



# Red Angus Society of Australia Inc.

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## REPORT ~ Get Together & WORKSHOP Sunday. 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 At 'Ebony Lodge', WILLOW GROVE.

### RAIN RAIN RAIN RAIN WONDERFUL RAIN !!!!!

What a wonderful weekend with the welcome rain, signalling the possibility of an early Autumn Break for everyone. The deluges filled a lot of the water holes and dams and made creeks and rivers. This put everyone in a positive frame of mind for the day.

At 9.30 am Larry Cutler welcomed everyone and outlined the program for the day emphasising the flexibility depending on the amount of precipitation at the planned time to inspect the cattle held in the yards for comments associated with the topics of the various speakers.

Thirty-five people in attendance listened intently to Larry, assisted by a power point presentation, worked his way through the topic of "Selecting Bulls for your herd". Posing questions such as: *What Type of Bull do I Need? Where are we going? Selection of a Sire? Assessment of Cow Herd? The Important Selection of the Bull ? What tools to use? Stick to 'YOUR TYPE'? Assess the Progeny?* It was an interesting and challenging address and emphasised the importance of knowing and defining what one's operation is about and what you are doing. Larry had a selection of bulls for inspection and the various differences were highlighted to everyone.

After the Morning Tea, provided by the students of the local school, came our next speaker. Mr. Damian O'Neill (Elders, Yea). Damian's topic "Feeding animals for markets and competition". This led to an explanation of the ELMS Program (Early Weaning and Travel 'n' Yard Pellets). The benefits of grass and grain feeding and the importance of nutrition in the early months of an animal's life were analysed. The rain had eased and we were able to see first hand how Ebony Lodge had implemented the system and reinforced the presentation. The benefits certainly outweighed the costs of participating in this system and there were plenty of animals for inspection which had been early weaned.

Lunch was a Barbeque (Indoors) and there was plenty for everyone

It is always difficult to be the first speaker after lunch as everyone tends to relax after a good meal. Geoff McInnes of Innesdale Angus (black) held everyone's attention as he pointed out what one should be looking for to present to the various markets which of course are applicable to Steer Competitions as well. As the sun broke through everyone ventured outside to the yards to examine the cattle on hand. Unless one was equipped with Rubber Boots, it was observation from the rails, but the presenter, with the aid of Cameron, was able to adequately give good examples of the various body types.



Steer Assessment at Ebony Lodge



Bull Assessment at Ebony Lodge

The final speaker for the day was Mr. Ross Meridith - Glen Eli Poll Herefords/Gippsland Beef Challenge who gave us an insight into the establishment of the competition. He highlighted the benefits of using live weight gains and other raw data in unison with the carcass scores obtained from competitions to determine the efficiency of your herd and the effectiveness of your program.

Following a wonderful afternoon tea some farewells were made to some people who had other commitments. The remainder of the crowd and red angus members then had a discussion on several topics pertinent to the state. It was good to have some of our commercial members sit in and express their point of view as well.



*the sun did shine*

On Farm Challenge: Date 19th - 22nd April - Agreement was reached to add three extra classes to encourage more participation of commercial operators with pens of animals which could be 5-10 animals - Steers, Heifers, Cows.

The presentation Dinner to be held as a separate event sometime in June on a Sunday, a central venue to be chosen for such an event.

The Judge for the competition to be Mr. Ken Dugmore from South Australia, unfortunately our video man is unavailable much to his disappointment as his wife has had an accident and will be confined to a wheelchair as a result for several weeks. So if you know someone who would like to travel throughout Victoria for a few days and enjoy the competition let me know or Bob Boote.

A lively discussion on our web site resulted in the formulation of Photo Competition being arranged. So all of you Red Angus enthusiasts who have a digital camera submit your entries capturing those special moments with Red Angus to Cameron Cutler. *email* [cameroncutler@hotmail.com](mailto:cameroncutler@hotmail.com) It was also recommended that we have a recipe section for those '*budding Chefs*'. No doubt everyone has a favourite meat recipe so why not share it with everyone, you could be the monthly winner. Send them along to Sue Boland *email*: [digger@netconnect.com.au](mailto:digger@netconnect.com.au)

Suggestion was made to encourage people to advertise their animals on the Web Site to only charge for the advertising after a sale is made. The rate being 2% only so if you have cattle you wish to sell contact me with the details and I will get them listed for you. *email*: [erle@bigpond.net.au](mailto:erle@bigpond.net.au)

Agreement was reached to formulate a State Committee. Bob Boote Jeff Boland, Rod Thomas & Cameron Cutler made themselves available. Sue Boland & Erle Dakin are ex-officio to the committee as well. There is room for a couple more people so if you would like to participate please contact me.

The stand at National Beef 2010 Bendigo will be conducted again running from Wednesday 19th May until Sunday 23rd May at the exhibition centre at the Prince of Wales Showgrounds. Mark the dates in your diary and if you can help it will be appreciated. This was not discussed but a new initiative on a similar basis will be undertaken at Lardiner Field Days 25th to 28th March, this is being organised by Annette Walker to promote the Red Angus in Gippsland. If you are going to Lardiner drop in and give Annette a hand.

The National Show & Sale at Dubbo is on the 7th July, another date to mark in the diary. It is the 40th Anniversary year for Red Angus so something special for the Annual Dinner is being planned. If you are entering animals make sure you comply with the changes which have been made to the rules. Tests and timings are crucial and must be adhered to maintain the integrity of this National event.

We are indeed indebted to Larry & Glenda along with Cameron for the organisation of the day, Considering the weather everything ran smoothly and there were a number of people who collected from the lucky attendance competition. Everyone would have to go home a little wiser with the knowledge that was imparted after a very enjoyable day. **Thank you Ebony Lodge.**

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