

ARTISTRY AND VALUE, **REDEFINED.**

## SPECKLING THE SALEYARDS

SALEYARD prices for Speckle Park have been turning heads across Australia and New Zealand, defying trends and attracting attention from the beef industry's most renowned and respected stakeholders. In Australia, bushfire-affected cattle and drought have meant finding kill space in abattoirs has been a challenge - without lengthy delays to delivery. Yet lotfeeders and processors have shown their growing interest in the breed by making room for Speckle Park, with far shorter delivery timeframes. In South Australia, the James family, Lucindale, topped the opening Naracoorte weaner steer sale on December 5, 2019, when they sold 18 391kg April/May 2019-drop "outstanding quality" Speckle Park-cross steers for \$1640 or \$4.19c/kg. About 4500 steers went under the hammer at the sale. The James family also achieved the second-highest price of the sale, selling 23 347kg Speckle Park-cross steers for \$1610 or \$4.63/kg. The James family sold a large run of purebred Angus steers at the same sale. Both pens of their sale-topping Speckle Park-cross steers were bought by Thomas Foods International. Just last month, SPI director, Wayne Munt, Munt Family Pastoral, Gundowring, Victoria, topped the British-bred heifer section of the 4200-head Wodonga Blue Ribbon Weaner Sale on January 9. There were a lack of buyers present on the day yet Wayne's 11 444kg Speckle Park-cross heifers sold for \$1,220 or \$2.74/kg. He also sold 12 of their 454kg steer brothers sold for \$1210 (\$2.66c/kg), with both lots pushed up by lotfeeders, and eventually



purchased by JBS Australia.

JBS Australia Livestock Manager Feedlots, Scott Carswell, Toowoomba, QLD, said JBS regularly purchased Speckle Park steers throughout its five feed yards in eastern Australia.

"The steers as a whole perform well throughout their feeding time and fit comfortably into our JBS programmed grain fed business," he said.

"Whilst the breed seems to be in its infancy numbers wise in Australia, going forward they will become more popular because of their performance and suitability." In New Zealand, Mark and Melissa McKenzie, Maunghahina Stud, Masterton, topped the heifer market at the Masterton Spring Fair on October 30, with 1300 cattle entered. Their 13-month-old Speckle Park-cross heifers (pictured) sold for \$1305 or \$3.33/kg. The next best price at this sale was \$1100 and they too were Speckle Park-cross heifers.



# FROM THE SPI BOARD

Members were emailed in August with the sad news that our SPI Secretary, Melissa Sweeney, had resigned. The SPI board would like to thank Mel for her dedication, hard work and patience over the past three and half years. In the time since, we have worked closely with the Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI) to identify and employ a suitable replacement. We are very pleased to have recruited someone who brings a wealth of experience in breed society roles. Welcome to the team, Steph Grills.

### Some background on SPI's new Executive Officer

Steph grew up on a family grazing operation in the New England Tablelands of NSW, where her family run a beef cattle breeding and trading operation and produce fine wool Merino sheep. Steph and her fiancé also have a small property of their own running commercial Angus cows and calves (we'll have to

work on that!). Steph has always been interested in agriculture and most recently has developed her skills over the past two and half years as a Member Services Officer and then Technical Officer for the Australian Wagyu Association. Initially processing memberships and registrations, Steph's role quickly developed into being largely DNA and genetics focussed, whilst also managing catalogues and sales listings for members.

Steph is excited about her new role with Speckle Park International and is looking forward to meeting the members of one of the fastest growing breeds in the country.

**"OUR MEETING WITH SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS WAS EXCELLENT - LOTS OF TERRIFIC IDEAS"**

### New SPI Sub-Committees get off to a flying start

The SPI Board met for a two-day face-to-face meeting in Sydney in late-November, and on day three, members of SPI's new sub-committees were invited for an inaugural meeting.

All SPI members to invited to join these sub-committees and we thank those who put their hands up to roll their sleeves up and get some great work done for the betterment of all SPI members. Our meeting with sub-committee members on November 30 was excellent - lots of terrific ideas and positivity from members of the marketing, technical, youth, and World Congress Sydney 2021 sub-committees.

The ground rules have been set and now each sub-committee is working independently to develop plans and budgets to present to the board for review. We as a board look forward to working with all sub-committee members and once again thank them for getting involved.

### New Tip Sheets and 'How To' videos

We have produced a number of tip sheets and 'how to' videos to assist members, and these are available under the 'How To...' tab of the SPI website. One of the newest tip sheets is the SPI Tip Sheet To Selling & Buying. If you're looking to either sell or buy Speckle Park animals or frozen genetics, this tip sheet is a great

**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@ABRI.UNE.EDU.AU | PHONE: (02) 6773 3056



starting point. There is also a new video on the website named, 'How to DNA and Rego calves'. This 45-minute video is an excellent resource and will prevent many, many potential blunders along the way in the process of registering your Speckle Park animals.

### So, what is the procedure for DNA testing?

Here is a simple step-by-step guide to the process for having DNA samples tested prior to animal registration:

- 1 Member completes DNA Test **Request** form AND SPI Registration Form. Excel version preferred
- 2 Member emails **both forms** to [specklepark@abri.une.edu.au](mailto:specklepark@abri.une.edu.au)
- 3 **Print** hard copy and send with sample to the SPI office
- 4 SPI office will **process** your regos and DNA test request
- 5 Once processed, SPI will send member a tax invoice. Please **pay on receipt** to ensure all charges are correct
- 6 Once payment is received, SPI will forward your samples to the lab for **testing**.



The final SPI Strategic Plan 2019-2023 was sent to members last month. The years ahead are looking bright for the breed!

“THERE IS A NEW **VIDEO** ON THE WEBSITE NAMED, ‘HOW TO DNA AND REGO CALVES’ ...AN **EXCELLENT** RESOURCE”

### SPI Strategic Plan in the final stages of review

Members were emailed an initial draft of the SPI Strategic Plan 2019-2023 in October. This strategy document is a result of numerous board face-to-face workshops and teleconferences. It aims to underpin the breed's progression moving forward, working both as a framework as well as a road map for Speckle Park International, in Australia and New Zealand, over the next five years. We thank those members who took the time to provide their thoughts and input. That feedback was discussed at our November face-to-face meeting and we emailed a final version to members on January 10. It is also available on the SPI website.

### New SPI Constitution, Rules and Regulations

Following movement to a Company structure in mid-2019, SPI is now operating under the new Constitution. The Board has also reviewed the SPI Rules and Regulations at length. These documents are available for viewing on the SPI website.

### Next SPI Board Meeting in Armidale, February 25-26

The SPI Board will next have a face-to-face meeting at Armidale, NSW, on February 25 and 26, where we will be meeting with staff from Neogen Australasia and the Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI). If you would like any items added to the meeting agenda, please email the SPI office.



## REMINDER

Neogen Australasia announced early last year that they will be discontinuing microsatellite (MiP) DNA testing from 1/1/2021. Please keep this in mind and continue to transition your older animals across from the MiP system to the 50K SNP system. Otherwise, parent verification to those animals may prove difficult in the future.



# FROM THE SPI OFFICE

## Hello! The SPI office is humming!

The SPI Board has introduced SPI's new Executive Officer, Steph Grills, earlier in this newsletter, and she is being assisted in the office by Sharon Reynolds. Thank you to all members for your patience during the transition phase following the departure of our previous Breed Secretary, Melissa Sweeney. Steph attended her first face-to-face board meeting in late-November and met several members at the inaugural SPI sub-committee meetings.



*BRAINSTORMING: Discussing ideas at the inaugural SPI sub-committee meeting in Sydney on November 30.*

## SPI Board met in New Zealand in January

Steph had an opportunity to meet several of our New Zealand members when the SPI Board held its first face-to-face meeting for 2020 in Wellington, New Zealand, on Friday, January 17, and Saturday, January 18. New Zealand SPI members were invited to attend a presentation of an "Overview of Speckle Park in Australasia", followed by an open discussion. We then all came together again for a dinner that evening. Thank you to those members who came along - we appreciated your feedback and suggestions.

## Paperless statements and outstanding accounts

Monthly statements will now be sent to SPI members via email to help streamline office processes. However, if you would prefer to continue to receive your statements by post, please contact the office and we will accommodate your request. Members are reminded to please pay their accounts by the due date. Any accounts that are 90 days (or more) overdue are automatically set to inactive by the system. All accounts must be paid in full to return your account to an active status. If you are having financial difficulties, please contact the SPI office to set up a payment plan.

## Fee schedule updated - keep abreast of the changes

We updated the fee schedule, effective from July 1, 2019, and here are some options - and opportunities - to keep in mind:

- ✓ There is now a Registration Certificate Re-issue fee of \$5.50 each. If there is a name change, for example, and the breeder requests a new certificate, there will now be a fee attached to this action. ABRI charge SPI, so this fee is just to cover costs
- ✓ Members can place advertisements on the SPI rolling banner for three months at \$275, or 12 months at \$770. Utilise this opportunity to promote your stud
- ✓ Members can include their stud logo on the pedigrees of all animals they own for \$22
- ✓ Share Breedplan EBVs with your clients and potential clients ahead of your sale by uploading the sale catalogue to the SPI Animal Register for \$2.20/lot
- ✓ Add your semen sires to the SPI Animal Register's Semen Catalogue for \$44/animal. This is a great opportunity to promote your semen sires in a prominent position on the SPI Animal Register
- ✓ Upload photos to Internet Solutions, to accompany an animal's pedigree, for \$5.50/animal
- ✓ Scurs - failure to notify association fee of \$110/animal.

## "THE MATING PREDICTOR CALCULATES THE MID-PARENT VALUES AND INBREEDING COEFFICIENT"

### SPI Mating Predictor and Inbreeding Coefficient

You may have noticed the addition of a Mating Predictor on the SPI Animal Register. This new tool allows Speckle Park breeders to explore the outcome of potential matings, as the Mating Predictor calculates the mid-parent values and the inbreeding coefficient of progeny from potential matings.

This article has been authored by Catriona Millen, Southern Beef Technology Services (SBTS), and will outline how the Mating Predictor software works.

### Speckle Park Animal Enquiry

[Enquiry](#) [Mating Predictor](#) [Member Enquiry](#) [Sale Catalogues](#) [Semen Catalogues](#) [Do](#)



R-DROPS FOR 2020: As we welcomed in a new calendar year, we also welcomed a new year letter for animal registrations..

Once on the Mating Predictor screen, Speckle Park breeders can search for specific matings by entering animal identifiers for individual sires and dams. In the example below, sire 'ABC J123' has been entered along with dam 'XYZ J789'. Multiple sire and dam identifiers can be entered in the one search by separating the identifiers with a comma.

Home Animal Enquiry EBV Enquiry Mating Predictor Member Enquiry Sale Catalogues Semen Catalogues Dow

Enter selection criteria for Sire(s) and Dam(s) - Then click [Search]  
For enhanced selection criteria, use Mating Predictor after logging on here

Clear Search

Sire Identifier(s): ABC J123  
Enter one or more Sire identifiers separated by commas

Dam Identifier(s): XYZ J789  
Enter one or more Dam identifiers separated by commas  
Use wildcard if required (eg. ABC%)

Dam Calving Year(s):  
Enter one or more calving years separated by commas  
or a range of years (eg. 1997-2000)

Active:  Active  All

Max number of Animals to Display:  50  100  150  200

Display Results By:  Sire  Dam

Sort Animals By: Animal Name  Ascending  Descending

However, Speckle Park breeders may also wish to see how a particular bull is likely to perform over an entire female drop. To assist with this, there is the option to input dam calving year. In the example below, sire 'ABC J123' has been paired with all 2017, 2018 and 2019 drop females (specified in the 'Dam Calving Year' field) with the herd identifier 'XYZ' (specified in the 'Dam Identifier(s)' field):

Speckle Park Mating Predictor

Home Animal Enquiry EBV Enquiry Mating Predictor Member Enquiry Sale Catalogues Semen Catalogues Dow

Enter selection criteria for Sire(s) and Dam(s) - Then click [Search]  
For enhanced selection criteria, use Mating Predictor after logging on here

Clear Search

Sire Identifier(s): ABC J123  
Enter one or more Sire identifiers separated by commas

Dam Identifier(s): XYZ%  
Enter one or more Dam identifiers separated by commas  
Use wildcard if required (eg. ABC%)

Dam Calving Year(s): 2017-2019  
Enter one or more calving years separated by commas  
or a range of years (eg. 1997-2000)

Active:  Active  All

Max number of Animals to Display:  50  100  150  200

Display Results By:  Sire  Dam

Sort Animals By: Animal Name  Ascending  Descending

Clear Search

Prior to initiating a search, it is important that Speckle Park breeders decide whether they wish to display results by Sire or by Dam. If a producer wishes to display results by sire (e.g. a single sire with all potential dams), ensure that 'Sire' is selected in the 'Display Results By' tab. Conversely, if a producer wishes to display results by dam (e.g. a single dam with all potential sires), select 'Dam'.

**Mating Predictor Output**

The Mating Predictor output will display the expected average progeny value and inbreeding coefficient for the matings. In the example above, the expected average progeny values (e.g. mid-parent EBVs) are displayed for the progeny of sire ABC J123 and dam XYZ 789. Breed average EBVs are also displayed, allowing Speckle Park breeders to compare the expected average progeny value from a specific mating to the current breed average. For example, the Gestation Length expected average progeny value for the progeny of ABC J123 and XYZ J789 is -1.0, while breed average is -0.2.

This indicates that the average progeny from this mating will have a Gestation Length EBV that is below (shorter) than current breed average. Of course, it should be noted that these are expected average progeny values, and the EBVs of progeny resulting from this mating may move in either direction from the expected average progeny values as further information is entered into the Speckle Park BREEDPLAN evaluation.

Results for Sire: **ABC J123** with 1 Dam

Name	Gestation Length (days)	Birth Wt (kg)	200 Day Wt (kg)	400 Day Wt (kg)	600 Day Wt (kg)	Mat Cow Wt (kg)	Milk (kg)	Scrotal Size (cm)	Carcass Wt (kg)	Eye Muscle Area (sq cm)	Rib Fat (mm)	Ru F
SIRE: ABC J123	+0.3	+2.5	+20	+32	+42	+40	+5	+0.2	+26	+2.1	+0.7	+0.7
DAM: XYZ J789	-2.3	-1.3	+5	+9	+12	+15	+1	+0.2	+8	-0.2	+0.4	+0.4
<b>Expected Average Progeny Value</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>+0.6</b>	<b>+13</b>	<b>+21</b>	<b>+27</b>	<b>+28</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>+0.2</b>	<b>+17</b>	<b>+1.0</b>	<b>+0.6</b>	<b>+0.6</b>
<b>Inbreeding Coefficient: 9%</b> Min./ (Avg.) generation: <b>6/ (11.0)</b> Pedigree display of this mating												
<b>Breed Avg. EBVs for 2017 Born Calves</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>+1.4</b>	<b>+14</b>	<b>+21</b>	<b>+27</b>	<b>+26</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>+0.1</b>	<b>+17</b>	<b>+0.8</b>	<b>+0.1</b>	<b>+0.1</b>

The Mating Predictor output also displays the **inbreeding coefficient** of the progeny resulting from each mating. In the example on the previous page, the progeny of ABC J123 and XYZ J789 would have an inbreeding coefficient of 9%. While there is no magic level that is considered an acceptable level of inbreeding within a breeding program, Speckle Park breeders should consider how they manage the level of inbreeding across their herd as a whole. In general, an average inbreeding coefficient (across the entire herd) of less than 5%

...continued next page.



is considered low, while 5%-10% is considered medium and may require more careful management. Individual animals with inbreeding levels that exceed these thresholds may still be valuable animals within the breeding program, but care should be taken to ensure that they are not mated to other closely related individuals. For further information on managing inbreeding, please see the SBTS & TBTS Technical Note 'Managing Inbreeding Within a Seedstock Beef Breeding Enterprise' on the SBTS website.

In addition to displaying the expected average progeny value and inbreeding coefficient for the progeny resulting from each mating, clicking on the 'Pedigree display of this mating' will allow Speckle Park breeders to view a pedigree of the potential mating and also view an EBV Percentile Graph for the resulting progeny.

In the example to the right, the expected average progeny values are displayed as EBV Percentiles in the EBV Percentile Graph. For further information on

interpreting the EBV Percentile Graph, please see the SBTS & TBTS Technical Note 'Where Does This Animal Rank? Introducing the EBV Percentile Graph' on the SBTS website. Mating Predictor is a valuable tool which Speckle Park breeders can use to identify the inbreeding coefficient and expected average progeny values of resulting progeny prior to matings taking place. In this way, Mating Predictor can be utilised when making mating decisions.

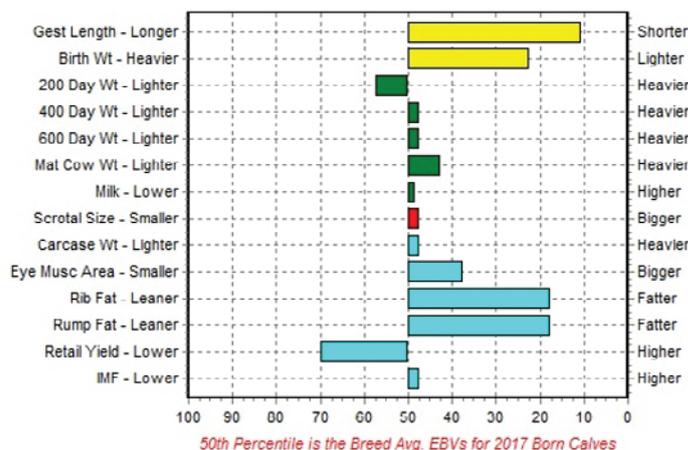
For further information on using the Speckle Park Mating Predictor, please contact SBTS Technical Officer for Speckle Park International, Catriona Millen, on (02) 6773 3357 or email [catriona@sbts.une.edu.au](mailto:catriona@sbts.une.edu.au).



### DISCOVER MORE SPI CONTENT ONLINE

The SPI website is a fantastic resource for members to access tip sheets, how-to videos, contact details for board members and more!

EBV Percentiles for ABC J123 x XYZ J789



## YOUTH IN FOCUS - Charlie Sutherland, Deeargee SP, Uralla NSW

I've had an interest in agriculture from an early age, particularly stud cattle. I was working on a property that was running a contract Speckle Park embryo program. I was amazed as to how well these calves matured. After further research and talking to some Speckle Park breeders, I found that the breed had huge potential in the beef industry. In 2014, I purchased two purebred heifers, which was the foundation for Deeargee Speckle Park.



### Favourite cow/bull in your herd and why?

I would have to say Waratah J7 (Chunky as we call her). She is sired by Codiak Crikey and out of a Wattle Grove cow (going back to Codiak Melisa 64M). A few qualities about Chunky include; exceptional fertility (71 A/B embryos from 3 flushes), fantastic milker, sound structure and overall do ability (especially during this drought).

### Goals for your herd going forward?

One of my long term goals is to be recognised as a source for top Speckle Park genetics that continue to perform in the top percentile for significant breed characteristics. I will continue to source genetics that are the "best fit" for my breeding program.



# MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT

as at 31 December 2019

## Speckle Park numbers on the rise

### No other breed society growing as rapidly as SPI

The Speckle Park breed's rapid rise in Australia and New Zealand continued in 2019. Speckle Park International is the fastest growing breed society of the 38 represented by the Australian Registered Cattle Breeders' Association (ARCBA), experiencing a 33.25% average annual membership growth from 2015 to 2019. Animal inventory within our breed society has also skyrocketed in recent years, jumping from 1009 animals in 2016 to 1568 in 2017 and 2499 in 2018.

### History of AUS Speckle Park bull and female sales

The two graphs below show the increase in numbers of Speckle Park bulls and females **sold at auction** in Australia, and how prices have responded. Drought has had its own impact yet these conditions have allowed the breed to show off their inherent resilience.



## Full, Associate and Life Members



258  
TOTAL +18  
in 2019

## Junior Members



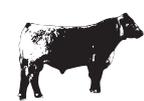
16  
TOTAL +3  
in 2019

## Commercial Members



31  
TOTAL -3  
in 2019

## Animals Registered



12,568  
TOTAL +3061  
in 2019



1282  
MALES  
IN 2019



1478  
FEMALES  
IN 2019



## How can we help?

Contact Steph or Sharon at SPI:  
+61 2 6773 3056, or email  
[specklepark@abri.une.edu.au](mailto:specklepark@abri.une.edu.au)



# 'STEAKING' A CLAIM



## Nicky Reeves

Elders Limited Livestock Agent  
Boisdale, VIC, AUS

As an agent, I have seen a lack of understanding about the qualities the Speckle Park breed has to offer, however this is changing. There is still a long way to go for agents to understand the potential of the breed. We breed a small commercial herd ourselves. In my role as an agent, I have heard semen technicians advise against using Speckle Park semen in dairy cows, citing calving difficulties and temperament, which in my experience couldn't be further from the truth. They are so much more than a pretty coat, and we need to educate our agents about their meat quality and doing ability.

## Meet the Team



Listed as pictured, left to right.

**Justin Dickens (AUS)** P: +61 427 012 284  
E: justin@jadspecklepark.com.au

**Derek Hayward (NZ)** P: +64 27 226 6686  
Treasurer E: derek.premier@farmside.co.nz

**Wayne Munt (AUS)** P: +61 409 849 983  
Vice President, Secretary E: muntpastoral@outlook.com

**Dennis Power (AUS)** P: +61 427 734 254  
E: dennis@minnamurra.com.au

**Dale Humphries (AUS)** P: +61 429 360 419  
President E: dalechairmanspi@gmail.com

**Robbie Clark (NZ)** P: +64 274 311 860  
E: specklepark@xtra.co.nz

**Jason Goodfellow (CAN)** P: +1 7808 728 788  
(Not pictured above) E: nottaspecklepark@hotmail.com



# UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

It has been a busy few months and we congratulate all members on their contribution to the promotion and expansion of our great breed. SPI wishes all members with upcoming shows and sales the very best.

If you have an upcoming sale that you would like to promote, please let us know at the office. We have an events calendar on the SPI website too.

## FEBRUARY

22 Wattle Grove Twilight Sale, Toowoomba QLD

## MARCH

23 SpeckleME SP Bull Sale, Rockhampton QLD

27 JAD Speckle Park Sale, Dubbo NSW

## APRIL

1-5 Sydney Royal Show, NSW

22-24 Scone Speckle Park Youth Show, NSW

24 Scone Invitational Multi-Vendor Sale, NSW

## MAY

15 Minnamurra Speckle Parks Sale, Coolah NSW

29-31 Wattle Grove SP Online Genetics Sale

## 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.