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**President's Message**

*WELCOME TO ALL MEMBERS*

After a very wet May in the South the winter has been very kind to us farmers, since there have been very few frosts.

This years AGM & tour covered Gisborne and the Hawkes Bay area, which was again well attended by members. The cattle reflected the summer with them being in good condition. It was a privilege to us members to be given a tour of these members properties to view and understand how the South Devon cattle are integrated into their farming operations.

The President's Trophy was awarded to Richard and Denise van Asch for their efforts with the weaner trial and showing cattle at the Royal Show in Feilding.

AgInnovation (Beef Expo) appeared to be a success with the attendance to the technical seminars up on last year. Congratulations goes to the Burtergill Stud on their success on winning Supreme South Devon with Burtergill Reg 1202 at this years event.

A big "thank you" must go to all our sponsors for their donation of product for our prize winners at AgInnovation (Beef Expo) - please support these companies.

In April, Ann & I were invited as guests to the AGM and dinner of the Galloway Cattle Society of New Zealand in Alexandra, where they had photos sent in by members to be judged on type and confirmation- which proved to be quite challenging. It was good to talk to these members from all parts of New Zealand and discuss the cattle industry.

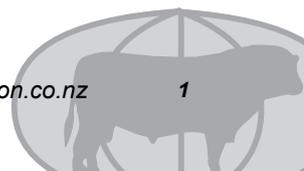
The beef schedule is pleasant reading at the present and may it continue in this direction.

With spring just around the corner I would like to wish all members a safe and successful calving.

Kind regards  
**Brian Thomson**



South Devon Tour 2014 at Ross & Corrine Kearney's Okaharau Stud



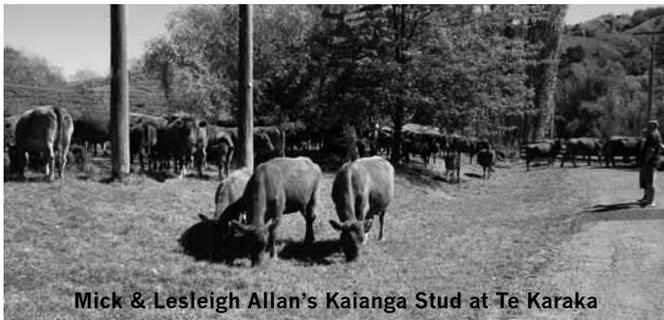
## 2014 SOUTH DEVON AGM & TOUR GISBORNE/NAPIER, 11-13 MARCH

Written by Fraser Wilson



Following the Board of Management meeting on the Monday afternoon a couple of dozen (mostly not so young) South Devon tour members boarded the bus to head up to Matawai, halfway to Opotoki, on the Gisborne Opotoki main road.

First off we viewed some excellent South Devon hill country cows and calves on one of the Allan's properties up above Matawai. Then we looked at what is probably NZ's highest dairy farm – 2000 ft above sea level owned by Hamish Newman near Matawai, proving to be quite successful. The visit to the Allan's stud at Kaianga was happy but sad, many of us having enjoyed Mick and Lesleighs hospitality on previous tours but their three sons have decided to disperse their herd, 30 years since its inception.



**Mick & Lesleigh Allan's Kaianga Stud at Te Karaka**

However the hospitality was just as it had been in the past with the three sons and their lovely wives treating us royally with Mick keeping an eye on things. Some members purchased some excellent females from their shed as well.

After lunch we travelled to the Mangatu Blocks including 36,000ha of Maori owned land with 16,000ha of productive land carrying approx 150,000 stock units with 40 staff.

Extremely good example of vertical integration of agriculture (look it up on google).

We then travelled back to Gisborne to the Emerald Hotel where we enjoyed the AGM and dinner although some members thought the Presidents shout should have been prolonged.

Wednesday another lovely Poverty Bay day and we journeyed 220kms south to Napier, stopping off near Wairoa at Cyril and Bridget Brownlie's Karamu Stud. Their well-balanced property with steep dark and sunny faces complemented with good fertile flats is home to an excellent South Devon Stud as well as their sheep flock.

The President, Mr Thomson managed to tip one of the younger and more attractive members of the group off his 4 wheeler while travelling along one razor back ridge, but has yet to hear from OSH.

It was great to see Jeff and Christine again while we enjoyed a lovely lunch, and the Karamu cattle were again fine examples of the South Devon breed. It was pleasing to see well farmed steeper north island hill country that wasn't planted in pine trees, as so much of it has been after having been cleared of bush by hand 100 years ago.



**Cyril & Bridget Brownlie's Karamu Stud at Wairoa**

The long winding road from Karamu to Napier had us down to Napier Harbour View Lodge by late afternoon.

After a fun evening meal in Art Deco Napier we headed out on Thursday to Pohokie Station where the manager weans his South Devon calves early and regularly has topped the NZ price for yearling steers in the Hawkes Bay Spring Cattle Sales. This shows that South Devon will certainly equal or beat any other breeds if fed well.

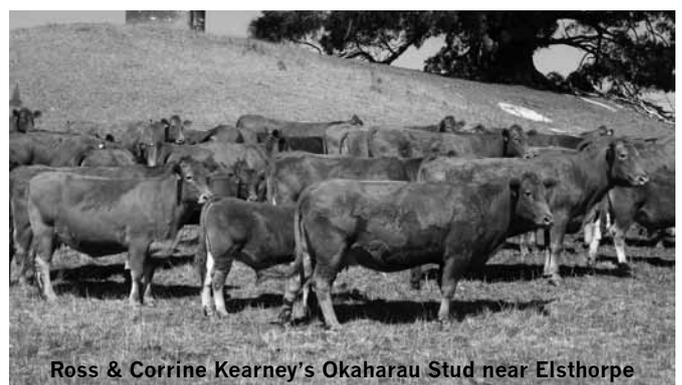
After viewing the very impressive Hakikino Tourism venture owned by the local Maori tribe near Waimarama we travelled back across to Ross and Corrine Kearney's Okaharau Stud near Elsthorpe.

They have invested in top quality genetics in their South Devon's and their cattle are really displaying their phenotype which is the combination of genotype and environment.

To display their genetic potential animals have to be well fed and treated at the Okaharau South Devon's are a great example of this with their potential sale bulls being outstanding. As well as having very successful bull sales along with the Brownlie's at Karamu, the Kearney's also successfully fatten quite a number of South Devon weaner cattle.

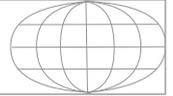
Their property is well balanced and attractive with some irrigation. Another top class lunch and afternoon tea added to the tour weight gain.

Tour members dispersed to various parts of NZ but were all privileged to have been hosted by three fine NZ farming families who all have a love for South Devon.



**Ross & Corrine Kearney's Okaharau Stud near Elsthorpe**

# AGINNOVATION (BEEF EXPO) 2014



On Monday 12th May the 10th South Devon Show & Sale began with Led Judging at Manfeild Park, the sale followed on Tuesday 13th May. Senior Judge Peter Foss from the Ipurua Stud in Aria was ably assisted by Lanise Robertson of the Ben Vista Stud in Feilding.

## 2014 results were as follows:

**Supreme Champion South Devon** .....BURTERGILL REG 1202  
**Reserve Champion South Devon** .....KAIMOA HUNTER 211  
**3rd Unled** .....KAIMOA HUNTER 213



**Supreme Champion South Devon** *Burtergill Reg 1202*

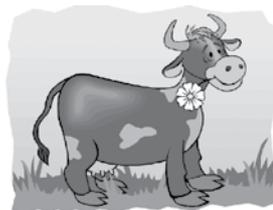


**Reserve Champion South Devon** *Kaimoa Hunter 211*

## HEIFERS AT THE 2015 FBNZ HOOF & HOOK EVENT

The executive have agreed to have heifers at our 2015 event - some details below:-

- Heifer must be born after 1st June 2014.
- Under 12's may bring a heifer only.
- Over 12's must bring a steer to be eligible to bring a heifer.
- Under 12's can use heifer in handling class but over 12's must use steer.
- Heifer judging will be after the Handling class on Sunday and the two classes will be purebred heifer and crossbred heifer.
- Pure Bred heifers can go home or may be eligible to enter in the Queen of Hearts (which must be organised prior to event).
- Cross bred heifers are accepted but will be taken home.



## THE WEATHER ALWAYS WINS



The weather with its fickle ways,  
 Dictates to farmers how they spend their days.  
 In spring, the grass is supposed to grow,  
 But rain, wind and snow can make it slow.  
 The farmer hopes his feed will not run out,  
 Or he's in trouble, without a doubt.  
 Calving time, the start of new life,  
 Bad weather can make it full of strife.  
 Storms can keep the farmer up all night,  
 As he strives to make sure new calves are right.  
 Next thing you know, it's crops to sow,  
 But the ground, it's not ready, what a blow!  
 It's either too wet, too dry or too cloddy,  
 The neighbour has theirs in, you feel like a noddy.  
 At last its ready, you call the contractor,  
 Whether he's able to do it is another factor.  
 Sometimes you time it right and get it safely in,  
 But four inches of rain later you no longer grin.  
 Summer soon follows, here's hoping for rain,  
 Or are we in for drought, again?  
 Make hay while the sun shines is the saying,  
 But cut that hay, you'd better be praying.  
 Autumn is often the best season,  
 No calving, no mating, it's time for reason.  
 Next thing you know winter can hit,  
 Frosts and cold fingers, storms like a fit.  
 Look out for pugged paddocks, or else  
 Come Spring, you'll be beside yourself.  
 Al Gore touches a sore spot,  
 His inconvenient truth is right on the dot.  
 The weather these days seems bent on extremes,  
 It's either too wet or too dry, nothing in between.  
 As farmers, we must do our part,  
 To minimise global warming is a good start.  
 Recycle that plastic, don't let it smoke,  
 Look after the environment, be a good bloke.  
 After all is said and done, farming is a blast,  
 Great lifestyle for kids, but boy time goes fast!  
 Balance work with family is the aim,  
 If you can do that, it's a great game.

*A poem by Philip Wilson*





## 9th World Conference

We have been advised of tentative dates for the 2014 World Conference in the US.

**14th September – 8th October.**

The proposed route is to begin in Dallas, Texas and end in Denver, Colorado with the following states:

Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado.

## DNA Testing

Remember ALL first joining sires need to be tested prior to mating season.

## Next Board of Management Meeting

The next Board of Management meeting will be held on Thursday 24th July, if you have any matters you would like brought to the attention of the Board please contact a Board member or Lindy at the office.

## ADLs

All ADLs are due to be returned to the office by the end of July. It is very important for the Board to have these numbers by the due date so that they can accurately budget for the coming year. If you are uncertain what your numbers will be, please contact James Donaldson on 09 283 9656 and discuss this with him. Your assistance in this is greatly appreciated.

## South Devon Genetic Evaluation Trial

The first Genetic Evaluation Trial is now winding to a close with all the animals having being killed other than one which was withdrawn due to ill health.

The Board is currently in the process of collating all the data that has been gathered, which will be analysed and forwarded to the members.

Already some interesting facts are starting to emerge with the South Devons yielding, on average, 4% more than the Angus or Angus cross animals while having a considerably higher carcass weight and a significantly lower pH.

A second trial group of 20 animals is under way with entries from both stud and commercial breeders from around the South Island. I would like to thank the following sponsors for making both trials possible. Stocklines, Merial Ancare, CRT Farmlands, Austin's Ultrasound, Zoetis, Elevate Restaurant and Function Centre and our graziers Bryan and Kathy Dodson.



# SHOW RESULTS



## WINTON A & P SHOW, 100 YEARS - January

**ALL BREEDS - Judge: Neil & Rose Sanderson**

**Yearling Bull** 1st Wainuka Standup F & S McKenzie  
3rd Loch Lomond Maca BJ Thomson

**Yearling Heifer** 2nd Loch Lomond Ted Coarl BJ Thomson

**Yearling Pair** 1st Loch Lomond BJ Thomson

**Progeny Class by one Sire or Dam**

1st Loch Lomond BJ Thomson

**Wainuka Standup was Runner Up in the Senior Meat & Wool Cup out of 8 breeds.**

## OTAGO TAIERI - January

**ALL BREEDS - Judge: W Christie, Ashburton**

**Yearling Bull** 1st Wainuka Standup F & S McKenzie  
2nd Loch Lomond Maca BJ Thomson

**Yearling Heifer** 1st Loch Lomond Ted Coarl  
Reserve Champion Female

**Cow with Calf at Foot**

1st Loch Lomond Kirsty - Champion Female

**Bull Calf** 1st Loch Lomond Fox 5<sup>th</sup> BJ Thomson  
2nd Loch Lomond Fox 3<sup>rd</sup> BJ Thomson

## GORE A & P SHOW - February

**ALL BREEDS - Judge: W Mitchell**

**Cow with Calf at Foot**

2nd Loch Lomond Kirsty  
Senior Reserve Champion Female

**Yearling heifer** 1st Loch Lomond Ted Coarl BJ Thomson

**Yearling Bull** 1st Wainuka Standup F & S McKenzie  
2nd Loch Lomond Maca BJ Thomson

**Bull Calf** 1st Loch Lomond Fox 5<sup>th</sup> BJ Thomson

**Junior Champion Male - Wainuka Standup**

**Res Junior Champion Male - Loch Lomond Fox 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Yearling Pair** 2nd Loch Lomond BJ Thomson

**Kane Trophy- Junior Champion Male or Female:**

**Champion** Wainuka Standup F & S McKenzie

**Reserve Champion** Loch Lomond Ted Coarl BJ Thomson

## UPPER CLUTHA A & P SHOW - March

**ALL BREEDS - Judge: Peter McWilliam**

**Yearling Bull** 2nd Loch Lomond Maca BJ Thomson

**Yearling Heifer** 4th Loch Lomond Ted Coarl BJ Thomson

**Bull Calf** 1st Loch Lomond Fox 5<sup>th</sup> BJ Thomson  
2nd Loch Lomond Fox 3<sup>rd</sup> BJ Thomson

**Heifer Calf** 1st Loch Lomond Nellie BJ Thomson  
5th Wainuka F & S McKenzie

**Progeny Class** 3rd Loch Lomond BJ Thomson

**Pair Yearling Bull & Heifer - 2nd Loch Lomond BJ Thomson**

**Pair Bull & Heifer calf - 1st Loch Lomond BJ Thomson**

