

JULY 2008 – Devon Tour Newsletter

Hello Everyone,

This event is going to be a good one. I can feel it! Thank you to everybody who has committed to be part of it. Already I am getting to know some of you from your queries; this enables me to know your requirements for the Tour.

- It is not too late to Register. Whether for all the tour or for just a section or a day, you are welcome to join us.
- You can download the Registration form from the website www.devoncattle.com

On the Registration form we have suggested 3 hotels in the Darling Harbour area of Sydney. These are the hotels that the coach will pick up from. If you choose to stay in the Novotel please make sure it is the Novotel Sydney, 100 Murray St. Ph 02 99 340000. That is one of the hotels where the coach will pick you for the start of the Tour. (There are two Novotel Hotels in the Darling Harbour area.)

Joan Harris from the USA has produced her 4th Devon calendar. She is wondering how many of the 2009 to bring. If you would like one could you please let me know and I will pass your intentions to her. Or you could email her at HarrierFields@aol.com. It would be a nice reminder of the 2008 Devon Tour and the price is US \$25.

The Australian Devon Cattle Breeders' Society has produced a 100 page full colour Special Edition of Bulldust. Members of the D.C.B.S.A. will receive their copy free, as will participants of the full Tour. If you are not part of this group and would like to buy a copy of this keepsake and reference Sal Edwards will take your order. Her email address is s.g.edwards@myaccess.com.au. This publication will cost AU\$29.95 postage free to Australian residents, and postage added to overseas destinations. There will be a formal release at the "Meet and Greet" in the Hunter Valley with an enticing flyer released at Ag Quip.

Merchandise items such as polo shirts, blue chambray shirts, pens, polo fleece vests, caps, ties, badges and car stickers will be for sale at the Wallaton and Mograni Stud visits. Limited stock will be available at the Conference at Port Macquarie. Order forms will be available at the Conference and Goulburn so you will not miss out.

What clothes to bring? It is the beginning of our spring so the weather is unpredictable. The coastal areas are usually quite mild during the day but with a nip in the air at night. Up on the tablelands we could have a cold snap; there could be rain and wind. So bring your layers as you do for any holiday. Put your swimmers (bathers, costumes) in, as there are a couple of nice heated pools along the way, also some of you may enjoy a quick swim in the ocean at Port Macquarie and slip, slop, slap. Slip on a shirt, slop on some sunscreen and slap on a hat – a bit of Australian for you!

Evenings will be mostly casual. The Conference and Reunion dinner will be smart casual, but it would be nice if the men had a tie and coat and the ladies dressed up a bit. The post sale dinner is normal going out at night clothes, as is the Meet and Greet.

The vineyard, Tyrrell, (their motto is `Nisi Magnum Nisi Bonum` - `Nothing is Great unless it is Good`) is celebrating their 150th birthday this year as a continuously owned family business. The flagship Vat 1 Semillon is widely recognised as the world's finest Semillon and is Australia's most highly awarded white wine, while the vat 47 is recognised as the benchmark for Chardonnay both nationally and internationally. We will be able to taste and buy both these wines as part of our wine tasting.

There are still some farms to tell you about:-

I mentioned last newsletter that we will have lunch at the Laurie's. The Laurie family property covers 2000 hectares of grazing country and is situated in the foothills of the Barrington Tops National Park. 700 mostly crossbred females with a Kholwha Devon influence producing steers for the grain fed Japanese feeder steer market and the heavy export grassfed EU market. A focus on pasture improvement allows these particular market specs to be attained at relatively young age limits.

The next day we gather at the Mograni Devon Stud which was established in 1996, and is owned and operated by Mark and Jenny Coombes and their children Chris, Stephen and Jessica. Jenny's parents, Heather and Kevin Burley operate the Manbell Devon Stud. The two studs run in conjunction on the 1200 acre property just east of Gloucester overlooked by the Mograni Mountain Range. At any one time you will find between 175 and 200 breeders grazing the property with around a third been stud breeders and the remainder Devon and Devon/Shorthorn. The property has been grazed by Devon cattle for more than 100 years.

The following Studs which are situated close by will also be present:-

The Edwards' Little Manning Devon Stud I mentioned in the last newsletter.

Palinga Devon stud is owned by Ruth Edwards and is run with support from Robyn, Ross and Tonia. It is nestled in a picture postcard valley at Wards River, south of Gloucester. Her Stud was founded on bloodlines from Lewisham and Longacres from Tasmania, and Woombramurra, Havilah and Tirranna Studs. Palinga cattle were successfully exhibited at Sydney, Brisbane and local shows until 3 years ago. Weaners are sold locally and bulls are sold at Gloucester and Kempsey All Breeds Bull sales.

Denis and Denise McKinnon manage Richard Pipers' Kippax Valley Devons. Their goal is to produce soft easy doing cattle with more than adequate thickness. They must be appealing visually and on the dinner plate in order to gain greater acceptance in the modern beef industry. They continually upgrade the female base and strictly cull non performers. Results of this strategy are monitored when they showcase the product in the show ring and enter carcass competitions. After lunch at Mograni we travel south on one of our longest stretches to the last stage of our tour to Goulburn.

We have an easy morning in history laden Goulburn with optional places of interest to visit such as the Big Merino for woollen products, Wakefield Park for motor racing, a tour and tasting at Australia's oldest brewery, or a look at the Wombeyan limestone caves, or a stroll down Goulburn's main street for a coffee at the Paragon. Mid morning we depart for Jo Crawford's Mt Lookout Devon stud at Bob and Jo's property at Fairfield, Bigga. This stud was started by Doug Hudson (a past President of the DCBSA) and re-established by Jo, his daughter, after she purchased 23 registered cows at the Havilah dispersal sale in 2000. Together, Bob and Jo with their son David run 350 Devon breeders alongside their Angus herd at "Numby" and "Fairfield" near Bigga, NSW. There are lots of activities planned for this visit, culminating in a country style dance after dinner.

On our last day before lunch we visit the Tirranna Devon stud which was founded in 1949 with 30 heifers from Havilah and 6 from Table Top. They have since used bloodlines from Newstead, Woodbong, Havilah Civil Servant 317th, Kingston, Kholwha and two poll bulls from Bongalabi. Approximately 150 cows are joined, the majority being registered. Surplus bulls and females are sold to other studs, whilst steers are sold either direct to feedlots or through the saleyards between 18 – 24 months after finishing on purpose grown crops.

Bongalabi Devon stud is owned by Margie and Peter Mullins and is the last Stud to be visited. It was established in 1985 after a very long family association with the Devon breed both in the UK and in Australia. 250 breeders run on 1100 ha at Lake Bathurst in southern NSW. In the early 1990's the herd was closed to protect it from an outbreak of Bovine Johnes Disease. All animals retained in the herd are based on their performance with particular focus on breeding true to type and with proven mothering, milking, adaptability and persistence traits. Read more about them at www.bongalabidevons.com.au .

A special farewell function at Lake Bathurst will be hosted by Margi and Peter Mullins and they have issued an invitation to everyone to join them at this gathering. Please contact them on 02 48494446 for further information.

And so we come to the end! The next morning we will take you to see the sights at nearby Canberra our Capital, and then back to Sydney to drop off at the airport or to your hotel, arriving back in Sydney late afternoon.

The countdown is on, start packing your bags; we will see you very soon.

With Best Wishes,
Loma Wright. International Coordinator
On behalf of the 8th Red Ruby Devon World Conference and Tour.