

ARTISTRY AND VALUE, REDEFINED.

PRICE PREMIUM A DROUGHT RELIEF

MANAGING drought conditions in Far West NSW since 2017 has been a challenge, so a price premium for feeder cattle has been a welcome reprieve for the Carter family, "Innaminna", Nyngan, Australia. Jack and Dione Carter, together with their daughter, Emily and her husband, James Stanton, first dabbled in Speckle Park when they bought five head of pregnant F1 Speckle Park heifers in 2016. The Carter family and business is well-known in the Nyngan district, with farmland spanning more than 20,000 hectares. They run a 22,000-ewe Australian White sheep flock, 6000ha of dryland cropping, and other enterprises include the popular Nyngan Riverside Tourist Park, and contracting earthworks. It's safe to say the Carters don't do things by halves, and their foray into Speckle Park has been no different. They know a good thing when they see it! That purchase of five pregnant heifers has since ballooned into hundreds, and they have purchased imported embryos to establish a Speckle Park seedstock enterprise too. The decision paid off late last year when they were able to sell 210 F1 and F2 Speckle Park steers and 40 of their heifer sisters for a significant price premium. These were the first cattle to be sold into new Speckle Park beef brand, SPKL by Speckle Park, which was launched this month with great interest in the industry. Interestingly, the Carters were offered a similar premium by another party - a prominent feedlot that is already familiar with the Speckle Park breed's



HAULING OUT: Another B-Double of the Carter family's F1 and F2 Speckle Park steers and heifers head off to a feedlot.

performance on feed and over-the-hook. SPKL by Speckle Park will be offering premiums that will vary according to current market conditions and how well each consignment hits various quality specifications. "We're told the steers are making great gains of around 2.8kg/day in the feedlot and standing out against other breeds. We see an exciting future ahead for the Speckle Park breed," Jack Carter said.

- MORE ABOUT SPECKLE PARK BEEF BRANDS IN THE NEXT ISSUE.



FROM THE SPI BOARD

Speckle Park International (SPI) continues to grow at a rapid pace in line with growing popularity of the Speckle Park breed more generally. It is certainly an exciting time to be a Speckle Park breeder! The new SPI board, in place since April 2018, has been busy working to ensure our corporate governance systems and structures reflect a modern SPI.

We have been working on improving communication with SPI members, educating members on various requirements, marketing our great breed more generally, and implementing new protocols around DNA testing and GROUP BREEDPLAN as we become a more sophisticated breed society that is dedicated to improving the Speckle Park breed for the future. We would like to thank all those who have contacted board members and Mel, as every conversation is an opportunity for learning and improvement. We hope

you find value in this first formal printed SPI newsletter - you will receive this newsletter quarterly from now on, together with Dale Humphries' monthly Chairman Report videos via the SPI Facebook page, and ongoing email communication from the SPI office.

We welcome all feedback from members, including story/topic suggestions for this newsletter. What would you like to read about in this quarterly eight-page newsletter? Send through your ideas!

MELBOURNE SPI BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 2018

The Australian and New Zealand SPI board members met in Melbourne in December for a three-day face-to-face meeting, including a board directors training day with Patrick Moriarty from the Institute of Community Directors Australia. This eight-hour training day covered a variety of topics that will ultimately improve our board operations. This valuable day was videoed, and this video will be supplied to future SPI board members as part of their induction.

“EVERY CONVERSATION IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR **LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT**”

SPECKLE PARK FEATURE AT SYDNEY ROYAL 2021

Save the date! We are excited to announce that we have been successful in lobbying to have Speckle Park as the Feature Breed of the 2021 Sydney Royal Show. The Sydney Royal Show is widely regarded as the most prestigious beef cattle show in Australia, so the wheels are in motion to capitalise on this fantastic opportunity to promote our breed. We will hold a Speckle Park World Conference and Sale in conjunction with this show, and encourage all breeders to start planning now towards this major event.

SPECKLE PARK MAGAZINE SUB COMMITTEE

The SPI Board acknowledges that there is no-one smarter than all of us. We have decided to introduce a series of sub-committees to assist SPI - and ultimately the whole breed - in key areas such as marketing, youth movement, Sydney Royal 2021, etc. We are firstly inviting expressions of interest from members to join

SAVE THE DATE
2021
FEATURE BREED WORLD CONFERENCE
& SPECKLE PARK SALE

SPI
Speckle Park International

HELD AT SYDNEY ROYAL 2021
AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED
STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS...

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TODAY IN THIS SPECTACULAR EVENT.
CONTACT THE SPECKLE PARK INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR MORE DETAILS

WWW.SPECKLEPARK.ORG SPECKLEPARK@ABRILUNE.EDU.AU PHONE: (02) 6773 3056



the 'Speckle Park Magazine Sub-Committee', to help organise an annual magazine. If you feel you have skills and interest to contribute to this new committee, please email Mel your application.

NEW LEGAL TEAM TO STREAMLINE SPI GROWTH

We have engaged Moin Morris Schaefer, Armidale, to provide legal advice and representations to ensure the society continues to be compliant, and to complete a thorough review of Regulations and the Constitution. We have also completed a review of insurances to ensure we are up to speed in that important area too.

Following advice from our solicitors, we are the process of moving SPI from an Incorporated Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee - to be known as Speckle Park International Limited. This will provide clear definition of director roles and ensure the society's longevity. We have drawn up a new draft Constitution, which is being reviewed at a board level and will then be distributed to SPI members for their review. This draft Constitution will then be tabled at our 2019 SPI AGM in June. There will also be an updated edition of the SPI Rules and Regulations.

SNPs, MiPs, ED/ED, Pc/PC, NC SAY, WHAT?!

As a breed society, we have committed to meeting and exceeding seedstock cattle industry trends towards SNP DNA testing of key traits and parent verification. After an extensive negotiation process, Neogen Australasia were able to provide the most cost-effective pricing for our Australian-based members.

The changeover from the older microsatellite (MiP) technology to Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) testing opens up doors into genomic testing in the future at lower pricing, and by changing across to SNP



REGISTRATIONS are flowing into the SPI office for 2018-born P-drop Speckle Park calves. Photo credit: Samuel Caslick.

testing, we no longer have to risk losing our ability to access the DNA profiles for future testing as a result of old technology becoming decommissioned. As part of SPI's Regulation changes, either a tail hair sample or tissue sample (TSU) from all calves born after 1/1/2018 must to be sent to Neogen Australasia (via the SPI office) for DNA testing prior to SPI registration. This includes producing a 50K SNP profile for that animal, parent verification to both sire and dam (PV, can be completed in either the SNP or MiP system), myostatin (nt821 gene, aka 'double muscling'), coat colour (red gene), and poll/horn test.

The changeover from MiP to SNP has caused some angst among members, mainly because of the timeframe required to obtain these DNA test results. It was always going to be a challenge that involved education, time, cost and patience, in these early days following the changes. Once DNA samples are received, please allow 6-8 weeks for results.

FREE NEOGEN GENOMICS WORKSHOP AT GUYRA

The Speckle Park breed is the feature breed of this year's Guyra Show, set down for February 22 and 23, and SPI has coordinated with Neogen to host a genomics workshop for SPI members at 1pm on Friday, February 22 to answer your DNA-related questions. Mel will go further into the particulars of this event in her section of this newsletter. It would be great if you could make the effort to attend (free lunch provided!) however if that is not possible, we will be recording the session and this video will be uploaded to the SPI website.

We encourage all members to contact any of the board members if you have any queries.



REMINDER

DNA kits are available through the SPI office. They are sold in bundles of 10 for \$10 (ex. GST) plus postage of \$5 (ex GST). As of January 31, all hair samples sent to Neogen **MUST** be in the branded Neogen DNA packs, or a penalty fee of \$2 per sample will be charged.



FROM THE SPI OFFICE

TIME TO UPGRADE YOUR DNA CARDS

As of January 31, the old Geneseek or UQ AGL DNA cards will incur a non-approved sample collectors/packing surcharge fee of \$2 per sample. Approved DNA kits are available from the SPI office on request, they are sold in bundles of 10 for \$10 plus GST and \$5.50 postage.

Tissue Sampling Units (TSUs) are also an option, and are actually preferred by Neogen because of increased accuracy of results. For your benefit, a TSU can be collected from an animal right from birth or soon after - as opposed to a minimum of 60 days old for hair samples - which means you will get your DNA results back for animals at a younger age. This may assist to ensure animals are fully compliant for registration prior to sales or shows (cow/calf pairs, for example). TSUs can be posted to the SPI office at room temperature. TSUs can be purchased from Neogen for \$3.00 + GST per unit, the applicator is approx \$100 +GST. Allflex also sell TSUs in packs of 10. Visit www.allflexsa.com/products/dna-sampling/tissue-sampling-unit for more information. There is also a Tip Sheet on TSUs on the 'How To' page of the SPI website.

“USING TSUs, YOU WILL GET YOUR DNA RESULTS BACK FOR ANIMALS AT A YOUNGER AGE”

For unregistered animals, please send a completed registration form with the DNA application form and samples. This is required as animals need to be 'pending' in our system at SPI **BEFORE** the DNA can be sent to Neogen. To recap, the process for DNA testing and registration applications is:

- 1) Collect a sample (hair or TSU)
- 2) Complete the DNA application form and print a hard copy
- 3) Post samples and form to the SPI office
- 4) Email the electronic form to the SPI Office, **together with** the SPI animal registration form.

Please don't leave this process to the last minute!

Neogen's Hannah Bourke, will be at the Guyra Show on February 22 and 23 for the SPI DNA information session. Hannah's number is (+61) 447 299 096, or email hbourke@neogen.com. Hannah has extensive knowledge in regards to DNA, she has an understanding from a breeder's point of view, the society and also the laboratory. She however won't be able to answer any questions regarding progress of testing/results.

APPROVAL REQUIRED TO USE THE SPI LOGO

If you would like to use the SPI logo as part of your promotional materials or for any other reason, you must first seek approval from the SPI board. Please send in a letter or email for the board to discuss.

2019 SPECKLE PARK INTERNATIONAL AGM DATE SET

A date has been set for the 2019 SPI Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM will be held in Sydney on Saturday, June 15, at 3pm. Items on the agenda will include the new SPI Constitution. More details to come.

BREEDPLAN

It has now been more than six months since the commencement of a monthly GROUP BREEDPLAN analysis for the Speckle Park breed, providing members with EBV results on all animals - with 12 updates each year. SPI members are encouraged to join BREEDPLAN and submit data. Please feel free

GUYRA SHOW NSW

Guyra Show Grounds • 22-23 Feb 2019



Genomics Workshop for SPI members

@ The Guyra Show

Friday 22nd Feb, 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

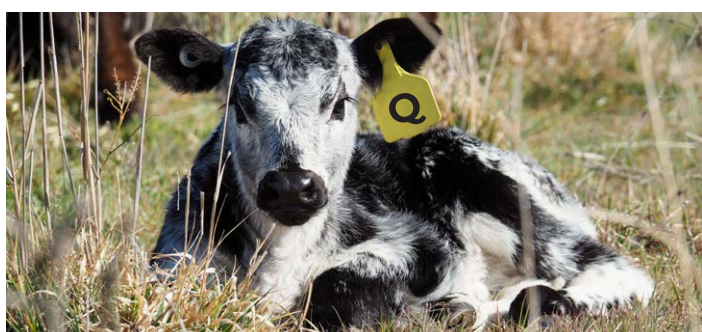
Light lunch and drinks provided

Contact SPI Chairman Dale Humphries

0429 360 419



JOIN THE MOB: There has been a rapid increase in membership at SPI. See page 7 for a Membership Snapshot.



YEAR LETTER: The letter for 2019 calf registrations is 'Q'. As per the SPI Regulations, animals intended to be shown must be tattooed with Herd ID, Year Letter and Animal ID Number.

to contact the SPI office if you require additional information regarding BREEDPLAN. Catriona Millen is the Technical Officer for Southern Beef Technology Services (SBTS) and can be contacted on (02) 6773 3357, or email catriona@sbts.une.edu.au.

A reminder that the deadline for the submission of performance data to be included in the next BREEDPLAN analysis is the **26th of every month**.

THE YEAR LETTER FOR 2019 IS 'Q'

Members are reminded that the year letter for 2019 calf registrations is 'Q'. For those who like to give their animals names beginning with that year's letter, you've got your work cut out for you this year! However, one useful tip is to type 'racehorse names beginning with Q' in your internet search browser. It turns out there are lots of options for you to consider!

AI AND ET PERMITS

One of the big issues for members in 2018 was new regulations around AI Sire and ET Donor Dam Permits. Applications permits for both are available on the 'Downloads' page of the SPI website. "Application for AI Sire Permit" or "Application for Donor Dam Permit"

must be completed for every permit application. It is important to remember if applying for new AI or ET permits: animals (born after the 01/01/2013) need to have the SNP DNA bundle (i.e. SNP DNA profile, parent verification, myostatin, horn and colour gene testing) before a permit can be produced. Parent verification can be achieved in the old MiP system if required. This applies to animals in Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Please ensure all permits are in place before importing (or exporting) or selling genetics as ET calves cannot be registered without **both** the dam and sire having a permit. Note that in Canada, animals to date have often only been DNA sire verified and not dam verified. AI calves cannot be registered without the sire having a permit. If in doubt, ask the breeder/owner who is selling you the genetics, and as mentioned, please ensure permits are in place prior to importing (or exporting) or selling genetics. The onus is on the vendor to organise and pay for these permits, however these are ultimately commercial transactions and are not policed by SPI - other than the requirement for the permits themselves.

SPI understand there has been some confusion regarding DNA requirements. There have been a number of significant changes and it takes time to put procedures in place and iron out any problems that arise. Neogen are working closely with the SPI office and will both do all we can to improve the process. Thank you all for patience and understanding.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call or email the office.

SPECKLE PARK CALF FUTURITY JACKPOT

There will be a cash prize pool of \$6000 for the inaugural Speckle Park Calf Futurity Jackpot, to be held on Friday afternoon, April 26, in conjunction with the Scone Speckle Park Weekend.

The prize pool will be divided up as prize money for the first five placings, and there will also be trophies awarded for Most Successful Breeder, Most Successful Sire, and Most Successful Dam of the Futurity.

The 2020 Futurity looks set to be even bigger, with many new people coming on board with entries. The



more entries received, the greater the size of the cash prize pool. Now is the time to consider what breeding combinations you have made and what embryos you have put in since September 1, 2018, for eligibility for the 2020 Futurity. **Sire nominations will close on February 28, so don't delay!**


If you would like to learn more about how the futurity works or to nominate a sire, contact SPI member and event organiser, Tania Paget, at (0429) 802 153, (07) 4683 2272, or email pinnaclepark@bigpond.com. Mel at the SPI office also has these forms and they have been emailed to all members.



SCHOLARSHIP: SPI Youth member, Angela McGrath, Tumut, NSW, received the inaugural Grylls Cattle Company Youth Scholarship at the 2018 Melbourne Royal Show.



CALENDAR: The '2019 Australian Speckle Park Calendar' was a fundraising effort by two SPI members, with proceeds donated to SPI for application towards a youth project.



DISCOVER MORE SPI CONTENT ONLINE

The SPI website has a **'How To'** page with Tip Sheets and Videos to assist you with: collecting tail hair or TSU samples, photography and more!

Fundraising efforts pay off

MELBOURNE ROYAL FUNDRAISER YIELDS \$33,000

Congratulations to all sponsors, purchasers, underbidders, and organisers of the 2018 Melbourne Royal Show Speckle Park Dinner and Charity Auction, raising a phenomenal \$33,000.

There was \$16,500 of this donated to BlazeAid's National Drought 'Give a Farmer a Break' initiative, where volunteer time was being offered to beef cattle breeders in drought areas of NSW and southern QLD. This event was organised by SPI board director, Jason Keays, with much-appreciated assistance from Sam Nelson, Ryan Bajada, Annie Pumpa, and Jacob Brennan, and Hanging Rock Winery for donating the evening's wine.

Furthermore, SPI youth member, Angela McGrath, Tumut, NSW, was announced as the inaugural Grylls Cattle Company Youth Scholarship recipient, receiving two return tickets to Canada and \$3000 spending money. This scholarship was donated by SPI member, Erin Grylls, Longwarry, Gippsland, VIC, and was open to any SPI Youth member under 27 years old and recognised all-round ability and dedication to the breed and its future.

Angela said she had been breeding Speckle Park for four years and started by purchasing four embryos. "I put them in my Dad's commercial Poll Hereford cows and all four took, ending up as two heifers and two bulls," she said. "Last year (2018) was my first year showing my own cattle at Melbourne Royal – I showed a bull and a cow and calf. It was overwhelming to win the scholarship and a big surprise. I feel really lucky to have won."

"I've never been overseas and Canada has always been somewhere I want to go because that's where the Speckle Park breed comes from and I want to meet other Speckle Park breeders there and learn more about the breed in that environment," she said.

Angela is planning to attend FarmFair International and Canadian Western Agribition later this year. One of the first jobs on her list following the announcement was to arrange her first passport!



MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT

as at 31 Dec 2018

2019 CALENDAR RAISES \$1100+ FOR SPI YOUTH

A last-minute response by two SPI members to demand for a 2019 Australian Speckle Park Calendar has yielded \$1105.73, and these funds have been donated to SPI for application towards a youth project. Calendars were sent across Australia and to New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom. SPI would like to thank organisers, Amy Dickens and Tania Paget, and also the sponsors and those who bought calendars for supporting Amy and Tania's efforts.

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF YOUTH...

The Scone Speckle Park Youth Show and Steer Showcase will be held on April 25 to 27, with an aim to educate, inspire and encourage young enthusiasts to get involved with the Speckle Park breed and the Australian beef cattle industry.

The 2018 event was a huge success and this year is shaping up to be even better, with 7 to 25 year olds invited to take part in a weekend of personal development, education, and vital networking opportunities. Sponsorship is invited. Event co-ordinator, Kelly Steele, can be contacted at (0428) 463 423 or email speckleparkyouth@gmail.com.



SAY CHEEESE: Photographing seedstock can be made easy with a few key tips to keep in mind.

HOW'S YOUR LIVESTOCK PHOTOGRAPHY?

Photographing and videoing seedstock is an important element to marketing seedstock, especially for sale catalogues and social media. A good photo that helps to accentuate an animal's strong points can greatly assist its marketability, whereas a poor photo can have the reverse effect. Livestock photographer, Struan Pearce, studstocksales.com, shared key tips for livestock photography in a SPI video posted to 'How To' page of the SPI website to view this video.

Full and Life Members



240

TOTAL

+67

in 2018

Junior Members



13

TOTAL

+1

in 2018

Commercial Members



34

TOTAL

+12

in 2018

Animals Registered



9507

TOTAL

+852

in 2018



3688

MALE



5819

FEMALE



Did You Know?

SPI now has a second staff member to assist Mel with registrations, animal transfers and other admin roles. SHARON REYNOLDS' email is sharon.reynolds@abri.une.edu.au



STEAKING A CLAIM



David Birchmore
Kiriwina/Bernborough Stations (26,300ha)
Winton, Western Queensland, AUS

We are very happy with how our F1 Speckle Park/Angus are handling the conditions of Western Queensland, especially considering how tough the past few years have been. The F1 and F2 calves have handled the conditions equally as well as our pure Droughtmaster herd, which we have run for the past 30 years. We bought our first Speckle Park cattle in October, 2016, to improve our meat quality and weight for a more profitable beast. They have very strong mothering instincts and milk well, and the calves are noticeably wider from behind.

Meet your SPI Board of Directors



Listed as pictured, left to right.

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UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

FEBRUARY

- 8-9** Tenterfield Show, Speckle Park Feature Breed
- 15** Why Speckle Park? Info Day, Yeoval NSW
- 22-23** Guyra Show, Speckle Park Feature Breed
- 22-24** Canberra Royal Show

MARCH

- 29** Toowoomba Royal, Speckle Park judging
- 29** JAD Speckle Park Bull + Female Sale, Dubbo

APRIL

- 12-16** Sydney Royal Show, Beef Cattle on Display
- 14** Sydney Royal Show, Speckle Park judging
- 25-27** Scone SP Youth Show & Steer Showcase
- 26** Calf Futurity Jackpot at Scone
- 27** Scone Speckle Park Sale, Scone NSW

MAY

- 3-5** Bathurst Royal Show, Speckle Park Feature
- 17** Minnamurra Speckle Park Sale, Coolah NSW



Data Submission Deadlines

The 26th day of the month is GROUP BREEDPLAN data submission deadline day. To learn more about BREEDPLAN, contact Catriona Millen from SBTS at (02) 6773 3357.