

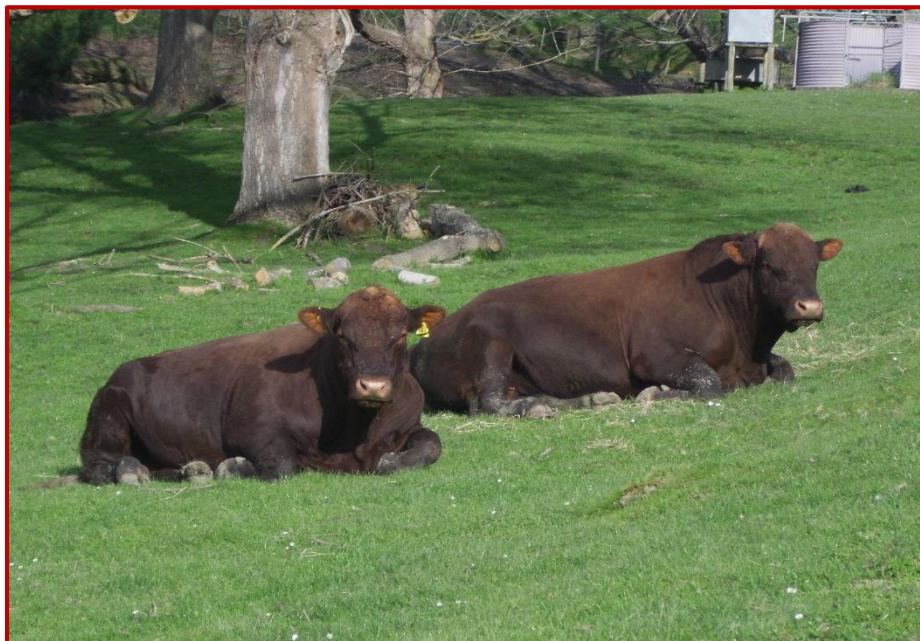
RED POLL

NEWS



Winter Edition

December 2022



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Closing date for next newsletter is March 10th, 2023



Cover: Left: Rosemarkie Monty Kahuwha #P16 (4813)
Right: Rosemarkie Para Norwester #N16 (4773)

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FOR SALE

The **TAMIHANA** herd that was established in the 1980's will be for sale after this season's calves are weaned in March / April 2023.

Consisting of Forty guaranteed in-calf cows & heifers they are now being mated to 'Tamihana Red Max, H.B 4794 or his son Tamihana Red Peter H.B. 4851. If sold as a herd, a 20% rejection rate will be allowed. Ten rising two yr. Heifers are also for sale. Price to be negotiated. Inspection is very welcome.

Robin Thomson: 📞: 06-752 6838
or email: blacklerann@gmail.com >

Address is:- 2528 Mokau Road – R.D.47 – Urenui 4379

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Since my last report in August, the majority of your cows should have calved and hopefully both growing well. It's quite exciting to see calves develop and put a lot of weight on quite quickly due to mum's milk supply. Also, as stud breeders we are always trying to breed the perfect cattle beast; structurally correct, good temperament animals. If the cow or bull wouldn't hold its own in the show ring, should you have it in your herd?



As it was discussed at our AGM the use of Face Book would help promote our breed. It also helps connect to other fellow breeders in other countries all over the World. I am enjoying being the administrator for our NZ Red Poll Cattle Association page, and I encourage other breeders to join the group.

Recently I was contacted by Brittany Abbott of the Turanga Red Poll Stud from Victoria, Australia via Messenger. She has four bulls for semen collection; 'True Value, Curly Wurly, Why Such a Fuss, and Almora Amos.' Helen has videos which have been circulated of these bulls walking if any other breeders would like to see them. As we all know it is important to introduce new bloodlines for our breed to expand further. If anybody is interested, we could reduce costs if a group of breeders got together to import some straws. The cost per straw is \$30.00 AUD. TLGV or Total livestock Genetics Victoria is responsible for collection and distribution.

International freight allow \$800 - \$1200 AUD. Nitrogen; \$5/litre AUD. Government costs start at \$500 AUD for small shipments. Tank; Depends if you have a tank available or not. To buy a tank starts at \$1600 AUD. TLG personnel, \$1000AUD.

For further information for pricing from TLGV, please contact Penny Welch at <mailto:export@tlg.com.au>

Brittany is in the process of finalising orders so if there was interest from NZ she needs to know shortly.

Finally, I wish you all a very Merry Xmas and happy farming for 2023.

Kind regards,
Ian Fleming



SECRETARY'S SAY

Hello Everyone,

Another year is almost over and hopefully your calving has gone well and we can look forward to the registrations coming in.

A reminder that even if you are not registering any progeny, could you please return your herd lists so I can keep the record of cattle in NZ up to date and accurate.

It was sad to see the passing of Stephen Prescott, whom some of us met during the World Congress Tour in Britain in 2011. He was a very generous host and willingly shared his knowledge of our breed.

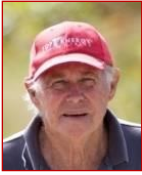
Good to see that the breed was represented successfully at the Canterbury Show. Unfortunately, fewer shows seem to offer cattle classes what with covid in humans and cattle diseases such as mycoplasma bovis and theileria, about.

We went the Hawkes Bay Show in October and there were no live classes for cattle, only virtual classes, which may be the way of the future.

I trust you have a good Christmas and will be ready for the next year and whatever this government will throw at us, to further frustrate the farming industry, and increase our compliance costs.

Warwick Potts
Registrar/Secretary/Treasurer

☎ 06 372 7842
redpollassociationnz@gmail.com



PATRON'S PAGE

Well Christmas is nearly upon us once again which in many ways is a marker for year end. In farming there is really no such end as we are bound by cycles and the constant recycling of the seasons.

It seems that in the last twelve months those seasons have behaved beyond our expectations. For those of us in the very Far North we have noticed that winter was marked with mild temperatures, (not one frost), associated with almost constant rain.

On our farm we had seven floods which sorely tested our ability to manage pasture. Pugging was serious resulting in a large loss of established pasture plus floods introducing free, gratis and for nothing upstream weeds. Our usual spring fertilizer programme has been largely disrupted and we have had to resort to spreading liquid fert using a quad bike as anything heavier would have been impractical. Calving in those conditions has been very stressful and stock losses have been distressing.

Still, as I write this in mid-November, it seems that things are coming right, except that the terrible winter has resulted in the lowest conception rates in our fifty years on this farm. This has been particularly the case with our older cows. On the bright side all stock have picked up well in the last six weeks and our calves are looking bonny with the first 18 due to be weaned and already spoken for.

The future of pastoral farming in New Zealand and Australia is facing major challenges with climate change and unprecedented precipitation. Along with that goes pressure to reduce herd sizes and thus challenge the capacity of many operations to stay financially viable.

It certainly is an uncertain future.

Still, Christmas is just around the corner and will hopefully lighten the mood for us all.

Robin L. Shepherd QSO

OBITUARY: Stephen Prescott, Woldsman Stud, UK

(forwarded to me, by UK Secretary, Ray Bowler)

The name of Stephen Prescott will be forever associated with the name of Woldsman not purely for his wonderful books on agriculture "A Woldsman's Diary" but perhaps even more so because of his truly outstanding herd of Red Poll cattle established in 1953 and given the herd prefix "Woldsman".

Photo of Stephen taken on 2011 Congress Tour of UK by Warwick Potts



The early cattle were milked and won many prizes at the major national dairy shows in both England & Scotland. When the herd

stopped milking at the same time as many others with changing government policies, Stephen was firmly convinced of the great attributes of Red Polls as dual-purpose cattle and seamlessly converted them to rearing outstanding cattle for beef production. The herd continued to win many prizes in this role at the major agricultural shows including, Smithfield, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk & Suffolk.

Stephen served on the National Council of the Red Poll Cattle Society continuously from 1960 until the present day with several terms as Chairman and President. He and his late wife Yvonne travelled the globe attending the World Red Poll Congress's which are held every 4 years. Places attended included Australia, New Zealand, America, both North & South, South Africa and the West Indies. He was regarded as one of the world's leading authorities on Red Poll cattle. He had judged at all the major UK shows but also at many overseas shows as well.

There are many herds of Red Polls throughout the British Isles which were formed from purchases from the Woldsman herd, with the vast majority of herds, also having some Woldsman genetics in them, now the oldest established herd in the country which is now left in the capable hands of his son & grandson. During the worst of times for the breed during the 1980's Stephen never wavered in his commitment to the breed and continued constantly to seek

genetic improvement in his cattle. He not only took a 50% share in importing the bull Pinpur Intercontinental from America but introduced Soal Adjutant into his breeding programme which produced great females and many outstanding bulls like Woldsman Adam, General and Ceasar whose bold lines continue to be found in many of the current day herds. Woldsman Adam had much success in the show ring, he was a superb bull with outstanding conformation with a terrific temperament. He showed longevity by continuing to mate cows well into his 15th year. The Red Poll breed was lucky to have a manlike Stephen who not only bred good cattle but was also prepared to spend many hours talking to potential new members. He was very successful in convincing them how good the breed was. I remember leaving his farm, those many years ago, totally fired with enthusiasm and commitment for the breed which continues to this day.

*Tony Barratt
Appleton Stud, UK*

Athbey Vance, the fastest growth bull of all bulls born spring 2020; used over our heifers 2021, with those calves now on the ground. He will be used over the mixed age cows this season.



ATHBEY HERD REPORT

Greetings all,

One can only describe the last 8 months as the most demanding life could ever get. Going through the autumn and into the winter, cattle processing space was near impossible to procure. Went 9 weeks without being given any space, so to divert a feed disaster we had to unload prime cattle into the sale yards with a loss of around \$300 a head, compared to being able to process them. So much for 32 years of 100% loyalty to our processor meaning nothing to a new agent.

We mated our Red Poll cows for 2 cycles this last season instead of the normal three, with the idea it would condense the calving and improve the fertility of the herd long term. This resulted in a few empties not normal for our herd, but on the plus side they made good money on the hooks and the remaining cows have delivered all live calves unassisted. We did lose 2 RP cows post calving, successfully mothering their calves onto a dairy cow of our share farming son.

As we write this, early November grass growth is painfully slow resulting in no summer crops sown or silage or hay paddocks put aside at this stage. The extremely wet winter/spring has given us many pugged paddocks that could do with some surface TLC. Real ankle breakers they are. During this very wet period the farm had a number of slips with some fences lost, with these now needing reconstruction, something we are getting onto now the ground is drying. Many hours on a chainsaw cutting a new fence line through bush is at our age rather demanding, dare I say it. Who stole our youth?

The normal sales of a few bulls to a dairy farmer and several yearling heifers pre ordered to another RP breeder have taken place. We presently have no more heifers for sale this season but have a number of spare yearling bulls. These will be promoted to the dairy industry next season as 2-year-olds if still available.

Over recent years we have traded many hundreds of cattle, consisting of many different breeds, but remain very satisfied with the consistent performance of the Red Poll breed.

*Kind regards to you all
Athol & Betty Sowry*

PS. Always a warm welcome if you would like to call in and inspect the Red Polls.

STONEY ACRES HERD REPORT December2022

Hi fellow Red Poll breeders,

I am sitting in the sun reflecting back on what was quite a mild winter. Just enough sun and rain to grow a big crop of kale and swede mix which the girls really enjoyed. Once they worked out how to get at the swedes, which I assisted by digging some out and cutting in half, they found all of them in the paddock.

Overall, a great alternative to feeding out large amounts of baleage. They calved on a day/night mix of grass and crop which I felt helped their welfare and stress levels. Happy cows mean less stress for me too. The calving was easy, no assists necessary but unfortunately lost a calf and a cow. The tally was 12 bulls and 10 heifer purebred Red Poll calves and some other colour ones.

Ash, my prized Rosemarkie-bred bull, has moved down south to Strathwell Stud and is currently enjoying some southern hospitality. He went on the truck by himself, and the truck driver couldn't believe how tame and quiet he was... a real gentleman.

I do miss him, but to keep up the diversity of the breed we now have Gravel Pit Tonka on lease from Rosemarkie. Another placid bull who likes to talk to the neighbour's bulls across the road. So far, the neighbours are tolerating it. You'd think he would have lots to do seeing as how he is currently wooing 26 girls.

In the past few months, I have taken on 2 extra cows and 5 heifers as I am about to take on some more lease acreage.

An Ash son ➤

The spent kale paddock has now been put into oats with rye for their Christmas dinner. With the expected hot summer coming I have shut baleage and hay paddocks up, with the contractor booked. They are doing well in the herd with the extra feed currently on hand.



Neil Wilton

WHISKEY CREEK REPORT

Hello to all.

Back in February 2022 I purchased 3 in calf Red Poll heifers off Athbey Farm. After one of the wettest winters, I was thankful all heifers had live calves. Echo was first to calve, with a heifer that we named Easy, then Rihanna and Wanda both had bull calves. I decided to steer both bull calves with this being my first year.

We have just purchased 2 more heifers, Vanilla and Cindy. We also got a bull at the same time, that we are leasing at this stage. We may buy Quartz, will see how it goes. They are also from Athbey Farm.

Bye for now,
Priscilla Mudgway

Below, the newly purchased heifers and lease bull



ROSEMARKIE REPORT

Winter was quite wet here but not too cold with the grass quietly growing much of the time. We have had several lots of good rain and now getting showers and sunshine which does tend to encourage the odd sheep to get fly. We are waiting to get some older shelter trees removed behind the house and soon it will be time to shear the ewes.

We took a few Shropshire and Ryeland sheep to Manawatu, Hastings and Wairarapa shows just to show the flag. Always good to catch up with other breeders.

Eventually we got the two older bulls into the works – sad really, as they were both lovely-natured chaps. I did ask around our neighbours, but one who might have been interested, had recently bought 2 big bulls from a local station that is going into pine trees.

We finally had our last calf – drowned in the creek unfortunately – not sure what happened there. Had 8 (inc. the one drowned) bull calves and 12 heifers, one of which we lost with a breech birth. Her mother (3yr old) is now in our freezer. Have three dry cull cows for the works and three more to go after weaning.

Have reverted to steering most of the bull calves with only 2 kept entire. The dairy farmer who was previously buying our bulls could not take them in the autumn. There is always a market for a good steer.

We have just sold a yearling heifer to a commercial buyer and still have 11 yearlings of which we plan to keep about 6. If you know of anyone wanting heifers, please pass on our details. We bought a nice heifer from Neil Wilton.

Six two-year-old heifers have gone into the breeding herd. We don't really want more than 20 - 25 cows overall.

Warwick & I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Regards,
Helen & Warwick

NORTHERN ZAMBIA NEWS

from Charles Harvey, Shiwangandu



This cow has suckled all the orphans this year. Six calves so far.

We have two cows that look after calves for us. The calves are either orphaned or twins of cows that are too old as I'm useless at culling on time!!!

Crocs this year took three cows, but we shot the main one eating them. Rain here now is the first for seven months, so the cattle

have got their heads down.

Coffee has been planted out madly. We grow Arabica gourmet coffee.

Best regards, *Charles*

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

URUGUAY NEWS

Hello Helen, I hope you and your people are well after covid.

Here in Uruguay, we are ending this winter, which has been very cold, and we are waiting for spring to start with enough water, although the forecasts are for a "girl" year [La Niña], dry.

As I told you in my previous email, at the end of August I attended "Expointer 22", the most important livestock fair in Brazil, and I was named an international jury for our beloved Red Poll breed. I share with you some photos. The animals were of very good quality and worthy representatives of the breed.

Attached are some photos of the event. I hope that in the year 2023 I will already have my animals at the annual Prado fair, here in Uruguay.

Finally, before I say goodbye, I would like to offer my condolences for the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, she was a great monarch and a great example of a public servant. R.I.P.

Mario Fernandez





Photos from the "Expointer 22"



HELLO FROM SHADOW CREEK FARM, CANADA

We had a great spring and summer with 70 calves. A good selection from our herd sires as well as three AI sires including 10 calves out of Eurimbla Casanova from Australia. We will keep all ten to see how they develop and then decide how we can use that bloodline in our breeding program.

September saw us weaning the calves and picking which ones we will keep to sell for bulls next spring. The whole summer we were in a drought but still managed to wean bull calves at 305 Kg. average at 200 days while the heifers came in at 264 Kg.

We went and visited a new breeder in Alberta who started with a small group this spring and were able to calve out fifteen. We are so happy for them and it is great to see new faces in the Red Poll family here in Canada.

Dean flew down to the American Red Poll annual meeting in Arkansas in October and while down there went shopping for some future herd sires as the ones that we have are aging out. We are able to breed most of our replacement bulls but it is nice to have clean up bulls that are not related to any of our stock.

While I write this winter has arrived, not much for snow but it is getting cold (minus 31 Celsius one morning). Going out to feed every morning and check on the animals and water supplies. Cows are happy, the bred heifers are in a separate pasture getting special grub and the calves are doing great on feed. Could not ask for more, it is a great life to lead.

All the best from

Marsha and the cows, early July

Marsha and Dean Anderson



STRATHWELL REPORT

After two years off due to covid it was great to get back into the showing of our cattle. This year we have gone to three shows, Ellesmere, Canterbury and Courtenay A & P Shows. We also entered in the Hawkes Bay Virtual Show. Recently at the Courtenay we won the All-Breeds Yearling Heifer Class with Strathwell Cleo. This was pleasing as the second and third placings were awarded to both Angus entries. Cleo also came 2nd at Ellesmere and sixth at the junior Meat & Wool Cup at Canterbury. In this class a Hereford judge, Tom Condon, placed her third in his line-up of first to sixth. During the Courtenay show weekend we received 65mm of rain on the Saturday which made showing interesting.

If the rain is coming from the South-east this will bring up the Selwyn River. So after the show we had to bring up all groups of cattle out of the flood zone. Part and parcel of living next to a river which floods regularly. The rain itself was a timely rain as many people were getting behind with their irrigating. So, I guess we should get ten days off from watering until the norwesters start up again and dry everything out.

I recently contacted Otahuna to see if they would be interested in Red Poll beef for their restaurant. They said yes, however, they only wanted specific cuts of meat not a whole cattle beast. This makes it difficult finding a home for the rest of the carcass. It would be great to have it advertised on the menu - time will tell.

At present Ash is with our herd at Coes Ford and Oscar with our show cattle so hopefully we have a successful mating season.

Merry Xmas To All.

Cheers
Ian & Anita Fleming



Eleanor Fleming enjoys a cuppa at Canterbury show

◀ *Red Polls show the flag at Canterbury*

Strathwell Heather 2yroid & calf, Hank. 5th in the All Breeds 2year old class at Canterbury A&P Show. ▼



SOUTH AFRICA PHOTOS



Kimberley Big Hole



Woodrose cow



Close up with giraffes



Herd sire at Woodrose



The white lion at Bona Bona



Checking out the maize crop

INTERNATIONAL RED POLL CONGRESS

SOUTH AFRICA, March 2020, Part 9

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



Thursday 19th March, 2020

After our early morning wakeup from Judy Evans, we were ready to leave Dursley Manor and Bloemfontein about 8.30am. Next destination Kimberley.

Small hills, scrubby and closer to the road. Further down the road, the veld is on the left with the usual flat-topped hills in the distance. After passing a paddock of mixed coloured young cattle we saw our first paddock of farmed "prickly" pear.

(Editor's note – after doing some research I think this was a non-prickly variety known as cactus pear. The prickly version is a noxious weed unable to be sold or farmed. It was taken to South Africa from Mexico about 200 years ago. Some scientists now believe it to be the plant for the future, perfectly suited to a world faced by climate change and global warming. Old South African recipes include prickly pear mead, prickly pear chutney, prickly pear peel konfynt, prickly pear fruit konfynt and fresh prickly pears on ice. Cactus pear (thornless) is planted by some farmers as an animal fodder for times of drought.)



◀ *Fruit of the cactus pear*

Further along we come to an area known as "corn square". White corn is grown for meal; maize for animal fodder. Also, a large field of sunflowers. We passed storage silos – 18 counted in one block. A newly seeded paddock showed the soil to be a very orange/red colour. Some big irrigation dams but looking to be receding. As we pass a paddock with termite mounds in it, I wonder what happens to them when the mower hits them? Another of sunflowers, all heads facing the sun. These are grown for cooking oil. The road we are travelling on long and straight. Paddock grasses are all flowering. There is water lying in some of the paddocks. Our road is N8 and is quite a busy road. 98kms still to Kimberley. More silos.

Kimberley is near the border of Free State and Northern Cape.

The road becomes a bit rougher with sisal and smaller shrubs and trees alongside in the fields. We pass a good big mob of black-headed Dorper sheep. This breed was developed in South Africa by crossing the Dorset Horn with the Black-headed Persian sheep. They are popular in the drier areas of many countries now, including NZ. As we get nearer to Kimberley, we are up at about 3,385 feet above sea level.

Petrusa gives us a bit of background on Kimberley. It is the main city of Griqualand West. The population is about 225,000. It is made up of Black Africans 63%, Coloured 27%, White 8%. Not sure what the missing 2% is!

The spoken languages are 43% Afrikaans (usually in NW province), 36% Tswana, 9% English and 6% Khosa. Again, not sure what the missing 6% speaks. The diamond mines are now defunct.

Now 20kms to Kimberley and not yet reached the North Cape border. Finally a slight kink in the road.

The road rises slightly, a big group of Springbok on the left. A high fence – perhaps it is a game park? A biggish flat-topped hill (mesa?) on the right. Nick stops the bus so we can take a photo of the North Cape entry sign.



A railway line is now visible.

As we enter Kimberley the informal town is on the right. Sheep grazing on the verge. Now a large scrap metal yard on the right. Better class of area, all the house fences have spikes or electric wires. Lower income neighbourhoods are closer to the mine areas.

We arrive at the Big Hole. Once diamonds were discovered, thousands of prospectors flocked to the area. This hole is the biggest hand-dug excavation in the world. It is so large that it is visible from space. As we enter the premises we sign in and are scanned.

Along one wall of the building is a huge timeline of happenings, both in South Africa, and abroad. New Zealand had two mentions; one of 1893 when women's suffrage was granted and a second time when Lord Ernest Rutherford split the atom. At the souvenir shop quite a few Rands changed hands. Warwick and I bought a small etching on metal of a group of zebras, by a well-known South African artist.



◀ *Old mine equipment at Kimberley*

The Kimberley Mine Museum is a replica of the town in its heyday. Unfortunately, we did not really have time to look around it.

Facts about the Kimberley mine. It was discovered in 1871. Diamonds

produced totalled 14,504,566 carats.

*According to **Wikipedia**, "The Big Hole has a surface of 17 hectares (42 acres) and is 463 metres (1,519ft) wide. It was excavated to a depth of 240 metres (790ft), but then partially infilled with debris reducing its depth to about 215 metres (705ft). Since then, it has accumulated about 40 metres (130ft) of water, leaving 175 metres (574ft) of the hole visible.*

Off to lunch – well, maybe not. We were booked into Campher's Dam, a place with a lake and a lot of flamingos. Unfortunately, the caterer (who had been prepaid!) let Petrusa down and was a no show at the place. We saw lots of flamingos in the distance then went back to town for takeaways. Several of us indulged in a post prandial snooze on our way to our next location –

Wolmaransstad – Bona Bona. We had to arrive there for dinner before 6pm – apparently something to do with the corona virus laws. We passed through some convectional rain – a brief summer shower. The small town of Warrenton. Some interesting clouds – dark grey patches on white. The Vall River is between Gauteng and Free State.

About 3pm we left Northern Cape and headed in Northwest Province. Population 3.5 million – 33 per square km – 90% black African, 7% white, coloured 1.8% approx. The area has extensive cattle grazing. 1805m above sea level.

I had a short snooze and awoke to see springboks and 2 oryx alongside the road in a Game Park we were passing. Then the small town of Christiania – a tidy formal town. Again, a big sky, with big fat clouds just hanging.

Mobs of mixed colour cattle, a substation and a large flock of white birds, egrets perhaps. We came to the small town of Bloemhof situated on the banks of the Vaal River; goats along the railway line, an informal settlement out of town and a rough road – I can hardly read my notes! Several big silos.

Big bulk carrier trucks occasionally – carrying coal? 3 men peeing on the roadside. Jag Kamp Hunting Park, even some horses, including a mare with a foal. The railway on the left is electrified. No hills as far as the eye can see. There is a lake in the distance to our right. A group of magnificent eland, boer goats and some individual trees then more mixed colour cattle. N12 to Wolmaransstad is a 120km per hour road. Crops of sunflowers and maize. Moving on to paddocks of shallow, rolling contour. We travel over a small bridge with Bamboesspruit (a tributary of the Vaal) on the sign.

10km to Wolmaransstad. Low hills again. Largish informal settlements on left and right as we approach. Not a big town. Some of the older settlement shacks have rocks holding their roofs on. Look like woodsheds with washing hanging on lines. Roads in the town are rough, nice smaller houses, lots of people out and about. Had about enough of sitting (numb bum) with still 30km to go to Bona Bona. Quite a few trucks to pull out and pass. Be nice to have a dollar for each one! Country is still gentle rolling but lots of scrub.

Finally, we arrived at Bona Bona Game Lodge. 3km of driveway and a stunning group of golden wildebeest and a few standard colour ones with young. Lots of trees with many weaver birds' nests. The gate sign states Bona Bona Game Lodge: Consulting Engineering; Developments; Game Breeders; Safaris; Ankoli, Angus and Tuli Cattle studs, and Aviation.

It is a four-star Lodge, a justly deserved rating. Wow, what a fabulous place for us kiwis' last night in South Africa. Warwick and I are in Rondavel #13, a thatched roof (thatching visible inside – no lining) double bed and a great shower.



◀ *Rondavel #13*

In the evening I heard a lion roar and a call I thought may have been a monkey, but next morning our driver, Nick, said it was probably a hyena. Pre-dinner drinks were outside on the



deck in the dusk waterbuck pottered nearby and later a rhinoceros came right up below the balcony and quietly grazed.

◀ *Judy and Petrusa contemplating the tranquillity of the lodge before dinner*

Dinner was inside in the restaurant. Warwick had a plate of soup before a huge dish of prawns in the shell, followed with chocolate mousse (but not as we know it). All very nice. I had venison hotpot – very light pastry on the top only. Quite a gamey flavour, an ice cream sundae for afters.

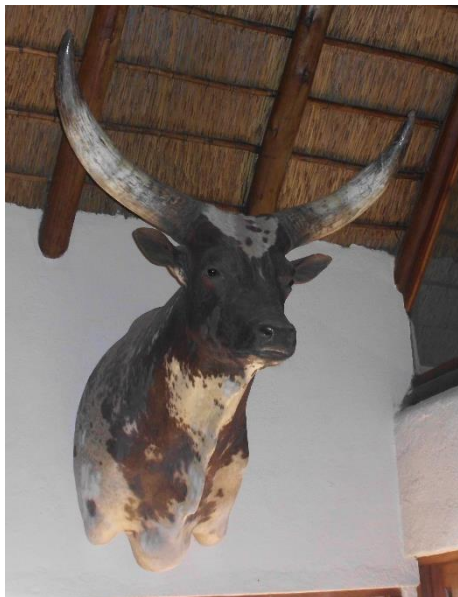


Left foreground: Dan (USA) & Aileen (Aus). Far end of table Pieter (Sth Africa) right rear, Douglas (Aus) then Petrusa (guide, Sth Africa) and Albert (Aus)

Warwick strolled over to the reception building and found several examples of taxidermied game; an elephant head, a white lion in a glass case, an Ankoli cattle beast head and various sets of skulls with antlers from different species.

It got hot overnight – had to remove the quilt. Replaced it with a light locally handcrafted woven blanket – perfect.

Out to load the bus – NZ'ers last on with luggage as will be leaving for Johannesburg after lunch at Woodrose Stud.



◀ Ankoli head with full mount. Note the circumference of the horns. The horns can grow up to 2.4m from tip to tip. They have honeycombs of blood vessels running through them which help with cooling the cattle in hot conditions.

Enjoyed a tasty breakfast before we left, diced potatoes sautéed with onions. Very nice staff. We had a last photo with the group sans Douglas and Catherine (Aus).

Once everyone boarded the bus headed back to Wolmaransstaad. Shops, "Tombo' Tombstones and

rough roads again. Potholes for next 5km, 80km speed limit. Lots of maize and sunflowers.



◀ L -R Graeme & Judy; Warwick & Helen

Road #504 to Schweizer-Reineke. and to Woodrose stud of the Nieuwoudt family: Anzabeth, Pieter-Renier, Grethé-Marie and Anica. (Those who went on the tour to the UK in 2011 would have met Anzabeth and her late husband,

Renier.) Their farm is called Biesieslaagte.

Renier's maternal grandparents set up the herd in 1945. It now runs 100 cows and 50 heifers. Peter-Renier runs the cropping (maize, sunflower, soybean and cotton) while Anzabeth and her daughters run the stud and commercial cattle.

According to the blurb in our tour booklet, “the ideal Woodrose female is wedge-shaped, feminine, and fertile with a deep red colour and smooth coat. She is also a cow that calves easily. Bulls are compact, medium-framed and well-balanced with a strong walking ability. They are fit, muscular with sufficient depth, length and width. Calves are weaned at 7 months with an average weight of 230kg for heifers and 260kg for bulls.”

They maintain 2 breeding seasons, October and January/February. One bull is used for every 30 cows. In the commercial herd the Red Poll bulls are important for breeding polled progeny.

Cattle are selected for adaptability and hardiness with the females vaccinated for various diseases such as lumpy skin disease, Rift Valley fever, three-day stiff sickness, quarter-evil, botulism and anthrax. They are treated for ticks as needed. They slightly understock compared with the district average to prevent overgrazing.

The herd is inspected daily as a countermeasure against stock theft which has risen considerably in South Africa. Predation is not normally a serious problem.



◀ *Anzabeth & some of her cows* **Photo:** Petrusa Marais

Anzabeth and Co were waiting for us on an intersection. Now we go on a very corrugated dirt road (writing hard to read again!). Firstly, we saw the cows – great depth in most of them; a bit bigger and more solid than ours. They had bought

a bull from the Oostermoed Stud who was by a UK bull. Embryos out of UK cows I believe.

Calves are weighed at birth and weaning, then selected on conformation. They stopped milking cows in 2013 – had been for sale and for the workers.

Woodrose cows and calves ▼



◀ *Group admiring the Woodrose cows.*

From there we were taken to see some of the bulls, and then to some of the arable paddocks.

Interestingly Pieter van Wyk told us that if sunflowers are not harvested during the summer, they become dormant with no oil in the seeds. When the rains come, they liven up, the oil comes in and then they can be harvested.

When it was very dry, they were able to graze the neighbour's soybean and maize stubble rather than hand feed. Cattle were also given a protein lick.



◀ *The British-- sired bull, by Fedw Stig? 6yr old. They had had him for one year.*

As we went to look at some of the crops, we saw masses of discarded termite/flying ant wings on the track.

The cotton that they grow was a special drought tolerant strain from Australia. The thorn trees

indicate better, sandy soils.

As we left to go to the house area the road was very corrugated again. Pieter explained they are only graded annually – consequently without the proper camber. In rain the runoff from the fields means the road becomes a waterway. Two neighbours and Anzabeth bought out a neighbouring farm after the farmer failed in the drought. Once all the farmers milked 40 – 200 cows, now no dairy farmers on the road. Once all workers lived on the farm but now some still live on the farm but keep a house in town as well. May go to town on the weekends if not required to work.

Poaching is a problem occasionally – 2 years ago 2 cows and calves were killed and 3 years ago a stud bull was slaughtered. When the moon is full they do random patrols. All white farm managers carry pistols for self, and staff, protection and against wild pests eg Jackals. Other pests are copper snakes and puff adders. Stock do get bitten but depending on the snake some can be saved with anti-toxin. There is more wildlife around with fewer farmers and workers – they used to shoot the rabbits – food which encourages snakes.

Before lunch we had an informative talk by a neighbour of Anzabeth's, who is also a farm consultant. He began with a general rundown on agriculture in South Africa.

He spoke of the challenges now faced by farmers in South Africa: increasing climate instability; rising input costs; deterioration of infrastructure and high transport cost; political uncertainty – land redistribution expropriation without compensation; image of farmers and agricultural sector; fewer but larger commercial farmers and more subsistence farmers; crime and corruption; labour productivity low, also labour unrest and industrial action; lastly, insufficient research and development and extension services.

His family company, Locklore Boerdery (Pty) Ltd is a 4th & 5th generation business consisting of livestock and cropping. They run a 1,000 cow Santa Gertrudis herd on 2,500ha natural pasture and 750 ha planted pasture. Crops are 4,000ha of rain fed maize, soybean and cotton. The region is semi-arid – rain between 270 – 850mm annually. Large variability in soil types – affects soil fertility, depth, water holding capacity and yield in the paddock.

Lunch is in one of the large farm buildings where two vast tables are set up one with dishes of food and utensils and the other with place settings ready to go. A lamb roasts on the spit BBQ. A most enjoyable feast with wonderful company.



◀ *Lamb on the spit at Woodrose*

Photos: Petrusa Marais

▼ *Nothing left on anyone's plates!*



To be continued....

A Bit of History (from the UK Red Poll Journal - mid 1930's)
"REMARKABLE FOR MILK YIELDING AS WELL AS FATTENING"
WARWICKSHIRE LADY'S FINE HERD

In a series of descriptive articles on "successful women farmers" that have been appearing in the "Farmer and Stockbreeder," an account was given of the Hatton herd of Red Polls belonging to Mrs Arkwright, of Hatton House, Warwick. This herd has been in existence over 36 years, and it at once can be said that no herd in the breed more faithfully portrays the typical Red Poll. The Hatton Red Polls exemplify to a most remarkable degree the dual purpose properties of the breed. The almost perfect manner in which milk and beef is blended could not be better illustrated than in the cattle comprising this herd, and in those that have left it, either to go into the Royal herd at Sandringham, into other leading herds in Great Britain, or overseas countries, including Australia, where the Hatton prefix still figures prominently in the progeny of stock that have achieved show and other successes.

The Hatton Red Polls combine remarkably good milk yields at advancing ages, and twelve and fourteen year old cows, not to mention older matrons in the herd, have continuously maintained 1,000 gallon and even higher yields, while at the same time breeding stock that has been converted into the best quality beef to make the highest prices. This herd, since the much lamented death of the founder, the late Mr J.P. Arkwright, has been carried on by Mrs Arkwright with equal success, and the accompanying illustration of those deep bodied, short legged, white- [sic] nosed, level backed cows, with excellent set on of tail, afford striking testimony to the admirable examples of Red Polls bred at Hatton House, which, as already indicated, have left their mark where they have gone.

Red Polls Take a High Place

The "Farmer and Stockbreeder's" critical expert, who visited the Hatton herd, had some very extremely interesting things to say about these cattle, which opened with this forward: - Among the cattle breeds of Great Britain remarkable for milk yield as well as for fattening, Red Polls take a high place. They are particularly pleasing to the eye, and they seem to fit into any environment. Both these points were vividly brought to my mind as I walked down the pastures at Little Nunhold, where Mrs Arkwright's Hatton Herd of Red Polls were grazing."

Like Peas in a Pod

"A long line of mangolds had been distributed, and as the cattle formed up one could not help being struck by their absolute uniformity. It would be difficult indeed to pick out one cow as being better than another, in shape, framework, or even size, for they were literally as much alike as are peas in a pod!

"Not one speckled nose, or white splash either on udder or underbody; not one but had a nice fine head, level back with well-set on tail, deep body, and square long quarters. They were all clipped, with shortened tails, which of course, does away with the 'silver tip': these were all slender and fine, a fairly certain indication of a good milking animal.

Forty Cows with good Udders

I may say I looked in vain for a poor udder, almost every cow having a substantial bag, running well forward and coming down well between the hind legs. It is rare to find a herd of forty milking cows without one badly hung milking vessel, but the back view of these cows was as satisfactory and attractive as the whole picture they presented.

The Herd Sires

"This herd was founded by the late Mr J.P. Arkwright in 1900 on purchases from the Honingham herd belonging to Sir A Fellowes, Mr Garrett Taylor, and the Easton herd. Only the best lines have been used in the building up, notably the Basildon, Sudbourne and Brightwell sires.

1,000 Gallons, with First Calf

"Brightwell Sevenhills is the sire of many nice young cows to be admired for their type and quality. Two that I singled out were Hatton Petunia, who had given 1,000 gallons with her first calf, and her daughter, Hatton Penelope.

"Lichfield Gauntlet, a son of the four times Royal champion, was also responsible for some good females. One of the most noted cows bred at Hatton was Hatton Fable; she was the dam of four bulls that were great prize winners, namely, Hatton Fabian, H. Fabulist (a champion at the Royal Show), H. Fabric, and H. Faber. The last-named went into the Royal herd at Sandringham, where he has proved a most successful sire.

“The bulls at present heading the Hatton herd are Hatton Finance, a son of Hatton Famous (who deserves her name, for she was never beaten), and Henham Romulus, recently purchased from Lord Stradbroke’s herd.”

Mrs J. P. Arkwright’s Hatton (Warwickshire) herd

Photo: Farmer & Stockbreeder



Red Poll Society (UK)

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

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



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 2023 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]

OUT OF THE ASHES The Flannel Flower *Actinotus Superbus*

Murray Williams, Yongerellen Red Polls, WA

Natural disasters leave their scars that may take more than a generation to repair, but have you ever considered that it may take generations for nature to reveal its uniqueness and true beauty to us? Such is the case with the flannel flower which only occurs after a bush fire. Without fire the seed remains dormant in the ground for possibly hundreds of years.

In the early stages of our farm development the native vegetation was bulldozed in winter and then burnt in January or February of the following year. I recall seeing some of the flannel flowers in the spring in areas that had not been sown to crop. Not lots, but they were special for their form, pure white colour and the uniqueness that they did not occur again.

One of the few joys that have come from having property burnt in the February 2022 bush fires has been to see these flowers on show again. While most have been scattered individual plants, I did find one particular area that presented a superb, pun intended, (check the name) display. I have no idea when a fire may have previously occurred in that patch of bush but certainly not for over 70 years. I became conscious that I was enjoying something that was both beautiful and rare and that I needed to share.

Only known to me by the common name of flannel flower Corrigin's resident wildflower guru, Robin Campbell, provided the botanical name and the search for more information took me past Mr GOOGLE's limited information back to two old books on wildflowers edited by CA Gardner. Mr Gardner was Government Botanist and the Curator of the State Herbarium from 1927 to 1961. That was a period of much wildflower discovery and a period when the development of farming land would have provided many more occasions for the plant's observation.

A member of the carrot family, Mr Gardner states. 'The species of the flannel flower are handsome herbaceous plants, one of which, *Actinotus Superbus* only occurs after bushfires and then only for two or three years or possibly not to recur at all.' I contacted Sue McDougall the Director of the West Australian Botanic Garden in Kings Park to suggest this might be an opportunity to observe and collect seed and a group from there accepted the offer for both that and to observe other responses by nature to the bush fire. The Kings Park team will work on the trigger of breaking dormancy and while in the initial stages no one even knew what the seed looked like, or how much there would be, as the flowers have matured and dried there appears to be plenty of seed and of a manageable size. In time we may be able to share this unique plant with the wider community as a garden species. It would make a superb cut flower.



◀ Joy Broughton's (UK) oldest cow "Nobodys Orange Breeze". She is now 12 and has her 11th calf at foot.

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.

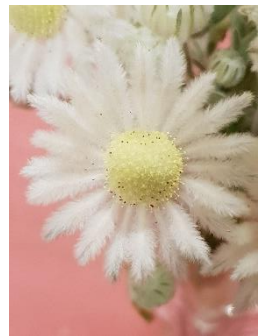
Order from the Secretary, Warwick Potts, who will supply an invoice and the badge.



See Murray Williams' article

◀ *Flannel flower, a single plant*

The 'flower' is actually an umbel of tiny flowers surrounded by feather like bracts ➤



Photos Back Cover

Top: Heifers and their calves at Whiskey Creek stud

Bottom: Strathwell Cleo. Supreme of Breed, Canterbury A&P Show.

