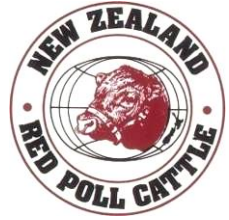


RED POLL NEWS



Autumn Edition

April 2025



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Front Cover Photo:

Baby (Tamihana Rae Rata) with her calf, Four Diamond Akari, from last year and her steer calf from this year.

Four Diamond Akari is by Strathwell Dependabull 05 (by Raedean Maximus)

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The Association accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any published opinion, nor information supplied by individuals or reprinted from other sources. Items may be abridged or edited.

Closing date for next newsletter is July 10th, 2025

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Today I read an article in the Farmers Weekly by Wayne McNee chief executive of Agri Zero.



Agri Zero has recently invested in two more projects, including the Swedish company AgTeria, which is working on a methane inhibitor and Biolumic in NZ to produce high lipid pastures.

"Some of the tools are going to be very good at reducing emissions, but they won't improve production. But there's a place for those as well. So, what we're looking to do is have a range of different technologies, from vaccines and probiotics to pastures and boluses that farmers can choose from. And ultimately, they'll make their own call."

This is the first time I have witnessed someone say that methane boluses won't be compulsory. Keep up the good work Methane Science Accord.

Wayne McNee claims this is market led but the only ones demanding these costly unnatural additives are corporate giants like Nestle, Danone, Tesco, Mars, Sainsburys etc., not everyday consumers. Consumers do not want these in their food chain and NZ farmers don't want to pump their animals full of biotech gimmicks with no long-term safety data.

This isn't about efficiency or choice – its politics dressed up as progress. Farmers deserve better than to be treated as lab rats for corporate greenwashing.

Currently Warwick is doing great work on our constitution and making sure it aligns with the changes in the Incorporated Societies Act which is under review. We have a checklist to guide us through this process. We will discuss this further at the AGM In Woodville from 27th -29th April.

See you there.

*Cheers
Ian Fleming*



SECRETARY'S SAY

Hello Everyone,
I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the AGM, also Associate members where possible. Still waiting on a couple of lots of registrations!

Warwick Potts

Registrar/Secretary/Treasurer

☎ 06 372 7842

redpollassociationnz@gmail.com

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.

Proposed AGM Tour Itinerary

<u>Day</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Comment</u>
<u>1</u>	Meet at Whiskey Creek Herd (Priscilla's) early pm View herd, followed by chainsaw & other collections	Stay in Hotel at Palmerston North Casual evening meal
<u>2</u>	Travel to Athbey Herd Woodville to view cattle View motorbike museum Lunch at Athol & Betty's followed by AGM in afternoon	Return to hotel for AGM dinner and drinks
<u>3</u>	Travel to Shannon to visit Kaihinu Herd. Lunch at Kelvin and Kath's Disperse mid pm	



Red Poll Cattle Breeders' Association NZ Inc

Annual General Meeting - May 2025

Agenda

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Obituaries**
- 4. Previous minutes from 2024 AGM**
- 5. Matters arising**
- 6. Presidents report**
- 7. Financial report**
- 8. Election of Officers:**
 - President**
 - Vice Presidents (2)**
 - Executive**
 - Appointment of Secretary/Treasurer/Registrar**
 - Newsletter editor**
 - Patron**
- 9. Appointment of Reviewer**
- 10. Authorisation for Treasurer**
- 11. General Business**

The Tour

Herd Book

Constitution/Incorporated Society Registration

Australian Society visit / Systems

Other

- 12. Award of Trophies**
- 13. 2026 Herd Tour and AGM**



PATRON'S PAGE

Today I am writing this on 28th January. If my father was alive, he would have been celebrating his one hundred and thirty eighth birthday, having been born in in Auckland in 1887.

He was to live through several ages of technological explosion. As a young child, telephones in Mt Eden where they lived were to be found in the Post Office, Police Station and one public call box with a very few select households having a telephone mounted on an inside wall. Today nearly everyone has at least one phone in their pocket and often a desk phone at home, not to mention car phones.

There were no radios except homemade crude pieces of equipment used by experimenters. The start of public broadcasting was still something he had to wait to see as a young man. Today there are literally thousands of sources of radio that can be listened to and often supported visually as well.

There were movie shows when he was a boy, but all were silent with the projector being wound by hand. Often a pianist improvised music to match the screen action.

My father saw his first talky film when he was nearly 30 years old.

He moved into a house in 1947 which had electricity, which had not been available in either of the previous two houses in the Far North. He was in his sixties before he had a small black and white TV receiver. Now we all have endless options for video displayed on a range of screens.

By the time he had retired in 1949 we were entering the Nuclear Age. I cannot remember if he ever used a computer, and he certainly had never owned an electric typewriter.

During his lifetime he had been able to observe many forms of technology coming into use.

Those of us living in the last thirty years will have been seeing an incredible range of new technologies coming on stream in ever increasing rapidity. It can

now be the brightest and best latest tech which is dead in the water within a year.

What is undoubtedly one of the high level markers of our era is the introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This is not to be confused with Artificial Insemination - AI down on the farm where it is the replacement for mating bulls as us Red Poll breeders are well aware of.

Artificial Intelligence is pervading just about all aspects of life and truly is extremely powerful adaptive and potentially an all-conquering creation with the power to self- create more of its kind ad infinitum.

It might be regarded as the Genie which escaped from the bottle or on the other hand it might be thought of as the powerful agent that might be putting you and me back into the bottle.

However, across Dad's lifetime there were many things that were constants. If we had a house cow and if she mated with a bull, usually an agreeable Jersey from next door, then in the spring we could expect her to deliver another calf. She had a constantly agreeable nature which allowed us to ask her to stand quietly in the field as we sat on a wooden staple box and hand milked her into a white enamel bucket and the comforting scent of her body was so relaxing as I sat there with my head nestled against her flank. Her milk was a constant... rich and creamy with froth in the bucket.

There are thousands of other constants which at times we tend to overlook as we are captured by the new and ever changing. Remember, there will be a dawn and sunset tomorrow. Please forgive this ramble which may signify decaying brain cells.

On that note I close wishing you a great year with lots of learning, sharing and exploring.

Ka Kite ano.

*Robin Shepherd. QSO
Patron*

STRATHWELL REPORT

Since we sold the farm last year, we have purchased a section in West Melton and hopefully will move into the new house in August this year. It's been quite exciting for Anita and me to be involved in the house design from concept to final plans to building.

The cattle remain on our lease block at Coe's Ford. Here we lease 78ha, just under 200acres. This year we have one crop of radish but hope to run more crops in the future. Store lambs are grazed on grass and lucerne. Any surplus lucerne is sold for baleage and chaff.

Last Spring we had 25 calves alive plus one dead. This year all the herd has tested positive in calf to Ash. We sold 11 R2 bulls to Silver Fern Farms at \$6.90 kg. They averaged \$1770.00 per head. They were sold in February.

On the homefront, Brionne and boyfriend Reece will be off on May 12th overseas to Europe for two years, and son Trent won't be far behind as well, as a lot of his friends are travelling.

I look forward to catching up with other breeders and Associate Members at the Annual General Meeting and tour.

Cheers

Ian & Anita Fleming



Dawn Mist Emp's Chelsea

by DM Nooky's Emperor.

Heaviest calf most years.

Bought from Mike & Ann

McSweeney in 2014 by

Rosemarkie Stud. One son, L9

R. Ash Treacle used in herd.

Two daughters retained, M12

R. Emir Molasses – so far 2

bulls & 4 heifers & Q13, R.

Chas Toffee -1 bull & 1 heifer.

ATHBEY STUD REPORT

Greetings all,

Spring 2024 calving on Athbey Farm saw the arrival of 10 heifer calves and 6 bull calves now registered, 3 steered and 2 heifers NFS.

Bull Pieter, purchased from Stoneyacres was mated to our heifers with our own bull Vinnie run with our mixed age cows. This season's calves out of our 2 year old heifers were by Vinnie. Right from a calf, Vinnie's growth rate was always well ahead of other bulls of the same age group.

The photo *Stoneyacres Max's Pieter (below)* took some taking to dodge the Californian thistles that seem to have taken over our hills. We spray the thistles on the flats, but the hills over the river had the insect introduced by the Regional Council about 4 years ago. To date the results have been rather disappointing with only a small, sheltered area showing any control.

This early March rain we have just had is very welcome as we were getting rather dry.

Looking forward to catching up with you all at our AGM Conference.

Athol & Betty Sowry



KAIHINAU REPORT, March 2025

Please see in the *photo below*, our *Strathmore bull* at *Kaihinau* who has grown out to be a specimen to be proud of.



Both Strathmore bulls are very gentle and have caused no problems. It is with reluctance that commercial factors say it is now time to let them go.

With an eye to breeding quality stock, we are definitely not regressing as a breed.

While others are in drought, we have had a surplus of feed right the way through, with hay sheds now full. It has meant that the cows have kept milking for the benefit of the calves and the calves have put on excellent weights.

The improved commodity values will help offset rising costs. Even Winston Peters was optimistic on Morning Report, but not one of the texts received by the broadcaster was pro agriculture, or land orientated.

We look forward to seeing many of you in April.
Kind regards to everyone,

Kelvin and Kath

FOUR DIAMOND STUD REPORT

It's amazing that Autumn is here already! I hope everyone has had a great Summer. We have had an odd season this year. The drought that we had last year just seemed to drag right through Winter and into Spring this year. My hay harvest was half of what it normally is, so I had to buy in baleage. Then at the beginning of Summer we finally started to get some decent showers.

The calves are growing great after a very late calving season. It seems like it drug [sic] on forever. The first calf was September 6th, and the last one was November 26th! I was trying to AI them this year and I did get one in calf, but I've had to give up on the rest because it was just getting too late. So unfortunately, I will only have one calf next year.

On a brighter note my Wiltshire ram is out there doing his business so hopefully I can make up for it with lamb numbers!

Doug and Sharon



◀ *Dozey hams it up for the camera.*

WHISKEY CREEK FARM REPORT

Hello to all,

Yet again the weather has been challenging with a wet spring and then a dry summer.

Didn't get as much hay out of my paddocks this year. I had to buy in a few extra bales of hay. Definitely cheaper to make your own.

The turnip crop was a bit of a saver this year. All my cattle did very well except a Red Poll cow that sadly died of bloat on the turnip crop.

After many months of humming and harring I finally decided to buy the bull Stoneyacres Max's Lisa. Now I know why most farmers only buy concrete troughs!

Our heaviest Red Poll calf at 6 and half months old is 270 kg. They are growing well.

Bye for now
Priscilla



Stoney Acres Max's Lisa. Herd book no. 4898

OPOUTERE RED POLLS

It's that time of year, when the days start to get a little bit shorter and some of the trees start to change colour.

We have not long returned from a road trip around the lower part of the North Island, down through Taranaki to Foxton. up through the Wairarapa, Hawkes Bay. Taupo and back home again.

We stayed with and visited some Red Poll farmers along the way, all of whom were in fine fettle as were their cattle. We noticed quite a variation in the grass situation with some areas being very dry and short, and yet other places having more feed than they could cope with, with hay balers and large tractors being out in full force.

Our Red Polls are quietly going about their work, without any dramas (as they should be). We will probably sell our heifer calves at weaning in April and carry the steers and two bull calves through the winter. We did sell some cull cows last month, great money at \$5.35 per kilo carcass weight. They returned at just short of \$1600 each.

Congratulations to the organisers of the Congress tour. It was a pleasure to reconnect with some of the breeders that we have met on former trips.

We also congratulate the team who put together the booklet on the Congress Tour, it was extremely well done and a great record of an interesting tour.

Hope to catch up again in April; with our annual herd meeting in April.

Allan & Helen



ROSEMARKIE REPORT

A round up from our Australian trip in February. Wellington to Sydney then Canberra, all went well. We spent a day and a half staying with the Couch's who we met on the International Red Poll Congress Tour of New Zealand. They generously took us for a tour of Canberra including a visit to the wonderful National Bonsai & Penjing Collection of Australia (NBPCA) which is a partnership between the ACT Government and the Australian **Bonsai** Community. ▲ *Alan & Cheryl*



◀ *Warwick beside a wombat hole*



That afternoon we had a quick look around their home farm of 100 acres or so. Lots of wombat holes here and there. No wombats seen though! Later we met Alan's mother, Helen Couch Spiers, a very good artist, who lives with them, and their lovely laidback little toy poodle Louis, who was really more like a cat in his behaviour. (Almost made me wish we had one like that!)

Next morning we went for a drive to their original property of approximately 500 acres to see their cow herd and the resident herd sire, *Eurimbla Titan*. ➤



◀ *Alan with one of his herd favourites*



The cow mob is nearly all from Ian & Jill Cogan's 'Eurimbla' stud bloodlines. Alan explained that they had had a fairly hard winter in this area last year, but on the whole the cows and calves were looking good.

After lunch we went for another drive to see the keeper R2yr heifers which are being grazed away from home. Some very nice animals in this group, only one of which had tested positive for the myostatin gene.



▲ *The heifer mob*

Next morning (Friday 14th) we rose early to be ready to leave for Canberra, a trip of about 1½ hours. Alan took a detour road that had had to be used when a local bridge washed out. We had to be at the airport by 10.30am. We needn't have rushed because the plane was late arriving and late taking off. When we arrived in Sydney, fortunately our luggage had been checked through, as we had to rush to catch our onward flight. We saw our bags and one other being whisked along on a little luggage carrier and being put hastily into the plane!

We had heard from our travel agent the night before that we would be flying to Tamworth, not Armidale as the they were having a problem with the runway seal at Armidale. We were going to bus to Armidale from Tamworth. The bus to Armidale sounded good – a one and a bit hour trip, but no... the main road was closed due to a fatal accident, so the bus ride was now a 4-hour cross country detour. Now getting dark, we travelled over cattle grids, saw kangaroos and deer in the headlights! Arrived too late to pick up pre-ordered rental car, so fortunately found accommodation at Armidale for the night. We were supposed to be picking up our rental car and staying in Glen Innes!

In the morning (Saturday 15th) we had a good breakfast at the motel and caught a taxi to go to the airport to collect the car, then drove up to Glen Innes. It has many beautiful old buildings – no earthquakes to destroy them. Verandas, pediments and brick facades all intact. A real trip back in time. Would have liked more time to look around – maybe next time.

We arrived at the A & P show where we had arranged to meet Albert & Dorothy Hancock. It was an unexpected treat when Ayleen & Robin Dawes showed up later in the morning. They too had been on the NZ tour.

Fortunately, the Red Poll classes were a bit late getting underway which meant we could see them all as we arrived a bit later than anticipated (but still there by 8.30am!). They began with the Junior Bull classes – only one entry in each so all three went up for champion and reserve.



Red Poll Junior championship bulls from 8-12, 16-18 & 18-20 months

Left - Right

121 - Kookabookra Statesman Sire: Maleer Indiana 2nd

123 - Lagoon Spicy Sam Sire: Kookabookra Bussy **Reserve Champion**

122 - Red Rush Prince Vinnie Sire: Red Rush Prince Louis **Champion**



◀ *Red Rush Prince Vinnie, 16 - 18 month class.*

There were no senior Red Poll bulls present.



Red Poll Female Grand Championship

Left – Right

128 Kookabookra Seanna & calf

Sire: Glenleigh High Performance

Senior & Grand Champion female

125 Lagoon Odette

Sire: Kookabookra Bugsy

Junior Champion heifer (18 - 20 month age group)

A huge Angus bull was the Supreme Champion cattle beast at the Show with a Charolais cow and calf runner up. A good grand parade but only four Red Polls took part.

Warwick went in the truck with Albert to take their cattle to his brother's small farm just out of town. They also dropped off some Lincoln Reds for their owner. They came back to the Showgrounds to have dinner there. For \$30 each we had salad and potato bake along with a large Wagyu steak. The latter we got to cook on the provided BBQ. \$30,000 worth of steaks had been donated by a local firm and were very good indeed. The show's Women's Auxilliary group made the salads. There was a caravan there serving strawberries, whipped cream (real, not aerosol that quickly fades away) & ice cream. Had sampled these earlier in the day. Generous amounts and delicious.

After dinner we followed Dorothy to Gilbert and Ellen's (Albert's brother and his wife's place) to view his late sister Priscilla's cattle, now being run by Rachel. The property was on the edge of town. Getting on for dusk so no photos but some very nice females and a good bull, Oakwood Gunpowder.

Albert left for their own farm in the ute and we again followed Dorothy, with granddaughter Beth. Rachel was ahead of us in the truck with the show cattle. It seemed to be downhill all the way – Glen Innes is about 1,060metres above sea level. At night on an unfamiliar road, we had a bit of trouble keeping up with the locals but got there OK in the end.

Upon arrival we were shown to our room at Albert and Dorothy's. They have relinquished the homestead to Rachel and Adam on the main farm and put up a new shed which has been made into a very comfortable home on their 300 acres. Albert did much of the finishing work himself. While recuperating after his major accident Albert built himself a flash chook house which he took Warwick on a tour of.

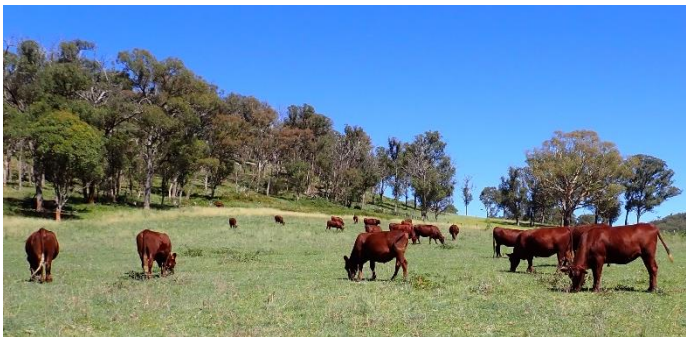
Next morning after a relaxed breakfast we picked up Rachel and went for a drive around the main farm. It certainly looked a picture. Rachel and Adam are keen to establish some paddocks with more recent varieties of grasses and clovers, also revising some of the paddock fences for ease of management.

There are many different species of eucalypts on the farm with some areas set aside for conservation. There are also untold numbers of large, interesting rocks scattered about.

Rocks ➤



Heifer herd ▼



We passed the heifer herd as we began our tour. They all looked in great condition.

The sunny day gave their coats a real sheen.



◀ *Oakwood Jackson*

We got to see some of the current herd sires. Would be good to bring a couple of them back with us!



Maleer Indiana ▲

Lovely clean sheaths on all these bulls.

Further on we saw a lovely bull with good depth – a commercial by an Oakwood bull out of an Oakwood cow. *Tag 014* ▼



After that we returned to Rachel's to view the sale bulls. These had been assessed according to the Classic Livestock method of which Albert is one of the assessors. He demonstrated some of the finer points to us. Will be checking ours out when we get home! www.classiclivestock.com.au

That night we were invited to Rachel and Adam's for dinner – a tasty Red Poll roast.

Early next morning we set off on the next leg of our journey.

Thanks very much to our two wonderful Red Poll host families in Australia.

We hope to reciprocate

Helen & Warwick



One of the young sale bulls, destined for sale to Queensland ▲

NEWS FROM BRAZIL

Email 12 December 2024

The Sacramento farm has been raising Red Poll animals since 2018. We are located in the city of Jatai, state of Goiás, center-west of Brazil.

At some times of the year in extremely hot periods, temperatures above 40 degrees have been recorded.

The Red Poll animals born here are adapting very well and are born with short hair, we even have animals that carry the slick hair gene in heterozygous form.

We carried out experimental crosses between Red Poll and other breeds, including Nelore, Senepol, Caracu and Angus. The results were fantastic.

We are supervised by two veterinarians, the Professor Vinicio Araujo Nascimento, head of the Federal University of Jatai, and Dr. Antonio da Silva Pinto.

Irineu Ferreira Batista e Íris Maikon Almeida Ferreira.



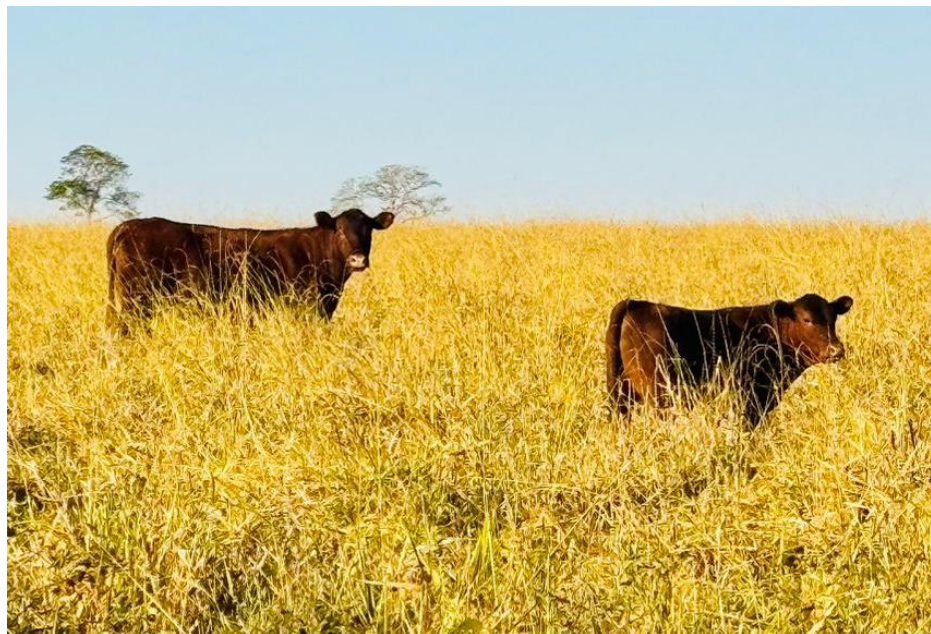
Young bull at Sacramento



Cow & calf at Sacramento



Cows at Sacramento Farm ▲ Cow & her calf at Sacramento farm ▼



Stoney Acres Herd Report Autumn 2025

Hello Fellow Breeders

Again, it's time to give a brief detail of the happenings here at Stoney Acres farm. The herd is now 87 Red Poll animals to keep me sane.

40 cows, 21 steers, 3 bulls, 21 heifers and two out of season calves born late February. The numbers include this year's calves which are just waiting to go to the weaner fair.

In the Wairarapa we have had a fantastic season growing grass with a very brief dry spot to allow the contractors to get my hay baled on my lease blocks; a mere 60 round bales and 250 conventional bales. Expecting an Autumn drought the same as last year. That is just around the corner.

My cows and calves are now home from grazing up around the corner on the hill and doing well.

Have weighed the weaner calves a couple of times now, getting ready for the weaner fair and have sold the smaller steers x8 to a former breeder in Hamilton, to be sent mid -April

Fert truck is booked for autumn lime and fertiliser.

All the best
Neil W Wilton



Cows coming home from Autumn grazing

CANADA CATCHUP *(email 8 March 2025)*

Hope all is well with you both. Got your Christmas card and the newsletter last week, we just love Canada Post. They say things are back to normal from the strike but we will see.

I have to say that it was a very good newsletter, we both enjoyed it very much.

I did make it through the cancer treatment and stem cell transplant. Would not wish that on anybody, but all's well that ends well. The hospital in Vancouver sent me home at the start of August, weak as a newborn kitten and Marsha and I started putting up our winters supply of feed. It was slow going, but got it done. Had a great fall and the winter has been surprisingly nice, easy on the feed supply.

We are in the middle of calving at the moment with 32 calves on the ground out of 70, so almost half done. This is the best part of raising cattle, seeing the young calves up and running around.

Again, thanks for your wishes and all the best.

*Dean & Marsha
Shadow Creek Stud*



Young bulls at Couch's, Canberra.

KENYA UPDATE *Email 21 January 2025*

We are in a state of flux at present. Business has been so bad for a few years so in spite of my obstinacy to sell land - "over my dead body" - I have finally agreed that we need to do something if I am not to go into the coffin immediately, so we are in the middle of selling off 520 acres to a cement factory that wants our limestone. Unfortunately, we could not persuade them to pay for the stone but paid instead on land area but still it is a good price. Another party wanting to grow organic coffee under indigenous tree canopy has approached us for up to another 1,900 acres depending on soil tests, weather data etc. If we have to sell this would be a great buyer from our point of view as we have preserved about 30% of the place under indigenous woodland and forest and this will increase. We will then remain with 500 acres, and I will become a hobby farmer with a few acres of sugarcane to supply my need for the sugar we produce and my farmyard animals - I always did like to play with the farmyard animals as a kid, rather than soldiers!

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and wish you a happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year. We had a great time with our girls out from UK, one with boyfriend. Mag's sister and brother-in-law were also here from Scotland plus their two with spouses, which kept us on our toes.

Regards and hope that farming will be a success and a joy for the coming year.
I love reading the newsletter. *Jimmy Brooks*



Some of Jimmy's cows graze the lush Kenya pastures



Jimmy's bull by Fedw Stig at a local show in Kenya ▲



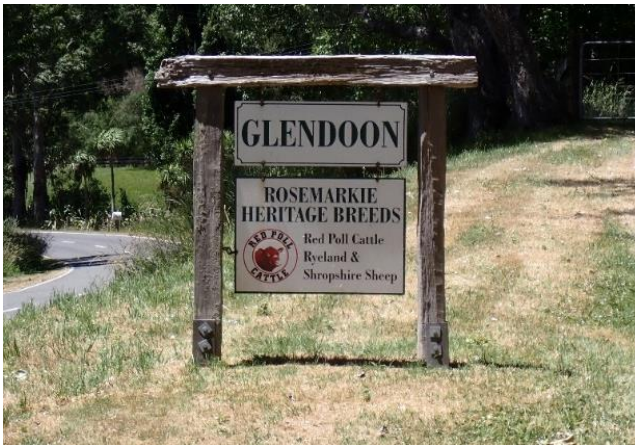
The Fedw Stig bull with a Jersey bull of NZ breeding at Jimmy's

RED POLL INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS & TOUR

9th - 22nd April 2024 Part Three

Saturday 13th April, Day 5

After breakfasting at the hotel, the tour travelled over the Remutaka Pass to the Wairarapa where the tour firstly visited Greytown Honey, a fifth-generation family business producing the highest quality manuka, wildflower and clover honey. The group took in a tour of the factory as well as participating in a session of tasting the various honeys.



The bus then travelled via Martinborough to see the **Rosemarkie Herd** of Helen McKenzie and Warwick Potts. This herd was founded in the mid 1980's.

This year twenty-seven cows were to calve. There is a good

mix of bloodlines from UK, USA and Australia courtesy of using AI and ET bulls from McSweeney's Dawn Mist Herd and Robin Thomson's Tamihana herd. The stock are not pampered but run on the medium hills all year round with supplementary baleage in the winter. Red Poll cows are very good at cleaning up rough pasture after the sheep and young stock have had their pick.

Warwick welcomed everybody and they walked up to the woolshed and yards to see the cattle: cows with calves at foot, two-year heifers, yearling heifers and steers. Lucy Cooper from the Wairarapa Midweek newspaper accompanied the walkers and spoke with some of the overseas visitors, getting their thoughts on NZ and the NZ Red Poll cattle they had seen so far.



One of the current herd sires, Dawn Mist Ferd's Tristram (A), was on display at Rosemarkie Stud. He is by Bowland Ferdinand from Simon and Sally Temple's herd in the UK, out of a Dawn Mist cow.

The cattle were conveniently divided into age groups within the cattle yards and two small adjacent paddocks.

Lunch was provided by Helen & Warwick, ably assisted by Helen's sister Diane and a friend, Wendy Eastwood. After eating and relaxing for a short while the group scaled the bus steps about 1.45pm and drove north-east from Masterton to view Hereford and Speckled Park cattle at the internationally known 'Maungahina' stud of Bruce and Mark McKenzie. Their Hereford stud is now the oldest registered Hereford stud in New Zealand, being established in 1907.

Mark spoke on the history of the two studs and the property itself. He said their two big back paddocks were currently really dry, with no water. They were using solar pumps to get water to them. The overseas visitors were taken on a tour for an in-depth look at the cattle in the paddocks. There was a lot of interest shown in both their breeds, and also in their cattle crush and facilities.

From Maungahina, it was time to get settled in at the Solway Park Hotel where accommodation was arranged for the next two nights.



Dinner that evening was hosted by retired stud breeders, Graeme & Judy Evans, at their property west of Masterton. They had Evanlea Stud for 20 years, successfully showing cattle at various venues in the lower North Island.

Their entranceway has a long room suited perfectly for tables that everyone could sit at together. The table was all set ready for tea: - barbecued meats, salads and rolls arranged on the kitchen island for everyone to help themselves.

Dessert and a cuppa rounded off the evening nicely. There was plenty of time for everyone to catch up with others who had come along but were not on the tour, including Judy & Graeme's son, Adrian and his wife, Jen.

Some of the group gathered before dinner at Evanlea waiting for Graeme's words of welcome. ▼





◀ Erick from Kenya and Anne & Calvert from Jamaica take the opportunity to talk Red Polls

Graeme spoke, saying he and Judy were pleased to see us all, including some who they have met before when on overseas Red Poll Congress trips. ➤



◀ Neil Wilton enjoys his dessert.

L-R Ian Fleming NZ Red Poll Cattle Breeders' Association President, Kelvin Lane, Warwick Potts and Alan Couch (Australia). Seated in background is Ayleen Dawes, also from Australia ➤





◀ Some of the group tucking into the delicious BBQ dinner and enjoying a wine or soft drink.

Athol & Betty Sowry from Athbey Stud, Woodville. To be visited in a couple of days.▼



◀ Hostess Judy Evans looks up the steps from the dining area.



▲ L-R Catherine Payne & Albert Hancock (Aus) and Neil Wilton (NZ)

Sunday 14th April, Day 6

This morning, we travelled to the **Stoney Acres** Stud of Neil Wilton's between Carterton & Masterton. Neil has his own block and the use of several other smallholdings nearby. He also runs his own lifestyle contracting business doing fencing, baling hay and baleage for locals.



Neil had on display 37 mature cows with calves, 16 R2 heifers and the bull Gravel Pit Tonka, on lease from Rosemarkie Stud. We first visited a lease block on Chester Road which had the 18-month heifers including some bought in from Rosemarkie. One heifer, #6 was particularly appealing.



The group inspects the 18-month heifers ▲

From there we went to the house block where we first viewed the cows with calves retained as bulls. The remaining bull calves were steered and weaned along with the heifer calves.



◀ *These bull calves are all by Gravel Pit Tonka.*

There is a small but steady demand for Red Poll bulls from local dairy farmers & lifestylers.



◀ *Gravel Pit Tonka Tag#101 reg #4803 by Raedean Maximus (AUS 30126) out of Tamihana Elz Favouring. Born 26/8/2018.*

(Unfortunately has another animal standing directly behind him in photo)

Considering how dry it has been in the Wairarapa before the tour, Neil's cattle were in very good condition overall. Feeding out of baleage was begun a couple of months earlier than usual to maintain their condition while feeding their calves.



▲ *Some of the Stoney Acres cows in the front paddock. Calves weaned a few days before.*

We repaired to Neil's house for morning tea. The first time we had morning tea on the tour. An opportunity to ask questions about the herd and his plans for it in the future.



▲ *On the veranda waiting for morning tea: L-R Kath Lane (NZ); Catherine Payne, Ayleen Dawes, Cheryl Couch and Dorothy Hancock – all Australian*



◀ L-R Alan Couch (Aus), Orville Palmer, Devon Sayers, Calvert Loudon & Anne Katein (Jamaica).

L-R Priscilla Mudgway (NZ), Cheryl & Alan Couch (Australia) ➤



◀ L-R Athol & Betty Sowry, Patrica Mudgway (NZ) & Albert Hancock (Aus)

From Neil's it was back on the bus to the hotel for a short break before a buffet lunch, which consisted of sliced lamb, peas, carrots, pasta and green salads, and mustard dressing for those who required it. For dessert there was a choice of mini pavs or sticky date pudding with caramel sauce.

After lunch the NZ members present attended the NZ 2024 AGM. The visitors could choose to stay or go for a break before the Congress which was due to start at 2.30pm.

To be continued...

URUGUAY UPDATE

Originally my ranch was named after my father in his honour, Florencio, but also, in the Catholic tradition, Saint Florencio of Strasbourg is the patron protector of cattle, so we have great faith that this saint and my father from heaven take care of us.



We began to breed this noble breed more than 15 years ago, and after many years we have achieved animals with a national pedigree. Our blood comes mainly from Australia, the USA and New Zealand. And we are very happy with the biotypes we have achieved, completely adapted to the forage conditions here in Uruguay, based on the natural field.

In recent years we have ventured into national shows, and we have the honour of already having great male and female champions.

Today we are already preparing animals for the next Prado, 2025, the most important show here in Uruguay, and in South America, along with Esteio in Brazil and Palermo in Argentina.

We are also planning to start producing embryos this year, which we are very excited about, and semen production, which we already do, promoting our breed. Currently, our clients are beef cattle breeders, who generally breed Aberdeen Angus or Hereford and who use our bulls on first-time heifers. And the results are very good.

In short, we are very happy with our animals and always committed to promoting this noble breed.

I send you a hug and my wishes for God's blessings.

Mario Fernandez



*One of Mario's
heifers and her
young calf*



*Mario's
show bull
at home.*

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 associate membership subscription is £30 sterling; includes three printed issues a year of the newsletter. The newsletter is also available to view on-line, gratis.



Bit of History

(National Library *Papers Past*) Hawke's Bay Tribune 24 September 1936

RED POLL CATTLE

Popularity in Australia

Discerning farmers must be aware of the marked increase in popularity that Red Poll cattle are gaining throughout New Zealand, due to the breed's extraordinary adaptability to the requirements of breeders of beef and dairy cattle alike bred under varied and hard conditions. Farmers cannot afford not to appreciate their extreme hardihood, great foraging qualities, docility, and extraordinarily well balanced, deep-fleshing and milking propensities.

It is not out of place to mention that the New Zealand and Australian Land company, with vast cattle run interests in Australia, have found the Red Poll, owing to the above-mentioned desirable traits, eminently suited for the raising of prime bullocks under conditions that they have found other breeds wanting. Throughout their 27 large cattle runs, they are breeding large lines of Red Poll cross bullocks that have frequently topped Australian beef markets, more especially the Brisbane market, and this after long drives from off their way-back stations.

As an outcome of their pleasing experience in the breed, they have decided to concentrate on the Red Poll.



Photos Back Cover

Top: Scenic views from Four Diamond stud at Waikari

Bottom: Weaners at Stoney Acres stud waiting to be weighed before going to the sale.

