

## **Executive Officer's Report**

***Welcome to the 2022 June edition of the Red Poll Newsletter.***

The positive seasonal conditions we continue to experience across most parts of Australia have supported a rebuild of the nations cattle herds including Red Poll. Low herd and slaughter levels are driving high prices and this hopefully translates to higher sales and prices for stud stock. The excessive rainfall in parts of NSW and VIC is another story, and my sympathies to members now experiencing the effects of too much of a good thing ... rain.

The return of shows and events have been welcomed by Red Poll breeders and provided much needed interaction for the sharing of stories and finding common grounds as breeders showcase their animals.

COVID continues to affect people in the country along with the flu and other cold related ailments. ABRI recently had quite a number of staff laid low but thankfully no serious cases.

Attached to this newsletter is an article on the myostatin gene in Red Poll cattle. (thank you to Alan Couch for his investigating this issue). The myostatin gene influences the production of a protein that controls the development of muscle in cattle causing what is commonly referred to as 'double muscling'. Genetic testing is available if members are concerned about the gene and implications for their herd.

Keryn

## **Northern NSW/QLD Region**

### ***Farm Fest 2022***

This year's Kookabookra, Red Rush and Lagoona attended with cattle along with multiple other NNSW/QLD members.

The Red Poll site was very popular this year and had a really good flow of people each day.

A few standout moments were a Red Poll Bull was sold on site each day. Congratulations to the vendors and we wish each new Breeder all the best with there new Stud Red Poll Bulls.

On Tuesday night members who attended headed out to the Toowoomba Hockey Club to meet up with the Southern QLD Red Poll Membership for a lovely dinner was had and some great networking .

Thank You to everyone for attending and thank you to everyone who help out over the 4days.

It really was the best Farm Fest we have attended yet with nice weather to top the week off.

Tim Light

***Northern NSW/QLD On Farm Challenge***

On the 20th & 21st of May 2022 the NNSW/QLD region hosted the On Farm Challenge 22.

This year our judge was Mr Ian Vivus from Eaglehawk Angus at Glen Innes NSW.

The competition was run over 2 huge days 90 head of cattle judged with over 13 property stops from 8 Red Poll breeders. And 1570 Kms travelled.

**Champion Stud Female: Lagoona Montana Miss**

**Champion Stud Bull: Red Rush Prince Louis**

**Reserve Champion Stud Bull: Omega 3 Sunil**

**Champion Individual Heifer: Skyview #80**

**Commercial Female: Kookabookra**

**Red Poll Infused Pen of 3: Glen Alpine Partnership**

## Champion Stud Female

**Lagoona Montana Miss – Lagoona Red Poll Stud.**



## Champion Stud Bull

**Red Rush Prince Louis – Kim Usher, Red Rush.**



## New South Wales Region

### *2022 Sydney Royal Competition Winners*

Judge: Hannah Powe, Goondoola Livestock, Cargo

<b>Junior Champion Female:</b>	Nick & Prue Lee	Omega 3 Grace
<b>Reserve Junior Champion Female:</b>	S Storm & Sons	Stormley Velvet
<b>Senior Champion Female:</b>	Prof. Kim Usher	Wilanstie Albury
<b>Reserve Senior Champion Female:</b>	S Storm & Sons	Stormley Tilly
<b>Grand Champion Female:</b>	Prof. Kim Usher	Wilanstie Albury
<b>Junior Champion Bull:</b>	Nick & Prue Lee	Omega Sunil
<b>Reserve Junior Champion Bull:</b>	Lagoona Red Poll	Lagoona Phoenix
<b>Senior Champion Red Poll Bull:</b>	Prof. Kim Usher	Red Rush Prince Louis
<b>Reserve Senior Champion Bull:</b>	Ross Draper	Red Cactus Otta
<b>Grand Champion Bull:</b>	Nick & Prue Lee	Omega Sunil
<b>Best Exhibit</b>	K Usher	Red Rush Prince Louis

### *Sydney Royal 2022: Red Rush Prince Louis best exhibit*



Judge Hannah Powe, Goondoola Livestock, Cargo, Peter McNamara, Hobbs Livestock, Molong, Prudence Lee, Quirindi, with Nicola Cowlshaw, and Archie Pursell, Bigga.





Ian Coghlan, Eurimbla Red Poll Stud, Gerogery presenting the sash alongside Sam Graham & Will Starr, Red Rush Stud and judge Hannah Powe.

*Grande Champion Female:*

***WILANSTIE ALBURY***

Peter McNamara, Hobbs Lkivestock, Molong with Tim Light, Lagoona Rewd Poll, Armidale, judge Hannah Powe and owner Prue Lee, Omega 3 Red Poll, Quirindi..



*Grande Champion Bull:*

***OMEGA 3 SUNIL***



Judge Hannah Powe, Peter McNamara and Garrick Mulcahy, Babana Red Polls, Curregong.

*Junior Champion Female:*

***OMEGA 3 GRACIE***



## Sydney Show Handlers Competition

*Congratulations to Brittany Abbott who was runner up in the Handlers competition at the Sydney Royal and another junior member, Sam Graham from Guyra, who also qualified for Sydney Royal handler event*



The Red Rush Team at the Sydney Royal  
Junior members L-R Sam Graham from Guyra, Mitch Northam from Armidale and Will Starr from Arding.



## NNSW/QLD Region

### Red Polls on the Mid North Coast

#### *Bellingen Show 2022*

After it was announced that the cattle program for the 2022 Bellingen Show would be cancelled, the school sought approval from the show society for our Red Poll Cattle Show Team to run their very own junior judging and parading competition. This meant the students didn't miss out on the opportunity, and to display their skills and hard work to the Bellingen community.

The Show Team prepared and paraded a total of 15 cattle, including 5 Red Poll cows and 10 Red Poll calves. The team worked very hard to ensure the calves were ready in the weeks leading up to the show. Having not paraded before, they were hand fed and brushed every morning and afternoon from day 1, Term 2.

The chief steward coordinated the first junior judging and parading competition after all cattle were washed on Friday morning. Year 12 student Chelsea Nolan supported as Chief Judge and demonstrated an excellent example for newer members of the team. After events were finished, all animals were fed and watered before students headed home for a rest prior to the main show day on Saturday. Mr Fox remained behind and minded the cattle overnight at the showground.

Saturday again saw the cattle program continue. The day focussed more on cattle judging rather than parading, with ribbons awarded for a range of breed classes as well as Supreme Beef Exhibit, Champion Heifer and Champion Steer. As the rain closed in, parading was shifted from the ring to the dairy shed, so that the opportunity was not missed for parents, friends, and members of the community to see the hard work put in by the team.

Lastly, a massive thank you to those who made this event possible. A special thank you to show President Gillian Anderson and the hard-working committee, and the many volunteers working hard in the background, for allowing Bellingen High School to utilise the facilities and show our Red Poll cattle at the 2022 Bellingen Show.

We cannot wait for the 2023 Bellingen Show!

Stephen Boyd  
Bellingen High School



## Western Australia



**Yongerellen stud principal Murray Williams and Mr Oliver McLeary survey the damage to the property after the fire.**

**Courtesy: ABC Rural: Richard Hudson**

### Young farm manager praised for moving 100 cattle to safety during Corrigin bushfire

**By Richard Hudson and Bridget Herrmann—ABC Rural**

An 18-year-old farm manager is being praised for single-handedly saving an entire cattle stud threatened by a bushfire in the Wheatbelt.

#### **Key points:**

- Oliver McLeary saved 100 cattle from a raging bushfire
- His house burnt down while he was moving the animals

Fires raced through the Yongerellen Red Poll Stud between Corrigin and Quairading on February 6 destroying a home and three sheds in its path. The fire was one of a number within the Corrigin complex that burnt a collective 45,058 hectares and destroyed four homes. Oliver McLeary was alone at the stud when the fire first hit a neighbour's place. Mr McLeary said the fire changed direction, suddenly putting the farm's 100 breeding cattle in danger.

"There were a few around the house that were straight in line with the fire front, and I got them out of the way," he said. "There was a bit of work involved with that, just from all the smoke created from the fire and the stock weren't really happy moving with all the smoke."

He said he had to move them as quickly as possible.

"Just knowing how fast that fire was moving, I didn't really want to stay around, especially with it heading straight towards the cattle," Mr McLeary said. "I just tried to keep pushing as much as possible but there was a point where I had to leave and let them be."

Mr McLeary moved several mobs of cattle and all of them survived. Despite the ordeal, he said he was prepared and had not felt scared. He said fire preparation earlier in the day helped him keep calm.

"You can't really move stock [by] sort of pushing them around," he said. "You've just got to move them calmly."

While the cattle were saved, Mr McLeary's house, which he had only moved into a month ago, was burnt to the ground. "The house is a bit flat, it's seen better days," he said. "Just fully finished moving in, buying all the furniture, had all the tools and clothes and all that. "I've still got my ute ... and have got a few clothes."



## Western Australia



Damage on the property caused by fire.(

*Courtesy: ABC Rural: Richard Hudson*

Cont'd

### **Valuable' experience for a young farm manager**

Stud owner Murray Williams was in York recovering from knee surgery when the fire hit.

It burnt 50 per cent of his 2,000-hectare property and razed several sheds including three containing machinery.

He said the stud cattle had been carefully bred and Mr McLeary had done an incredible job keeping them safe.

"He is an outstanding young man," he said.

"He just obviously kept his cool, did what he had to do and got his priorities right.

"He looked after livestock first, got them into the clear and unfortunately lost his own place in the process.

"Human life is your first priority in any incident and then animal welfare, and he certainly got that animal welfare sorted."

Mr Williams said there would be some valuable learning opportunities for the young farm manager ahead, as he dealt with the aftermath.

"That experience of coming through a fire and learning things and insurance ... rebuilding, soil management and





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