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A CH. FRM 189 HIGHVELD PEONY-ROSE *Q*

TASMANIA BRANCH
DAIRY DOE OF THE YEAR
2023-2024



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President's Message

Most of you will be busy with kidding whilst I write this. In part of Victoria the last two weeks have involved a couple of unusually hot days, some freezing cold days, gale force winds and some snow and hail. In other words, fairly normal kidding weather. Why do goats seem to choose the worst conditions to kid in? Members that I have been talking to recently have been getting more bucks than they wanted and fewer does. Hopefully this is not a national trend.

Does kidding and milking on their first lactation is always an occasion to pause for at least a few moments to ponder whether this year's crop is better or worse than recent years. As most members are limited in the number of goats that they can look after it's also a time for some tough decisions. Which ones to keep? What do the most recent kidders tell you about sire selection, their sires now that you have milking daughters, as well as the sire/s of the kids themselves? Everything still on track, or some course correction needed? Whilst everyone will have their own views on their own stock the show season that is just starting in some regions provides an opportunity to get second, third, fourth, etc opinions from the Judges. No Judge is perfect, but each of them bring their own experiences with them. Their observations may not always agree with yours but should be given at least some thought.

I generally don't comment about the Directors of DGSA Ltd, but the retirement of Steve Baldock from not only his Federal duties, but also his various duties on the Tasmanian Branch Committee is worth mentioning. Steve has been carrying out these roles for many years on a voluntary basis. He will be missed, but at the same time it provides an opportunity for others to step up. Tim Saltmarsh is the new Tasmanian Branch President, and also replaces Steve as one of Tasmania's two Directors. Sue Davey, who amongst her other many achievements in both Western Australia and then Tasmania, holds the record of being the longest serving Federal President of the DGSA or its forebears. Sue has stepped down from her Tasmanian positions and will retire as a Director in early 2025. She too will be missed. It's unusual to lose so many years of service within such a short period of time but change in any organisation is inevitable and should be embraced. There has also been a change of two Directors from Queensland. Patricia Colbran and Glennys Fletcher have stepped down and been replaced by Hannah Coghill and Iris Millet. We won't know until the final 2024 census of members on 31st December, but at the moment Western Australia looks like they may be entitled to a fourth Director in 2025. More change than normal, but undoubtedly also more new ideas than normal in 2025.

Finally, I should highlight the letter from the NSW DPI printed elsewhere in this edition of the AGW. Tagging of animals going to shows may not become compulsory in that State and the same may happen in Victoria. Tagging of kids born on or after 1st January 2025 may not proceed according to the previously amended timetable. We will attempt to get these issues clarified before the publication of the December AGW.

Ian

COVER STORY A CH. FRM 189 HIGHVELD PEONY-ROSE * Q*

Peony has been on a run through this last show season. She continues to milk 3.5kg per day after 2 years on this lactation. During the last show season Peony-Rose was awarded 1 Best Udder and 3 Best Exhibit awards from the 6 shows we attended. The other 3 Best Exhibit awards were shared by our other Saanens. Peony also completed her points for the Australian Champion Doe title.

She was due to be mated in Autumn but with the state in drought, the older does did not cycle till very late. So that I didn't have Christmas babies I decided to just keep milking her. Peony will go to the buck next year. Highveld Stud is having 12 months off from showing so our girls will have a relaxing time.

STEVE BALDOCK (Owner and Breeder)