Australian Ayrshires

PO Box 189, Kiama. NSW 2553

***Newsletter November 2016***

Federal Council met in Melbourne earlier this month and it was a productive opportunity to meet face-to-face and focus our attention for a full day on Ayrshire matters without the associated pressures of shows and sales. This newsletter is to update our members on the matters discussed at this meeting and also to provide a few reminders about upcoming events in the Ayrshire world.

***Important Dates***

**Entries for our annual Photo and Production Competitions will close on November 30th** and entry forms are available on our website and were also emailed to members earlier this month. Nominated judges for the All-Australian Photo Comp are Rob Tolhurst (Can), Peter Beresford (UK) and Derek Hayward (NZ). To align ourselves with the World Comp and due to inconsistencies in the presentation of the entries it was decided to discontinue the Pen of Three class from the competition.

**The AGM will be held next Monday Nov 28 at 8.00pm EDST** via telephone link. Please contact Anne at LBC if you would like to be linked to this meeting. Reports presented at this meeting will be re-presented for members at our Sunday meeting at IDW. There were only 4 nominations for Federal Council, so Cheryl Liebich, Greg Klatt, Kelvin Haberle and Brett Hayter will be elected for further terms on Federal Council at this meeting. I thank them for their continued input into the administration of our organisation.

**Entries for the IDW Elite Ayrshire sale are due now**. If you would like to enter an animal in this sale, please contact Brian Leslie or myself.

The barbecue hosted by the Victorian Branch will again be held on the Sunday night at IDW so hopefully you are able to attend and get to enjoy socialising with other Ayrshire enthusiasts at this gathering. We will be holding an after judging gathering at the Tatura Bowls Club again on the Tuesday night. At this function we will present the awards for 2016 competitions. The venue suits the purpose of the evening and this year we have sourced catering through “Personal Chef” to provide the meal. They catered for the SA Branch at Adelaide this year and the quality and quantity of food drew many favourable comments. The cost for the meal will be $15 per person with no charge for children under 12. Full bar facilities will be available at the bowls club on the night. We look forward to seeing you all there.

***World Ayrshire Conference***

Firstly, congratulations to Greg Edmonds on his election to the position of World President of the Ayrshire Federation. As stated in previous newsletters Greg has the enthusiasm and contacts for the role and will leave no stone unturned to ensure the 2020 Conference in Australia will be a success.

There was discussion at the World Conference related to percentages in Ayrshire cattle especially from the European countries. At this stage Federal Council has decided to continue using the US calculations for Ayrshire percentage and the link to the US Bull Percentage listing will be made available shortly on our website for members to access.

The next meeting for the world body will be in Sweden in 2018 and next year there will be a tour to South Africa. Details of this have been circulated to members earlier this week.

As Australia is to host the 2020 conference we need to develop the program for the tour in January 2020. Federal Council has appointed John Edmonds to coordinate the tour, together with input and support from the Federal Council and our World Conference Committee. John was involved in the organisation of the 1991 Centenary tour of Australia and has also organised a number of similar events for the Fire Brigade in SA. This will reduce the costs of travel agents in organising the event but will require the support and knowledge of local members in the organisation of local events and potential visits as the tour passes across Australia. Already accommodation has been reserved in the major cities for the event and a more detailed program will be available at IDW meetings.

Members will need to think of how they can contribute to the conference in their area and also how they can support the event. Already some members have made donations or donated the proceeds from the sale of animals to an account established for the World Conference by Australian Ayrshires. It would be great if members could consider ways of contributing to this fund whether it be the sale of a bobby calf or two or some other more original idea that works for you.

 We look forward to providing more info to our members at the Tuesday function at IDW.

***Genomic Testing***

The situation with genomic testing of Ayrshires has not developed far in Australia. Zoetis can do the genomic profile but are not able to provide values for the animals at this stage. However, through contact with Tyson Shea at Semex they are able to provide genomic values for Canada and the US for females only at $75 per animal. This will provide an avenue for female testing and it will provide information on females using a system we are familiar with from sire data from US and Canada. I would suggest that anyone wishing to get genomic information on their animals contact Tyson directly and ask that the information be made available to the ADHIS in Australia.

***Fanfare Sale***

The date for the Fanfare show and sale has been set for May 7 and 8th next year and will again be held at Camperdown in Western VIC. While the cost of this facility increased this year, we felt the advantages of the venue in the event of wet weather and the access to accommodation and dinner venues warranted the increase in fees for this venue. This gives plenty of notice for members to select animals for the show and sale or make travel plans to be at Camperdown for this event.

***Bull Proving***

Scott Braendler reported to the meeting that existing supplies suitable for export to UK and NZ of the original semen collection from Boldview Oblique’s Far has reduced to 200 doses with sales being very good in the 18 mths of his availability. After discussion it was decided not to collect further semen from this bull at this stage but look at other alternative Australian Bull pedigrees. Members with possible sires for use in Australia are requested to send pedigree information to Scott for consideration by the Bull Committee.

On a personal note I would like to advise members that my only phone contact is by mobile on **0408370990** as I have discontinued my landline number. Maybe this is a sign that technology is catching up with me.

Hopefully this newsletter helps bring members up to date with Ayrshire happenings in Australia.

Regards

Mike Hentschke,

Federal President, Australian Ayrshires.