



## Australian Pinzgauer Breeders Association Inc.

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A.C.N. 050 551 892

19 January 2018

Ref: APBA Council meeting Minutes and Update

Dear Pinzgauer Association Member,

I hope the New Year has started well for you and your families and that the remainder of the year brings good health and prosperity.

The 2017 year provided a mixed bag of weather conditions, most of it unseasonal...but then again that's farming and besides, there is no need worrying about anything you can't manage.

Hopefully you were able to capitalise on the higher than normal beef prices across all sale yards nationally. I have heard that stud stock sales amongst our breeder group are up, and that five bulls were shipped to three commercial breeders in Tasmania, and bulls into NSW and Qld, while stud sales of cows in calf and/or with calves, have been strong amongst new member breeders.

Enquiries from Wagyu breeders chasing surrogate heifers for embryo transfer have been of interest and there is potential to expand this market, albeit from an exhausted Pinzgauer base, where most of us are in the process of breeding up our all important herd numbers.

In recent weeks there have been a number of approaches from Europe looking for new Pinzgauer genetics, preferably Australian fullblood Pinzgauer (PP) embryos. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to be able to supply, as we are not as advanced as the Europeans in establishing polled genetics.

At the same time, I have had approaches from Bayern-Genetik – Europe representing breeders from Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and the Ukraine seeking 2-3 bulls that can each supply 100 – 150 semen straws. Again we are unable due to a lack of registered AI bulls horned or polled.

Based on these enquires, the genetic bank in Europe is crying out for new genetics to help widen their gene pool. Herein lies an opportunity for Australia to step up to assist. As an association, we need to galvanise our approach and work co-operatively to achieve two things going forward:

1. Establish a stronger polled herd (PP) and (Pp) to suit the needs of the Australian beef market, while at the same time DNA test all hornless bull and heifer calves. See attached GeneSeek 'Understanding SNP Poll Test Results. Note: GeneSeek utilise the different symbol for the heterozygous (Pp) symbol. They prefer to use (PH) as it signifies one allele as polled and the other allele gene as horned.

2.

2. Look to breeding and registering polled bulls that will assist move our herds to being polled, i.e. (PP) & (Pp), while being able to meet EU seed stock needs longer term.

The recent Council meeting in Albury proved to me that the Councillors are all willing to work collaboratively towards achieving better results and returns for all Pinzgauer breeders.

Members can look forward to a new modern look APBA web site being launched that will feature the breed strongly pictorially, while offering links to the IPCBA and Livestock and Business Centre for registrations etc. We will be introducing a new breeder's profile page that provides a bio on each breeder and a pic of their herd and contact details and listing of available stock for sale.

We have our next Council Meeting scheduled to coincide with the AGM. I encourage all members to attend and have their say on the future direction of the Association. The meeting will be again held in Albury on Saturday, March 17, 2018, with more detail following closer to the event.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul O'Brien', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul O'Brien  
APBA - President