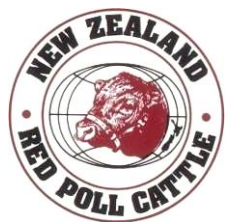


# RED POLL

# NEWS



**Winter Edition**

**August 2022**



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*The Association accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any published opinion, nor information supplied by individuals or reprinted from other sources. Items may be abridged or edited.*

**Closing date for next newsletter is November 10th, 2022**



**Cover:** Strathwell Oscar and friends taken on 2022 Herd Tour in Canterbury

## **CONTENTS**

02	Directory
03	Contents
04	President's Page
05	Secretary's Say
06	Patron's Page - Robin Shepherd
07	Kaihinau Report
08	Strathwell Report
09	Rosemarkie Report
10	Rangitihi Report
11	Opoutere Report
12	Schrafft Farms Report
13	NZ South Island Herd Tour 2022
18	Herd Tour photos
19	South Africa photos
20	International Red Poll Congress, South Africa, Part 8
27	Evanlea Report; Uruguay Update
28	Stoney Acres Report
30	A Bit of History – Red Polls in the Antipodes
35	From the Editor; Red Poll Society UK info; Photo captions back page

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE



The Autumn tour in Canterbury went very well with great weather for the two days of farm visits. I would like to thank all those that gave up their time to host the touring party and to those in the touring party for joining the tour. It was great to see some new faces as well as the regular faces in this year's group.

The Dinner at the Crate & Barrel was successful and special thanks to Judy Evans for talking about the various World Red Poll Tours she and Graeme had been on. It was very interesting and informative.

Next day we had the 100<sup>th</sup> AGM. This went smoothly and congratulations to Athol and Betty Sowry of the Athbey Herd for winning the W.W. Davey-Martin Memorial Award for Best Promotion of the Red Poll Breed since it was last awarded in 2019. This was awarded because of their consistent sales of heifers to new breeders.

As you may realize the World Red Poll Tour of New Zealand has been delayed by one year to 2024. Hopefully this decision will benefit in more Overseas guests arriving to our shores. On behalf of the New Zealand Red Poll Society, I extend warm greetings to you all who are able to make the trip.

Lastly, as Spring arrives, I wish you all a trouble-free calving.

Kind regards,  
*Ian Fleming*

---

### NZ Red Poll Badges Available

These are well made and beautifully finished and each one comes in a lovely presentation packet.

\$15 each + p & p (About \$3.50 for up to 6 badges). Size is approximately 3cm by 2¾cm.



Order from the Secretary, Warwick Potts, who will supply an invoice and the badge.



## **SECRETARY'S SAY**

Hello Everyone,

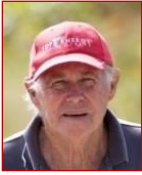
The decision was made at the AGM to defer the World Tour for a year to 2024, and this has been passed on to the other Red Poll Associations and to those who had expressed an interest in coming to NZ. Only a few people had shown an interest in attending, and this was part of the reason for deferring the Tour. The response from the other Associations has been in favour of the deferral mainly citing the difficulties of travel from the ongoing Covid issues. Things seem to be showing signs of recovery, so hopefully another year will allow a possible return to near 'normal'.

The herd returns were sent out earlier this year. Over the last years only those who wished to register young stock have returned these to me. The other purpose of the return is to advise the fate of cows/bulls in your herds, ie sold, culled etc. I would encourage all to return the herd list even if not registering calves, so that the association can have a clearer picture of the numbers of cattle in NZ.

It has been a very mixed year weather wise throughout the country this year, and with calving now underway, I hope all is going well and we get a more settled season.

*Warwick Potts*  
Registrar/Secretary/Treasurer

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## **PATRON'S PAGE**

Thank you for the reports of the doings of the AGM and the associated tour. Red Polls appear to still be valued in Canterbury and dedicated breeders are ensuring the presence of the breed.

By my book all cattle farmers are facing challenging times;

- Regulations and controls on what can be done and what must be done on the land are major challenges for land managers, namely farmers.
- Supply chain issues for both imports and exports are creating issues for farmers.
- Cost increases in every aspect of business are making fiscal planning very difficult.
- Changes in the insurance industry where some risks are now clearly identified so that events such as flooding, wildfires and subsidence will become far more expensive to cover.
- Animal health risks including the possibility of Foot and Mouth Disease or African Swine Fever or a dozen other nasties entering the country.
- Data collection and reporting on a swatch of matters.
- The changing nature of rural New Zealand including the loss of very valuable food production land to forestry or urban sprawl. These incursions can effectively destroy rural settlements and communities and darken the food supply horizon.
- Global warming and associated climate and weather changes.

Well, with my pessimistic glasses on I could go and drown my apprehensions and perceived troubles in a glass of red wine, but I can assure you that there are still things about rurality and farming which make life worthwhile:-

- ❖ The incredible beauty of our landscapes and sea scenes draw people from across the world and often those views include farm lands.
- ❖ The tranquillity which I can experience at many times of the days and seasons of the year.
- ❖ The satisfaction gained by viewing the fruits of one's farming labours can be highly satisfying and above all, the pleasures and rewards of being part of a great rural community cannot be replaced.

*Robin L. Shepherd QSO*

## KAIHINAU REPORT

Thank you to Ian and Anita for their hospitality and for organising a very pleasant and worthwhile herd tour in Canterbury. It was great to meet up with old friends, to spend time with them and to meet new Red Poll breeders.

For us personally, we now know and feel what Akaroa is like. After the tour, we really enjoyed looking around Banks Peninsula. The ruggedness and steepness surprised us, and we could imagine the difficulties our neighbours must have faced farming there. A local farmer we met on the road told us a growing number of properties are now more lifestyle blocks.

The only way to deal with winter is one day at a time. Being wet and muddy is common to many parts of New Zealand. We ourselves don't farm on banks of a river but have often been cut off to half the farm with swollen creeks.

Our cattle are always hungry and will eat as much as we are able to apportion to them. Young stock are being held for now on the basis that sale values are less due to wet and stressful conditions, and hopefully values will hold or improve when the sun shines.

Ewes are crutched and ready to lamb. Store lambs from last year are waiting to be sold.

Our Strathwell bull, #10, > purchased from Flemings in 2019, stands at the fence and demands "1 bale of hay per day please. If not, I will venture again into the fowl house, take the hay from the nesting box, go through the plywood floor, and smash the door upon exit."



Regards to all,  
*Kath and Kelvin Lane*

## **STRATHWELL REPORT**

After receiving 310mm of rain in July we are enjoying some welcome sunshine. So far five calves have been born with no trouble. We have had the Selwyn River burst over our flats which makes it difficult in finding dry paddocks to keep cattle dry underfoot.

Currently we have around 250 prime lambs left to sell. They will be shorn prior to going to market to be sold. Having them shorn can yield up to \$25 extra, so it is well worth doing.

Finally, our wheat price has moved from \$440 to \$622 per tonne for milling grain. This may seem a great deal more, but it is well overdue as fertiliser and chemical costs have risen as well. As there is a shortage of feed grains, I have heard \$700/T being paid for grains for Tegal chicken feed.

I see Bremworth are making a rug which is compostable. These are made of a combination of sheep's wool and Alpaca wool. If New Zealanders are wanting to be more sustainable, products like these are essential going forward. Apparently 7% of American landfill waste is made up of synthetic carpets. I would like to see woollen Batts go into houses and not pink Batts. Perhaps our wool returns may increase.

We are looking at showing this year at Ellesmere A&P and the Canterbury Show so if anybody is interested you are more than welcome to join us.

**Cheers**  
***Ian & Anita Fleming***

*Strathwell herd on AGM Herd Tour 2022*





## ROSEMARKIE REPORT

Well, "soggy" is a very understated acknowledgement of the degree of moisture in and on the farm here.

We sold the non-keeping bull calves at Feilding Sale 12<sup>th</sup> August, \$950 each. I had registered 4 but decided one of them was going to be too long and narrow so he went too.

They did not get weaned until 27<sup>th</sup> June, which was really too late, but when weighed again on 30<sup>th</sup> July top weight was 396kg. The average weight of the sale bulls was 355kg straight off the paddock. Av. 325kg at Feilding yards.

My pick of the keepers is R13. When weighed at weaning he was 366kg and on the 30<sup>th</sup> July he was 398. He is out of C8 (Trounce Yulan) who is now 14 years old. She first calved at 2 years. So far, she has had 7 heifers and 5 bulls. She still has a lovely-shaped udder. Takes after her grandmother, Garthmyl Yvonne. R13 is by Gravel Pit Tonka, a Raedean Maximus son.

Earlier this year we were fortunate to be able to purchase the young bull Dawn Mist Ferd's Tristram by Bowlands Ferdinand (UK) out of Hororata Tribute.

We've still got N16 and P16 to go to the Works, but it is very difficult getting them in. Have leased Tonka to Neil Wilton til further notice.

▼ *Yearling bulls before sale, out with N16.*



Regards,  
*Helen & Warwick*

## **RANGITHI REPORT**

Like the experience of Jo and Rob Schrafft, my farm has been flooded but whereas they have had to wade through waist high water to get home, my access has not been severely affected. Some fields are heavily silted with what may or may not be fertile soil and the neighbours' fertiliser. Clearing fences though is another issue with many of them looking like a Monday washing line. These are all fences built to comply with having riparian strips. The intention of these laws is obvious. If one can keep animals from polluting the waterways then that must be a good outcome. While that requirement applies to grass land there is little done to prevent extreme pollution entering the catchment from current forestry felling up stream. The runoff from exposed landscapes is extreme. This is a major polluter of what had been un-silted streams

It appears that dealing with this problem is too much for the Regional Council as is the associated problem for territorial authorities dealing with the destruction of back country roads by logging trucks.

I am looking forward to what I hope will be another Red Poll tour into Northland next year.

One of our Red Poll mobs of 14 cows is due to calve in Spring. They were all mated to Houtu Thor. We are looking forward to some excellent calves.

Our larger mobs now have calves at foot, and they are doing very well despite the big wet. They have a young Houtu bull in each mob. Sadly, one of our very old cows (22 years old), died a few days after calving. Happily, the lovely orphan heifer has found a home with Kiri Finlayson, who earlier had bought two of our top heifers to help her build up a herd of Red Polls. For Joanne who had been hand feeding the calf, that has come as a relief.

Grass is still growing which is an indication that soil temperatures are still relatively high for winter. So far, we have had no frosts.

Best wishes to all.

*Robin Shepherd*

## OPOUTERE RED POLLS REPORT

Greetings from a wet and windy Whangamata. It has been a s#+t! of a winter. Probably one of the wettest winters for years. We had two heavy rain events, one of a 160mm and another of 110mm, and then on the other days it was just a steady drizzle.

At time of writing, mid-August, cow condition is adequate; the cows are getting a small break of fresh grass each day and as much silage as they can eat. Fortunately, we had the chance to make more silage than normal last season. Calving has just started, with the first calf arriving yesterday.

The R1 bulls are being R1 Bulls, starting to dig holes, rub up against gates and do the normal teenage things. Again, they are getting by on a bit of grass and plenty of silage but considering the season they are looking well. They will be sold as paddock bulls for fattening in October/November.

Both Helen and Allan have had Covid. It has certainly knocked us both around, but we are now out of isolation and feeling a lot brighter. A neighbour pointed out that the daffodils are flowering, the birds are starting to make their nests and we don't live in Ukraine. We have so much to be thankful for.

Wishing all fellow Red Poll people, a good spring and a trouble-free, happy calving.

*Helen & Alan Bridson*

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*Cow at Milne's **Belfield** Stud on  
Canterbury Herd Tour*

**Photo:** Ian Fleming

## SCHRAFFT FARMS

Greetings to you all.

Yes, it has been wet. Four floods in July with nearly 400mls on 21 days has tested patience, endurance and good humour. To make it more of an issue we have been calving all month with all the issues that go with that. As of the beginning of August we have 130 calves on the ground and another 100 to go.

We have a mob of 7 Red Poll cows included and they are dropping calves by a Simmental bull. These are proving to be an excellent cross and the mothering qualities and assured milk have these young ones growing very rapidly. These are also all bull calves. Several of them exhibit very strong double muscling. We are delighted with Red Polls as mothers in this crossbreeding programme. They also seem to have some in-built characteristic which has them sticking together as a "gang" and then showing their dominance to the other cows. It is really interesting to see this in action.

➤ *An ex Rangitihi Red Poll with heifer calf at foot by a Simmental bull. The Oak Tree is probably more than 100 years old.*



One interesting phenomenon this season has been the unusually high number of live twins born. None to Red Polls, but so far we have had six pairs, and no, they are not all by the same bull or even are all cows of a similar breed.

Today the sun is shining, and we have had four days of similar balmy weather which is helping to dry things out. But not yet dry enough to spread our spring fert.

*Jo and Rob Schrafft*

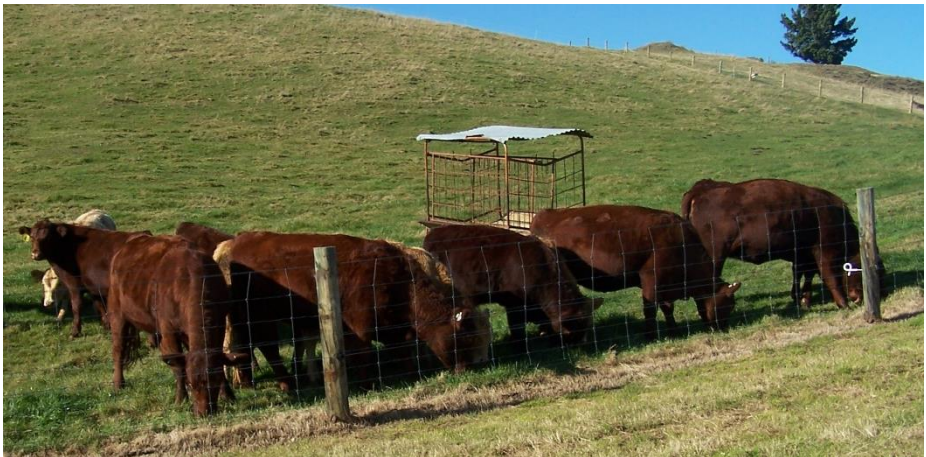
## SOUTH ISLAND HERD TOUR MAY 2022

Graeme, Warwick Potts and I flew to Christchurch on Friday afternoon. Apart from a glitch with the rental car, all was well, and we travelled to the Leeston Hotel. This was very comfortable and also had the Crate and Barrel restaurant and bar on site.

On Saturday we travelled to the Raewood Fresh Café for breakfast and met up with the other members for a delicious breakfast.

The weather was clear, warm and sunny and we had a tourist drive to the **4 Diamond Stud** at Waikari and met up with new breeders Doug and Sharon Pitsch. They have purchased 22 acres of land with some Red Poll heifers from Strathwell Stud and some Wiltshire sheep and Red Poll x Charolais calves to fatten. They have obviously spent many hours planning and fencing to make full use of their land. They have the most wonderful view of the Southern Alps which were snow-capped against a blue sky, especially from the top area of their farm, which caused some of us to take view stops on the way up.

✔ *Young cattle at Pitsch's*



Following this we had lunch at a small cafe in Amberley. They were very busy, so we relocated to a travel rest site across the road. The staff generously took chairs and delivered the food across the road. The sun was shining, and it was a pleasant place for lunch, if a little unconventional.

We then travelled to Hororata to meet up with **Guy and Jenny Bassett** who have leased the Dalley Farm. They are grazing the remaining Red Poll and Welsh Black cows and young stock and managing the farm organically. They are a knowledgeable young couple.

✔ *Weaner Red Poll and Welsh black calves at Bassett's, Hororata*



*Red Poll  
cows at  
Bassett's*

We then travelled back to Anita and Ian Fleming's **Strathwell Stud**. These are excellent cattle demonstrating strong bloodlines representing the ideals of Red Poll cattle. Ian is keeping up awareness of the breed profile by showing at A&P and on-line events. Following an enjoyable time to catch up with everyone, including Ian's Mother and family, we all sat down to a delicious dinner at Strathwell. Thank you so much Anita and family for your hospitality.

✔ *Young bulls at Strathwell*



On Sunday morning, again in fine sunny weather, we travelled down to Anne and Mike McSweeney's **Dawn Mist** herd. The cattle are in great order, and he has progeny from AI bulls' semen which he has imported to enhance the breed.

The Red Polls always stand out against those green hills. Once again breeder's hospitality comes to the fore as we enjoyed a delicious lunch sitting out in the sunshine. Thank you so much Anne and Mike.



*Judy Evans and Mike McSweeney & Dawn Mist cows*



We then travelled a short distance to visit the **Belfield** herd of Angela and Andrew Milne. They had been flooded in the recent heavy rain events and had some of their land inundated and destroyed cattle yards. Fortunately, the water didn't cause too much damage to their home. After viewing their cows followed by their young stock, we had afternoon tea with Angela and Andrew then headed back to Leeston.

✔ *The restored cattle yards at Belfield*



◀ *Weaner cattle at Belfield*

Our Tour dinner was most enjoyable at the Crate and Barrel. The staff were very hospitable and would recommend both the hotel and restaurant if you are ever nearby.





◀ *Some of the Annual Dinner diners*

On Monday morning, following breakfast we headed upstairs for the Annual General Meeting. It was pleasing to welcome new breeders, Priscilla, and Jessica Mudgway to the meeting. Those members attending shared their herd reports.



*Athbey contingent at the dinner*

It was decided to postpone the International Herd Tour to 2024 as there had been very limited interest from overseas, plus the uncertainty of COVID and its variants and the huge increase in costs of international flights. Following a delicious morning tea provided by the hotel, we all packed up and headed home.

## NZ Herd Tour, Canterbury, 2022



*The view from Pitsch's*



*Strathwell Vin – Fleming's show cow*



*Kath Lane, Eleanor Fleming, Janet Reese*



*Hororata Tribute at McSweeney's*



*Young bulls at McSweeney's*



*Poultry pens at McSweeney's*



*"Agterryer" Memorial for 12,000 black Africans in War -unpaid; grooms, cooks & scouts*



*NZ representatives dressed in our NZ shirts, ready for the Congress*



*Judy & Graeme Evans, Albert Hancock*



*Boer farewells his wife to go to war*



*Dan Schmiesing, USA*



*L-R Warwick, NZ; Robin, Aus; Graeme, NZ & Pieter, South Africa*

# INTERNATIONAL RED POLL CONGRESS

## SOUTH AFRICA, March 2020, Part 8

*If no photo credit it's taken by me or Warwick - Helen*



### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March Evening

Bloemfontein at last. We arrived at Dersley Manor, our “five-star” hotel and the venue for the Congress. Located in a nice area of town. Apparently, one is safer in a suburban hotel. More like an elaborate B & B with self-contained rooms.



◀ *Helen & Warwick's room.*

We were welcomed effusively by our host. Rooms were individually named, ours being “Xanadu”. Décor was well over the top – Victorian style, turquoise fabric, grandmother and grandfather chairs with a matching chaise longue residing in the bathroom along with a shower, basin, toilet

and vast spa bath. We were told that President Jacob Zuma had had our suite previously.

Had a berry cider before dinner; a good plain meal, but the table settings were overly ornate with very fancy plates under our dinner plates.

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

Well, the bed was fairly firm, I kept waking up and rolling over. Admitted defeat at 5.30am and got up and had a shower – good shower. We had to chase up our blue NZ shirts that had been sent to be ironed. Needed for the Congress at 9am.

Gerhard Boshoff and young son GJ attended as well as Arnold Greisler, Anzabeth & Pieter-Renier Nieuwoudt and Sandra & Pieter van Wyk from the locals. Pieter van Wyk opened the Congress and Arnold Greisler said a prayer and gave a short reading.

Apologies were given. Mary Jo Schmiesing and Lisette Griesler were remembered with a period of silence.

I was given the job of taking the Minutes as Sandra van Wyke found taking notes and translating very time consuming.

Dan Schmiesing gave a brief report on the previous Congress in the USA. Then the country reports were given. I did the NZ report which was well received. Arnold Greisler particularly liked the fact that sellers of cattle to new breeders paid for an Associate Member's subscription for a year which enabled them to receive three copies of our Red Poll News.

### **Country Reports** – [*only have some copies on hand- Editor*]

The **UK report** apologised for having no UK members present. Their membership continues to be around 400. In 2019, 19 bulls were registered and 795 purebred females. Breeders registering were 109. Numbers registered went from 1 or 2 animals right up to 3 herds registering 40+. They have been building up a breed DNA profile using the *Igenity* system, testing bulls and a few superior females. Bulls are also tested for the Myostatin gene. No one wants cattle with M2 (2 copies of the gene) as they can have a large percentage of calving difficulties with the double muscling and don't grow as well whether on grass or concentrates.

Jimmy Brooks sent in a report from **Kenya**. Bulls have gone into Southern Tanzania and to Uganda but mainly for crossbreeding. After seeing success of mating yearlings in Australia tried it in Kenya but cattle do not mature as fast and experiment failed so returned to first mating at 2 years of age with a minimum weight of 300kg. Most smallholders in Kenya only want a mature cow weight of 400-450kg. They managed to bring in semen from 3 Australian bulls and were waiting for their calves to arrive.

Lastly a report from **Jamaica** given by Dr Karl Wellington.

Among other items mentioned by Karl is "a decline in the critical mass of livestock scientists to drive necessary research and development programmes". Climate change (estimated cost Ja\$14-4 billion between 1994 and 2010) and

farm theft (Ja\$6 billion) are two factors having large effects on livestock production.

A NAIT system has been introduced which is gradually gathering up all the cattle to be identified. At the time of the report over 22,000 head of cattle, representing 24% of the estimated total had been identified.

In May 2019 the Cattle Breeders' Society of Jamaica was formed covering 4 breeds of cattle including the Jamaican Red Poll.

In 2019, the Jamaica Red Poll Cattle Breeders' Association had 21 ordinary members, 1 Life member and 2 Associate members.◆◆◆◆

After a break for morning tea Mr Japie van der Westhuizen spoke on "an overview of animal recording and improvement in South Africa; with emphasis on cattle. He stated that, "The mission of SA Stud Book is to be a significant role player in the genetic improvement of animals in South Africa, while its vision is to develop exceptional domestic animals and establish them as a sustainable resource and treasure for all South Africans".

The next speaker was Mr Dewald Olivier from the Feedlot Association giving "an overview of the South African cattle industry.

Following these a meeting of delegates was held to discuss the next country to host – New Zealand was decided upon. This was announced to those at the Congress.

Those present from other countries were given a gift of a red & white denim commemorative Red Poll shirt from the South African members.

The Congress then closed, and we adjourned to lunch: - very tasty chicken dish, beans, potato salad and couscous salad, followed by delicious Malva pudding.

I found what is claimed to be the gold standard recipe for this dessert online and have added it to this article.



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**Maggie Pepler's Malva Pudding. Serves 6 people. (*Sth African traditional*)**

For the sponge:

- 1 cup flour, 125g
- 1 Tbs bicarbonate of soda
- 1 cup sugar 250g
- 1 egg
- 1 Tbs apricot jam
- 1 Tbs vinegar
- 1 Tbs melted butter
- 1 cup milk 250mls

For the sauce:

- ½ cup cream 125ml
- ½ cup milk 125ml
- 1 cup sugar 250g
- ½ cup hot water 125ml
- ½ cup butter 125g

**Baking method**

1. Set oven at 180°C. Grease, with butter, an ovenproof glass or porcelain container approximately 30cm X 20cm X 5cm. Do not use an aluminium, enamel or any metal container. Cut a piece of aluminium foil to cover it while the pudding is in the oven and grease it well with butter on one side.
  2. Sift the flour and the bicarb into a bowl and stir in the sugar.
  3. In another bowl beat the egg very well and add the remaining ingredients [excluding those for the sauce] one by one, beating well between each addition.
  4. Using a wooden spoon beat the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix well.
  5. Pour the batter into the prepared baking dish, cover with the foil, greased side down and bake for 45 minutes in the present oven until well risen and brown and for a further five minutes without the foil if not sufficiently brown. If not sufficiently baked the dessert will not take up all the sauce making it stodgy inside.
  6. When the pudding is almost done, heat the ingredients for the sauce, ensuring that you melt all the sugar and butter.
  7. When the pudding is done, remove from the oven, take off the foil and pour over the sauce. The pudding will take up all the sauce.
  8. Serve hot, warm or at room temperature, though warm is best, with a little thin cream or vanilla custard.
-

*Waiting for lunch* ➤

After lunch, time for a rest and then Nick took some of us in the bus to the Nelson Mandela Memorial on Naval Hill. There was also a small game park which said it had ostriches and



giraffe. Petrusa was sure that there would not be ostriches but had to admit she was wrong when we saw some. Did not see the giraffes though!



From this vantage point there were amazing views of Bloemfontein and a HUGE statue of Nelson Mandela which included some quotes from "Road to Freedom".

The plinth also reads:-

FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE FREE STATE PROVINCE "Thank you Madiba for being symbol of Hope, Nation building and a brighter future"

The statue was unveiled by then President, Jacob Zuma on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2012.



From there we were driven 3km south from central Bloemfontein to the National Women's War Memorial - a Second Anglo-Boer War monument.

It commemorates the 27,000 women and children who perished in concentration camps set up by the British during the Second Anglo-Boer War. Depicting an Afrikaner woman holding her child seeing her husband off to war, the National Women's Memorial is flanked by a large obelisk and is located near the Anglo-Boer War Museum.

Each of the tablets on the ground commemorates women and children from a particular area who died.

This one for Mafeking -683 children 15 years and younger, 145 over the age of 15.



This group of two women and a child ➤ is just above my head in the photo (top right), on the front of the memorial. There were two other large plaques either side of the base.



It was an incredibly moving experience to see these. We were lucky to get in as it was just closing as we arrived. We did not go into the War Museum itself as it had closed, and we would not have had time to do it justice, I am sure.

We were back at the hotel about 5.30pm. Nick was taking a few of us to an ATM machine and to stand guard while they took money out. The hotel had a penchant for playing loud clarinet music when it was supposed to be a quiet time or while we were eating

The farewell dinner had been brought forward as it was expected that Karl and Bloom Wellington would have to leave the next day as the last BA flight to Jamaica is Friday and none from the States to Jamaica. We all got glammed up and then found it was a false alarm. Meal was OK and the company was excellent.



^ Enjoying our last night at Dersley Manor

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2020**

Well, it all turned to custard for Warwick and I when Judy Evans knocked on the door at 5am. She said Singapore was cancelling flights. Can get home Friday 20<sup>th</sup>; check in at 7.30pm, flight SQ481. We have to get to Johannesburg before then.

Bit of a shemuzzle at Dersley with laundry not dry and the staff having to iron things dry so they could be packed. It was very unfortunate really as the manager was losing his sight. His young son was doing his best to step up to the mark. I understand the hotel closed within a few months of our visit. Covid would have been the last straw.

We left Dersley Manor about 8.30am, heading to Kimberley. *To be continued...*

## **EVANLEA HERD REPORT**

Have had one of the best years farming for many years.

350 ml rain in February set us up for good grass growth for the late summer and all through autumn.

Have still got 7 rising 2yr heifers which looks as if they will go to the works after winter if no breeders want them.

With winter just starting, feeding out and the usual winter chores are about to kick into gear.

With the price of all farm equipment rising fast hope that I have all the bits and pieces on hand.

Graeme Evans

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## **URUGUAY NEWS**

Dear Helen, here in Uruguay the winter has been very cold (it is said that it is the coldest winter in decades) and lately with quite a lot of rain.

On the other hand, I tell you that in the next edition of the annual exhibition in Brazil, the Expointer (Esteio) there will be animals of our beloved breed and the Breeders' Society of Brazil has honored me by nominating me as a jury member on such a special occasion, which will be the day 8/30/22.

Finally, as news, by the end of September I am waiting in my farm for the birth of seven Red Poll embryos, something that has us very hopeful and anxious.

And finally, I tell you that I have also acquired a herd of Red Angus cows in my farm, which will be herded by Red Poll bulls, the purpose of which is to [be] absorbed over time and significantly increase our Red Poll herd.

For the moment those would be the news.

I hope that our dear colleagues across the sea are well. I send you a big hug from South America.

*Mariano Fernandez Juncal*

## STONEY ACRES HERD REPORT JULY 2022

Breaking news on the Wiltons Road, Stoney Acres herd.

As I Missed a report for April but got ever so lucky to do the AGM and herd tour down south both I and Sharon took some time out and drove down. A trip on ferry. The weather was grand with scenery to die for and even some very good herds to see. Thanks so much to our southern farmers.

Sold 7 bull calves at the weaner fair, as bulls, for the first time. Next year I will steer them as that is the demand of the local farmers. I have one which was my pick of the boys left which is to be up for sale.

My young girls have now been sold with the baby staying at home with me. Helen & Warwick had the first pick of the heifer calves and 8 have gone to a new breeder (Matthew & Charlotte Rodwell) in Tasman, Nelson plus my replacement bull calf for Ash. I've had a change of heart and now leasing an older bull, Gravel Pit Tonka, from Rosemarkie stud.

*Rosemarkie Mort's  
Ash ➤*

**Photo:** Neil Wilton  
So, after 4 years on the farm, it is time for Ash to go and turn a new page in his life as he been so successful in his job that Ian at Strathwell Stud is taking him for a working trip to the south.



The calves weaned well with a good weight range 240 – 298, averaging 262. This makes me feel I am on the right track.

With all this lush new autumn grass and the regimented fertiliser plan, I have just lost one of the heifers I bought from Evanlea stud to autumn bloat, but that is farming.

On the other hand, I have been weighing last year's calves for weight gain on farm down the road with very good results, proving that at 20 months they can kill out with double their weight gain from weaning. That's confirms one of the reasons why I chose Red Polls.

Just to end, I have now brought the leftover family estate, a mere 11 acres, house and sheds, to secure a home for my red headed girls. The rest of the land is still under subdivision. The current lease on the land ends in October. I will pick it up and increase my herd until the land sells, an extra 70 acres.

*Neil Wilton*



**Stoney Acres** principal, Neil Wilton, and partner, Sharon Gullery, on the Herd Tour. **Photo:** Ian Fleming

## **A Bit Of History**

### **RED POLLS IN THE ANTIPODES LORD CRANWORTH'S INTERESTING TRIP**

IMPRESSED BY EMPIRE FARMERS' TREMENDOUS FRIENDLY FEELING

*[Journal of the Red Poll Breed [UK] Issue number not known]*

The tremendous friendly feeling of the peoples of Australia and New Zealand, their deep regard for the Mother country, and the close ties they have with the land of their birth or that of their forefathers, created in the mind of Lord Cranworth, on the occasion of his visit earlier in the year to Australia, a lasting impression. These feelings are likewise those of Lord Woodbridge, who accompanied Lord Cranworth on his visit to New Zealand, where most of his time was spent. Only a comparatively short stay was possible in Australia owing to the necessity of the last named being back in England in connection with his duties as President for the year of the Suffolk Agricultural Association, which held one of the most successful shows in its long history.

#### **The Embargo Question.**

While Lord Cranworth's sojourn in New Zealand was all too short, nevertheless, he had the opportunity of judging the results of the agricultural activities of the two Islands comprising the Dominion, and of the success attained in stock breeding. Naturally, as one visiting New Zealand for the first time, Lord Cranworth was vastly interested in all he saw, as one gleaned in the course of a chat with his Lordship at Grundisburgh Hall shortly after his return.

While New Zealand farmers are keeping and breeding stock of different breeds and have some very fine herds, at the same time Lord Cranworth took the decided view that a mistaken policy is being pursued in placing an embargo on imported pedigree stock, and more particularly does he emphasise this fact in regard to Red Polls. Lord Cranworth is by no means alone in venturing this decided opinion, for Lord Bledisloe, who has spent five years as the Governor General of New Zealand, is concerned that in their own interests New Zealand farmers, to whom he is greatly attached, should have long since raised the embargo, thereby enabling them to obtain what is so badly needed – fresh blood for their herds and flocks. Lord Cranworth sums up the position by saying that, "it is a misfortune that any New Zealand Government should refuse

permission for the importation of any pedigree stock." Lord Cranworth advanced this opinion because not only Red Polls, but other breeds of cattle that he saw, were "distinctly less good than he had been led to expect."

### **New Blood Needed**

Commenting more particularly on the Red Polls, Lord Cranworth said he was more disappointed with them than anything else, and this the more so because of the good account he had previously heard about the wonderful type of cow that was being bred. They badly want new blood. The Australians, said his Lordship, had recognised the absolute necessity of acquiring fresh blood, and the substantial progress that Australian breeders were making and the big developments that had taken place in that great Continent, over which Red Polls were fast spreading, is almost entirely due to the enterprise of Australian stockbreeders in acquiring the best stock from the home country.

### **Pressing Need Likely to Be Met**

In the course of the interview with Lord Cranworth during which his general impressions were sought, it was most interesting to know that the present Minister of Agriculture in New Zealand's Labour government - here Lord Cranworth interpolated the remark that it was worth remembering that although a Labour government, it was not in the main a Socialist one - had made it plain beyond any doubt that he wanted the embargo lifted. There was, therefore, good reason to believe stockbreeders in New Zealand would be in a position to have what were pressing needs effected.

### **Qualified Criticism**

The extreme importance of Red Polls being imported is emphasised by the comment, that far too many of them have pendulous udders, are up on the leg, and as Lord Cranworth adds, on the light side. They reminded him in these respects of the type so prevalent 30 years ago. This applies to Red Polls in both the North and South Islands. "Maybe," to use his Lordship's own words, "I might have seen better animals at the Royal Show, to which I had a pressing invitation from both the President and Secretary, but which, unfortunately, it was impossible for me to accept owing to the comparatively short duration of my stay in New Zealand."

### **Abiding Interest in Farming**

Another thing that much impressed Lord Cranworth, reference to which he made at the public luncheon at the Suffolk Agricultural Association's show, was the deep and abiding interest in farming on the part of all sections of the community, from the government downwards. There, legislation is first and foremost in the interests of farming. Those who are not actually farming in New Zealand are almost as keen about it as those who are. It was not surprising, as Lord Cranworth observes, since practically every single farm in New Zealand is mortgaged, and the mortgages are held by a very large proportion of the population.

### **Somewhat Puzzling**

It was obvious, to adopt another of Lord Cranworth's comments, that agriculture in New Zealand must prosper, since it was the ambition of the country as a whole. That being so, it was helped in every way.

What surprises me," said Lord Cranworth, " is the low average price for milk, which would not appear to exceed 4½d. per gallon. How it is possible to make a profit at such a price is indeed puzzling, especially when it is recalled that the mortgage interest generally amounts to more than the rent paid in this country. Consideration, of course, must be given in this connection to the fact that the cost of maintaining herds is considerably less in New Zealand, where there is generally an abundance of herbage for eleven months of the year, than it is in England. Wages are just about the same, but some form of profit-sharing is more common.

In a final word on his brief sojourn in New Zealand, Lord Cranworth was most anxious to pay a tribute to the most kindly feelings and hospitality of New Zealanders, and in all sincerity he said he could thoroughly understand that Lord Bledisloe genuinely stated his inward thought when describing them as lovable people.

### **A Wonderful Display At Sydney's "Royal"**

Lord Cranworth first set foot in Australia at Sydney, and although he had not more than a few days before setting sail for England from Melbourne, he nevertheless had sufficient time to realise," that the enthusiasm for Red Poll cattle in Australia was very marked. I had the opportunity of seeing, through



the courtesy of the President and Secretary, the big Royal Show at Sydney, the day before it opened. When they knew I was in New South Wales, they took the trouble to 'phone me a long way off to fetch me and to be most hospitable."

### **What An Attendance?**

"From all I saw, they had a wonderful show, and from what I afterwards read, what an attendance they had. It absolutely placed 'the gates' of the English Royal shows in the shade. Indeed, more people went in one day than we can hope to get in a week. I saw the entries of what was a record display of Red Polls for Sydney, and they were of a very high standard throughout. They would have been no disgrace if exhibited at our royal show. The home-bred stock that were exhibited at Sydney were typical of the breed."

### **An Object Lesson**

"What a lesson it should be to New Zealanders, who might have done equally well if they had followed the example of Australian breeders, who have not hesitated to buy the best British stock with the most gratifying results."

### **Tributes to the Late Hon. T.H. Payne.**

Lord Cranworth, in some general comments on the Red Polls which he saw quartered in the permanent buildings of the Royal Agricultural Society at Sydney, said he was not only delighted with all the stock which owners were good enough to have paraded for him to see, but he could not forget what the breed in Australia owed to such men as the late Mr T. H. Payne, who did great things in advancing its interest, mainly through the importation of the finest stock he could buy in England.

### **An Indispensable Breed**

The fine character of many of the Red Polls exhibited at Sydney was due to the active interest of the late Mr Payne, and his success as a breeder was seen in his own-bred stock, the progeny of imported blood, which were advantageously shown by the New Zealand and Australian Land Company and others. He was not only impressed with these truly typical animals of the breed, but likewise those of such other breeders as Mr C. Bassett-Smith and Mr A. G. Hunter.

The latter, as the successor to the late Mr Payne as the President of the Australian Red Poll Association, was upholding the traditions of that position, and was also by his example doing his part in advancing the cause of the Red Poll as a dual-purpose animal which was indispensable to breeders in most parts of Australia.

What more hardy breed could be found to withstand the climatic conditions in many parts of that Continent, where it not infrequently happened that droughts of long duration were experienced? This fact reminded him, said Lord Cranworth, that New Zealanders were generally speaking more advantageously placed than those in Australia, for with the beautiful water from their rivers and other natural advantages, they had the best of opportunities for developing their herds.

### **Great Interest in Red Polls**

"Short as my stay was in Australia, I was nevertheless there long enough to realise that there is a lot of interest in the breed, and there is no doubt it has an extraordinarily bright future." This was Lord Cranworth's final observation on the breed in Australia. Before his Lordship left the show it was a matter of special interest to him as a breeder of Suffolk horses to have the opportunity of taking a snapshot of a typical Suffolk mare which has not a docked tail, as is too often the case with Suffolk Punces in the home studs.



Photo from the front cover of the Journal of the Red Poll Breed [UK] Vol 13 #51, September, 1936

*Lord Cranworth's Royal Show champion cow, "Grandisburgh Good Duck"*

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

Hi Everyone,

Thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter.

Don't forget the old saying that a picture is worth a thousand words – so send me photos. Preferably with captions that explain which animal/s or person/people it is.

When taking photos watch the backgrounds for other cattle's feet, grubby behinds etc.

I never say no (well, rarely) to the written word either!

*Helen*

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### **Red Poll Society (UK)**

If you would like to join to the Red Poll Cattle Society (UK) contact [secretary@redpoll.co.uk](mailto:secretary@redpoll.co.uk) or write to:

The Secretary,  
1 Nabbott Road,  
Chelmsford,  
Essex CM1 SW



The overseas membership subscription is £30 sterling; includes three printed issues a year of the newsletter. The newsletter is also available to view on line gratis.

### **Red Poll Merchandise**

The UK Society has a fundraising 2022 Red Poll Calendar £6.99 plus post and packaging; branded sweat & polo shirts etc for sale.

*[Google "Red Poll Cattle Society UK, merchandise" Came up first time – Editor]*

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### **Photos Back Cover**

**Top:** Weaner cattle at Milne's Belfield Stud on Herd Tour

**Bottom:** 2022 Herd tour participants

