



Beef Bulletin

No.4

The year is all but done and what a year it has been. It won't go down in history as memorable for the right reasons, what with CoVid lingering and the big wet, it's generally been pretty tough.

On the positive side, according to Tom Saunders (ABC Weatherman) the Indian Ocean Dipole which caused all the spring rains is now finished. La Nina (which was responsible for the balance) is likely to persist for the summer and hopefully give good pasture growing conditions; for many people that will be very welcome.

South Coast Beef School Steer Spectacular – May 2-6, 2023

We are now well into the planning for our **School Steer Spectacular** and we have 20 schools that have expressed interest in participating; that will make it our biggest Spectacular yet. The schools come from Jindabyne to Campbelltown and everywhere in-between.

This creates a number of challenges, location of schools aside, we need to find about 15 steers to assist these schools. Manildra is providing enough DDG for 40 steers which will provide each participating school with enough feed for 2 steers through the 100 day feeding period.

Schools will look to take delivery of their steers by early February at which time they should ideally weigh between 300 – 400kg liveweight.

We have expanded the Spectacular for 2023 to include classes for beef producers to enter their own cattle. There is a class for led cattle if you have a desire to train a couple of steers to lead and importantly though, we will have classes for non-led cattle. So here's your opening.

We are currently building cattle pens at the Nowra Showground which will be completed before Christmas. This opens the opportunity for our members to enter some un-led cattle of their in our Spectacular hoof and hook competition and obtain valuable feedback on carcass merit genetics in your herd.

To remove any financial impediment and to encourage participation from SCB members, entry fee into the Open and Commercial classes is free for members' first steer and half price for their second steer. This also provides further value for your continued membership.

If you have a steer(s) that may be suitable for the schools or you wish to enter them yourself, I would be very pleased to hear from you. Call me on 0467 767 375 or email me by clicking the reply button.

For your further information a full **Schedule** of the **Steer Spectacular** is attached to this email. If you have an interested friend or neighbour please send them the Schedule and encourage their participation also.

SCB 2023 Program

The SCB Committee is currently working on the program for 2023 with some exciting possibilities, among them:

- A trip to Tasmania to visit some of Basil Doonan's highly productive farms which he manages under a very controlled rotational grazing system.
 - An MLA project on grazing management which includes a productivity trial for growing out steers.
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Please stay in touch and use our network of over 50 members if you need advice or assistance.

Remember we have a number of **resources available** for use by members including:

- an electronic tag reader; very handy if you're doing an audit of cattle and tag numbers
 - portable cattle scales
 - pasture meters for measuring quantity of pasture available
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Finally I wish you and yours a very happy and safe festive season and I look forward to your participation in our program of events and activities throughout 2023.

Kind regards

Rob
