves 5 bull calves. We have 3 registered sire bulls Java Gum Tonka, Java Marvel Pickles and a R2 bull Java Tonka Elton that is currently for sale.

Four other bulls are here and are used for mating over the dairy herd. We have always preferred to have bulls that are quiet and row up with the cows. The Holstein bulls have always been well handled from calves; the South Devon's natural temperament makes this achievable. The resulting calves are well sort after especially coming from North American Holstein genetics.

Showing cattle has always been a big family event and rivalry between the beef team and the dairy team has always been a source

of contention and fun! As parents we believe there are many distractions that may not be beneficial for our younger generation. Our twins Jake & Ebony (10) have no games console instead are encouraged to work out on the farm and take on responsibilities of their own. Both Jake and Ebony have their own South Devon and Holstein families.



They are responsible for halter training and looking after



the animals before and during show time, as well as having input into breeding decisions. They are also required to help look after the animals during the rest of the year, putting up break fences, moving the animals, yard work etc. They are repeatedly told that they will not be "glory kids!" They earn their ribbons!

The recent decline in shows has made the ones that continue to operate more special. Christchurch is our annual "holiday." The timing comes after calving and offers a good break away for a week and a chance to catch up with friends in both the dairy and beef world. Wanaka offers the same opportunity again falling at the tail end of autumn calving a relaxing weekend away while taking young calves away setting them up for the opportunity to show them in the future.

The 2018-2019 show season saw us starting to reap the rewards of the breeding programme we have put in place. At Christchurch we received placings in the All Breeds cow with calf at foot with three-year-old Java Marvel Natalie, and Java Tonka Elton was 2nd in the interbreeds yearling bull and 3rd in the All Breeds.

Wanaka saw Natalie's heifer calf Java Tonka Nikita win the Senior heifer calf class and 2nd overall in the heifer calf class. Java Tonka Elton was 2nd in the yearling bull, and placings in the pairs classes as well.

The aim is to continue breeding for polled early maturing easy doing cattle with good eye muscle and IMF while maintaining milk production in the cows. Check out our Fermoy Holsteins Ltd & Java South Devon's Facebook page!

WEBSITE-FACEBOOK

With up and coming bull sales remember to check out your local sales on our website under events calendar. If you have any events that you would like to share, please contact Bridget 0273477683 or Pivot Design

Photos are always appreciated.

We are also having a link to sell private, Semen, cattle etc. Please contact Bridget pinzridge09@outlook.com to have your item/s included in this.

REGISTRY

ADL's are out and they are due to be returned to the office by 31st July 2019. Remember, if you do not return the ADL on time you will be billed for all the cows listed.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT CONTACTS

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