

# Dexter Promotion Group of Tasmania Newsletter September 2013



Hi Everyone

Gee three months seems to fly by, I can't believe it is time for the next Newsletter.

We have had our first committee meeting which was very positive, planning is underway for a Field Day at Rawlings Dexter Stud on Sunday 20 October on Dexter beef and will include a hands on session on "How to Make Sausages". Details are available under Field Days a bit further on in this Newsletter.

A date has been set for this years Christmas gathering which Ken Michell has kindly offered to host, so mark Saturday 23rd November in your diaries and keep the date free. It will be bring along a salad to share and a BBQ is available. BYO drinks.

In March 2014 we are looking to organise a Field Day, let one of the Committee members know what topics would be of interest and a suitable venue. One thought would be to have members bring along their animals to one of the Showgrounds and run a day on how to prepare animals for showing.

There is also a need to re-do the Dexters in Tasmania brochure, and members are urged to email me [rawlingsdexter@westnet.com.au](mailto:rawlingsdexter@westnet.com.au) if you are interested in a spot. Places are limited, so please let me know your intentions ASAP.

It is also proposed that we investigate a permanent display at Clarendon House promoting Dexters in Tasmania and outlining their history through to modern day. If we can access some form of funding this will allow us to get this project happening quickly.

Show season is almost upon us, I can't believe how quickly it seems to come around every year.

The first show is Burnie 5 & 6 October, followed by Launceston 10 - 12 October, Hobart, Ulverstone, Scottsdale, Huon and Devonport. It is hoped we will have some of our studs attending these different shows across the state, showcasing the best of their Dexter cattle. Anyone who needs some help or mentoring to actually get themselves and their animals to shows, please contact one of our Committee Members.

Don't forget if you have any animals you wish to sell, please take advantage of the For Sale page on the group website. It is there to help you promote and sell your stock, so please use this valuable resource.

May is National Trust Heritage Month. If anyone would like to host an Open Farm do please let one of the Committee know.

We are developing a plan with the National Trust to have a display of Dexters, along with heritage pigs and chooks at Clarendon House on the weekend of 17/18<sup>th</sup> May. It is hoped some of our members will bring their own animals to put on display. We will aim to have demonstrations and displays to compliment the day. Please consider giving your support to this initiative, by letting the Committee know if you would like to contribute animals, skill demonstrations – or just how to look after a house cow!

In the south, Pam Sharpe & Derek Pennington and their family have kindly offered their property at Mountain River for two weekends, Saturday 17 May and Sunday 25 May. Thank you for this valuable opportunity to put Dexters back in the public view down in the south of the state.

**Marg Rawlings**  
**Promotions Officer**

## From the Chair

Hello everyone. Your new committee had its first face to face meeting in Campbell Town on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> August. We held the meeting at the Red Bridge Café an equal distance to travel for members from both North and South. The meeting was very productive and many things discussed. I would like to encourage our members to attend any future committee meetings.

Marg our Promotions Officer has already produced her first Newsletter and is busy working hard on the next edition. Peter our Treasurer has been busy registering the group trailer with many trips to Service Tas. before finally getting it done. Derek our new Secretary has taken on the job with great vigour and enthusiasm.

The 2013 Show season is fast approaching, if you are thinking of showing in the future I encourage you to attend as many shows as you can and assist those that are showing to get some valuable experience, both in the judging ring and show preparation.

Happy Dexters.

*Ian Clayton, Chairperson*

## For Sale

There are bottles of "Dexter Red" available for purchase. We have been fortunate to obtain a limited amount of Fleming's Wines of South Australia's 2008 Shiraz. This is a quality red suitable for drinking now or for putting away for later. For orders please contact either Andrea O'Grady on 6496 1969 or Peter Fleming on 6396 1136. Prices are \$10 each or \$70 for a dozen. Be quick because they are selling fast!!!



Dexters in Tasmania

mugs are available for sale again at the same low price of \$5 each. They proved very popular last time with some going overseas and interstate. Ring Andrea O'Grady to place your order 6496 1969.



## The Importance of NLIS

I recently had a situation where some of our animals got moved onto another PIC (Property Identification Code) when they were actually still on our property. It turned out to be the Show team and those animals were definitely still here. After a few phone calls the matter was sorted out, but it made me reconcile the actual number of NLIS electronic tags which were on our property. The task took over 3 hours to complete and I was astounded that there were 39 animals that had been sold or slaughtered that still appeared on our PIC.

The NLIS database which is supposed to give lifetime traceability to animals to assist if there is ever a disease outbreak in Australia to contain the problem and also exclude animals which are clearly not affected. It is the responsibility of the person purchasing cattle to ensure that those animals are moved onto their PIC. The system appears to be failing badly as I was able to demonstrate.

For many of our members and those we sell our cattle to, they have no idea of their obligations and the importance of keeping the system up to date. So I will run through the procedure to assist our many small landholders how to comply with their obligations.

Firstly you will need to contact DPIPW and be allocated a PIC, this code belongs to your property and is issued and is transferred along with the property when a change of ownership occurs. You will need this PIC when purchasing stock and electronic tags, as it needs to be quoted to suppliers and stock agents where applicable.

You will need to ensure that you have the PIC of the property that the animals have been moved from. Simply log onto the NLIS database, when doing this for the first time you need to create a user profile and a password will be emailed to you. Keep those details safe for when you need to update tag records. Follow the prompts to process the task which you require to do. You will note that when you purchase a new batch of electronic tags the supplier uploads those tag numbers your PIC. Personally I keep a tag register of all our NLIS tags as they are applied, recording the visible tag ID and the name of the animal. I then update this register whenever an animal is sold.

*Marg Rawlings , Rawlings Dexter Stud*

## Field Day

Our first Field Day is planned for Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October to be held at Mark & Margaret Rawlings property at 1599 Preston Road, Preston. Commencing with coffee at 9.30 am for a 10 am start, the topic of the day is Dexter beef. What cuts come from where with a session outlining the cuts on a live animal, marketing strategies, growing out your steers for the best return and a hands on session of making your own sausages. It is important that we know if you will be attending to ensure we have enough ingredients to allow everyone to make their own batch of sausages. Bring an esky to transport your sausages home. Ingredients premix and collagen sausage casings will be supplied at cost, if you wish to use natural casings, you will need to supply your own.

A sausage sizzle lunch will be available to purchase, cost \$3 per sausage in bread.

RSVP to [rawlingsdexter@westnet.com.au](mailto:rawlingsdexter@westnet.com.au) or phone 6429 1287 before 16<sup>th</sup> October to confirm your place.

Don't forget to visit our Group website!  
[www.dextersintasmania.weebly.com](http://www.dextersintasmania.weebly.com)

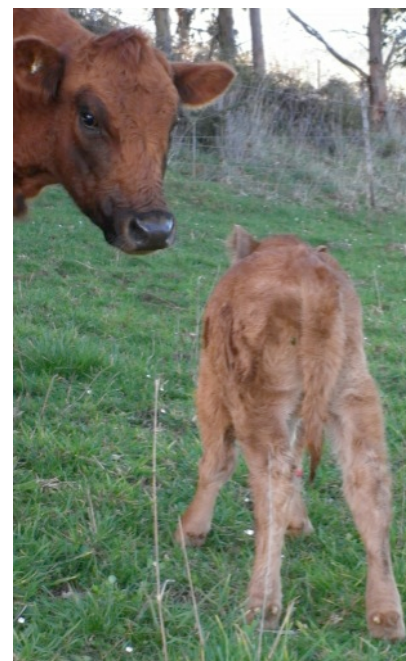
## New Genetics for Tasmania

Our long awaited first calf sired by our imported American semen has arrived. He was a few days late, but we have a polled red bull calf sired by Belle Fourche Clay and out of Rawlings Emerald Skye. And first impressions are he was worth the wait, he is shown below just three hours old.



He will be named Rawlings Jasper as Jasper is a county in Georgia in the US where his sire comes from, and is also a red gemstone often compared to Emerald, so very fitting.

*Marg Rawlings  
Rawlings  
Dexter Stud*



## Steer Sale to Preston Gourmet Produce

I recently sold a Dexter steer to Preston Gourmet Produce and I am very pleased with the return that I received. The steer was twenty-four months old and the HCW (Hot Carcass Weight) was 183.2 kg, at \$3.50 per kg this gave me a return of \$641.20. I purchased the steer in November 2012 for \$400. He was processed in late August 2013. This gave me a profit of \$241.20 in just ten months.

I believe this to be an excellent return and it is a great way to get our Dexter beef out into the public arena. We must as beef producers have a market for our excess steers and Preston Gourmet Produce is giving us just that.

*Ian Clayton  
Preston Park Dexters*

**A word from a novice...**

We joined this Tas Promotion group just over a year ago with very little experience of Dexters! We have to admit to being rather overawed by the experienced players, and kind of kept our heads low until the Wynyard Show in March of this year. Andrea O'Grady gently encouraged us to come along and that "dexters would be found for our girls, Freya and Mee-Yeon to show". This created great excitement in the family, and we booked into the Waterfront Hotel, ready for the show. On the day we suddenly realised we had the wrong shoes, hats and just about everything else! A quick dash round resulted in borrowed items. Then some quick coaching, and they were on the novice handling event. Smiles spread from ear to ear when a first and second prize came to our family.



My main reason for giving this little story, is that the offers of others in the group to help, share animals, encourage, mentor – call it what you will – are fantastic and genuine! We are still absolute novices, and I have now found myself as secretary! But I have the confidence to promote the aspects of Dexters that we are passionate about!

**Derek Pennington**  
**Mountain River Dexter Stud**

## Dates for the Calendar

Burnie 5 & 6 October

Launceston Royal Show 10 - 12 October  
Field Day – with a Focus on Beef 20 October  
Hobart Royal Show 23 - 26 October  
Ulverstone 2 November  
Scottsdale 15 & 16 November  
Huon 16 November  
Deloraine 23 November  
Christmas Get Together 23 November  
Devonport 29 - 30 November

## Photos Needed

We need to get some photos of Dexters in Tasmania for a couple of purposes, the first being an article being put together by the National Trust in a magazine which gets national coverage. Secondly to update our noticeboards and give all studs a chance to have their photos showcased at events such as Agfest. Anyone who has something they think will be suitable please send them through to Marg Rawlings [rawlingsdexter@westnet.com.au](mailto:rawlingsdexter@westnet.com.au) or post printed copies to 1599 Preston Road Preston.

## Committee Contacts

Please feel free to contact any one of us should you need some help, have any concerns or just ring for a chat.

**Chairperson** Ian Clayton - Phone 6429 1121  
[prestonparkdexters@bigpond.com](mailto:prestonparkdexters@bigpond.com)

**Secretary** Derek Pennington - Phone 6266 4747  
[derek.pennington@iinet.net.au](mailto:derek.pennington@iinet.net.au)

**Treasurer** Peter Fleming - Phone 6396 1136  
[p-t-fleming@bigpond.com](mailto:p-t-fleming@bigpond.com)

**Promotions** Marg Rawlings - Phone 6429 1287  
[rawlingsdexter@westnet.com.au](mailto:rawlingsdexter@westnet.com.au)

## Christmas Get Together

Every year we have the best of intentions to get together to celebrate the year we have had breeding Dexters and also the close of another year. But sadly the time slips by before we realise and no-one has enough time to organise such an event.

At this year's AGM Ken Michell from Lavender Spires Dexter Stud, or stud Ken as he is known to his friends, offered the venue at his lovely property at Don just out of Devonport. A date has been tentatively booked and we would like

everyone to make an effort to attend and help us celebrate. The date chosen was 23 November, so please check your diary and write it in to make sure you have the date free. We would love to catch up with as many of our members as possible, even if it is only for an hour or two.

Bring a salad to share and BBQ is available. BYO drinks. Camping facilities are available for anyone wanting to camp overnight.