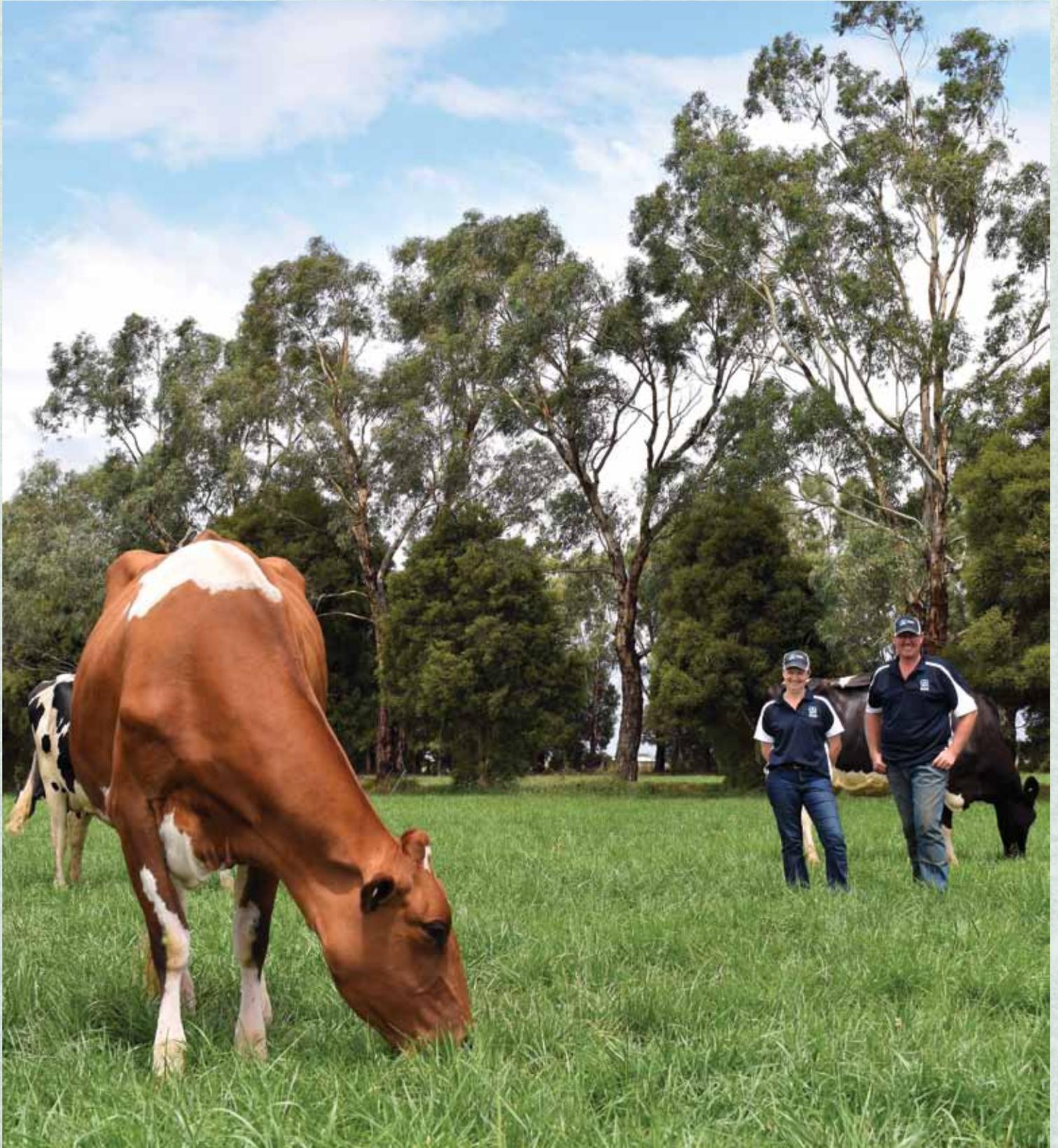


Holstein Journal

AUTUMN 2019



**International
Dairy Week**

**Master Breeder
Profiles**

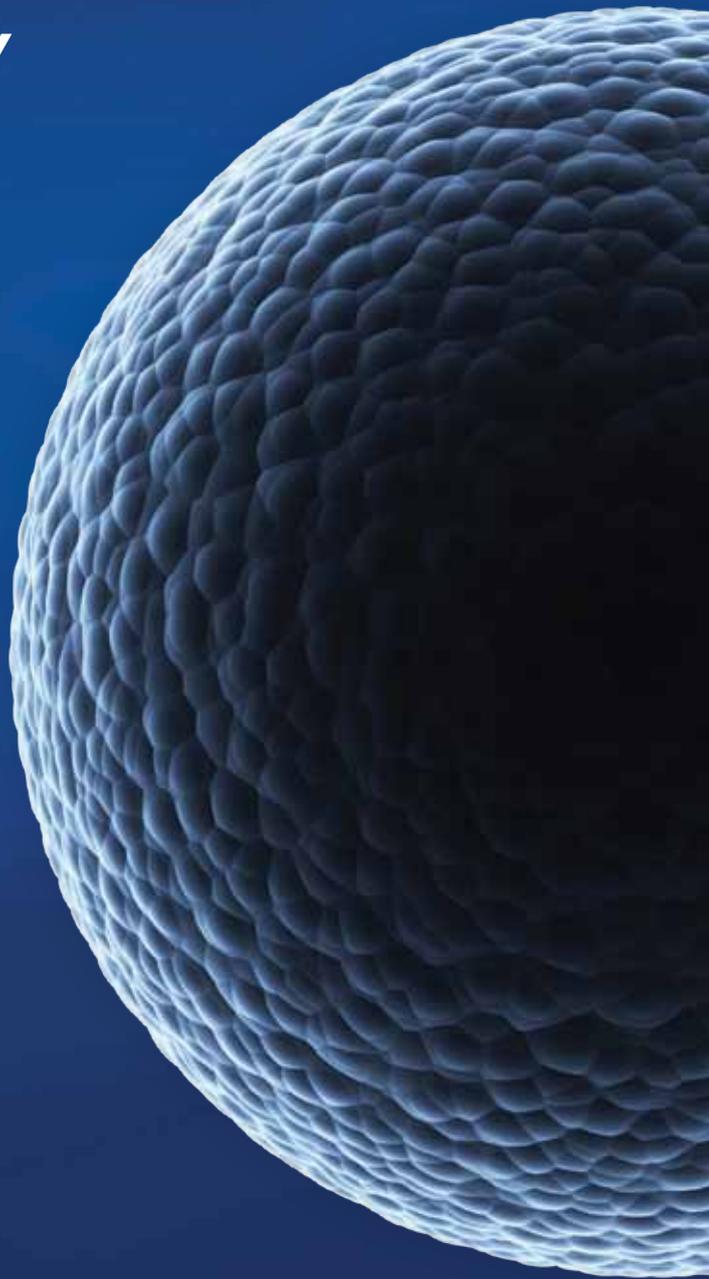
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Jos of Wilara**

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Page 6 International Dairy Week stars



Page 34 Western Districts camp success



Page 37 Georgie Moodie's trip downunder

C o n t e n t s

Busy year under way for Holstein breeders..... 5
Joy for NSW family at International Dairy Week..... 6
Celebrating the Holstein community..... 8
DataGene is recruiting herds for the Ginfo project* 10
Holsteins continue to break records 11
Cow family: Wilara Jo – Breeding with passion..... 12
Next Gen steps up 16
Obituaries..... 18
Teamwork meets the challenge 20
Genetic gain drives profit at Bamawm 25
Master Breeders
 Calderbrae Holsteins..... 28
 Coral Hill Holsteins..... 30
 Gilabils Holsteins 32
Phil Hentschke reappointed as classifier 31
Western Districts camp success 34
Meat pies, kangaroos and Holstein cows 36
Last Word: Calderbrae girls 38

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COVER: IDW Grand Champion R&W Holstein: Mitch Chipper Beauty-IMP-ET-RED at home with Brent and Kim Mitchell, Bamawm, Northern Victoria.

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Below:
Warrior-Red MGGD:
Rockymountain Gold Winter, EX 94

Below:
Crown-Red MGGD:
Khw Regiment Apple-Red-ET, EX 96



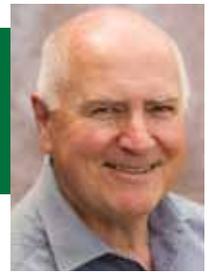
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WWS

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Busy year under way for Holstein breeders

International Dairy Week has come and gone and the normal calendar of events around Australia is well underway.

International Dairy Week

IDW provided a number of highlights especially the Youth Challenge, Youth Show and the quality of cattle exhibited in the Holstein Show. Congratulations to all participants on how they continue to prepare their cattle; it is a real credit to their animal husbandry skills.

During IDW it was great to catch up with a large number of members and industry personnel. I must say that at times the discussions were challenging as is the environment that the dairy industry is currently operating in. Even with these day-to-day challenges there are many positive stories as members continue to adapt their business models to improve and grow. The resilience of members and the dairy community is to be admired.

Closer to home office staff have settled well into Dairy House at AgriBio with all services back to normal. Staff are enjoying the shared environment which has flowed onto increased efficiencies. Importantly we have been able to make substantial savings around the operation of the office, an added bonus to the new opportunities available in sharing services with our co-tenants.

Classification, member services and export

When talking member services I would like to highlight Classification, both the positives and the negatives. With the reduction of the classifier team by 50% we have seen tours fall behind schedule, which for some regions has been problematic. I do apologise for

this situation and actions have already commenced to address the timing of tours for 2019 and increase the number of classifiers in the field.

On the positive side, there is a desire and direction from the Board for Classification to be self-funded and not subsidised by other services and I'm happy to say for the year to date this has been achieved. I would like to recognise the efforts of the classifiers on continuing to deliver a professional service.

As I review the year to date, the use by members of services such as registrations, transfers and classifications are trending down from the previous year. This perhaps reflects on the decreased numbers within the overall industry. Genomic testing numbers are currently lower yet interest is growing, based on the potential outcomes of testing.

On another positive note export activity has been very strong, with a range of countries active in importing Australian Holstein heifers and genetics. This continues to help underpin the Association's sound financial position.

The continued review of expenses following changes implemented last financial year have had a positive impact in an overall decrease in operating expenses.

The combination of the overall revenue

and decreased expenses see Holstein Australia in a significantly better financial position than for the same period last year.

Genetic progress

Genetic progress within the Holstein breed continues to impress with across the board gains for almost all traits. The major advantage for Holsteins is the ability to make progress in lower heritability traits using genomics.

Weight of numbers provides the breed with a significant advantage to make gains for fertility, health traits and the introduction of new traits including Feed Efficiency and Heat Tolerance.

Additionally, with the increased numbers of bulls being submitted for ABVs, we now see a significant increase in bulls available over 300 BPI, both daughter and genomic proven. This greatly benefits members and the industry in general to add a higher level of genetic merit to their breeding programs whatever the selection goal is.

Fond farewells and 2019

On a sadder note since the last Journal there have been a number of contributors to the breed that have passed away (see page 18). On behalf of the Holstein community, I express our sincere condolences to the family members who have lost loved ones.

During 2019, I will be spending more time visiting members in as many Sub-branches and Regions as possible to ensure the connection between members and the Association is as strong as possible. Communication will be a major focus for the year.

I look forward to keeping you posted on activities and member achievements from around the country. **HJ**

The resilience of members and the dairy community is to be admired.

Joy for NSW family at International Dairy Week

Three months before the Crawford family entered Fairvale Goldchip Melody 770 into International Dairy Week, they had an inkling she was something special.

Andrew and Abbey, and Andrew's brother Darren had purchased the August 2014-born Holstein at the Fairview Farewell Sale, in Tasmania during November 2017. She was recommended by professional cattle fitter Simon Tognola.

Almost a year later, she had a Solomon bull calf and was second in the NSW South Coast Semex Holstein Australia On-farm Challenge.

She went on to claim third place in the 4-year-old class in the NSW final, behind Murrbrook Goldwyn Posy and Mario Park Braxton Fanny.

"We knew she was good," Andrew said. "But we didn't know, back in October, that she could win at Dairy Week."

The family, who operate Coolea Holsteins at Numbaa in NSW, plan to flush the IDW Holstein Champion and hopefully return her to the Tatura show ring in January 2021.

Before taking out the broad-ribbon

for the breed, judge Adam Liddle from Littleholme Farm in the US state of New York, placed Fairvale Goldchip Melody 770 at the top of the four-year-old in-milk class.

In awarding her champion Holstein cow, later in the day, he simply said she was a "beautiful cow" and complimented her combination of "dairyness and strength". He then singled-out her mammary system as a winning feature.

He told the crowd her mammary system placed her above the Reserve Champion, a mature cow and IDW 2017 Holstein Grand Champion Exhibit, Paringa Braxton Parry owned by Elm Banks Holsteins and A&S Barron from Crossley in Victoria.

Paringa Braxton Parry's strength placed her over Honourable Mention cow Murrbrook Atwood Ivy-ET, according to Mr Liddle. The Honourable Mention cow is owned by Murrbrook Holsteins and AF Garratty Pty Ltd from Moss Vale.

The Holstein champion, Fairvale Goldchip Melody 770, was bred by double Master Breeders Ross and Leanne Dobson from Bracknell Tasmania. Their Fairvale Holstein prefix has been attached to numerous winners at IDW.

Fairvale Goldchip Melody 770's pedigree includes dam Fairvale Sanchez Melody VG89 and grand dam Fairvale Terrason Melody GP81. The third cow in her pedigree is Fairvale Fred Melody 402 VG86, a cow with huge production and numerous awards. These include: Superior Total Performance, a Seven-Star Brood Cow, two elite production awards, four milk production awards, two butterfat production awards, three protein production awards and a level four Lifetime Production award, indicating 100,000 litres achieved. For six consecutive lactations she produced more than 10,000 litres.

This recent IDW is one the Crawford family won't forget anytime soon.

The family claimed their first and second IDW champion ribbons and subsequently had two cows in the interbreed line-up on the last day. They took home champion Guernsey exhibit a few days before claiming the Holstein award. Their champion Guernsey was Exkwizit Active Barbell.

Red and White supreme exhibit

Winner of the champion Red and White Holstein Exhibit, Mitch Chipper Beauty-IMP-ET-RED, potentially has a big future in the showring, according to joint owner Trudy Mountain. Trudy and husband Peter were dairy farmers in the Upper Murray region of Victoria. They have maintained a "connection to the industry" with interest in some cows with Mitch Holsteins Brent and Kim Mitchell at Bamawm, Victoria.

Trudy, thrilled with the championship win, said taking-home a broad ribbon from IDW was part of a goal she had set with a friend, who had since passed-away.

But Trudy will not rest on her laurels, she has high-hopes for the 4-year-old cow.

"I think she can go on and win the overall," she said.

"The judge did say she had the best udder at the competition, another 12 months or two years growing into a more mature cow, there's a chance she can win overall."

"Very happy" with the recent win, the Mitchells have previously had their hands on an IDW broad ribbon. Their black and white Holstein, Mitch Aftershock Irene, took-out the intermediate award in 2017.

Brent Mitchell said Mitch Chipper Beauty was a third-calf 4-year-old and was "ticking all the boxes".



IDW Grand Champion Holstein exhibit Fairvale Goldchip Melody 770, Crawford family.

"She's already back in calf, to calve again next August to sexed Altitude," he said.

"I guess it is the plan to go to IDW again, if everything goes to plan, but we don't work our cows around shows. It is what suits the business and if a show fits, it fits."

Mitch Chipper Beauty was Champion Cow at the North West Victoria Spring Holstein Feature in Echuca 2018 and Intermediate Champion Cow at Rochester's Great Northern Show in February 2018.

An imported embryo out of Canada, the story of how the Mountains and Mitchells ended up with Mitch Chipper Beauty can be traced-back to 1999.

This was the only World Dairy Expo Brent Mitchell had attended and the winner was Rainy Ridge Tony Beauty. So, it's no surprise when they went looking overseas for embryos, they wanted

Continued page 8

IDW Holstein results:

IDW Grand Champion Holstein Exhibit: Fairvale Goldchip Melody 770, Crawford Family, Numbaa, NSW

Champion Cow: Fairvale Goldchip Melody 770, Crawford Family, Numbaa, NSW; **Reserve:** Paringa Braxton Parry, Elm Banks Holsteins & A&S Barron, Crossley, Victoria; **Honourable Mention:** Murribrook Atwood Ivy-ET, Murribrook & AF Garratty Pty Ltd, Moss Vale, NSW

IDW Grand Champion Holstein Exhibit R&W: Mitch Chipper Beauty-IMP-ET-RED, Mitch Holsteins & TPM, Bamawm, Victoria

Champion Cow R&W: Mitch Chipper Beauty-IMP-ET-RED, Mitch Holsteins & TPM, Bamawm, Victoria; **Reserve:** Murribrook Starlet Picolo-IMP-ET-RED, MJ Sowter, Moss Vale, NSW; **Honourable Mention:** Quality Ridge Damartini Jane-ET-RED, Quality Ridge, Girgarre, Victoria

Intermediate Champion: Bluechip MH Hero Marion, F&D Borba, D Patten & B Salmon, California, USA; **Reserve:** Elmar Solomon Jessica 2-ET Elm Holsteins, Leitchville, Victoria; **Honourable Mention:** Horizon Bradnick Ambrosia 2-ET Elm Banks Holsteins, Crossley, Victoria

Best Udder: Fairvale Goldchip Melody 770 Crawford Family, Numbaa, NSW.

Best Udder Intermediate: Horizon Bradnick Ambrosia 2-ET Elm Banks Holsteins, Crossley, Victoria

Intermediate Champion R&W: Whitegold Absolute Satin-ET-RED M & A Rood, Morans Crossing, NSW; **Reserve:** Bluechip EV Shesaawesome Apple, Cherrylock Cattle Co. & H Bevan, Tallygaroopna, Victoria;

Honourable mention: Redholme Addiction Sally-IMP-ET-RED, M&T&M Robertson, Lardner, Victoria

Best Udder R&W: Mitch Chipper Beauty-IMP-ET-RED Mitch Holsteins & TPM, Bamawm, VIC.

Intermediate Best Udder R&W: Whitegold Absolute Satin-ET-RED M & A Rood, Morans Crossing, NSW

Junior Champion: Murribrook Solomon Tambourine-ET, Murribrook, Moss Vale, NSW; **Reserve:** Mario Park Walnutlawn Midas, MD & JE Polson, Oxley Island, NSW; **Honourable Mention:** Lightning Ridge Dback Limelight, M Nikora & K Bleijendaal, Carpendiet, Victoria

Junior Champion R&W: Eclipse BC Red August ET RED, Eclipse Genetics & BlueChip Genetics, Zeerust, Victoria; **Reserve:** Eclipse Avalanche Delight-RED, Robsvue Holsteins, Myponga, SA; **Honourable Mention:** Sun Vale Awesome Candy-RED, Sun Vale Holsteins, Cashmore, Victoria

Exhibitor encouragement award: M & A Rood, Morans Crossing, NSW

Premier Sire Award: Walnutlawn Solomon, Semex

Premier Breeder: BlueChip Genetics

Premier Exhibitor: JH & CJ Gardiner, Cardinia, Victoria

Premier Sire Award R&W: Luck-E Awesome-RED, AgriGene



The 7 year old and over class lineup.



Champion Udder, Fairvale Goldchip Melody 770, Crawford Family.



Reserve Champion, Paringa Braxton Parry, Elm Bank Holsteins and A & S Barron.



Junior Champion, Murribrook Solomon Tambourine, Murribrook Holsteins.

Continued from p7

something with a link to this cow. Rainy Ridge Tony Beauty is the fifth cow in Mitch Chipper Beauty's pedigree with the second dam, Rainy Ridge Talent Barbara, a 95-point cow who also had success on the North American show circuit.

Intermediate

Bluechip MH Hero Marion VG 89 has many showing accolades to her name and in January she added IDW Supreme Intermediate All-Breeds Champion.

Owned by Frank and Diane Borba from California in the USA along with Australian's Declan Patten and Brad Salmon, the 3-year-old was praised for her length and rib structure by Holstein judge Adam Liddle.

In awarding her Holstein Intermediate Champion, Adam also complimented her feet, legs, dairyness and mammary system.

Bluechip MH Hero Marion VG 89 was bred by IDW Holstein Premier Breeder Award winners Dean and Dianna Malcom of Bluechip Genetics.

Her dam, Bluechip Dundee Marion EX-90-2E, was Honourable Mention Intermediate Champion at IDW in 2013. Her granddam is Melville Park Iron Marion EX-93-3E.

Some of Bluechip MG Hero Marion VG 89's achievements include: IDW Junior Champion Honourable Mention 2017 and Reserve Junior Champion at the 2016 Victorian Winter Fair.

Junior

"Every time you look at her ... she stops you," was how judge Adam Liddle described this year's IDW junior champion Murrubrook Solomon Tambourine-ET from the Moss Vale, NSW stud Murrubrook.

Adam said her openness and width, as well as length through her head and neck placed her in front of the reserve junior champion Mario Park Walnutlawn Midas exhibited by MD & JE Polson from Oxley Island, NSW.

The junior champion is a decedent of the famous Walkerbrae Triple T Toni cow, which Murray Sowter of Murrubrook Holsteins imported from the US. **HJ**

Thanks to Simone Smith for providing this coverage in place of Jon Holland, who was busy coping with the aftermath of a fire that destroyed shedding and machinery on his farm.

Celebrating the Holstein community

Holstein Australia members regularly cite fellowship and a sense of community as an important benefit of belonging to a breed society. They may be passionate about black and whites but they also enjoy the people who breed them. A number of awards are presented at International Dairy Week to celebrate the people who make outstanding contributions to the Holstein community.

Lex Bunn Memorial award

The Lex Bunn Memorial Award is made to a person from the registered cattle fraternity who has exerted a large, positive and sustained influence on the Australian dairy industry.

The 2019 award went to David Mayo, Semex General Manager Australia and NZ. Based at Gerringong, NSW David is well-known on the show circuit both as a judge and an exhibitor; the family's Ayshire herd, Regal Park, has won 22 All Australian Awards, four champions at International Dairy Week, and a number of champions at numerous Royal Shows, including Sydney.

Bette Hall Women in Dairy Award

The Bette Hall Women in Dairy Award is presented by the Power of Women in Dairy group which celebrates strong, passionate and successful women in the dairy industry.

Lisa Broad, Senior Vice President Jersey Australia received the 2019 Bette Hall Power of Women in Dairy Excellence Award 2019.

Sheri Martin youth award

Sheri Martin youth awards for Champion Handling, judged by Lisa McKay, Linsand-V, went to: Senior (18-20yo): Champion: Cally O'Shannassy; Runner up Rachel Boonstoppel

- Intermediate (14-17 yo): Champion : Rebekah Love; Runner up: Toby Fleming
- Primary (11-13 yo): Champion: Mikaela Daniel; Runner up: Leah Dickson
- Junior (8-10 yo): Sheah Twedde; Runner up: Ruby Polson.



Gerringong's David Mayo (centre) accepts the Lex Bunn Memorial Award from last year's winner Lindsay Wilson (left) and the inaugural winner in 2002, Jim Conroy. Photograph: Fiona Hanks

The Sheri Martin Award is in honour of the late Sheri Martin of Rochester, Victoria. Sheri developed her dairy showmanship skills through attending youth camps. She worked for Genetics Australia and volunteered her time to run many camps and teaching young people about showmanship.



Sheri Martin award winners Photograph: Fiona Hanks



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* Ginfo is the dairy industry's national reference population for genetic information. It improves the reliability of Australian Breeding Values (ABVs) and enables ABVs for traits that are difficult to measure such as Heat Tolerance.

Holsteins continue to break records

Latest figures show Holsteins continue to dominate the Australian industry with the breed representing 79% of 2018 semen sales. In 2018, 1,733,033 Holstein straws were sold, breaking record set the previous year.

The NHIA annual semen market report shows about two million doses of dairy straws were sold in Australia with Holstein and Jersey representing the lions share.

The graph shows the number of genomic straws sold now almost equals exceeds the number proven straws, with progeny test straws now down to about 58,000 doses.

Sexed semen continues to gain popularity representing about 8% of dairy doses sold in 2018. Export of dairy semen straws continue to rise rapidly, with 260,000 doses sold in 2018, a 30% increase on the 200,000 sold in 2017.

Holstein Australia CEO, Graeme Gillan, said Holstein dominance was hardly surprising given the recent rapid genetic gain made by the breed.

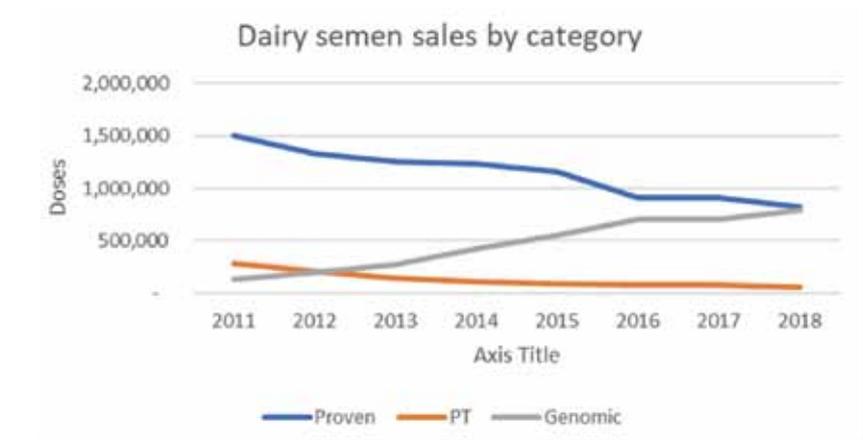
"DataGene's January ABV run clearly shows an increased rate of genetic gain for the Holstein breed in Australia," Graeme said.

"In genetic terms, if we are getting things right, the newest generation of heifers should start to replace the older cows topping our lists."

This is particularly the case for the Holstein list of top cows ranked by Balanced Performance Index (BPI), Australia's index for the main traits that influence a dairy cow's contribution to the farm business – production, fertility, cell count, feed efficiency, functional type, longevity and workability.

Every month Holstein Australia publishes two lists of genomic tested registered females, one being the best young females with their first genomic breeding value and the other being the top list of all genomic tested females (irrespective of age).

"Comparing January's list with last



September's, there is a 34-point gain in the average BPI of the top 10 heifers (333 BPI v 299 BPI) and an 18-point gain in the average BPI of the top 10 cows (375 BPI v 357 BPI)."

Graeme said these figures reflected a logical progression of genetic improvement in the breed.

"To breed young heifers that are better than their mothers, we need use bulls that are also as good, if not better than the female side of the pedigree. And that is what is happening."

When the animals on January's top heifer list were conceived, Chairman was number 1 bull, Perseus equal number 2, with MVP also high up. Between them they sired eight of the top ten new heifers in the January release (Chairman 5, Perseus 1, MVP 2).

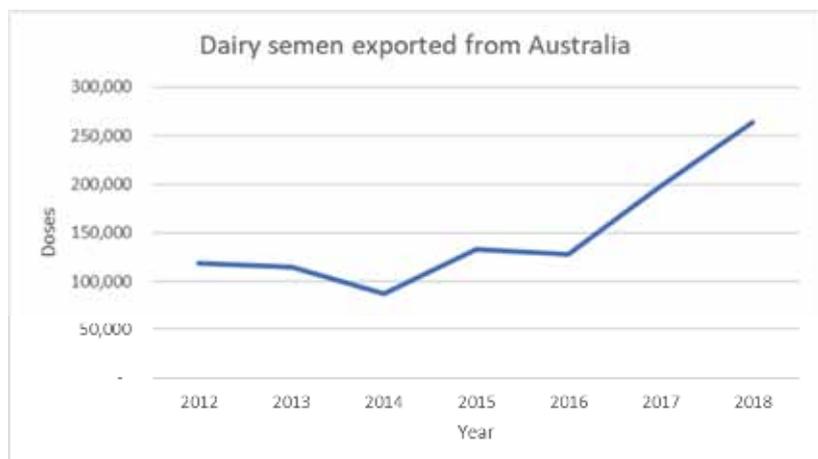
The other common factor is great depth of pedigree.

"We've got high genetic merit sires mated to strong cow families almost all the way through these lists.

"The marked increase in the rate of genetic gain we are seeing is the result of years of careful selection and long-term investment by breeders in their herds. We are now seeing the impact of the use of high genetic merit animals.

"It is going to be interesting to keep tracking the progress of the breed month-on-month this year, particularly where we have young bulls that rank highly in the Good Bulls Guide coupled with high genetic merit females, all of which we can track more accurately than ever before through genomics," Graeme said.

HJ



Wilara Jo – Breeding with passion

BY JON HOLLAND

A passion for breeding cows and a love for the Australian Holstein has been the driving force behind the success of Gippsland dairy farmers, Trevor and Tracy Henry. Thirty-five years dedicated to their Wilara breeding program has seen them amass an enviable roll of Holstein production and performance awards, earning them the prestigious Master Breeder title in 2018.

Wilara Holsteins currently sits at No. 8 on the Australian Herd BPI rankings, with progeny consistently appearing among the top of the index charts. At the same time, Wilara-bred cows regularly feature among the winners at local shows and On Farm competitions.

Trevor runs the farm, based at Tinamba in the Macalister Irrigation District, with his wife Tracy, nephew Damion and son Oakley, who recently returned to the operation to complete his farming traineeship. Irrigation water from the Glenmaggie Weir is used on about 120 hectares of rye, clover and lucerne to feed the split calving herd of between 450-500 registered Holsteins. The year round grazing is supplemented by hay and silage, with some concentrates fed in the dairy. An additional 200 hectares are leased for growing fodder crops and raising young stock.

"We used to run quite a high input operation but have reduced our

supplements down to 6 kg to run a more economical system," Trevor says. "That's the strength of the Australian Holstein. She is a unique cow that can produce high volumes of milk and solids off a grazing system, yet also respond to a high input system. She has the strength and capacity to look after herself, while also possessing the ability to efficiently convert feed into milk."

Trevor's ideal cow produces large volumes of solids, is very functional, medium in stature, and displays enough strength to sustain good health and fertility.

"Components are very important – I can't handle a cow that does not produce a lot of solids."

Trevor's obsession for breeding sees him eagerly await the latest catalogues and breeder magazines. Studying them intensely, Trevor selects bulls from the top of the lists, looking at their individual traits and matching them to his herd.

"Oman (O-bee Manfred Justice) was a bull that worked well here. We used him a lot even before he was popular. He was at the top of the rankings and an extreme calving ease sire, so we used him over maiden heifers for 4 years running. We ended up milking over 60 daughters – they were fantastic animals," Trevor said.

For Trevor, breeding is about complementing a cow's strengths and weaknesses with each mating.

"I'm lucky in that I have an inherent dataset

of what a cow family has done in the past. A particular combination may seem obvious, but I could choose something different because I know what the grandmother was like."

Wilara has several maternal lines making their impact on the charts, including their Kalypso, Trace and Persia families. However it's the Wilara Jo family that continues to stamp itself as one of Australia's leading cow families.

Launched into focus

The Jo family traces back to the grade cow 'Della', bought in the 1960s. Of her six daughters, it was the Engsta Royal Beau daughter, Wilara E.B. Majella App4 who formed the foundation. "Majella was a magnificent uddered cow," Trevor remembers.

In 1991, Majella's daughter Wilara Tapa Joella App3 VG85 STP was among Trevor's first cows to be classified, awarded the maximum score for a dry cow at the time of VG85 and Superior Total Performance by Holstein classifier Graeme Hopf.

"Joella was only a small-framed cow but she had a great udder. At the time she was rising 15 years old, pregnant and dry, and in the turn-out block, but Graeme was happy to go down the road to see her."

In the early '90s, among the chart toppers in the first release of Australia's newest breeding index, the ASI (Australia Selection Index) was a descendent of Joella, the Pickard-Acres Vic Kai daughter, Wilara Kai Jo VG86 (g) STP 5* Life1 BPI+19 ASI +114.

Descendants of Kai Jo grabbed the spotlight in 2018 when Dean Malcolm, Bluechip Genetics, selected Wilara Silver Jessica GP81 as his winning 2-year-old for East Gippsland OFC. Dean also selected a pair of maternal sisters, Wilara Atley Jo VG85 and Wilara Medal Jo VG87 as his winning 3-year-old and 5-year-old. The daughters of Wilara Palermo Jo GP84 also featured at the 2018 East Gippsland Feature Show at Sale, placing second in their classes, before winning the breeder's pen of three with herdmate Wilara Buddha Trace VG89.



Master Breeders Wilara Holsteins: Oak, Tracy, Trevor and Coco Henry.

RIGHT, from top:

Wilara Uno Jordette VG86 1xF BPI +378 - 2nd 4-year-old East Gippsland OFC 2017.

Wilara Atley Jo VG85 (g) BPI +92 – 1st 2-year-old East Gippsland OFC 2018.

Wilara Medal Jo (g) VG87 BPI +147 – 1st 5-year-old East Gippsland OFC 2018.

“The Atley is a great uddered young cow with loads of texture,” Trevor said. “Her Medallion sister also has a great udder, with terrific bone and rib – she’s a cow that is ‘dripping wet’ to look at.”

Another descendant of Kai Jo, Wilara Uno Jordette VG86 1xF BPI +378 was second in her 4-year-old class in the OFC in 2017, and is currently the highest BPI cow in the Wilara herd.

Kai Jo is also the granddam of the highest classified Jo, Wilara HoLadino Jemma EX-90-1E 1xM 1xF 1xP LIFE 2 BPI +170. Sporting an EX-91 mammary system, this massive production cow exceeded 11,000 litres and 745 kg solids on a first lactation, peaking at 13,274 litres and 930 kg milk solids as 6-year-old, with a lifetime total of 96,000 litres.

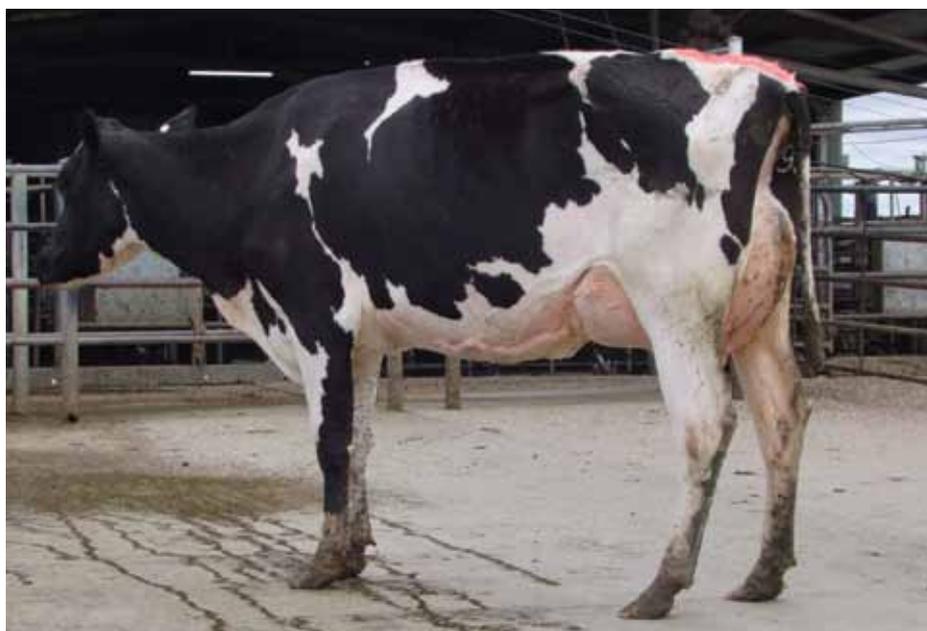
Kai Jo herself completed a lifetime record of 75,525 litres, 3.6% 2,716 kg protein, 4.5% 3,402 kg fat. It was her impressive production performance, combined with solid type scores, extreme components, chart topping indexes and somewhat alternative pedigree that caught the attention of Genetics Australia’s Breeding and Production Manager Peter Thurn.

“Vic Kai was a bull that came into focus after the release of the ASI” Peter said.

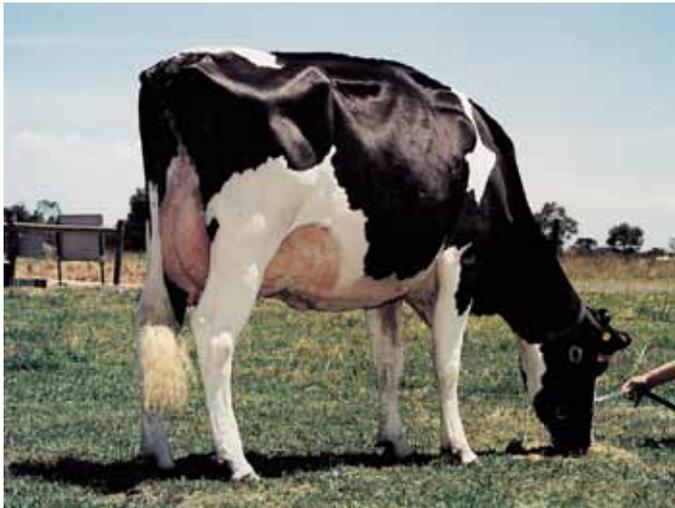
“He transmitted really good longevity, and farmers milking Vic Kai daughters were really happy with them.”

“Kai Jo was a typical Vic Kai daughter. She was a solid performer in a real no-nonsense herd. She had great components, and a cow that had matured into an honest VG cow. That’s been typical of Jo cow family. Rock solid herd cows that are very honest and robust.”

On Peter’s first visit to Wilara, Kai Jo already had a yearling daughter by Shoremar Perfect Star (SHOTIME), Wilara Sho Jo Jo VG87 5*. Excited by her striking style and texture, Peter immediately asked Trevor two questions... do you flush, and can we flush this heifer?



Australian Holstein Cow Family



Wilara Sho JoJo VG87 5*

Wilara Jo family tree



Sho JoJo was flushed to the top sires of the time, including the French protein specialist Gibbon, resulting in the daughters Wilara Gibbon Jiselle-ET VG85 and Wilara Gibbon Janelle-ET VG87, and the PT sire Wilara Jumbo (JUMBOJET). Sho JoJo also had sons Wilara Jacques (TRANSFER) and Wilara Divine JC (EVANGELIST) sent through progeny testing, however it was her son Wilara Donor Jonar (LOMU) BPI+20, by Elite Mountain Donor (DONOR), who provided the breakthrough, debuting at No.#30 on the August 2005 Australian Profit Ranking (APR).

Wilara Carey Jo (g) VG87 2xM 1xF 2xP BPI+62, a Marion Dale Carey (CAREY) daughter of Sho JoJo, produced four consecutive lactations over 10,000 litres, peaking at 12,302 litres, 3.1% 386 kg protein, 3.0% 373 kg fat, PI 110 in 305 days. "Carey Jo was a beautiful cow," Trevor said.

"She was silky smooth textured and milked and milked and milked!"

Carey Jo is the fourth dam behind Wilara Oman Jo (g) VG87 1* 1xEP BPI+302 ASI+302, the matriarch behind the strongest branch of the Jo family today.

Oman Jo

Despite the fast-paced world of index breeding, Oman Jo, born in 2009, still sits at No. 95 on the BPI charts, and a staggering No. 8 on the ASI chart!

"Oman Jo is a really sound, beautiful cow," Trevor says. "She's a big production cow with huge components, which is a trait she has consistently passed down."

Oman Jo recently had an eye removed due to cancer, however still completed a top lactation of 12,071 litres, 3.6% 438kg protein 4.6% 552 kg fat in 305 days with a PI 131.



Wilara Oman Jo (g) VG87 1* 1xEP BPI+302 ASI+302 No.#95 BPI Dec18, No.#8 ASI Dec18.

A flush to Sea-Gull Bay Silver provided the high genomic daughters Wilara Argent Jo-ET (g) VG85 BPI+292 and Wilara SBS Jo-ET (g) GP81 BPI+292. Another flush to the high milk flow USA sire Uecker Supersire Josuper produced the genomic sire Wilara JoSuper Jo-ET (g) (GILES).

"Giles daughters are a carbon copy of Oman Jo. You can really see her influence in her son's daughters."

With a BPI(g)+311 and ASI(g) +238, Giles is predicted to be a big production improver, sitting at No.#5 of the top available sires ranked on ASI. The No.#1 available bull on ASI is a grandson of Oman Jo, Wilara Rookie Jo-ET (WOOKIE) BPI(g) +347 ASI(g) +276.

Sired by De-Su Rookie from a Country Road Canbee (CANBEE) daughter of Oman Jo, Wookie has been a popular young sire for Genetics Australia, with Trevor having enough confidence in his bull to use him as a flush sire.

"Wookie's genomics have come out exactly as we'd hoped for," Trevor says. "He displays a perfect combination of both his dam and his sire. We recently flushed a Jedi (S-S-I Montross Jedi) daughter of Uno Jordette to Wookie, which will be a double cross of the Jo family."

A maternal sister to Wookie currently sits

at No. 4 on Australia's female genomic BPI list. Born in September 2018, Wilara Perseus Jo (g) BPI +376 displays high genomic figures for daughter fertility +112, feed conversion +108 and an ASI +251, with extraordinary figures for fat and protein %.

"The Canbee dam of Wookie and Perseus Jo is a beautifully framed cow," Trevor says. "She has super high components and has fantastic texture which is a real Jo family trait. Great textured cows that give a lot of milk and are cows that last."

Canbee Jo is set for a flush in March to the current No.#1 TWI sire Le-O-La Mogul Gambler TWI(g) +400. Trevor is also planning a flush for Perseus Jo when she's old enough.

Oman Jo is currently in-calf to Wilara Hero Kade (KADE) BPI(g)+356, an Endco Superhero son from Trevor's Kalypso family, sitting at No.#16 on the BPI(g) list, and may be flushed again when fresh if the budget allows.

Giving back

Over recent years, Trevor has been able to combine his passion for the Australian Holstein, and what he describes as 'an inherited need to put back in', by joining the board of Genetics Australia, sitting as Chairman for the last three years.

It is a role Trevor has enjoyed as he hopes to lift the profile of the Australian Holstein both locally and overseas.



Wilara Rookie Jo-ET (WOOKIE) BPI(g) +347 ASI(g) +27 No.#1 available genomic sire on ASI Dec18.

"I am incredibly proud of the history of Genetics Australia, and the Australian Holstein. Australian breeders should be really proud of the unique animal they have developed. They have combined the very best genetics from around the world to produce an animal that is both unique and world class."

HJ

Be part of the ultimate judging gig

The All Australian photographic competition judges consider it the ultimate gig, although in a completely different format to the show ring. Holstein Australia is on the lookout for future judges.

Rob Walmsley (Robsvue Holsteins, SA) has judged the competition three times and the experience is a highlight.

"The quality of entries is superb and each time I've been left with a deep respect for the Holstein breed, their breeders and the photographers," Rob said.

"Excelling in the All Australian takes a combination of an exceptional cow and a talented photographer to capture the best of her features. We judge the animal entirely on what we see in the photo."

Judges are not given any information about entrants; they don't know their classification, owners or even show information.

For long-time judge, Lindsay Moxey (Newington, Hunter Valley, NSW), the collaborative format of the All Australian judging process makes it a valued and special experience.

"It's very different from the show ring where the onus is entirely on the judge and decisions are made in a brief moment," Lindsay said.

The All Australian judging process starts with each judge examining entrants and identifying definite finalists, possible finalists and non-contenders. They collaborate to agree on a finalist list and placegetters for each class. Where there isn't agreement, consensus rules.

"I always learn something from the discussion between the judges. Mostly, we are very consistent in our views – as we've been trained to judge to specific criteria. But I enjoy hearing different perspectives from others who have a keen eye for detail and a passion for the great Holstein cow. We may not realise it but we



The 2018 All Australian judging team: Lindsay Moxey, Lisa McKay and Rob Walmsley.

take what we learn from that discussion back to our showing and become better judges," Lindsay said.

Lisa McKay judged the All Australian for the first time in 2018 and can't wait to do it again.

"I was impressed by the number and quality of entries and I was surprised by how much detail the judges look at to select the finalists. The panel approach comes into its own in the classes where the placegetters are very close. We had some really robust discussions, which have helped me develop my judging skills. I'm really looking forward to being on the 2019 panel."

The 2019 All Australian judging panel is Lisa McKay (Linsand-V), Wes Brown (Juleanwes, Tamworth, NSW) and Dave Peglar (Sleepy Hollow, Fleurieu & Central SA).

Anyone on Holstein Australia's national judging panel is eligible to nominate as an All Australian judge.

If you are interested in nominating as an All Australian judge contact David Jupp at Holstein Australia, ph 03 9835 7600 or email enquiry@holstein.com.au

Next Gen steps up

Two years ago, young South Australian dairy farmer Ebony King would have buckled at the thought of speaking in front of 200 people.

Now, she's ready for the challenge and will be part of a Next Gen Go-getters panel at the Herd '19 conference in Bendigo, Victoria, on March 19-20.

Ebony's rise through the industry was fast-tracked last year when she won the employee career development category of DairySA's Next Gen challenge.

The success not only led to her inclusion on the Herd '19 panel, it gave her the confidence to take on the opportunity.

Ebony will be one of three young panel members who will provide a practical farming perspective and explain their career goals at the conference panel, which brings together the herd improvement industry's major players.

Ebony, 20, grew up in suburbia near McLaren Vale but her stock agent grandfather Allan Pegler and uncle David Pegler (Sleepy Hollow) made sure she knew about and loved the dairy industry.

"I've always loved cows and had farms in the background," she said.

After completing an agricultural course through TAFE, Ebony worked on a dairy farm near Clare Valley before moving home to the Fleurieu Peninsula nearly three years ago to work with Wes Hurrell (Rockwella Farm Holsteins, Yankalilla) as assistant herd manager focussing on calf rearing and breeding.

"Watching the herd grow through genomics has been awesome," Ebony said. "Every result we get back, we step it up."

Wes has given Ebony the chance to develop industry connections through the Fleurieu Young Dairy discussion group, the Track Ag Consulting Group and the Next Gen challenge.

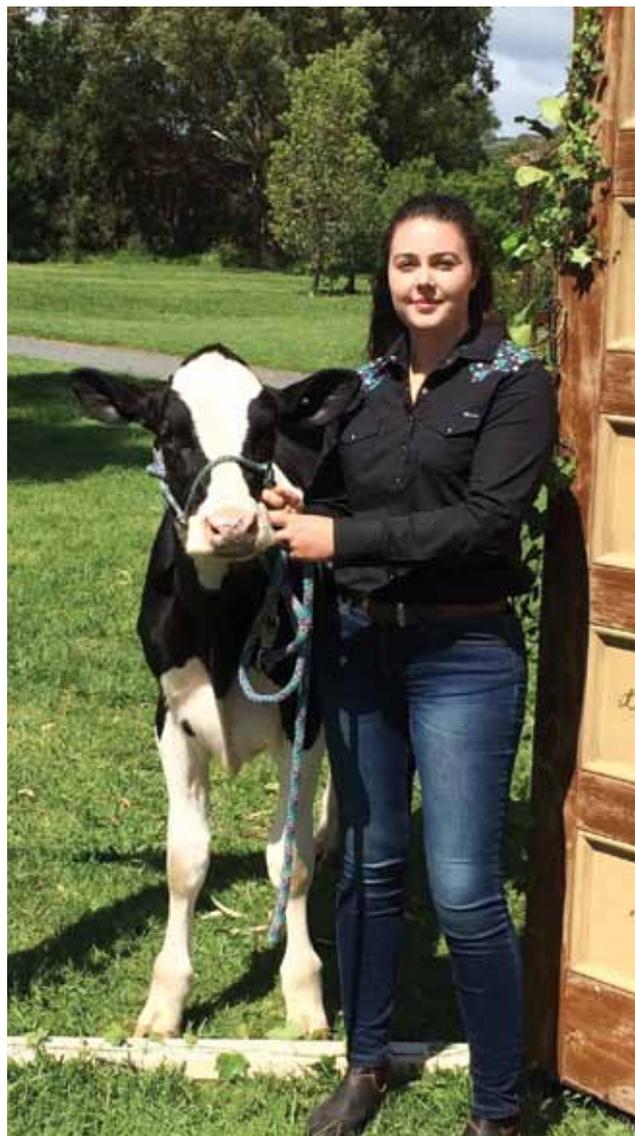
"Next Gen was a great opportunity to develop my networking and communication skills," she said.

"Without it I wouldn't have had the opportunity to join the panel or the confidence to do it."

Part of the Next Gen challenge involved speaking before a board of four people.

"Talking on stage to a few hundred is going to be a bit different and a bit nerve-wracking.

"It's not something I do on a daily basis; I'm used to talking to cows, but the confidence I gained from Next Gen means I'm well prepared."



Emily King at home on the farm.

Ebony wants to work in the herd improvement industry and hopes ultimately to be providing independent breed advice to farmers.

She is a strong advocate of the dairy industry and is keen to educate the broader community about the benefits, resilience and caring nature of farmers.

Ebony shows cattle at the Royal Adelaide Show and has worked with Dairy Australia's Legendairy initiative to host people at the show's dairy exhibit.

"I love the resilience and family strength of the dairy industry with everything going on with the milk price and environmental factors," she said.

Ebony is looking forward to taking her message to the stage as she looks to a long-term future in the industry.

"The last two years farming with Wes and having those networking opportunities has really helped me to pursue my goals," she said.

Held every two years, Herd '19 is a highlight on the herd improvement calendar and is proudly delivered by Holstein Australia, DataGene, Dairy Australia and NHIA.





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Brian Burgess

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Brian Burgess, Willowleigh Holsteins, Gerringong, NSW, in February.

Brian was an inaugural Federal Board member of Holstein Australia, serving from 1981 through to 1992, including four years as Federal Vice President. In NSW he was a Life Member and State President from 1974 to 1976 and member of the NSW State Council for several decades. He remained a very active member of the South Coast & Tablelands Sub-branch.

Willowleigh Holsteins was established in 1948 with Brian joining the partnership in 1955.

On the show scene Brian judged throughout NSW, Queensland, Victoria and WA including the Perth Royal where he placed Blawearly Cascade Butterkorn Champion in 1983. He encouraged the owners to take her across the Nullarbor to Sydney Royal, where she won the Supreme Champion.

Brian was well known in the broader dairy industry through his role as a stock agent with Dairy Livestock Services. He was an original DLS team member and had worked with most of the present team for 11 years prior to the founding of DLS. He serviced dairy farmers in all parts of NSW and was greatly respected for his loyalty to the client.

Brian was a devoted family man and much respected in his community on the South Coast of NSW where he lived all his life. He held life membership with the Kiama Rugby Club was an active member of the Gerringong Sunrise Rotary.



Fred Darley

It was fitting that the celebration of Master Breeder Fred Darley's life was held at Dorriggo Showground.

His love of Holsteins dated back to the 1940s when he read about the Friesians at Carnation Milk Farms in the USA and was impressed by their production.

A pioneer of the breed in Northern NSW, Fred established the Golden Valley prefix in 1944. He bought a number of bulls and cows to expand his herd during the early years.

By the 1960s Fred was a regular on the show circuit, with Golden Valley Echo Fay taking Supreme Champion at the 1962 Sydney Royal Easter Show and Golden Valley Rex the Champion Bull in 1966 and 1967.

Fred was the Friesian Steward at the Sydney Royal for 13 years and judged shows from Taree to Gympie and across to Western Australia. He was president of Holstein Australia's Dorriggo-Kempsey sub branch for several years.

He was always encouraging and supportive of new breeders, young and not-so-young. A breeder once admired one of Fred's calves so he gave it to them. That calf went on to be Junior Champion at Brisbane Show. He also offered a calf to another interested breeder who declined. This cow was later classified as 2E.

The Holstein community extends their condolences to Fred's wife, Joyce, their six children, 11 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Joe Watt

The Holstein community in Northern Victoria recently farewelled a staunch supporter and tireless contributor to the breed: Joe Watt, Altona Holsteins.

Joe was an active member of Holstein Australia's Northern Victorian Sub-branch from its early days in the 1950s, holding numerous roles over several decades, including Victorian Holstein Branch Councillor. He was awarded life membership of the Sub-branch in 1984 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Holstein breed.

Joe was a mainstay of the Annual Fair and Sale and the Holstein promotional stand at the Goulburn Valley Dairy and Machinery Field Days. He was a tireless and dedicated volunteer admired for his work ethic, co-operative nature and respectful attitude. He was equally involved in the Kyabram A & H P Society. His efforts over many decades were recognised by life membership and the cattle pavilion is named in his honour: The J S Watt Cattle Pavilion.

As a breeder, Joe is probably best known for purchasing Andes Apply Quality as a springing heifer from Howard Smith, Congupna. This heifer became a legend of the show ring, winning most local shows and Champion Cow at Melbourne Royal and Shepparton National show.

After retiring in 1989, Joe remained passionate about Holsteins, attending most local Registered Holstein sales. He will be remembered for his integrity, respectfulness, honesty and untiring work ethic.

Based on information supplied by Graeme Joiner

Valmai Gardiner

Our condolences to the Gardiner family – husband Harley, daughter Heather and son John and their families – on the recent passing of Valmai, aged 92.

Valmai and Harley, who were married for almost 65 years, were the founders of Avonlea Holsteins in Gippsland, now operated by John and his family.

Valmai was a lady of faith and always took a great interest and care for people, in the general community and the many Holstein people she came in contact with.



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Teamwork meets the challenge

WORDS: JON HOLLAND
PHOTOGRAPHS: FIONA HANKS

A team of 10 enthusiastic New Zealanders dominated this year's Holstein Australia IDW Youth Challenge. Showing tremendous teamwork, professionalism, attention to detail and respect for their animals, the all-girl team representing New Zealand Jerseys topped the clipping and parading sections on their way to overall challenge victory.

Supported by their team manager Julie Pirie, and adult helpers Pam Goodin, Kylie Gread, James Wallace and Karen Fitzgerald, the youngsters were brimming with confidence, despite it being their first time to Australia and IDW for many.

"The event is a lot larger than anything we have in New Zealand, and the facilities and organisation was superb." NZ team manager Julie Pirie said.

"It was a fantastic learning experience for the kids, and we were grateful for the welcome and support we were given, in particular the work done by Justin Johnston and Rockie Allen."

Many of the team had gained experience in showing and preparing heifers from their involvement in calf club events at their schools.

Overseeing the clipping element of the Youth Challenge was renowned cattle fitter Mal Nikora. Mal relished the



The 2019 Youth Challenge winning team: New Zealand Jerseys. Front row (left to right): Danika Beardsall, Ella Wallace, Crystal Scown, Zara Williams, Jacoba Gread. Back row: Ella Pirie, Angel Sommerville, Molly Fletcher, Charlotte Moffitt, Monique Radford, Hannah Nicholson, Zoe Botha.

opportunity to give back to a competition that provided him with so many opportunities when he was developing his skills.

"Being able to judge this competition is one of the best things I've ever done," Mal said. "I used to love competing and putting my skills to the test. It was great competing with friends, but also forming teams with kids I didn't know."

"The New Zealand team worked like a real professional unit. They were well organised and well set up. Their frame was well set up, so the animal was secure and rails weren't being knocked down or cords tangling up. And they were very aware of their teammates – the kid clipping the back hair wasn't dropping hair down the back of the kid clipping the legs."

"It was obvious that these kids were well-practised. It's a big ask getting a group of kids with different ages and skills to work together under pressure. The work they'd put in to practice really paid off."

Mal selected Zoe Botha from the NZ Jersey team as his individual Champion Clipper, with Northern Victoria's Michaela Daniels as his Encouragement Award winner.

"Zoe worked so well with everyone else in her team," Mal said. "She showed real confidence in her technique. She did a terrific job on the topline. It was consistent throughout, and she was on the right angles so the hair blended really well with the animal. And she was able to do this while always being aware of her teammates space."

Northern Victoria's Michaela Daniels received the encouragement award.

"I was really impressed with my encouragement winner," Mal said. "It's great to see the younger kids dive in and have a go. Like my Champion, she was also working on the topline..... she did everything right, set up a great top, and was a real team player."

"The Youth Challenge is a great part of IDW, and an awesome way to start the week. I recommend any young kid interested in dairy or working with cows to get in and have a go. And any older members who are asked to help out or given the chance to judge a section should jump and do it," he said.

For the Kiwi crew, the trip was more than an IDW experience. They travelled to Ballarat and Sovereign Hill for a taste of the Australian Gold Rush era, have close encounters with emus, kangaroos and koalas at the Kyabram Fauna Park, take the obligatory selfie with Shepparton's painted cows, and escape the summer heat by making the best of the local swimming pools in Echuca.

HJ



Runners up, Gipps Dairy Youth.



Holstein Australia IDW Youth Challenge

Winners	New Zealand Jerseys
Runner Up	Gippsland Dairy Youth
Individual Champion Clipper	Zoe Botha, New Zealand Jerseys
Individual Clipper Encouragement Award	Michaela Daniels, Northern Victoria Holstein Sub Branch

Holstein Australia sponsorship

Holstein Australia sponsors the IDW Youth Challenge in recognition of the important role it plays in encouraging the next generation of Holstein breeders. The format is designed to encourage team work, leadership and public speaking skills while developing expertise animal husbandry and fitting.

Thank you to the many people involved in organising the Youth Challenge: Youth Challenge organisers, Justin Johnston and Mandy Pacitti; Brent and Kim Mitchell (Mitch Holsteins, NW Victoria) for providing heifers; Stu Lockart (DLS) for MCing the event; sponsors: B.Braun and Aesuclap Clippers; and the IDW organisers.



Holstein Australia competitions and awards

Distinguished Service Award

Recognises sustained commitment over an extended period to HA, both within and beyond the member's designated role.

Closing date: 30 June 2019

Winner announced: AGM (September)

HA contact: David Jupp

Email: djupp@holstein.com.au

Phone: 03 9835 7600

Semex-HA All-Australian

A national photographic competition that recognises excellence in conformation and showing.

Closing date: 30 June 2019

Winner announced: AGM (September)

HA contact: Head Office

Email: lcalder@holstein.com.au

Phone: 03 9835 7600

Master Breeder Award

Recognises the long-term achievement of individuals who have bred at least 300 registered animals over a minimum of 20 years.

Closing date: 30 June 2019

Awards announced: AGM (September)

HA contact: Head Office

Email: enquiry@holstein.com.au

Phone: 03 9835 7600

MASTER BREEDER



Cow of the Year

Recognises all-round excellence in production, classification, breeding and overall contribution to the Australian Holstein breed.

Closing date: 31 May 2019

Winner announced: AGM (September)

HA contact: Head Office

Email: enquiry@holstein.com.au

Phone: 03 9835 7600

IDW Youth Challenge

A competition involving all aspects of the show ring (clipping, judging and handling) and teamwork.

Timing: held at IDW 2020

Winners announced: IDW 2020

HA contact: Head Office

Email: enquiry@holstein.com.au

Phone: 03 9835 7600

Semex-HA On-farm competition

Unlike conventional livestock judging events, cattle are assessed for their structural correctness on their home property.

Closing date: Each Sub-branch conducts its own competition in spring. The winners are then 'over-judged' to determine regional or state champions, with the results announced at events held in each state during November and December.

Winners announced: Holstein Journal (Summer)

Contact your local Sub-branch or Head Office

Email: enquiry@holstein.com.au

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Owned by ASR Shearer and Son



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Murribrook Goldwyn Posy
Owned by Michael and Melinda Hassett



5-year-old Winner and highest pointed cow
Underbank Reginald 225
Owned by Underbank Partnership



Mature winner
Wyoming Denison Priscilla
Owned by RJ, JS, NM, CN, JM Wenham

President
Daniel Redgrove
0458 741 214

Secretary
Melinda Hassett
0447 221 297

Treasurer
Lindsay Moxey
0408 468 984



Genetic gain drives profit at Bamawm

Sexed semen and genomic testing are giving a Northern Victorian dairy herd a major boost in keeping herd age down, production up and lifting the value of stock sales.

Brendan Martin manages an 800-cow herd (Rolmac Holsteins) for Allanby Pastoral on a 470 ha irrigated farm at Bamawm in Northern Victoria.

"We've been using sexed semen for the last few years and been selecting sires for health traits and production," Brendan said.

"It means we have more heifer calves to choose from so we can put more selection pressure on our replacement heifers and our existing cows."

The Allanby Pastoral herd was one of 27 dairy farms across Australia that recently underwent detailed analysis by the ImProving Herds project to investigate the contribution of genetics to dairy businesses.

The study identified the top and bottom 25% of each herd, ranked on Balanced Performance Index (BPI), the genetic index for profit used by the Australian dairy industry, and compared their performance in terms of production, longevity and financial contribution to the farm business.

Ten years of historical performance data, plus recent farm financial data from the herd records were analysed to look at the difference in contribution to the farm business between the top and bottom BPI groups.

The study found the top 25% of the

Farm stats (July 2018)

HERD SIZE: 800 cows

BREED: Holstein and 20% crossbred

FARM SIZE: 470 ha with 1,100 ML

CALVING PATTERN: Split 50:50
autumn:spring

DAIRY: 60-unit rotary

STAFF: 5 full-time staff

FEEDING SYSTEM: 7-8 kg/cow/day or 2.4 t/cow/year

HERD TESTING: 8,500 litres and 640 kg solids per cow

Allanby Pastoral herd produced 638 more litres, 68 more kilograms of fat, and 39 more kilograms of protein per cow per year than the bottom 25% of the herd.

The top 25% of the herd, based on BPI, also last 11 months longer – equivalent to an extra lactation.

The extra milk production from the top cows resulted in a marginal milk income after feed and herd costs of \$410/cow/year more than the bottom group.

"Being involved in the ImProving Herds Project has meant we've had greater access to data, which allows us to evaluate our performance and see if we are on the right track," Brendan said. "It's good to be able to track our progress."

Joining program

Every cow on the Bamawm farm is joined to AI with three rounds for both the

autumn and spring joining. The breeding program is totally reliant in AI and no bulls are kept on the property.

Fresh sexed semen has been used for the first round on selected cows, followed by conventional dairy semen on the second round of AI, then beef semen in the third round.

Cows identified as recipients for sexed semen must have been in milk 70-100 days and have no mastitis or health issues in the lead up to joining. These cows are synchronised for joining with a double ovsynch program.

Cows that fall outside the criteria for sexed semen undergo a presynch ovsynch program and are joined to conventional semen on the first round.

"We have a few logistical challenges using fresh sexed semen as it comes from Terang in Western Victoria so we need to be organised and have it booked well in advance, but once we have it on farm it is very quick and easy to use," Brendan said.

"Last joining we programmed 400 cows and used 180 doses of sexed semen. We ended up joining them all in around 2½ hours.

"We are running at a 65-70% in calf rate after 6 weeks. Any cow that fails to get in calf after the three rounds is evaluated and a decision is made whether to carry her over to join in the next group or cull her when her production falls off.

The key selection criteria for sires used in the AI program are health and production



"Being involved in the ImProving Herds Project has meant we've had greater access to data, which allows us to evaluate our performance and see if we are on the right track."

Brendan Martin, Northern Victoria



traits and BPI. Semen fertility and quality are also important factors to ensure maximum conception rates.

"I'm using the Alta Advantage program to generate a bull list from the traits I type into the list. It allows me to plug criteria in for the traits I want in our sires, then I get a list of bulls to choose from."

A Genetic Progress Report prepared by DataGene for the Allanby Pastoral herd shows that bulls used in the herd over the past 10 years have produced Holstein cows with genetic trends that have increased profit, production, overall type, longevity, fertility and mastitis resistance in the herd.

The rate of genetic progress for longevity, mastitis resistance, fat production and protein production traits have all increased substantially since 2015 and are well above the national average.

Replacement heifers

Around 450 Holstein heifers are reared each year, of which about half will be sired by sexed semen.

"We generally only need 200 heifers as replacements but having lots of heifers means we have lots of options – we can increase our selection pressure on our replacements and the herd; we can put

more heifers into the herd if we need; or sell heifers for export," Brendan said.

"We keep all our heifers until 12 months of age before we make any decisions – by that stage they weigh a couple of hundred kilos and we can look at what is on offer for the export market.

"I generally pull out the bottom 25% of the heifers, based on their weight and parent average – these heifers tend to be from the second round of the AI program.

"The remaining heifers are genomically tested to identify which heifers are replacements and which are surplus to our requirements.

"When we get the results, we rank the heifers on BPI and look at health traits and production and take the surplus heifers from the bottom of the list.

"The genomic testing also verifies their parentage of each calf. We calve a lot of cows down in a short time period with our synchronised joining program – we can get up to 160 due to calve on one day.

"While we do our best to match calves to cows as soon as they hit the ground, there are always a couple of errors, which are sorted out with the genomic testing."

Stock value

The use of sexed semen, combined with genomic testing has had multiple benefits to the business, according to Brendan.

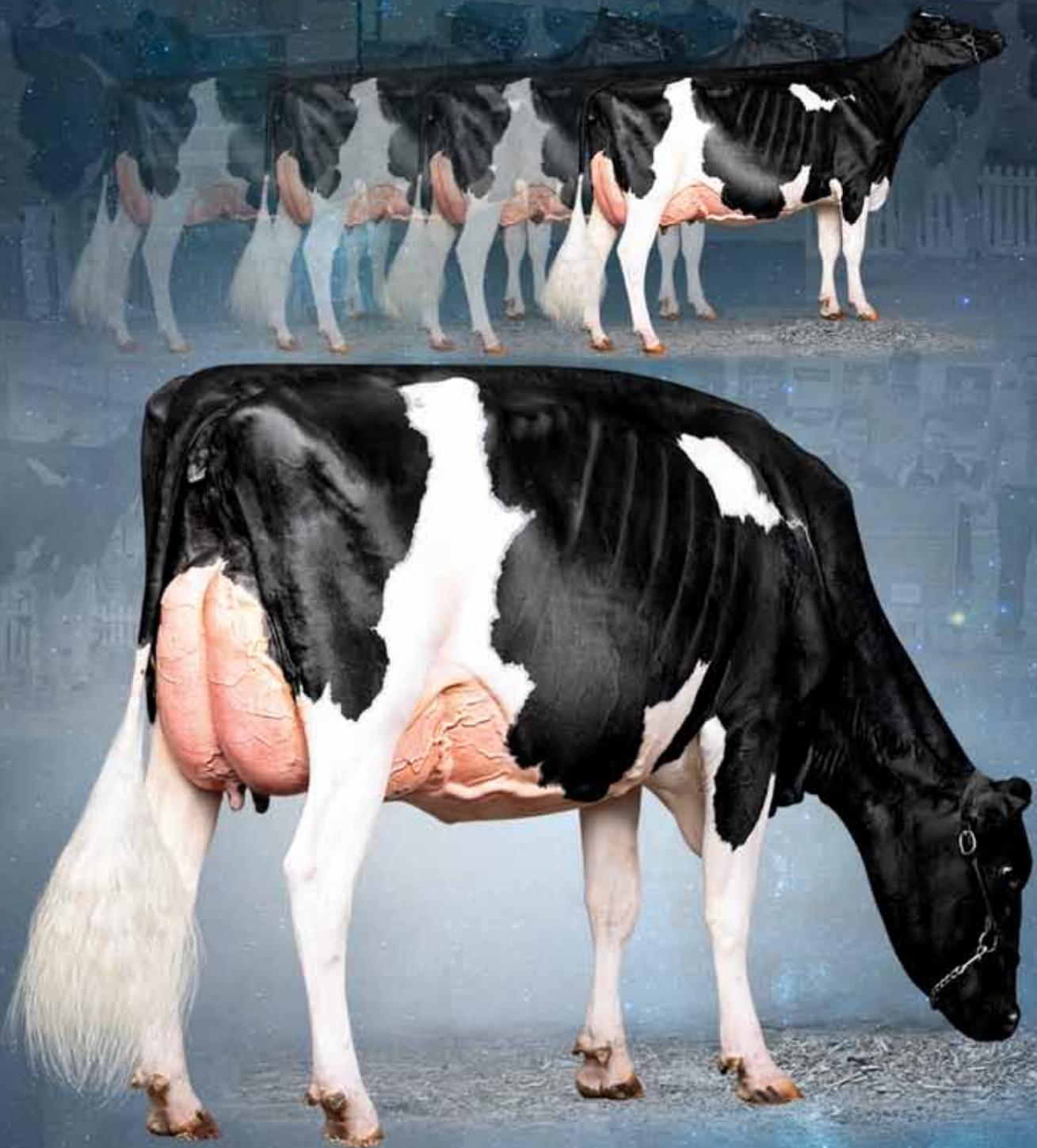
These include:

- greater selection pressure on the pool of available heifers to identify replacements
- a faster turnover of cows in the herd with large number of heifers coming into the herd
- an increase in the herd's rate of genetic gain
- reduced issues associated with fertility, mastitis and metabolic issues by lowering the average age of cows in herd
- an increase in the total value of stock sales by increasing the number of surplus heifers that can be sold for export
- fewer low-value Holstein bull calves.

"Depending on the season we will keep our bull calves and our beef cross calves and grow them out, or cash them in at seven days," Brendan said.

"But even across most seasons, a dairy heifer calf will be worth more at 200 kg than any beef calf, with a similar cost to rear them to that age."





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Calderbrae Holsteins

Ross and Jacqui Soares, Larpent, Victoria
Master Breeders 2018

Information supplied by Jacqui Soares

Ross is a fourth generation dairy farmer, apart from a few years doing other pursuits such as grape picking while travelling, truck driving and completing a degree in health science. Ross and Jacqui have been dairy farming and HA members for 28 years.

Our farm, situated a few kilometres from Colac in Western Victoria, has always been a family operation. Our four children all helped regularly when they were at home, and will still chip in when needed.

The "Calderbrae" prefix comes from two sources, Calder chosen in honour of Ross's much loved paternal grandmother; Beatrice May Calder, and the Scottish word Brae for the high ground, hill or hillside adjoining a river. The Calder River runs through Ross's parents, Bill and Ailsa's farm at Hordern Vale. The Calder's were pioneers of the Aire valley between Hordern Vale and Glenaire, along the Great Ocean Road.

Breeding goals: To breed medium-framed, balanced, productive and profitable cows that will last for at least eight lactations.

Animals you are proud: Our Hannah family has been bred via the appendix system from one of the first cows we bought as a grade cow in 1990 for \$720. She calved 11 times, produced more than 70,000 litres of milk, and has more than 65 direct descendants in the herd, including two classified Excellent, and many classified VG. They are solid, consistent performers with great temperaments.

Important cow families: As well as the Hannahs, we bred the Vivace, Dolce, and Mahalia families via the appendix system. Our purchased collection includes Rockwood Park Felicities (Limerick, Cinderella), Cha Hol Rolethas, Blackrose/Roses, Wandilla Winnipegs and Tossettes, Calinda Edwina/Elizas, Star, and Wiabuna "S" families.

Breeding tools: We use herd recording, classification results and the Good Bulls App to sort through the plethora of bulls available; using some pretty tight criteria. We will then look at the pedigree and cow

Farm facts

Farm size: 100ha (milking herd), 25ha out paddock

Herd size: 165 milkers

Calving pattern: Split Autumn/Spring

Herd production: 8,541 litres, 316 kg fat

3.7%, 275 kg protein 3.2%

Females bred:

EX: 5F

VG: 190F

SBC: 19

STP: 33

Production awards: 6

Lifetime production awards: 3

Points required: 673

Points earned: 687



Jacqui and Ross, with their Master Breeder award at the 2018 AGM.

families of prospective bulls to determine final choices, before running a MatePlus report via Holstein Australia. We have been increasing the use of sexed semen to add to our replacement pool and reduce the number of bull calves born.

What do you enjoy about dairying and breeding? We enjoy being our own "boss" and the challenges of constantly trying to improve our operation. There are the highs when heifers first come into the dairy, and they look good and are an improvement on their dams – but equally some disappointments when that doesn't happen; and you wonder what on earth

you were thinking three years ago when you made that breeding decision!!!

Changes in breeding over your career:

We've seen leaps in scientific knowledge and implementation of genomic and embryo technologies. The rate of genetic progress has increased exponentially, however; the people who reap the greatest rewards are those who are able to combine an innate "cow-sense" with the information now available.

Career highlights: Achieving the Master Breeder award has been the highlight for us; but we always get a buzz when the classifier confers another Excellent cow. We enjoy travelling overseas and meeting dairy farmers in other countries, observe their breeding programs and farming operations, the camaraderie and hospitality of our fellow farmers.

Plans for the future: Recent health issues have focussed our attention on the future; but for now we are happy continuing as we are – but with a greater emphasis on more leisure and less work!

The future looks pretty challenging. We exist in a worldwide supply/demand scenario in one of the few countries that fully believes and commits to free trade. Domestically we sell into a marketplace where consumers are largely urbanised and disconnected from where their food comes from. While there are some discerning consumers who are prepared to pay for a premium product, most buy on price first. These issues are beyond our control – we need to focus on the things we can control. The most significant of these is how long as an industry we are prepared to sell our product for less than it costs to produce – and it is clear to us that either we learn how to produce milk for less, or we find an alternate use for the land.

Advice to people entering the industry: Take a proactive approach to your own learning and development – get off the farm regularly and join discussion groups, sub branch activities, find a mentor and develop a lifelong learning attitude. Remember you are operating a business that is potentially worth millions; seek

RIGHT: One of the Calderbrae 'girls', Toystory Hannah-EX.

and use all the advice and support you can get – most of it is readily available. Learn from mistakes. Put your people first. While we all love our cows and breeding them is a passion – it's the people closest to us that matter the most – whether that's our partners, children or staff team. Maintaining relationships takes effort, time and energy – things as farmers we are often a little short of! **HJ**

See page 38 for Jacqui's poem, 'Calderbrae girls.'



North West Sub Branch 40 Year Celebration 1980–2019



**Monday 22 April 2019 – 10:30am start
Lockington Recreation Reserve**



Champion Cow Sydney
Royal 1987 (first
Victorian Holstein
to win Champion at
Sydney)



Coral Hill Holsteins

Brett and Sue McGinn, Belmore River, NSW
Master Breeders 2018

Information supplied by Sue McGinn

A fourth generation dairy farmer, Brett farmed in partnership with his parents, Eddie and Mavis McGinn (Rickdale) in Kennilworth Queensland. The family registered the Rickdale prefix with HFAA in 1982. In 1994, when Brett married Sue, they moved to NSW and registered the Coral Hill prefix, after the property name. The farm buildings were on the one hill on their original property which had a number of coral trees. In 2002 Brett and Sue moved farm to Belmore River and retained the prefix. Their farm is situated on the rich alluvial soils of the Lower Macleay floodplain, east of Kempsey in NSW.

Breeding goals: Our goal is to breed cattle suited to the dairy that we can be proud of. We like well put together cows that are functional and have great udders. Brett has been particularly careful to improve one trait at a time. He has a keen eye for breeding and individually selects bulls to improve the conformation traits in our fully registered herd. In particular we aim for wide, sloping rumps and cow capacity. Positive production traits have always been a priority.

We've been breeding red and white genetics into our herd for more than 24 years and now have red and white progeny bred from all of our best cow families. Our first goal was to achieve our first home-

Farm facts

Farm size: 80 ha
Herd size: 95 milkers
Calving pattern: year around
Herd production: 9500 litres/cow
Females bred:
EX: 25F and 3M
VG: 170F and 2M
SBC: 15
STP: 9
Production awards: 6
Lifetime production awards: 3
Points required: 647
Points earned: 650

bred Excellent cow and then to breed our first Excellent red and white Holstein. We're now aiming for 50/50 red and white/black and white herd and we are getting closer to that each day.

Ideal cow: We still admire and aim for well put together cows. We are breeding slightly smaller cows than the larger framed cows we had in recent years. We love our red and white cows and once we have a red one she's only mated to red Holstein sires to maintain the colour variance. There's such a large choice of red Holstein bulls now that we've maintained highly classified cows even with the niche direction we've taken.

Animals you bred that you are proud of? We have concentrated on maternal lines by investing in cow families. We've developed the Midas, Meg, Aleta, Columbia, Candy and Betty cow families among others.



Coral Hill Jed Meg EX-1E 10* a favourite at the beach.

We have a soft spot for Coral Hill Jed Meg EX-1E 10* who was a beautiful natured cow and who we had so much fun with in the show ring. Jed Meg was a great flush cow and we sold progeny of hers to every dairy state in Australia except WA.

Coral Hill Kirk Columbia Ex-94-5E was our first 94 point cow. Both the Meg and Midas families have bred on in our herd leaving us with many consistently correct descendants.

Another stand out cow is Coral Hill Roy Midas EX-94-4E 2* who we sold to Diamond Genetics for \$19,800 after Justin Walsh admired her when placing her Supreme Champion Cow at Kempsey All Australian Show. We had suffered a really bad flood season and the sale helped pay our growing feed bill. We don't regret the sale at all as it's been rewarding to follow her career with Justin as he's continued to develop her.

Current Bulls: Ammo RC, Jacot R, Applecrisp R, Mafia, Crush, Bronze, Mafia.

Breeding tools: We have not followed breeding values. We preferred to opt for proven and genomic bulls when mainly AI breeding our herd. In the past we have invested in numerous ET programs but with less profitability in dairying we are



Master Breeder 2018 Sue and Brett McGinn (Coral Hill).

back to mainly AI breeding and using a well-bred mop up bull.

What do you enjoy about dairying and breeding:

When we were younger we loved exhibiting at all the local shows as well as the Brisbane Ekka and Sydney Royal. We haven't missed a local Kempsey Show in 24 years but we are less inclined to sleep over at the show grounds now and last year we gave heifers to the local high school for them to exhibit and enjoy. In particular we've enjoyed the friendships of other breed enthusiasts over the years including the friendly rivalry.

Changes in breeding that you've seen:

In the past there were only a few artificial breeding companies offering mainly Canadian and Australian bulls. There's now an easy access to a global pool of great bulls for AI via a myriad of traders. The price per straw is relatively cheap today too.

Career highlights: There are many. A stand out is achieving Master Breeder as we've actively pursued this as a career goal together. Sue's been involved in the industry side of dairying and her 1999 Nuffield Scholarship and receiving an OAM in 2005 for her contribution to the



The Coral Hill herd chewing the cud in shade.

dairy industry and as a role model for rural women, rank highly.

Advice to people entering the industry:

Invest in great cow families that have consistently bred good-quality progeny. Brett says not to buy the dearest or get carried away at a sale and pay too much for a one off individual with little or no

background. You don't always have to pay a lot of money for the latest 'hot' sire. Buy cows that have proven history and try to see them in their working clothes rather than purchasing out of the show ring. There are plenty of great Australian cow families to buy into. The best isn't always from overseas.

HJ

A classifier's return!

If you've booked your next visit from the Holstein Australia classification team, you may well recognise a familiar face at the farm gate.

Welcome back to Phil Hentschke, pictured, who is returning to our classification team.



"When I think back to my time as a vet, to showing my own cows, most of the big decisions I've taken in life have revolved around cows and the people who work with them. I'm looking forward to reconnecting with Holstein Australia members out on-farm." Phil says.

Phil has been a Holstein Australia classifier for five years over two stints from 2000 to 2002 and then 2014 to early 2018. Over the last year he has moved from Victoria to Williamstown on the southern edge of the Barossa Valley, working with a friend on a boutique dairy operation. He also returned to the show ring with his 'Homelands' Jersey stud at last year's Royal Adelaide Show.

Holstein Australia CEO, Graeme Gillan, says: "I'm delighted to welcome Phil back. He knows our systems, certainly knows his way around a cow, knows our people and has a long track record with the class team. Leeanne, Sean and Shane have been flat out for the last few months, doing an incredible job in less than ideal circumstances. Phil's appointment will relieve some of the pressure on them, and will give the team real strength in depth."

Over the next two months classifiers will be in NSW, WA, Queensland and parts of Victoria. For the latest schedule, visit holstein.com.au.

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Gilabils Holsteins

**Bill and Coralie Stewart, Canning Vale,
Queensland**

Master Breeders 2018

Information supplied by the Stewarts

Bill is the third generation on the main farm which is near Warwick on the Condamine River. He left school at 16 to work on the farm and formed partnership with his parents Gilbert and Audrey when he was 20. Bill married Coralie 1982.

Today the farm is run in partnership with Robert their eldest son and his partner.

In 1975 the Stewarts started the transition from Illawaras to Holsteins. Bill and Coralie have been members of HA since 1994.

The farm operation has changed from a grazing and grain in the dairy to TMR in summer and PMR/rye grass pastures in winter. The small strip grazing paddocks are gone; now it is open plan ideal for hay and silage production.

Breeding goals: The Superior Total Production award best describes our breeding goals. Consistent cows that mature out to a solid VG classification with high lifetime records. We breed for consistency across the herd as opposed to fancy individuals and focus on well balanced, sound type, productive cows that are well natured.

Your standout cow families: The Renee -twin family stands out, Gilabils Shotime Ryan belongs to this. They are always, a pleasure to milk in the dairy, with a really nice nature and great leaders of the herd.

Farm facts

Farm size: 166 ha with 136 ha out paddock

Herd size: Up to 140 milkers

Calving pattern: All year, with spring bias
Herd production: 9810 litres/cow (P 3.4%, F 3.6%)

Females bred: 747

EX: 7F

VG: 233F

SBC: 30

STP: 16

Production awards: 159

Lifetime production awards: 11

Points required: 747

Points earned: 1092



Bill and Coralie Stewart, Canning Vale, Queensland

Both Renee and Ryan were always first at our herringbone dairy, one on either side at the front.

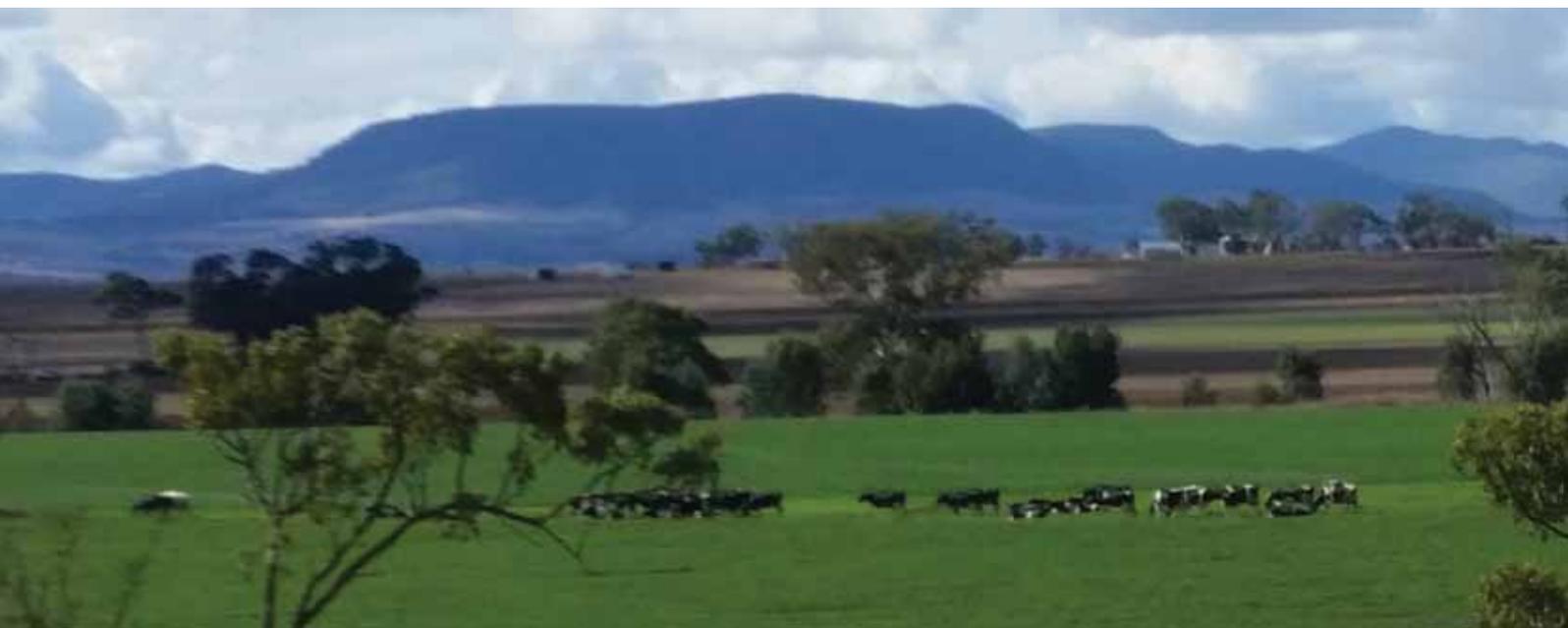
Generally all our cow families are important to us. They can be traced back many decades. Each has strong traits that we wanted to keep within the herd.

Current bulls: Gate Dancer, Blooper, Ghostly, Mansfield, Superlucky, Medallion, Booth, Quattro, Kristoff, and Seagull.

Breeding tools: We started with a diary and excel spread sheet that the kids created. Now we use the Good Bulls and HerdData apps. We find the HerdData app a really useful tool for tracking herd details (AI dates, calving dates, drying off etc) and keeping up with applying heat detectors and inseminating efficiently. Herd recording and testing is very useful to make better informed decisions about drying off, culling and milk quality on an individual cow level. Today, it is heat detectors, using AI, and the vet can quickly run ultrasound when pregnancy testing.

Classifying and collaborating with HA, allows us to make better decisions with our bull selections and identifying areas of our cows that need improving. We are yet to move on using genomics. The challenge is to improve on what you have already bred.

Career highlights: Master Breeders Award 2018; DataGene award for Breeding Excellence (Top Holstein Herd Subtropical Region August 2018 ABV release); Installing a centre pivot irrigator; Having a Ninefold heifer chosen for an article/advertisement in the Genetics





Bill with one of the 43 registered heifers in the Gilabils herd sired from Ninefold.



One of the standout twins, Gilabils Shotime Ryan.

Australia catalogue; Selling heifers at the Champagne Sales; Achieving 1kg of fat and protein per day in the transition from Illawarras to Holsteins; Seeing the joy on my grandson's face every day when he sees the cows.

The future: We have drafted plans for a new dairy. We are currently going through succession planning and options for the future. We'd also like to install a shade/feed/day shed for the milking cows, and better calf rearing facilities. The climate, obviously drought, will be a challenge to dairy farmers in the years ahead. With milk prices and feed costs the way they are at the moment, staying financial will be a challenge. Dairying will be with us but with fewer dairy farms over the years and the ones that are left will be larger.

Advice to people entering the industry: You need to be committed, hardworking and dedicated. It is a 365 days a year job. Don't try and keep up with the Joneses; grow and expand at your own pace. As Coralie and I said to our children, "Go out

and make a career of your own and find yourself first. And if after all that you still want to come home then that's great. It will also give your something to fall back on if it doesn't work out for you". **HJ**

BELOW: Marcus, Robert, Anthony, Sarah, Coralie and Bill Stewart. Photograph: *Life's Moments – LM Photography*



Cows feeding on the rye grass.





Western Districts camp success



Noorat showgrounds was full of enthusiastic and energetic young people from the dairy industry during the Western District Youth Camp on 6-8 January.

This year, 54 youngsters aged 8 to 16 years from Victoria South Australia and New South Wales attended. The 3-day program gave participants experience of many sectors of the dairy industry.

The Careers Forum on the second night was a highlight. The forum had four industry guest speakers: Jim Conroy, Jo Coombes, Steve Williams and Lisa McKay. Each gave an overview of their time in the industry, delivered with enthusiasm and passion. This was followed by a very interactive Q&A session.

Another very enjoyable and hands-on activity was the halter making session run by Geoff Baulch. Participants were taught the steps to making a halter, which they took home at the end of the camp.

The usual clipping, leading and judging session was held by excellent mentors who travelled to Noorat to share their knowledge.





When the kids were asked about what they enjoyed at the camp several replied "all of it".

The final day included four group activities focussing on the skills they had been taught over the previous days but with an emphasis on team work. One of the fun highlights of this was the wheel barrow race and rope relay.

The camp was fortunate to have Holstein UK exchangee Georgina Moody in attendance. Georgina certainly enjoyed the camp and it gave her a great opportunity to mix well with so many industry people and kids alike in one location.

The camp committee thanks all the sponsors for their generosity; all the parents who helped during the three days; the presenters and group leaders who shared their expertise; and the local breeders who lent calves, cows and equipment or assisted in the setup and pack up. 



Meat pies, kangaroos and Holstein cows – Georgie’s trip downunder

Some subtle and not-so-subtle differences in life in Australia were key themes from Holstein UK’s Georgie Moody at the end of her month-long exchange staying with Holstein Australia members.

I knew it was going to be hot, but I wasn’t really prepared for how hot! Seeing firsthand the impact of the heat and dry on how you farm in Australia was fascinating. Generally, in the UK we can rely on natural irrigation – rain.

Probably my biggest surprise was the different strategies used, and even where water was available, the cost impact. I went from staying with Angela and Ben Twedde at Benlargo Holsteins in South Australia, which is irrigated and the cows grass-fed, to Amabel Grinter and family in Northern Victoria, who irrigate part of the year for both growing crops and pasture and feed the cows on a mixed ration regime for part of the year. Two very different approaches, dictated by local conditions, that achieve the same result – maintaining herd size and productivity.

When I think of how our cows at home handle the summer, I am just amazed at the heat tolerance of Australian Holsteins (and farmers for that matter!).

Seeing cows in this heat really made me think about animal welfare and management. The efforts of Holstein Australia members to keep their cows cool, from fans and aircon at International Dairy Week to dedicated cooling sprinkler systems on-farm were really impressive. You can see that people are looking out for their animals in these extreme conditions.

Obviously in the UK Bovine TB is a major issue, while it has been eradicated here. Pink eye, however, is much less common in the UK. I guess it is such an issue here due to dust, sunlight and flies helping spread



Georgie Moody: “We all farm the same breed, but the issues we deal with can be so different.”

the bacteria that causes it. I also saw a cow with photosensitisation (an inflammation of the skin activated by sunlight), something I’ve never seen in the UK. We all farm the same breed, but the issues we deal with can be so different, often due to environmental factors.

One thing which sadly wasn’t that different was the rise of anti-farming and anti-dairy activists. I think it is more prevalent and they are more vocal in Australia, but they are not that far behind in the UK.

International Dairy Week

A real highlight was taking part in the Youth Challenge at IDW. I liked the concept so much I might take it back to the UK! I learnt some new skills leading as part of a team rather than as an individual, and to be judged as a team all the way through – from preparation to being in the ring – puts a real focus on working together. I felt really welcomed on the Gippsland team, and for us to finish runner-up out of 12 teams from Australia and New Zealand was a real bonus.

The heat was probably more of a factor at IDW than anywhere else. Seeing the transformation in the handlers from struggling to cope with the heat to the cool, calm professionalism on display

when they got into the show ring was remarkable.

I was impressed with the preparation of animals at IDW and, like in the UK, the way showing is regulated. There are differences in the way animals are monitored during a big show, and it was fascinating to see animals from the in-milk classes being udder scanned.

Breeding

It was really interesting to spend time working with Amabel Grinter and family, who run a commercial herd in Northern Victoria. At home we breed for showing and for type, so this was a totally different experience for me. For example, the time, the thought and the science that goes into their bull selection – trying to find that one bull that suits the widest range of cows across the herd – was new to me. Overall though I think the exchange really brought home to me how small the world is in terms of breeding Holsteins. Calving times are pretty similar, as is age of mating and longevity. The only real difference is breeding for heat tolerance, which I think will become more of a factor in the UK in the future. Our summers are getting a lot warmer too and animals losing productivity is starting to become an issue.



It wasn't all work for Georgie. There was halter-making at the Youth Camp; action at IDW; and a stroll through a maize crop with Amabel Grinter, Australia's 2018 exchangee to the UK.

Starting them young

From the Victorian Western District Youth Camp to taking part in the Youth Show at the Noorat Showground, it was great to see how much the younger kids really want to learn about showing and about the industry, which can only be a good thing.

Seeing the time taken by Holstein Australia members and others to teach and mentor the kids was amazing. I also had the time to focus on learning and improving my own skills, particularly clipping, so thank you to all the wonderful people who spent time with me on this.

I've met so many great people. Fiona Hanks, who took me under her wing at the youth camp; Angela and Ben Tweddle and family from Benlargo Holsteins, South Australia, who not only made sure I saw kangaroos and took me snorkelling and horse riding but introduced me to Aussie meat pies and chicken salt; Rob and Bec Walmsley who looked after me so well at Robsvue Holsteins on Fleurieu Peninsula; Amabel Grinter and her family from Muckatah, where it was great to compare our different exchange experiences; the team at Holstein Australia, who kept me well and truly occupied and entertained at IDW; Patrick and Kerrie Glass, Kerrick Park Holsteins, north-east Victoria; and Toria and Shane Patten, West Gippsland, who really made me feel like part of their family.

There have been so many highlights. Finishing second as part of the Gippsland team at IDW, taking first place in my handler's class at the Western District Calf Show (and seeing the Tweddle kids, Connor and Shae, place first and second in their classes), meeting Lisa and Willie McKay and the amazing Fairvale Morty Lady 51, Australia highest-pointed cow at EX-97 and, of course, the meat pies and the chicken salt, which just isn't even a thing in the UK!

To everyone I've met, everyone who hosted me and looked out for me, thank you. It's been incredible. **HJ**



Calderbrae girls

By Jacqui Suares

We love our girls at Calderbrae
 Their breeding is our passion
 The colour choice of black & white
 Inspired by Derby fashion
 Or could it be a football team
 Of shades in the same hue
 Roscoes Maggies may wobble at the crunch
 But he's loyal and true blue

Now naming rights are my domain
 Compiled with wit and flair
 Of history, wine and music themes
 Sometimes quite debonaire!
 Johnno's red calf was named Beaujolais
 A Talent son of Beauty
 But of all the gifts that DJ has
 Spellings not in his skill booty

Toscanini was from a Tossette
 And Liedertafel was of Limerick
 But only my musician brothers
 Knew the fun in this name trick
 There's been Dolces' and Dolcettos
 Sonatas and a Salome
 Largo, Largamente and Libretto
 Isolde and Vivace

Now we know the day will one day come
 When we will need to rest
 But hope our little name regime
 Puts Leslie's diction to the test

At sunrise in the morning
 And sunset at end of day
 As contented cows graze heartily
 Their fill of grass and hay
 And their gently nuzzling offspring
 Start to settle for the night
 We're homeward bound and weary
 As we trudge in fading light

In quiet moments of reflection
 As we pause in gratitude
 Clean air we breathe, good food and health
 And the path we have pursued
 For the ones we love the best of all,
 Though not of bovine kind
 Are the ones who come and fill your fridge
 To help in troubled times

They come with cakes and bickies,
 A casserole or stew
 Some flowers, wine or chocolates
 And will share a glass or two

Sometimes they're in their finery
 At others in gumboots
 They'll don a shabby milking gown
 Or drab blue boilersuit

Among the cows you share the trials
 Of a fickle industry
 Of balancing books, and kids and blokes
 And finding time for me
 They've been known to dehorn heifers
 While their Dads laid up in bed
 Nursing ribs not spared the anger
 Of a raging bull, now dead!

They are our mothers and our sisters,
 Our daughters and our friends
 Who hold us up, through thick and thin
 Our angels and godsenders
 We love them all, from young and old
 In fact - to bits and pieces
 So let's celebrate and raise aloft
 The female of the species.



Advertisers' index

ABS Australia.....	2
Agri-Gene.....	39
Ginfo.....	10
Holstein Australia competition dates.....	22
Holstein Australian member package.....	23
Holstein NZ.....	31
Hunter Valley Sub-branch.....	24
North-West Sub-branch.....	29
Lely.....	9
Lightning Ridge.....	27
Provico.....	17
Semex.....	40
Viking.....	19
World Wide Sires.....	4

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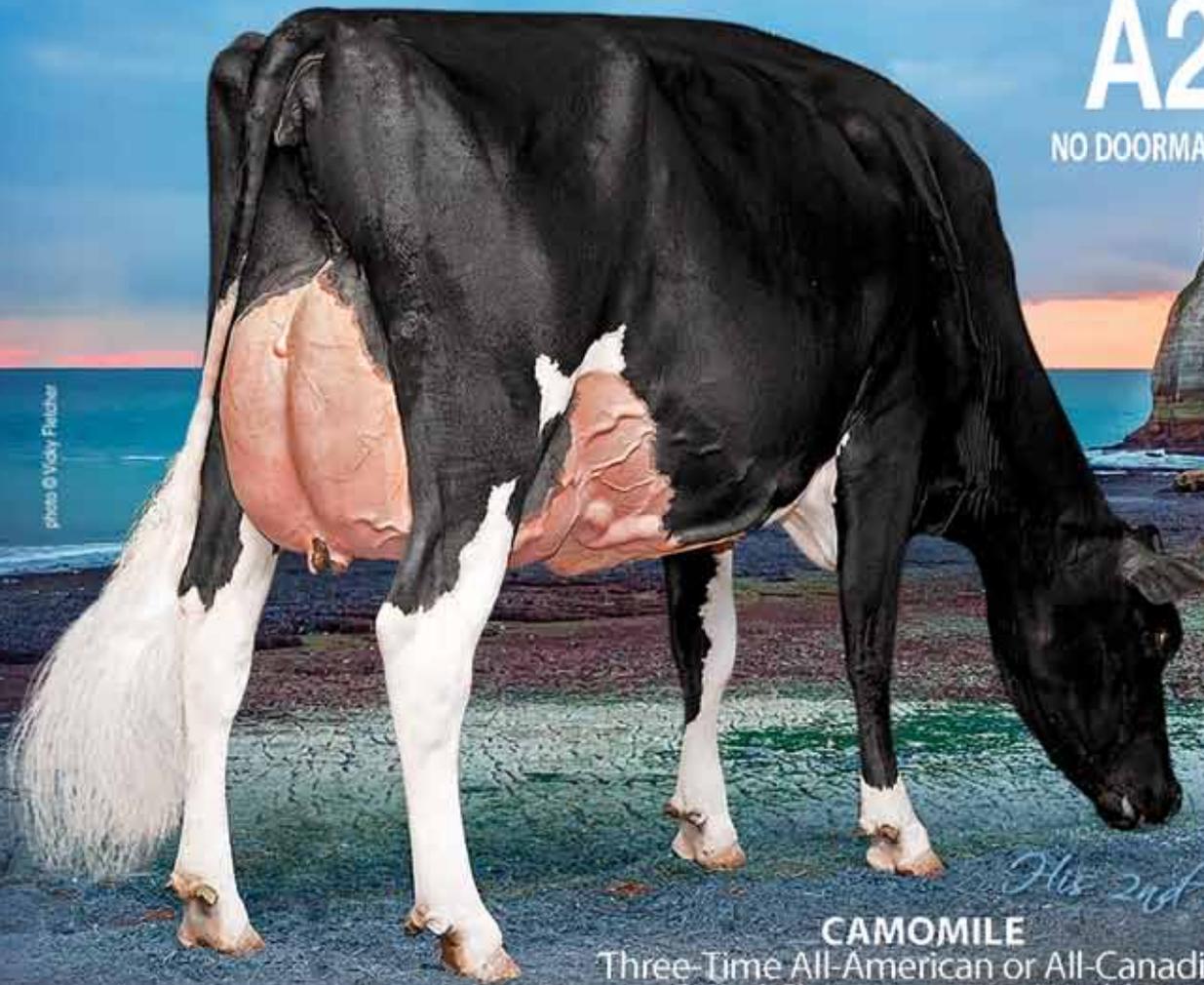
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+14 Conformation
+11 Mammary System
+9 Feet & Legs
+11 Dairy Strength

SOURCE: GPA 18*DEC



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