

RED POLL

BEEF CATTLE



**Red Poll Annual
2024**

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2023 Red Poll Presidents Report

“Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time. What we really want is for things to remain the same but get better” Quote stolen from the internet somewhere, however I feel it is applicable for the Red Poll breed at the present time.

2023 has seen a major change in the administration of our breed with Red Polls making a move to Genetic Hub, based at Wagga, after many years of service from ABRI. I would like to thank our previous secretary, Keryn Hutton for her work with Red Polls over some 14 years. I would like to thank all members of our National Executive who have volunteered many hours of their time to work through the recent changes and continue to oversee the management of Red Polls. The new Herd Logic registry is up and running, yes there will be teething problems and the pain of getting used to a new system, but in the long run I see it as being a benefit to the breed. Welcome to our new ‘secretariat’ Kate Brabin, we look forward to working with yourself and your team at Genetic Hub.

The performance data, through Herd Logic is beginning to be populated with data and new entries from Red Poll Breeders, it is encouraging to see some herds that had never previously entered herd data using the new system. Changes and improvements will continue to be made and I thank James Cullis for his assistance in this area.

They say twelve months is a long time in politics, the same could be said for the beef cattle industry. Red Poll breeders were enjoying some of the best returns ever a year ago, now not so much. Combined with a return to dry conditions in most areas, sees a tough time at present for beef producers. The resilience of Red Polls however, shines through as we move forward.



Congratulations to the Red Poll Youth Camp committee on another great event, such an effective way of promoting Red Polls to the junior cattle breeders. To all exhibitors at shows, field days, student education days and expos across Australia, well done on the time and effort required to keep Red Polls in the beef spotlight. Carcase successes continued as they always have with Red Polls over the past year.

I look forward to 2024, developing relationships with the new administration team and working with the National Exec team to advance Red Polls into the future.

Looking forward to seeing some of you in New Zealand in 2024!

Peter Wilson
President ARPBCBI



RED POLL

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2024: A RED letter year for Red Polls Australia

I am optimistic about Red Poll Cattle in Australia in 2024 and beyond. There is much to look forward to.

Firstly, but not in Australia, 2024 is an International Red Poll Congress year and there will be a meeting and tour in April in New Zealand which gives us a prime opportunity to participate given travel to NZ is more like domestic travel rather than long distance international travel. Please have a look on the Redpoll.au website for details and support our NZ colleagues, while taking the opportunity to meet Red Poll Breeders from around the world. These opportunities open up marketing possibilities too, and we have seen our ARPCBI breeders export semen based on contacts made through the international Red Poll community.

Secondly, our continually improving and very cost effective performance data recording will, if it keeps growing, soon provide the animal and carcass evidence we need to ensure the market knows how good Red Polls are for their beef production enterprises. Furthermore, as our data recording is aligned more than ever with the market specifications we will know directly if our animals are heading towards excellence more quickly and more accurately than ever before.

Thirdly, our administrative methods will soon converge on the one-stop-shop for all your needs. Everything from pedigrees, membership payments and details updating, performance recording, structural assessment will be done in one place. No longer will there be endless email trails to get stuff entered or following up as to why something is wrong. In 95% of cases members will be able to ensure the accuracy of their own herd's data. Some things will need to be centrally maintained by our friends at Genetic Hub, Diversity Arrays and HerdLogic to ensure we meet the legal requirements for certification - genetic results for example. In the 3 months since adopting the new system, 11 studs have contributed performance data to the registry, up from 4 studs in the 12 months prior. In 2024 this one-stop-shop will be available via your hand held devices too, so for those members who like to refer to their pedigree and data in the yards or paddock - they will be able to do so. Better still, photos, weights and the other data points can be entered directly into the app at the time significantly reducing the opportunity for transcribing errors. This bodes very well for the future of accurate performance recording in Red Polls.

Fourthly, Genomic sample submission will be a simpler matter - check the box against your animal, pay and send the tissue samples to the address provided - your results will be returned directly into the database. These results will be neat, understandable and supported with details about the trait, rather than a messy spreadsheet requiring interpretation and transcribing. While the time-to-return of the results from the lab will vary (runs will be done only when sufficient number of samples are received by the lab) the cost effectiveness of this approach is vastly better than in the past. Not only will you get parent verification and multiple trait results per sample, the advanced analytics will eventually be able to provide solid genetic advice to breeders regarding optimal breeding practices and matings. This already happens for many other species, but Red Poll will be the first using this technology with cattle. It has the potential to be a game-changer for the beef industry.

Alan Couch

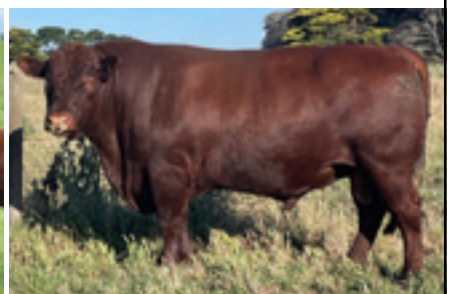
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RED POLL

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Turanga
RED POLL STUD Est. 1985

Red Polls and Calving Ease

Red Polls and calving ease is perhaps taken for granted. So now it is time to revisit the data on this matter. Although Red Poll cattle have enjoyed a good reputation for calving over many decades we need to consider if that reputation is still warranted, or perhaps we have selectively bred for other growth traits and inadvertently reduced calving ease.

As always, we must start with the hard evidence which can be thought of as follows:

- 1. Experimental data
- 2. Breed Records data

The first of these is the gold standard when it comes to evidence, but it is expensive, hard to find and often very dated. Nevertheless, it is a good place to begin the examination of our question. The second takes time to accumulate and can be less accurate than the gold standard. Despite this, it is a good (and becoming excellent) resource for selecting animals for your breeding program.

Anecdotal claims may be considered, but must be treated with caution because they are often heavily influenced by other factors. For example the fact that cross breeders are using fewer Red Polls these days is likely to be a result of marketing influence, rather than an indicator that commercial enterprises find Red Poll calving less satisfactory than it used to be. Similarly, but in the opposite direction breeders comments about their own animals are often biased towards the good calving of their animals rather than the poor performers.

This experimental data used below in figure 1 is from University of Missouri. It is a well designed study but currency and geographic selection mean it may not be 100% applicable to Red Polls in Australia today. It is a great place to start our consideration though. We will consider it in conjunction with breed record data.

Difficulty Calving in Hereford and Angus dams when sired by various breeds.

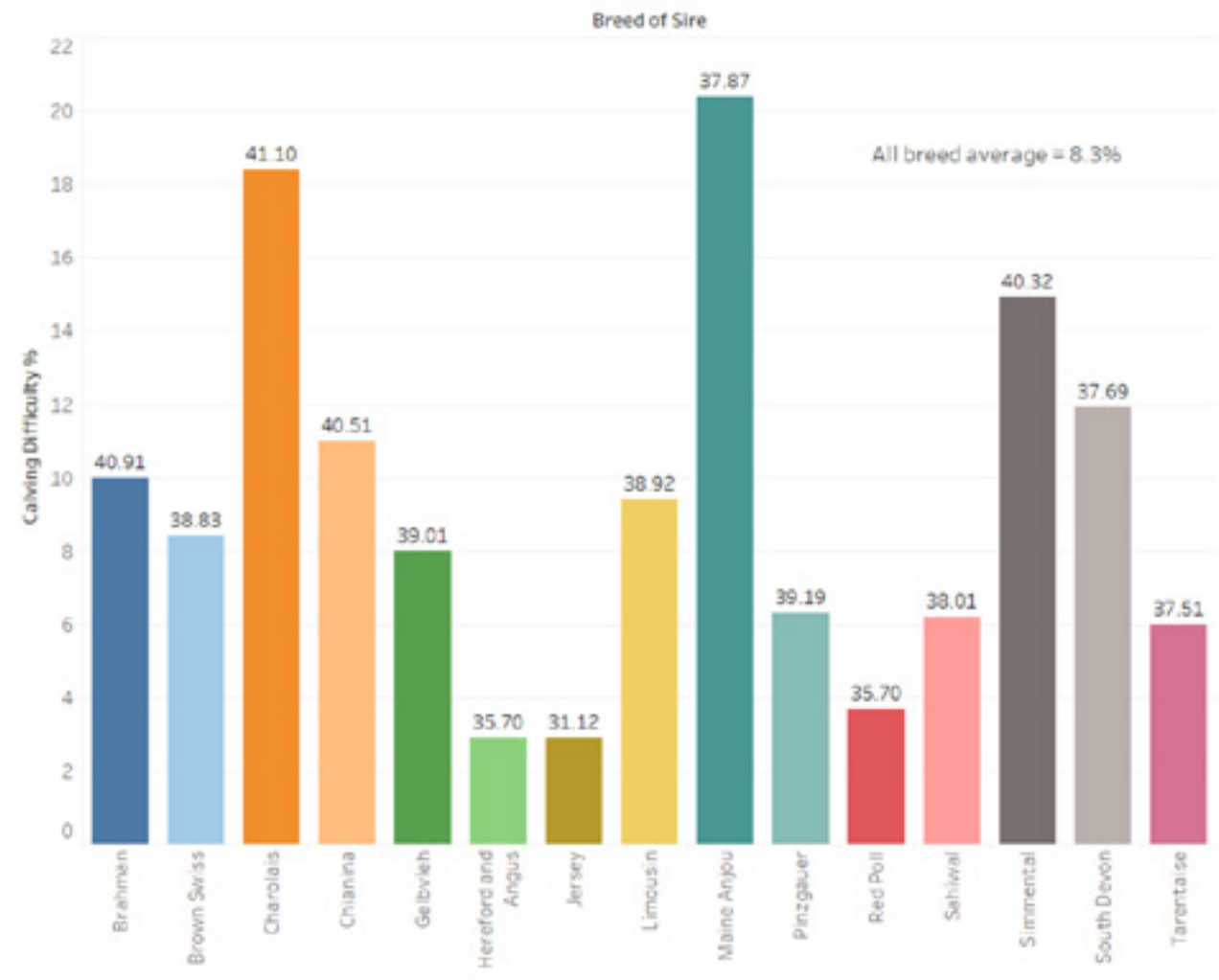


Figure 1: shows excellent performance of Red Poll sires. Note this is American data, and is dated. Its applicability to the modern herd in Australia needs to be considered carefully. The numbers above the columns are mean birth weights.

The breed data we have available today is from the ARPCBI Herdlogic database . Most of that data has been submitted by breeders and recently migrated from the Breedplan database. This tells us that the mean Red Poll breed calving ease in Australia is 1.94% (see Figure 2) and average calving weight is 38.84kg. This data is more up-to-date, but we need to carefully consider why it may not be a completely accurate representation of the truth. The problems include:

- *Selective entry by breeders (omitting worse performing animals data)*
- *Input from a only small number of breeders (pedigree bias)*
- *Statistical validity because of small numbers (small sample size)*

The first and second points are likely to have the most impact. Unfortunately human nature makes us likely to skew data sets in line with our own wishes. Ironically, this is a counter-productive thing to do for the breed as a whole, and for the breeder themselves. We should be relentlessly chasing the truth so we (and buyers) can select the best animals based on the performance data, rather than what we would wish to be the case.

Maybe you are asking yourself what evidence the author has for making the claim that the 1.94% is too low to reflect the truth? The first thing to notice in figure 1 is that no breed at that time had a calving difficulty percentage of less than 3%. So we need to ask is 1.94% likely to be a true representation of calving difficulty in Australian Red Polls in 2023?

The second thing to notice is that 35kg is the mean calf birth weight in the Missouri study. In Australia it is currently calculated to be 38.8kg. We need to ask ourselves how realistic is this mean? Can we really expect a lower calving ease with a higher birth weight?

On balance I would guess that birth assistance in Red Polls is still an excellent feature of the breed and likely remains better than the multi breed average of around 6%. More Australian data would help us express greater confidence on this matter. However, this varies within the breed quite a bit too, so we would definitely need more data to increase our confidence, for example, when assuring a potential buyer that a particular Red Poll bull is a better heifer bull than another.

The observations here are regarding two simple traits; birthing assistance and birth weight. But much of what we covered, such as accuracy and careful consideration of the data, will generalise to other traits and so the takeaway points I want to make here are as follows:

- *Important to record all herd data (good and bad) in the breed database so selections can be made with high confidence.*
- *The more data we collectively have, the better it is for all of us as the breed accuracy increases and the reputation of the breed can then improve. Hearsay alone will not raise the reputation of our breed. Data will.*
- *Take care in consuming data on face value without careful consideration.*
- *Selecting for one trait or set of traits (eg: growth traits) can have unintended consequences for other traits. Balance in all things is usually optimal. That said,*
- *Ideally selection should be based on aiming to hit market specifications, not just the rate of growth or a current fashion in a breed. Market specifications are published by the processors and should be a core document driving your breeding program .*

Finally, healthy competition drives improvement, but... while we may be competitive amongst ourselves, this intra-breed rivalry is only beneficial when it is not at the cost of integrity and recording the truth about performance within the breed. My assumption, based on listening to members over the last few years, is that we are all here to ensure the prosperity of the breed, so I look forward to lots of accurate data flowing in over the coming years. If my assumption is correct, then I believe Red Poll's ability to reclaim a leading position as a beef breed in Australia is all but assured.

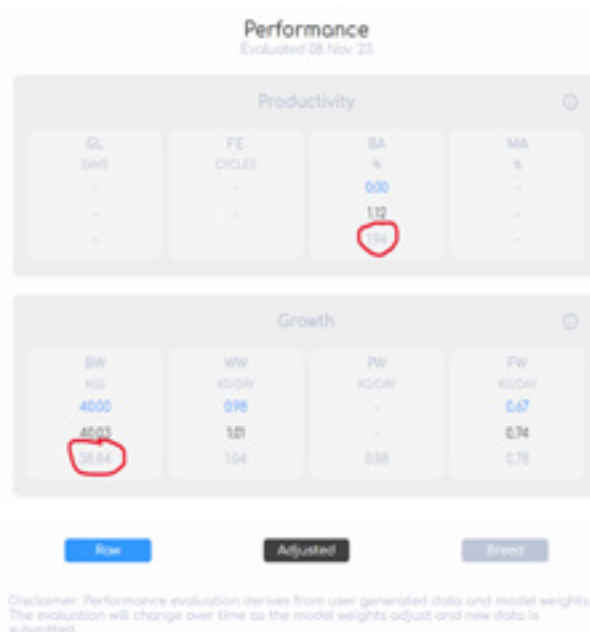


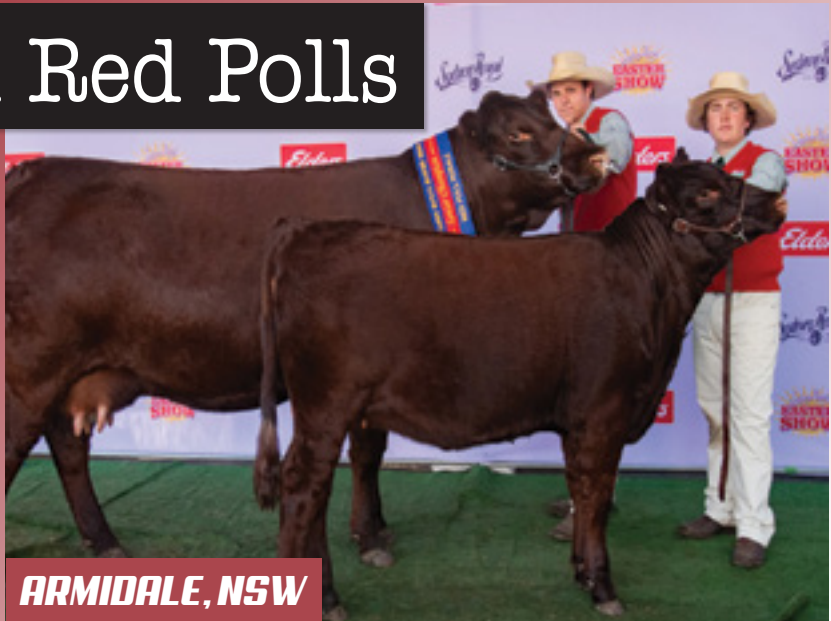
Figure 2: Productivity and growth traits. Note the birth assistance (BA%) breed average for Red Polls sits at 1.94% meaning nearly 2 in 100 births need assistance. Note also that the breed average birth weight (BW) is 38.84kg. These are both likely to be a bit low but accuracy will improve as more data is forthcoming from more members.

Red Rush Red Polls

Consistent performers at recent Royal shows

Owned by
Dr Kim Usher and
her son Nathan
Contact: 0408 073 427

Managed by
Samuel Graham
0499 521 209



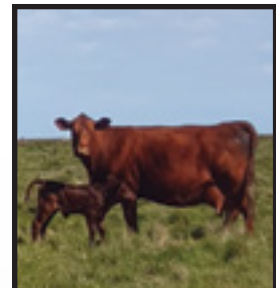
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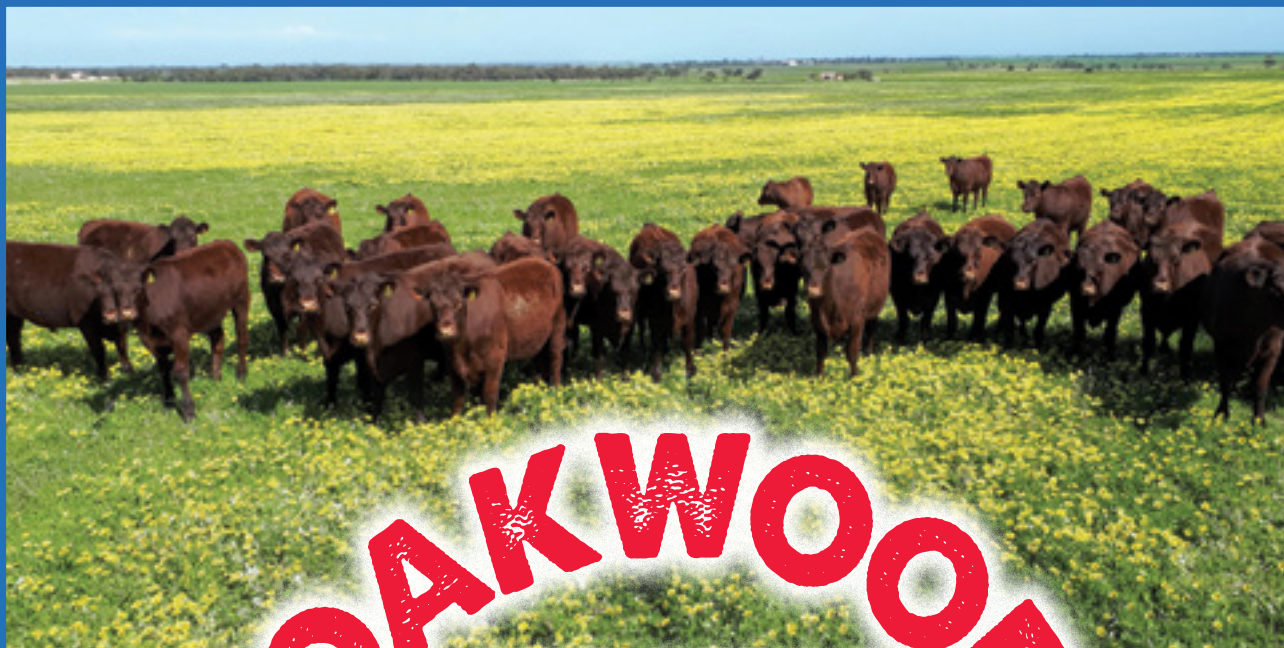
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Peter and Kristen Wilson
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Email pcklwilson@hotmail.com
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Parading away to more wins

A rising Invergordon cattle stud owner won the 2023 Agricultural Shows Australia's prestigious National Young Judges and Paraders Competition in Launceston on Saturday, October 14.

Carlie Mackelmann, 21, represented Victoria at the Launceston Royal Show in a tight field of competitors from the five other states and said judging was based on numerous factors relating to the handling and showing of cattle.

Entrants were randomly assigned an animal only one hour before judging.

"You are judged not only for your presentation, but also your handling skills, sometimes your gear to see if the halter fits properly and how you present your animal," Miss Mackelmann said.

"And you have got to know your animal's faults, so you can hide its flaws."

Miss Mackelmann said the judges commended her on how she dealt with her Angus heifer's faults.

"They liked that I knew how exactly to manage the conformation faults in my heifer and what it needed conformation-wise."

Another challenge on the day was the strong wind which made the cattle flighty.

"The cattle were not happy with the wind flapping their neck card around so we had to clip their number to our own jacket"

Miss Mackelmann began Glenwyn Red Poll stud as an 11-year-old on her family's Hereford production farm inspired by her grandfather using Red Poll bulls to breed crosses. Her grandfather bought her six heifers 'just for interest' in March of 2013, and she began entering into local shows the following spring.

The Red Poll was first bred in England in the early 1800s from crossing Norfolk and Suffolk breeds. They first came to Victoria in 1870.

A farming accident saw Miss Mackelmann unable to attend school for more than a year, during which time she adapted to home schooling and perfected her stud.

"It fitted in a lot better with farming because I could do school work in the morning and then go out and work with the cattle."

Miss Mackelmann first competed at the Melbourne Royal Show in 2018 as part of that year's show being dedicated to Red Polls.

She has competed at the Royal since then and first entered her own cattle in 2022.

In 2023 she won Junior Champion with a bull calf and Senior Champion Cow.

Miss Mackelmann attributes her success to her 'two' families.

"I have had my own family help me along the way ever since I was young because starting a stud was so challenging.

"All the show people are like a big second family, and they have been pretty supportive."

Miss Mackelmann intends to take her stud's future down the path of genetics-based and nutrition-based breeding.

By Andy Wilson

Courtesy of McPherson Media Group



Carlie Mackelmann with her allotted heifer.



Group photo of finalists in their placings line up.

LYNBARRY RED POLLS

B.E. & L. E. Johnson - Kinglake Central Victoria

E: be.johnson@bigpond.com - P: 03 5786 1431



Lynbarr Ultimate
Senior & Grand Champion Red Poll Stud Bull
2023 On Farm Challenge Vic Region

SELECTED HEIFERS FOR SALE

2023 National Red Poll Youth Camp

October 6th – 8th, Glen Innes Showgrounds

The 2023 National Red Poll Youth Camp was our biggest one yet attracting 55 competitors ranging in ages from 8 – 18 and from all over NSW and QLD. This year we celebrated our 13th year of running the National event based in the NNSW/QLD Region.

With such big numbers this year we really appreciated the lengths that our cattle donors and sponsors went to by breaking in and preparing enough cattle allowing all our camp participants to have a Red Poll animal for the camp with no sharing or anyone missing out which was a huge ask for our regional breeders.

Friday morning commenced as usual by allocating animals to each attendee to form a bond and for some this was the first time they have handled and led a cow. Students then moved into informative lectures and interactive sessions, activities and 'cow time' filled the rest of their time before show day of Young Judges and Paraders competitions and presentation on Sunday.

Saturday evening saw the return of the much-loved roast dinner and Red Poll Extravaganza activities which this year included a 'duck hunt', team bonding challenges where our attendees had to work together in teams to create clothing items made out of newspaper for a fashion parade plus other team building challenges. These activities are always such a huge highlight for the participants allowing them all to knock down those barriers of making new friends and talking in public, resulting in attendees forming some lifelong friendships.

Judges this year were:

- **Herdsman Judges:** Mrs Kathy & Mr Ian Townsend.
- **Young Judges & Paraders:** Ms Olivia Delaforce.

Major results were:

- **Grand Champion Young Judge:** Tom Graham
- **Grand Champion Parader:** Tom Graham
- **Cleanest Stall:** Taliah Slee
- **Champion Encouragement:** Caitlin Usher
- **Champion Most Improved:** Amelia Webb
- **Champion Herdsman:** Eve Watson
- **Red Poll Junior Member Award Recipient:** Mila Vanzella
- **Heifer Fitting Challenge Results:**
 - Pee Wee Winner – Bella McAllister
 - Junior winner – Lucy Kelly
 - Intermediate Winner – Tom Graham
 - Senior Winner – Mikaya Sheridan

This year's member award recipient received a marketing package from Doodah Graphic Design and a ticket and place at the 2024 SA Junior Heifer Expo in South Australia in July 2024.

We wish to sincerely thank all our sponsors, supporters and cattle donors for their support of the 2023 Red Poll Youth Camp:



2023 Youth Camp Young Handler.



2023 Youth Camp Helping Hand.



2023 Youth Camp Group with Committee.

Sponsors:

- ACE Embroidery
- Double L Livestock
- Doodah Graphic Design
- Kelso Looker
- Lagoon Red Polls
- Mt Marshall Red Polls
- Skyview Pastoral
- Glenwyn Red Polls
- Irish Blue Photography
- Australian Red Poll Cattle Breeders Inc
- Jess McClenaghan
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- Australian Red Poll Cattle Breeders – VIC Region
- In The Purple – Murray Weller
- Red Rush Red Polls
- Kelly's Transport, Armidale
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- Tiraslea Red Poll Stud
- The Cattle Shop
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- Ray White Livestock Armidale/Guyra
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Cattle Donors:

- Lagoon Red Poll Stud
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- Glenleigh Red Polls
- Skyview Pastoral Red Polls
- GPS Red Polls
- Red Rush Red Polls

We sincerely thank our entire committee for all the work they do to pull this event together, Kelso Looker for being the extravaganza extraordinaire, Rachael, Dorothy and all those who kept us fed and watered all weekend, all the presenters and instructors and judges and to Lisa Stephens from Irish Blue Photography Aus. for capturing the photos throughout the event.

The youth camp committee look forward to welcoming competitors and members to our **2024 event at Glen Innes Showground, October 4th, 5th & 6th 2024.**

Cheers,

The 2023 Red Poll Youth Camp Committee.

South Australian Junior Heifer Expo

The 2023 SA Heifer expo saw 3 Red Poll ambassadors compete at this year's event taking place over July 17th – 20th at the Adelaide showgrounds.

This year's National ARPBCI scholarship recipients were: Sam Graham (Red Rush Red Poll Stud) & Paris Whibley (GPS Red Poll Stud) with Georgia Whibley (GPS Red Poll Stud) attending the event after winning the ticket to attend at the 2022 National Youth Camp Member award winner at the 2022 National Youth Camp.

This year's SA heifer show was once again at capacity with 194 competitors, from all states of Australia so for the Red Poll breed to have 3 ambassadors at the event was very much a highlight for the breed in 2023.

A huge thankyou has to go to Peter Wilson from the Oakwood stud who hosted Paris, Georgia and Sam for a few days leading into the event, supplied Stud Red Poll heifers, feed, equipment and other bits and pieces for Paris and Sam and also to Ross Draper who sent a stud Red poll heifer, gear and feed across to SA from VIC for Georgia to use for the event, both Peter and Ross put in a huge amount of effort to ensure the 3 ambassadors had animals for the event and for this we all sincerely thank you both.

Highlights from the event included:

- *Red Cactus Trado (Led by Georgia Whibley) placed 5th in her very strong heifer class.*
- *Georgia Whibley won the Intermediate Junior Judging encouragement award.*
- *Sam Graham placed 3rd in his age group Paraders competition.*
- *Paris received a recognition award for the Senior age group marketing assessment.*

Paris & Georgia have both provided reports of their time at the Heifer Expo, please see these following.



South Australian Junior Heifer Expo

Written by Georgia Whibley

The trip to Adelaide started when we went to Sydney where we stayed for the night. The next day we set off for the airport and travelled to Adelaide. Once in Adelaide, we were met by Peter Wilson who was kind enough to let us stay with his family for two nights and show us around the Oakwood Red Poll Stud which was an amazing experience as it's known to be the biggest Redpoll Stud in Australia. On the 17th of July, we made our way to the Adelaide showground to partake in the heifer expo. I was lucky enough to be lent a heifer from Ross Draper who sent one over from Victoria, which took a huge amount of logistics which I was very thankful to Ross for putting in all the effort.

My heifer Red Cactus Trado placed 5th in her very strong heifer class.

The South Australian heifer expo is a 3-day event held at the Adelaide Showgrounds. Throughout the expo, there were a range of educational sessions including a careers panel, Meat Standards Australia, Animal Health and Breeding Betsy just to mention a couple of standout sessions. Throughout the heifer expo, there was a range of competitions taking place. On the final day of the expo, there were heifer classes, paraders and a junior judging.

I was awarded the Intermediate Junior Judging encouragement award.

The expo was a great experience and it's hard to decipher what my favourite part was, but the breeding betsy activity would be one of my favourites as it was an activity we could physically get involved in and each got the chance to see a fake cow and get to feel what a calf would feel like at different ages of growth.

The SA Heifer expo was an amazing experience and I would love to get the opportunity to attend again as a senior competitor in years to come. The South Australian heifer expo had many great educational aspects that I took away from it but what I gained the most from were the new friends and connections made.

Thankyou to Double L Livestock, the National Red Poll Youth Camp and Ross Draper for providing me with the opportunity to attend the 2023 SA heifer show.



South Australian Junior Heifer Expo

Written by Paris Whibley

In July this year, I was honoured to receive the Red Poll Junior Member award to attend the South Australia Junior Heifer Expo, alongside Georgia Whibley and Sam Graham.

We spent the first few days at Minlaton, SA, with Peter and Alan Wilson and their family. It was amazing to see the admirable Oakwood Red Poll Stud, showing us outstanding breed lines whilst keeping the distinct Red Poll attributes. We also had the chance to meet and work with our heifers for the expo, supplied and prepared by the Wilson family.

Georgia, Sam and I then made the trip to Adelaide for the three-day heifer expo.

Attending the expo was a real eye opener for myself, with more than 190 young cattle enthusiasts, which was a valuable step outside my comfort zone.

A highlight from the event included a 'breedin Betsy' workshop where we got the opportunity to learn about artificial insemination and have a go with models. I also enjoyed the challenge of the clipping competition, where we had an hour to fully clip our animals for the show ring.

Through the heifer expo, I have made many useful contacts in the agricultural industry as well as new lifelong friends I am still in contact with.

I would like to say a massive thankyou to the Australian Red Poll Beef Cattle Inc for giving me this opportunity and the Wilson family for hosting us, their heifer and show gear donation and everything else they did for us to attend the expo.

I highly recommend for any junior red poll member to apply for this scholarship, it is an amazing opportunity for anyone interested in the agricultural industry with infinite knowledge and experience to be gained.



Corrigin Bushfires February 2022 - Disaster Recovery

Disaster strikes in many different ways, different intensity and with different consequences. The effect on us as individuals, communities and nations will depend on the wide array of circumstances with which we are left to deal and our personal, financial, physical, mental and emotional capacity to do that.

There can be no precise and correct responses with so many variables. Many in the Red Poll family have worked through recovery from fire, flood, drought and personal trauma during my time in the breed and each will have their own story. Many, unfortunately, are left untold.

In the following article I will try to reveal aspects of the Feb 2022 Corrigin bushfires as I have come to understand the on-going recovery from them in the last two years. Hopefully the sharing of those experiences may help others to prepare for and deal with disasters at varying levels should they find themselves facing them.

Although there was an accident between two fire trucks on the day no lives were lost. That would have added a whole new layer of complexity to recovery. In small rural communities such tragedy effects the whole community very deeply. While we personally never lost livestock there were quite a lot of sheep burnt in the fire. One farmer undertook to contact veterinarian mates who came to assess animal health and humanely destroy sheep that would not recover. Local volunteer teams helped with the destruction and removal, saving the owners from the trauma. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development who oversee animal welfare, when asked to assist, could not because of the impending weekend!

In one section of the fire ground farmers lost sheep twelve months later when moving them along roadsides from the effects of eating box poison plants. These toxic plants had effectively been eradicated by fathers and grandfathers but a whole batch of new plants had been germinated by the fire stimulating seeds dormant in the ground for decades.

We had tremendous support from friends, locals and former locals, cattle industry friends and associates, the Ag College system and other individuals. That help in the early stages of recovery was incredibly valuable, but so too was help a year later as there was still heaps to do. We had BLAZE AID come twice and erect fences which was a tremendous help, especially when local contractors were not easily available. Their first time here doing boundary fencing enabled us to keep stock within our boundaries, although with most internal fences destroyed or damaged cattle made their own paddock arrangements on many occasions. BLAZE AID made an enormous difference and they are a super organisation. You get what you get with their volunteer work, different bosses and methods but we would never have gotten where we are today without their help. In the second period that they were based in the area we assisted with some meals and got to know some of the crew better than in the first stage. It is a great experience for them too, and they give as much or as little time as suits their lives and travels.

Let's get back to some further comment on the stock. There is probably not much truer than the comment 'Poor fences make troublesome stock'. We had very few decent fences for over twelve months and in that time frame stock were very difficult to keep where we put them. While I accept all of effects of the poor fences my observations were that we also had traumatised stock for well over a year. After the fire, stock were fed hay and would be looking for whatever vehicle would bring it to them and would battle to let you into their paddock. During winter and spring when they had plenty of feed they would run across a paddock to you, as if for some reassurance that everything was OK.

In looking to recovery from disaster it became apparent that it is important to get yourself into a mind set that it will be a long process. What most of us failed to fully appreciate was the extra workload in many aspects of recovering. There is the obvious in that any work done in terms of repair and replacement has to be done over and above normal seasonal tasks to which the year is already committed. Add the time spent working through aspects of recovering and you are trying to cram two years work into one. We faced the added delays of unavailability of goods and tradespeople. If it is an area event and declared a disaster then avenues of assistance are opened up. This can involve state and/or Federal government financial assistance.

SOPHRONITES SABRINA

*1st over 5 years
2023 On Farm Challenge*



I & N Staff Mob: 0411 314 501



Two Years On.



The Flannel Flower which only occurs after a bush fire. Without fire the seed remains dormant in the ground for possibly hundreds of years.



Two Years On.

From my experience working through the various hoops takes time and emotional energy and my advice would be look closely at all of the qualifying criteria before commencing and those administering the schemes are a great source of help and information. Be aware of the cost benefit ratio. While the extended time frame for recovery can be frustrating, it is also valuable in assessing options, particularly if there is possibilities of re design or re development.

In our district there were two predominant insurance companies. Apart from what individuals choose to include within their insurance, there are differences in the base policies between companies. It is hard to fully establish, but my observation is that there is little major difference, you get what you pay for and what you lose on the swings you pick up on the roundabouts.,

Working through insurance has been difficult, but I do not think we were unfairly treated. In fact, we were covered for more things that I knew from our annual renewal documents. It would be wise to check through the base policy documents so that you know what is actually covered in the policy. It took some time to come to terms with the different procedures between the odd crop or livestock claim or motor vehicle repair, to dealing with the higher layers of major claims. We were under insured on some buildings because of the rapid inflation of costs in the previous two years, and this will be made worse by costs at the time of replacement.

With insurance and other matters my advice is this. Do not agree to sign off on anything unless you are 100% certain that it is correct and in your best interests. It is better to get things right before signing off than to try to rectify later.

In recovering from a disaster, it is likely that your thinking will not always be clear, so toss your thoughts around with a variety of sources that you trust. Thinking may become less clear as the trauma of recovery builds. Trust your hunches and gut feelings. You will mostly be right.

You will be lucky to get the support from government entities that you would expect. Don't stop advocating for what you believe is correct. That appears to be the methodology of delaying and frustrating until you say it is all too hard.

From most disasters, good things will happen. They may be big as in new homes and infrastructure or small such as seeing the rejuvenation of nature, but they will be there and they can provide a significant boost to wellbeing.

Murray Williams

SHOW CHAMPIONS 2023

Sydney Royal

(Judged by Georgia Laurie)

JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	R.Draper - Red Cactus Trado
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	Lagoona Stud - Lagoona Miss Phoebe
SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	S.Storm & Sons - Stormley Queen - Bee
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	R.Draper - Red Cactus Docsa
GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE	R.Draper - Red Cactus Trado
JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL	R.Draper - Red Cactus Simba
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL	Lagoona Stud - Lagoona Nevada
SENIOR CHAMPION BULL	N. & P. Lee - Omega 3 Sunil
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION BULL	Lagoona Stud - Lagoona Once in a While
GRAND CHAMPION BULL	R.Draper - Red Cactus Simba
BEST EXHIBIT	R. Draper - Red Cactus Simba

Melbourne Royal

(Judged by Ruby Canning)



Photo: Glenwyn Simone.

JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	R.Draper - Red Cactus Coodee
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	R.Draper - Red Cactus Josie
SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	C. Mackelmann - Glenwyn Simone
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	R.Draper - Red Cactus Docsa
GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE	R. Draper - Red Cactus Coodee
JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL	C. Mackelmann - Glenwyn Terzo
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL	G.M. & K.J. Abbott - Turanga Milo
SENIOR CHAMPION BULL	R. Draper - Red Cactus Simba
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION BULL	G.M. & K.J. Abbott - Turanga True Value
GRAND CHAMPION BULL	R.Draper - Red Cactus Simba
SUPREME EXHIBIT	R. Draper - Red Cactus Simba

Brisbane Royal

(Judged by Shane Bishop)



Photo: Lagoon Nevada.

JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	Dr.K & Mr. N. Usher - Red Rush Verity
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	Lagoon Stud - Lagoon Miss Phoebe
SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE	Lagoon Stud - Lagoon Qubeck
GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE	Lagoon Stud - Lagoon Qubeck
JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL	Dr.K & Mr. N. Usher - Red Rush The Monarch
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL	Lagoon Stud - Lagoon Golden Boy
SENIOR CHAMPION BULL	Lagoon Stud - Lagoon Nevada
GRAND CHAMPION BULL	Lagoon Stud - Lagoon Nevada

Brisbane Royal

(Judged by Shane Bishop)



Photo: Lagoon Qubeck.





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On Farm Challenge

Victorian Region

After an absence of a couple of years, the Victorian Region On Farm Challenge was held in October 2023.

Well done to our Organising Committee who did a great job bringing this event back for the Region.

Entries totalling 107 showed the support and popularity for this event.

The On Farm Challenge provides a great opportunity for breeders across stud, commercial and infused programs to come together and showcase the Red Poll breed and build connections.

Our Judge was Rachael Constable from the renowned Kookabookra Red Poll Stud in northern NSW.

Thanks very much to Rachael for her time and professional considered approach in Judging the cattle.

Thank you to the Region and all participants for their support and hospitality, we look forward to bringing the On Farm Challenge to you in 2024 !



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