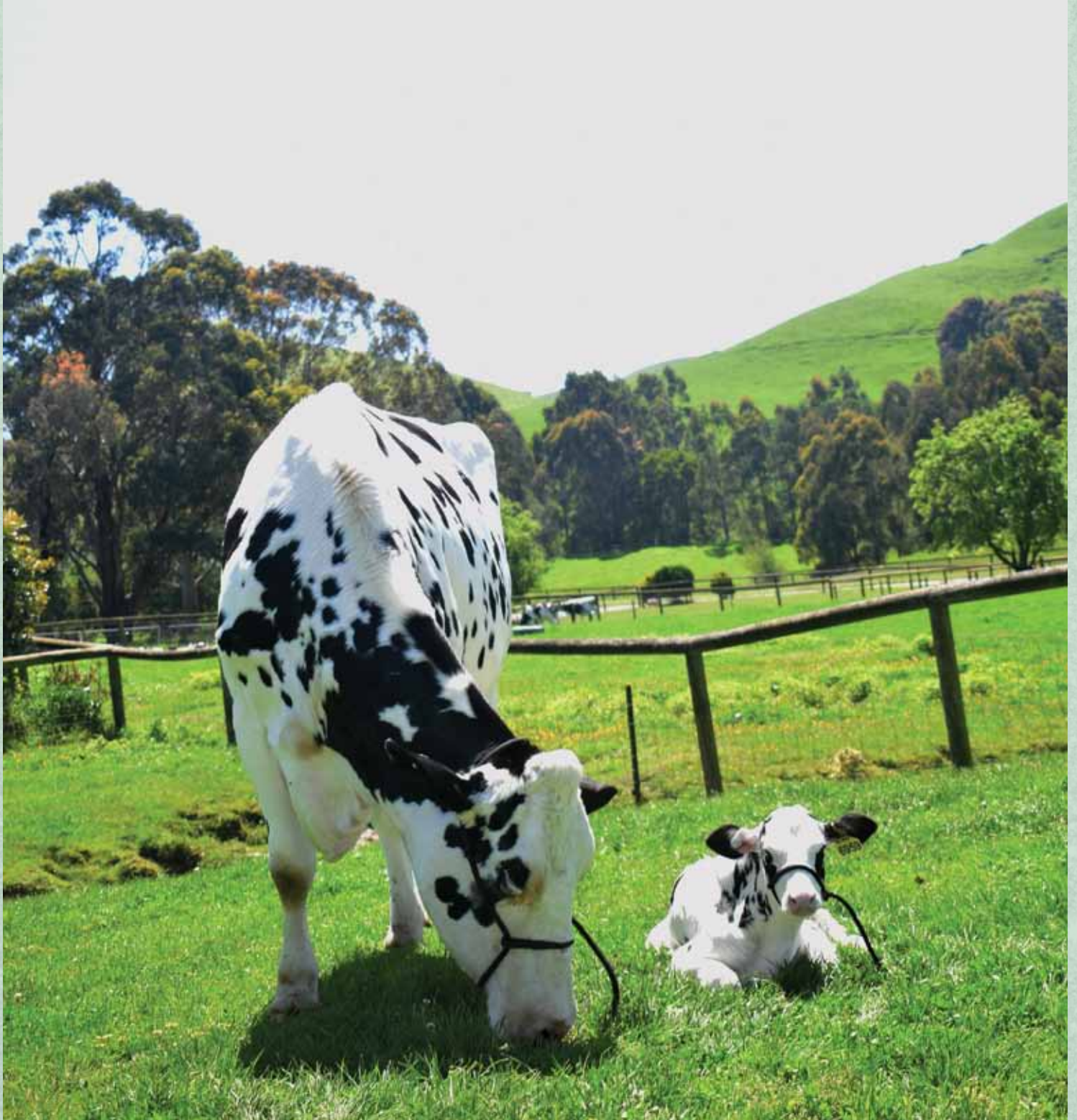


Holstein Journal

SUMMER 2020



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winners**

**Holstein Australia
Strategic Plan**

**Cow of the Year
announced**

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Shottle Noni EX-92-4E with a 5th generation
calf, owned by the Perrett family, Hill Valley
Holsteins.

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EXTRAORDINARY

Type & Udders

Analyst-Red

Hanley

ANALYST-RED

7HO15023 MR AFFECTION ANALYST-RED-ET
UNSTOPABULL X BYWAY X G W ATWOOD

- HIGH PTAT RED SIRE AT +3.19
- +2.54 UDC AND +1.95 FLC
- SLOPED RUMP AND SCR +2.3
- AMAZING DAM, CLASSIFIED EX-92 @ 3-YR
- FROM THE RENOWN APPLE EX-96 COW FAMILY

HANLEY **A2A2**

250HO15322 SIEMERS AVZ HANLEY 31445-ET
ALVAREZ X DOC X MONTEREY

- NEW RELEASE SIRE
- DAM IS A VG-88 @ 2-YR DOC DAUGHTER
- FROM THE FAMOUS MOGUL HANKER EX-94 FAMILY
- SLOPED RUMPS AND +785 FOR MILK
- +3.16 PTAT, +2.39 UDC, +1.97 FLC

Analyst-Red
Dam:
Milksource
Byway Affection
EX-92

Hanley MGGD:
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President's AGM report

Patrick Glass
President, Holstein Australia



Business as usual in an unusual year

To say 2020 has been an interesting year is an understatement. Nearly everything that happens within the Association has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but on the farm, the work continues, business as usual.

At a high level it has been a successful year for Holstein Australia. Despite a significant drop in the investment portfolio we have seen a significant rise in members' equity to \$3.248 million. This is primarily driven by high levels of export activity and Holstein Australia's role in facilitating that trade.

We continue to see a change in the way we interact with Members. Providing members with regular updates about the Association and the celebrating members' successes has been a high priority for the Board. This has included increased levels of social media activity and increasing the frequency of the Association's email update Dispatch from monthly to fortnightly.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Board is always looking for continuous improvement in the governance of the Association.

During the past financial year this included the creation of the Audit and Risk Committee. This committee has been recommended to us by our Auditor. Made up from an external appointment with special skills and selected board members this is a committee we expect to meet 2-3 times a year to make sure that Holstein Australia has all the correct checks and balances from a finance, governance and operational perspective.

The value of registered Holsteins continues to go from strength to strength, with prices for export heifers currently exceeding \$2,000 per head. We also have regularly seen Holstein

Providing members with regular updates about the Association and the celebrating members' successes has been a high priority for the Board.

members receiving a premium for their registered animals at sale; in some cases many hundreds of dollars. This is a true market reflection of value of registered cattle and the quality of cattle that Holstein Australia members provide to the Australian dairy industry.

In somewhat sadder news, during the year Colin Ekers from Port Elliot South Australia passed away. Colin's efforts in promoting the Holstein breed and dairy farming in general to both people within the industry and also the general public was example for us all. Our thoughts are with his family.

Thank you to the staff

I want to thank the contribution of the staff that help manage the Association. During the 2019/20 year, COVID-19 and the movement restrictions it has brought about have meant our office staff have had to work from home and our field staff were initially taken off the road before returning. Currently, the office staff remain working from home, while the field team are back working within the restrictions placed on us by relevant state governments.

While the staff haven't been able to operate within Dairy House for some time now, the collaboration with our Dairy House partners has continued to grow. We have now implemented a service sharing arrangement for accounting staff. In short this means each organisation contributes to the

total cost of the accounting staff. Doing this has several benefits.

Firstly, there are some cost savings. More importantly though all three organisations get access to high quality accounting staff with a variety of skill sets. It also means all organisations have backup in the case that staff want to take leave or are unwell business can continue uninterrupted.

New CEO steps up

The most important decision a Board makes is the CEO. During the past 18 months former CEO Graeme Gillan approached the Board and indicated a desire to take a step back. This triggered the Board to undertake a succession plan to identify the next CEO for Holstein Australia. A process was undertaken, including consulting with recruiters and human resources experts.

Following a lengthy consultation and interview process Rohan Butler was appointed to the role in June with the handover on 1 August. The opportunity to appoint a CEO from a current staff member was highly appealing. Over the past 12 months Rohan has been heavily involved in the development of the Strategic Business Plan and now has the opportunity to implement that plan, and I wish him, the staff and the Board the best of luck in implementing the plan.

Under Graeme's guidance over the past six years Holstein Australia has proven to be a resilient and progressive Association.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Graeme for his time as CEO. He has guided the Association through some of the toughest periods the dairy industry has seen in recent times and his legacy has left the Association in an extremely strong position.

HJ

Holstein Australia board appointments

Holstein Australia has announced the appointment of new and returning directors to the Board following a nomination and election process held prior to the Association's Annual General Meeting on Thursday 8 October 2020.

New director, Jacqueline Suares OAM, owns Master Breeder herd Calderbrae Holsteins in Victoria's Western District with her husband Ross. Returning director, Gino Pacitti, owns and operates Misty Brae Holsteins, a 350-cow dairy farm on South Australia's Fleurieu Peninsula, with his wife Mandy and two sons. Both have been elected for three-year terms.

Jacqueline is well known through her GINFO role with DataGene, work with Dairy Livestock Services and as Deputy Chair of WestVic Dairy. She is the former CEO of Colac Otway Disability Accommodation, receiving the Order of Australia medal in the Queen's Birthday 2020 Honours List in recognition of her advocacy work in the disability sector, and is a consultant to Management Governance Australia.

Jacqueline says: "I believe we must honour the wisdom and achievements of the past, while embracing the opportunities of scientific advances in genetics and technology to ensure the Holstein of the future continues to be the breed of choice that will underpin the profitability and sustainability of dairy farms in Australia."



Jacqueline Suares OAM, Calderbrae Holsteins.



New Holstein Australia President, Garry Carpenter, with his wife Bev on-farm in Tasmania.

Photograph: Improving Herds project

"If we do not adapt and embrace the opportunities and requirements of the contemporary Australian dairy farm, we run the risk of becoming obsolete. We must drive value and return on effort and investment for our members, provide a positive and enthusiastic culture and celebrate the dynamic community that is Holstein Australia."

Returning director, Gino Pacitti, was re-elected on a platform with a focus on the development of youth leadership pathways, investment in Holstein Australia's Sub-branch network and ensuring the continual development of Holstein Australia services to best meet the needs of members and the dairy industry.

Well known for his passion, enthusiasm and work over the past 20 years in promoting the Holstein breed and advocating for greater collaboration in the dairy industry to create a stronger sector, Gino says: "I would like to thank the Holstein Australia members that entrusted their vote to myself allowing me to continue in the role of Board Director."

"As I have previously mentioned Holstein Australia faces many external

challenges that will directly impact upon Association finances and its ability to provide relevant, quality member services. Continuity at a Board level along with the introduction of new Board member, Jacqui Suares, will ensure that the Association is well positioned to meet any challenges ahead."

Jacqui replaces outgoing Director and Federal President, Patrick Glass of Kerrick Park Holsteins, Gundowring, Victoria, who has served as a Holstein Australia director for 12 years and President for three years.



Gino Pacitti, Misty Brae Holsteins.

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JSHERMES

August 2020 ABVs

Before this he fulfilled multiple Committee and Sub-branch roles on behalf of the Association and its members, including as Chair of the Breed Development and Conformation Committee.

At a Board meeting immediately following the AGM Vice President, Garry Carpenter of Garerley Holsteins, Gunns Plains, Tasmania was appointed Federal President, with Jenny Grey of The Pines, Kiama, NSW, replacing him as Vice President.

Commenting on the appointments, Garry said: "Both Gino and Jacqui are long-term Holstein enthusiasts and advocates for both the breed and the Association. Gino's business acumen has and will continue to be of great benefit to Holstein Australia, as will his knowledge and understanding of the needs of members with a commercial focus as well as those whose passion revolves around the show ring.

"Jacqui is a very welcome addition to the Board, with an extensive track record that touches on almost every element of the dairy industry, from which the Association can only benefit.

"I think it is particularly healthy that we had four strong candidates for the two available Board positions in Gino, Jacqui, Chloe Goodfellow and Justin Johnston. Both Chloe and Justin have contributed to the Association and their local Sub-Branched over the years, and I look forward to their continued involvement with Holstein Australia," says Garry.

Appointments to Holstein Australia's Breed Development and Conformation Committee (BDCC) were also announced at the Annual General Meeting.

Strategic Directions Committee member

and Northern Victorian Sub-branch President, Phil Daniel of Cleveland Holsteins, Nathalia, Victoria, joins the BDCC, replacing Lynette Greenwood, who did not renominate. Brett Cirillo, Ambrewlea Holsteins, Bungador, Victoria, was re-elected for another three-year term.

Wishing outgoing President Patrick Glass well on his departure, Garry said his passion for members and the Holstein cow have had a significant impact on the evolution of the Association.

"Through his time on the BDCC, Board and

as President, Pat has been a real champion for Holstein Australia. He played a pivotal role during our restructure which has ensured the Association continues to meet changing member needs. If something needed sorting out, he was always there, and he put a lot of time in away from the farm to the benefit of Holstein Australia and its members. He was always a believer in strength through unity and the importance of breed associations, and worked tirelessly to improve collaboration between the breeds," Garry said. **HJ**

2020 Master Breeders


The highly-coveted Master Breeder Award recognises the long-term achievement of herds that have bred at least 300 registered animals over a minimum of 20 years. Points are awarded for classification scores, star brood, production and performance awards. Congratulations to the 16 Holstein breeders to receive the award this year, including eight for the second time.

MASTER BREEDER



Prefix	Name	Location
Brampton Park	R B & H Mountford	Rosabrook, WA
Carenda	Kitchen Farms*	Boyanup, WA
Clarodale	R P Herrman & Co	MT Torrens, Fleurieu & Central SA
Clydebank	Clydebank Holsteins*	Timmering, North Western Victoria
Clydevale	Clydevale Holsteins*	Clydevale Holsteins Pty Ltd ATF Dee Family Trust
Coolea	Crawford Family*	Numbaa, South Coast & Tablelands NSW
Donava	D R & E D Zweck*	Blyth, Fleurieu & Central SA
Engsta	Camzj Trust - Craig Bruem	Forbes, Central & Western NSW
Glenunga	Glenunga Proprietors*	Moculta, Fleurieu & Central SA
Golderama	L B & M A Golder	Jervois, Fleurieu & Central SA
Kayton	R J & R N Robins	Cohuna, North Western Victoria
Kelenmar	P & W Ross	Bald Hills, Western Victoria
Kevindale	S J & M I J Cochrane	Kandanga, Wide Bay, QLD
Panatana	Greenbanks Pty Ltd*	Moriarty, Tasmania
Warramont	D J & T A Fiebig	Mt Gambier, South Eastern SA
Wood Lawn	Flanagan Farms*	Finley, South West Riverina

* Second time awarded



HERD'21

ADAPTING TO THE NEW DATA NORMAL

10-11 March 2021 | Bendigo

Breed Development and Conformation Committee report

By Jenny Grey
BDCC Chair, Kiama, NSW

To say the least, this year has had its challenges in so far as COVID-19 put a halt to what many on the committee would argue is a highlight of the year and that's the out of town on farm visits. Nevertheless and with Zoom technology playing its part, the committee continued its work in the second half of the year albeit limited.

As is required under the Association's governance, two members of the BDCC have reached the end of their current terms and I would like to personally thank Lynette Greenwood and Brett Cirillo for their service and commitment to the committee over the last few years. Both are eligible to renominate for another term but unfortunately Lynette decided not to seek another term so we will have a new face on the committee at our next meeting.

Lynette joined the committee in October

2013 and remained a member for the next seven years, successfully renominating in 2017 after what was then four-year terms. Lynette brought to the committee her no nonsense, practical and "get on with it" attitude on all things. She was and remains a wonderful supporter of the classification system not only around the committee table but also for her Alnor Holsteins herd near Ballarat.

Her willingness to include her herd in research projects was testimony to her support of class and the Association and as well as a true believe in the importance and value of proper and accurate animal identification. Something the class team appreciates.

The Committee was again honoured to have the services of Dr Mary Abdelsayed as a member before Mary went on maternity leave. Dr Abdelsayed continues to make a valuable contribution to our discussions and will make a welcome return when next we meet.

In the September meeting the committee met with the Board and the Strategic Directions Committee (SDC) to discuss the national committees' structure and terms of reference and the overall health and effectiveness of the governance of the Association.

The outcome from these discussions and preliminary work was to become the foundation of the 2020/25 Strategic Business Plan and the Committee appreciated their involvement in this very important initiative.

It also provided the opportunity for members of both the SDC, the BDCC and the board to rub shoulders and better understand the roles and responsibilities of each committee.

Competitions

As I have said in the past, the BDCC oversees the major competitions of the Association, the Cow of the Year and the All-Australian. COVID-19 seriously affected



Wes Brown (Julieanes, Tamworth, NSW), Marcus Young (Datumvale, Ridgley, Tasmania); Jenny Grey (The Pines, Kiama, NSW), Brett Cirillo (Ambrewlea, Bungador, Victoria), Lynette Greenwood (Alnor, Ballarat, Victoria), Geoff Horrocks (Foxleigh, Yalca, Victoria) and David Jupp (secretariat).

the “where and the how” these two prestigious competitions were judged.

Gone was the annual face-to-face and robust argy-bargy across the judging table and in place was judging via Zoom with its inherent technical challenges, intermittent reception and juggling hundreds of photographs.

Lisa McKay, David Peglar and Matthew Templeton selected the All-Australian finalists for this year’s competition. This year was Matt’s first and Lisa’s last year as judge of the All-Australian. No doubt Lisa, like all past judges that come to their term’s end, will miss her time pouring over photos and the robust discussions that are commonplace amongst the three judges. Perhaps not over Zoom!

I would like to pass on a personal vote of thanks to the judges and to Delia Worth from the office who collated all the entries and photographs. She showed great patience and perseverance to get the job done.

For the Cow of the Year judging the BDCC was joined by member judge David Johnston Boorcan, Victoria, and by industry judge Dale Bryce from Premier Genetics and Livestock Solutions Nowra NSW to judge a narrow but extremely strong field of entrants. Congratulations to the finalists.

I would to take the opportunity to say thank you to the members who continue to support the Cow of the Year competition. While the number of entries can always be higher it’s because of your entries the competition continues for another year.

All-Australian

Again, this year the number of All-Australian entrants was strong and the competition continues to be the premier photographic competition in Australia. Congratulations to the finalists; they are a credit to the breed and their breeders and owners.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the judges for taking the time to help shine a spotlight on the best Holsteins in Australia.

A decision by the committee as to whether the competition is run in 2020/21 needs to be made soon as the number of shows at local, state and national level is very limited due to COVID-19.

It would make sense to bend with breeze

and make the call but it is an important decision that the BDCC will take seriously.

The Semex Holstein Australia On Farm Challenge rolled along as usual last year with a healthy number of entries in each state. Without the support of the numerous members throughout the sub branch network and the generosity of Semex the competition would not be what it is.

Sadly, as you would know, this year’s competition has been cancelled due to COVID-19 in what would have been the competition’s 20th year.

I’m sure we will celebrate a wonderful 21st year in 2021.

Breed development

During the year a number of activities were supported, initiated or engaged with by the BDCC and include:

- In November, an Out of Town meeting in Northern Victoria visiting Mitch Holsteins and Redmaw Holsteins.
- In December, joint discussions with DataGene during the National Breeding Objective 2020 review.

Some 18 participants attended the 2020 National Judging School in March at Colac, Victoria. Seven were successful and have been added to the National Judging Panel. The school’s overjudges included Jade Sieben, Vaughan Johnston and Pat Nicholson.

This was Pat’s third school as overjudge and all three showed their professionalism throughout the school as well as no doubt some patience when required. The group remained enthusiastic from the beginning and that helped make the event such a success.

Also attending were BDCC members Geoff Horrocks, Brett Cirillo and myself. This gave some of the committee first-hand knowledge of the school and will allow the BDCC plan for another judging school next time around.

I must not forget the enormous effort and on the ground organisation from the members of the Western District sub-branch. Without this help the school would not have been the success it was.

Classification

Obviously, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a big impact on where we could send the classifiers and continue to deliver this service to members.

A big thank you to the class team who despite a lengthy shut down during the second half of 2019/20 were kept busy with a national member ring around which from all reports was well received.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank someone who is an integral part of the class team but rarely gets the recognition they deserve. Behind every class tour, every phone call and SMS that goes into the tours sits a member of staff who largely goes unheralded.

Some of you may know John Crowther and I’m sure most of you have spoken to him on the phone. John’s job is to juggle the booking the class and juggling the whereabouts of the classifiers; not an easy task but John does it without fanfare or platitudes.

Throughout the pandemic, the number one priority had been the health and welfare of the staff as well as members and I would like to pass on my thanks to every member for their patience through this difficult period.

During the past few months classifications are back up and running in those states and regions where restrictions allow and as I speak the signs are improving with border closures being lifted. To help with the class backlog a new classifier has been recruited and despite COVID-19 has finally started training. Rob Marshall might be known to members through his involvement with the Northern Victoria sub branch. Welcome Rob!

In closing, I would like to thank Graeme Gillan for his support of and direct involvement with the BDCC during his time as CEO and I look forward to a similar level of engagement from new CEO Rohan Butler.

Finally to my fellow Committee members for their hard work and dedication during the past 12 months; thank you. **HJ**

BDCC 2020-21

Gino Pacitti, Chair

Wes Brown

Phil Daniel

Brett Cirillo

Geoff Horrocks

Marcus Young

David Jupp (secretariat).

Meet our new classifier!

A familiar face is joining our classification team! Rob Marshall is the most recent addition to our staff and we would like you to join us in welcoming him to Holstein Australia.

Some of you may recognise his name. Not only has Rob been a farmer himself, he also served as President of the Northern Victoria Sub-branch between 2016 and 2018 and has actively been involved in the dairy industry since he was a kid.

Rob has spent 17 years dairy farming in Northern Victoria, NSW and Tasmania, with breeding experience across both small and large commercial herds.

If you've been an active member in Victoria for a few years, you may know Rob from the Semex Holstein Australia On-Farm Competition. He had 2 winners in his local Northern Victoria Sub-Branch competition in 2008 and went on to win second place at state level with his 3-year-old heifer.

"In my time of breeding cattle, I've bred four generations EX out of one heifer. The cow we sold was the daughter of our 4th generation and she topped our sale," Rob says.

Originally from Edendale, a farming town in the Southland region of New Zealand, Rob migrated to Australia in 1997 and hasn't looked back.

"I started milking cows in New Zealand when I was 12. The first time I milked the cows, I absolutely loved it and when I was 19, I bought my first registered calf. Since then, my passion is all to do with registered cattle and I haven't missed a Dairy Week since 1998," Rob says.

Currently, Rob is out in the field training with and shadowing our Classification team, making the rounds to some of our members. If you haven't met Rob yet, it won't be long before he's on the road and at member farm gates.



Rob Marshall

Don't miss Herd '21 in Bendigo in March

Dairy herd improvement enthusiasts will welcome the news that Herd '21 is booked for 10-11 March 2021 at Bendigo and Holstein Australia is again part of the organising team.

Held every two years, the Herd conference has a reputation for addressing exciting topics through speakers who are leaders in their field, including scientists, farmers and service providers.

With the theme of 'Adapting to the new data normal', the 2021 event is planned for a face-to-face format with back up arrangements in case of COVID restrictions.

Herd conferences are a joint initiative between Holstein Australia, DataGene, Dairy Australia and the National Herd Improvement Association (NHIA).

Rohan Butler, HA CEO, said Herd conferences were a rare opportunity for people working in dairy herd improvement to get together and share ideas.

"The sense of community and connections forged at Herd Conferences are just as valuable as the presentations. The organising committee will do everything we can to make a Herd Conference happen in 2021. Adaptability is the conference theme and that is going to start with an adaptable delivery format and program content," he said.

Watch out for more details as they are announced.

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The show must go on

BY JON HOLLAND

Finley On-Line Dairy Show 2020

With COVID restrictions in force, Finley's traditional agricultural show was moved to a digital format for 2020. The initiative was a great success, with a large contingent of enthusiastic exhibitors submitting photos of their entries on-line to be judged by View Fort Holstein's Nicola Templeton.

Selecting the 4-year-old Eagle Ridge Fever Y Tiffany as her Senior Champion, Nicola praised Tiffany's front end strength and overall balance, noting her clean brisket and superior mammary.

"My Champion excels through her udder attachments. The way her fore udder blends into her body and her desirable teat size and direction gives her the advantage over my Reserve," she said.

Tiffany was exhibited by the White family of Finley, with the Master Breeders also breeding the Reserve Champion in Luccombe Darnall Eva VG87. Honourable Mention went to Kit Davidson of Blighty for her entry, Kit Jacoby Marion 2 VG85.



Finley Online Dairy Show 2020 Supreme Champion – Eagle Ridge Fever Y Tiffany, exhibited by the White family, Luccombe Farms, Finley NSW.

Charles and Sharon White manage Luccombe Farms together with Charles' parents Robin and Lowis. Having followed the success of the Tiffany family for a long time, the Whites purchased Fever Tiffany at Russell and Kerry Eagle's Master Breeder dispersal in April 2019.

"We'd seen Tiffanys perform well at many of the big shows and on farm for years," Lowis says. "Charles picked the Fever from the catalogue, and sent Robin to the sale with instructions to buy her."

For the Junior section, Nicola selected the 18-month-old Val-Bisson Doorman heifer, Evergreen Doorman Alicia 2-ET. Exhibited by Kit Davidson, Alicia's superior dairy strength placed her ahead of Tyler Gordon's Lindon Raptor Bedazzle in Reserve, with the Finley High School's entry, Lochgelly Park Diamond Back Ever-RED as Honourable Mention.

"My Junior Champion was a clear winner – showing the most width throughout her frame and desirable blending of her body parts," Nicola said. A daughter of the 2018 Holstein Australia Cow of the Year, Mario Park Goldwyn Alicia-IMP-ET EX-93-4E STP 10*, Doorman Alicia received a Top 10 placing at IDW, as well as an All-Australian finalist nomination for 2020.

"I wanted to support the show, so I thought I thought I'd bring her up," Kit said. "It took a bit of work to get her clipped and ready, but she came up well and took a nice photo."



Finley Online Dairy Show 2020 Junior Champion – Evergreen Doorman Alicia-ET, exhibited by Kit Davidson, Kit Holsteins, Finley NSW.



Having always wanted something from the Alicia family, Kit saw an opportunity when her workmate David Wallace purchased sexed Doorman embryos from the Goldwyn. "David needed some recipients, so I offered him some cows in exchange for a second pick of the heifer calves," Kit said. "I was so nervous when those calves were being born."

Doorman Alicia was bred to sexed semen and is preg-tested in-calf to the polled sire Coomboona Ziplt Mirand PP, with the hope of calving her in form for the Victorian Winter Fair in 2021.

Beaudesert All Breeds Dairy Show 2020

There was a high level of excitement surrounding this year's Beaudesert All Breeds Dairy Show. Event organiser, Rodney Teese, was thrilled by the positive response, and encouraged by the strong contingent of breeders putting their passion on display.

"With a lot of events being cancelled, I wanted to put on an all breeds show to give everyone a chance to be involved," Rodney said. "The support of the breeders and sponsors was fantastic. And by combining the breeds and condensing the program it meant we had good numbers in each class. There were 22 milkers in the



Beaudesert All Breeds Dairy Show 2020 Supreme Champion — Ardyllbar Atwood Gladys VG86, exhibited by the Barron family, Ardyllbar Holsteins, Cambooya, Queensland.

senior udder class alone, and the quality was awesome."

Respected judge and local breeder, Lindsay Marshall of Yurunga Holsteins, selected Ardyllbar Atwood Gladys-ET VG86 as his Senior Champion and Supreme overall, admiring her combination of youthfulness and dairy strength.

"My Champion was a very long, wide and open cow," he said. "She was a cow

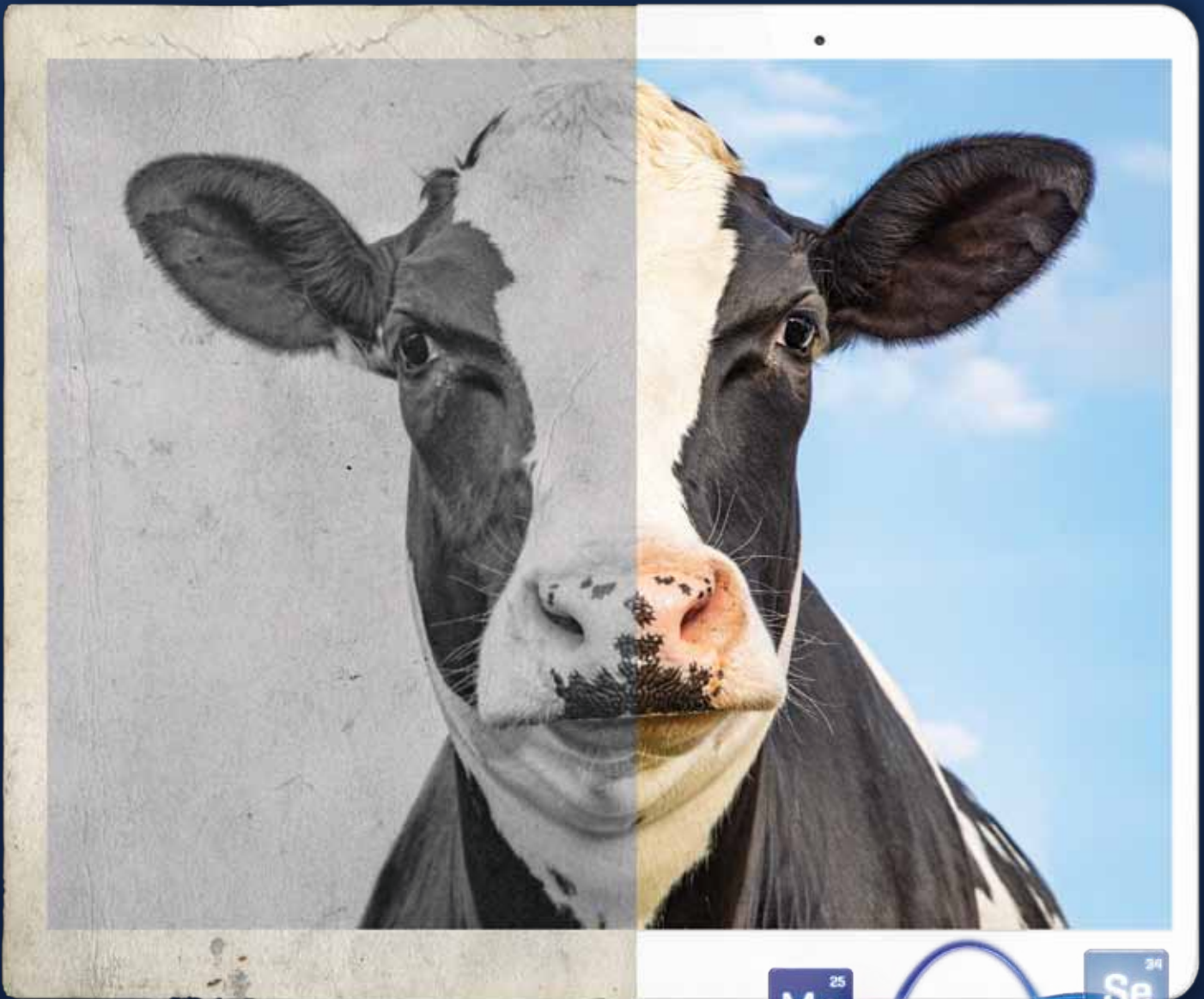
with the right cut to her, with all her parts coming together correctly and a wonderful, quality mammary system – she is a genuine big time potential cow."

Exhibited by Waylon Barron and family of Ardyllbar Holsteins from Cambooya in Queensland's Darling Downs region, Gladys is one of six ET full sisters by Maple-Downs-I G W Atwood out of the brood cow Plana Magic Grace EX-93-1E 1*. **HJ**



Ardyllbar Atwood Gladys VG86, exhibited by the Barron family, Ardyllbar Holsteins, Cambooya Queensland – Beaudesert All Breeds Dairy Show 2020 Supreme Champion.

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1. Vedovatto *et al* (2020), Trop Anim Health Prod, 52(2), 881-886 2. Bittar *et al* (2020), Vet Immunol Immunopathol, 110055 3. Mundell *et al* (2012), PAS, 28:82-88 ©Multimin is a registered trademark of Virbac.

Holstein Australia's road map to 2025

Holstein Australia recently launched its new five-year strategic business plan to members. What is it, how has it been developed and what does it mean? Chief Executive Officer, Rohan Butler, explains.

How was the plan put together?

It's basically a road map for the future direction of the Association. Where are we now and what are our aspirations? Where do our members want us to be? It sets out clearly our current and future path.

It's been a while in the making, which is a good thing. We went through a consultative process with member representatives. The process began in earnest at the beginning of the year with input from the Strategic Directions Committee, Breed Development and Conformation Committee and Board. Staff also played a key role in the development process too. Their input has been invaluable.

Where does the Association want to be in the future?

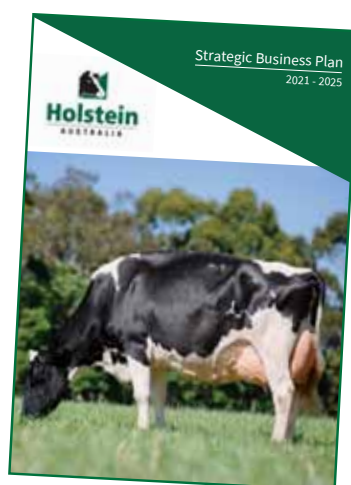
The plan identifies seven key areas that we needed to focus on: breed development, community, export of Australian Holstein genetics, finance, governance, member services and youth and future leaders.

Like any good map, we have pinpointed where we want to be, our aspiration in each area. From there we developed objectives, or what has to change for us to achieve the aspiration. We then identified the series of actions or steps that help us reach the objectives.

How will Holstein Australia use the plan?

We're already working to it. We've had sessions with our committees who were obviously involved with putting the whole thing together. We've also had separate sessions with sub-branch officers to ensure the plan can be rolled out effectively at member level.

We made sure the plan is succinct and to the point, easy to understand and available to all members. Generally, that's good practice, but for a member-based organisation it's really important.



Access to the plan means members can track how we are doing. That makes us accountable. It's available on our website, from sub-branch officers and from our field staff, and we'll provide regular updates as we work through it.

What can members expect initially?

One of the first things we've done is appoint a dedicated liaison in Sarah Keens, to work with sub-branches and members, providing practical support and a single point of contact for them.

That's in the plan and was one of the many practical actions that came out of the committee sessions during the plan's development. Providing better support to sub-branches and the Holstein community is an essential start point for a lot of what is to come.

Some other areas of immediate focus are refining our service offering, ensuring we are delivering these in the right way and that they work for members on-farm. The internal process on this has started already.

Youth is also a priority. Making sure we have programs that work for the different age groups right the way through from the youngest kids to the young adults who are looking to develop skills to progress a career in the industry. This is a challenging area, but we have some passionate and switched on people drawn from our membership who will focus on this.

We're in this for the long haul, we've got our road map for the next five years, and the direction we're heading can only be positive for our members and positive for the breed. I'm pretty excited where the Association is heading and looking forward to the journey.

HJ

Holstein Australia's core aspirations 2021-2025

Breed Development

To lead the dairy industry in the breeding of adaptable, productive and profitable Holstein cows.

Community

Holstein Australia to lead the development of a strong sense of community that benefits every member and the wider industry.

Export of Australian Holstein Genetics

Export to remain a consistent and diversified income stream for Holstein Australia members and the Association.

Finance

Holstein Australia to be financially sustainable through the provision of core services.

Governance

Holstein Australia's governance structure and processes encourage and empower members to contribute to the current and future direction of the Association.

Services

Holstein Australia is a provider of essential services and information that creates benefit and value for members and the wider dairy industry.

Youth and Future Leaders

Holstein Australia has a defined pathway focused on developing skills and creating leadership opportunities that equip young people for a dairy industry career..

Community spirit holds strong in midst of a pandemic

A community – having a ‘common-unity’ – is finding an element that links people together. Communities support us, and make us feel safe. They create a sense of belonging, rejoice in shared aspirations and success, and make us feel a part of something greater than ourselves.

Communities can be a locality, a sport, an organisation, a religion. For the Holstein Australia community, the common element is the Holstein cow.

In these times of COVID, the opportunities for communities to gather have been greatly affected, with many traditional events forced to cancel. However, with obstacles come new opportunities, and a number of pro-active members have used the COVID experience to invent new ways for members to interact, and share their passion for the Holstein cow.

Community through shows

In September, the Finley Show committee created an on-line event, receiving 95 livestock exhibits and 375 pavilion exhibits, from crafts to cakes, poultry, beef and of course – dairy. Dairy judge Nicole Templeton selected Eagle Ridge Fever Y Tiffany as her Supreme Champion,

Community

Community is one of seven priorities in Holstein Australia’s Five Year Strategic Business Plan. Our members highly value their Holstein community. By supporting sub-branch and Holstein Australia’s organised events, we continue to engage our membership and provide opportunities for breeders to interact and learn from one another.

Aspiration:

Holstein Australia to lead the development of a strong sense of community that benefits every member and the wider industry.

Objectives:

- Ensure that being part of the Holstein community is perceived as a benefit of Holstein Australia membership.
- Develop relationships with other breed associations for the greater good of the industry and dairy community.
- Form collaborative industry partnerships that support and showcase the common interest, strength and passion of the Australian dairy community.

exhibited by Master Breeders, the White family of Luccombe Holsteins.

As long-time supporters of the Finley Show, Robin and Louis White understand the need for community participation, and have received great enjoyment over the years from their involvement with Holstein Australia.

Louis says Robin has been part of the

Holstein membership all his life, with the Luccombe herd founded by his father Desmond in the 1940s. “We’ve really enjoyed breeding Holsteins, and getting together with other breeders at shows and events, talking about the cows and discussing the breeding,” Louis says.

The Whites involvement with Holstein Australia spans many decades, including various executive positions at sub-branch and State branch level, as well as Robin’s long standing position as a respected member of the National Judging Panel.

“Robin and I really enjoy the little country shows. I’m always interested in seeing what others are doing and how they are breeding their cows,” Louis says. “They are the local outing for many rural people, and are often a traditional place for people to meet each year.”

Another of Louis’s favourite events is the Semex On Farm Challenge (OFC).

“It’s a great way to meet the breeders and see their farms. You get to see the real working cows and the see pride in the farmer when he shows you ‘my cow,’” he said.

Louis’s passion for the OFC is shared by many in the industry. This member passion has been the driving force behind a new



Master Breeders, Louis and Robin White, Luccombe Holsteins. Finley, NSW.

initiative, the Semex/Holstein Australia Virtual Holstein Spectacular.

Holstein Australia CEO, Rohan Butler says getting this national competition off the ground gave Sub-Branches a real boost. "While it will be different from the traditional OFC, we hope the blending of real people and Holstein cows with the virtual world will provide an outlet for our Holstein community to connect during these restrictive times," Rohan said.

Being part of the Holstein community is something Lowis values greatly, as a way of keeping people together, sharing ideas and encouraging new membership. Robin's role as a delegate, along with his various judging appointments has allowed Lowis to travel the country with Robin, often using the opportunity to explore the local areas, spending time on different farms and meeting other breeders.

"Robin and I would often use the membership directory to look up farms in the area and visit some of the local breeders. It was a great way to meet new people, and that way you would recognise them when you met them again at various shows or sales.

"It has been more difficult with so many people in the industry moving on – but there are still people interested in better breeding and looking for good cows, and they still enjoy going to the shows and spending money at the sales."

"I think we are at risk of losing some of these traditional connections, and I think it's important we find ways of bringing people together so we don't lose that sense of community," Lowis said.

Community in COVID

Professional fitter and photographer, Simon Tognola was excited to hear a number of Queensland shows were still going ahead, despite the cancellation of most shows across the country.

"For some, showing cows is their sport. It's their interest and passion, and their opportunity to share that passion with other like-minded people," Simon said.

Leading that passion was Glencrest Holstein's Rodney Teese. Rodney was one of the driving forces behind the success of the Beaudesert All Breeds Show in early September, paving the way for the Queensland State Illawarra Show hosted in conjunction with Gatton Show the following week.



Above: Beaudesert All Breeds Dairy Show organizer Rodney Teese, Glencrest Holsteins.

Below: Show fitter, photographer and ST Genetics breeding adviser, Simon Tognola, at Beaudesert All Breeds Show.



"Rodney really got the All Breeds Show off the ground," Simon said. "It was a great excuse for breeders to get off the farm for the day, and gave them something to look forward to – a bit of normality.

"These events are important for that sense of community, sharing ideas and seeing what others are doing."

As Queensland's breeding adviser for ST Genetics, Simon is also aware of the financial benefits of community events to the broader industry and local economy.

"They bring new people to the regions, and generate income, business sponsorship and tourism. A lot of time, work and money goes into these events, and they play an important role in

marketing and promotion of genetics and the breed."

The geographical isolation of many Queensland dairy farmers is also an important consideration for community-based events, and the collaboration with other breeds has been essential in maintaining the participation levels to ensure the events remain viable.

"We don't have huge membership numbers in our area, so amalgamating the breed shows into an All Breeds event has led to more involvement," Simon says. "It's important with any community based group that you try and get more people to the table. You can then brainstorm ideas, and gather different ideas with broader representation."

HJ

Registration is the heart of Holstein Australia's member services

As custodians of the Australian Holstein pedigree, maintaining the registration herdbook is one of Holstein Australia's core services. This involves overseeing a database of more than two million animals, with up to 60,000 new registrations and 50,000 classifications each year.

A Holstein registration is much more than just a 'piece of paper'. It is a quality assurance record for a valuable transferable asset. Other Holstein Australia services support and add value to these documents. Production and performance awards, classification, genomic testing, parentage verification and genetic tests such as red carriers, polled and A2, combined with links to herd recording and breeding values, all contribute to creating an individual cow's historic profile, quantifying her value as a superior product.

The value is demonstrated by the strong demand for purebred genetics at both a local level and the lucrative, yet increasingly discerning export market. Recent sales have demonstrated the superior value of the registered Holstein, boasting high sale peaks and consistently solid averages - a testament to buyer confidence, and a reward for the efforts of breeders over many generations.

Returns on registration

The dispersal of Master Breeder Murray Sowter's Murribrook Holsteins herd in October is a good example. The auction grossed \$1,090,500 from 172 head, with the remarkable average of \$6,340. Topping the sale at \$23,000, was Murribrook Goldwyn Verbena-ET EX-92-1E 4* 1xEP 1xF LIFE2. A multiple Royal and State Show Champion, Verbena's pedigree was bursting with elite production records, star brood cows and show champions, supported by generations of high VG and EX classifications tracing back to the incomparable Carmar Linmack Dixie EX-3E 6*.

The winning bidders were Cogupna dairy farmers, Duncan and Helen Smith of Hightop Holsteins. Duncan was thrilled to

Services

Services is one of seven priorities in Holstein Australia's Five Year Strategic Business Plan. Our services are the core of the HA business. It is important we continue to develop services for our members that provide tangible value to their business bottom line.

Aspiration:

Holstein Australia is a provider of essential services and information that creates benefit and value for members and the wider dairy industry.

Objectives:

- Ensure that every member understands the Association's portfolio of services and how it can benefit them.
- Holstein Australia database to maintain its trusted position as a secure source of information from which members and industry derive benefit.
- Create and develop innovative services for all dairy producers.
- Maintain existing and attract new members using a portfolio of services that create value.

now own and work with Verbena, having been a fan for many years. "I'd seen her at the shows and always admired her from a distance. When I saw her advertised to sell, I knew I would never have another chance to get such a cow," Duncan said.

Despite his enthusiasm, Duncan wasn't distracted by her show credentials alone, using the Holstein database to research her pedigree, performance records and family history, giving him greater assurance and confidence in his investment.

"It's important to see those generations of

quality cows in the pedigree," he said. "It's evidence of a good breeder doing things right over many years to create something special."

"You could see Verbena's long cow family history, and their record of fertility and consistency. Buying a 'grade' cow is like buying a blank page - you really don't know what you're getting, or where to go with that," Duncan says.

Duncan's goal in purchasing elite bloodlines is to establish a solid base for his son Nathan to breed from in the



Tomargo Recluse Sale 2020: Danielle Chesworth, Erika Chesworth and Emma Elliott.

future. "If you want to build something, it's important you have a strong foundation to start with," he says. "But you have to love it too. It's fun and exciting building a pedigree – to breed on and continue the great work that other breeders have started."

Strong demand for registered Holsteins continued throughout October, with Steve and Erika Chesworth selling a large selection of young stock from their Master Breeder Tomargo Recluse herd. The sale returned an impressive average of \$4,220, with 229 Holsteins grossing \$966,300.

Steve attributes a lot of the success to his family's 50 years of breeding and building pedigrees, generational classification, and acquiring prominent cow families and developing them further.

Topping the sale at \$14,000 was Tomargo Recluse Bradnick Starbaby VG87, selling to Master Breeders, Wes and Julie Brown of Tamworth. With a first lactation record exceeding 11,000 litres and supported by many generations of VG dams, Starbaby shares a maternal line with the 2019 Sydney Royal Champion Holstein, Tomargo Recluse Stanley Starbaby EX-91-2E.

"You can trace Starbaby's pedigree back in our family for 50 years!" Steve says proudly.

Value in pedigrees

Another bloodline in demand was the Alison family, originating at the Willette herd of Steve's uncle and fellow Master Breeder Lloyd Chesworth. "The Alison's have definitely acquired a strong reputation over 50 years, with many daughters and sisters selling together, helping each other add value in the sale."

Singleton dairyfarmer, Michael Hassett, Halewood Holsteins was a repeat buyer at the Tomargo Recluse Sale. Wanting cows that would produce and last, while carrying the conformation required for grazing conditions, Michael selected several top lots including Tomargo Recluse Solomon Hilda VG85 for \$7,000, Tomargo Recluse Elijah Felicity VG 86 for \$6,500 and Tomargo Recluse Sunlight Susan GP82 \$6,000.

"We've been long-time friends of the Chesworths, and we knew their cows would put milk in the vat," Michael said. "We were looking for strong cow families like the Starbabies and Alison's – families proven to breed on."

"Steve's cows had long histories of proven



Allan Jay Holsteins, Les and Jenny Stewart's daughter Ariel with her new favourite, Holloddon – R MVP Roxy 2660 GP83 BPI(g)+341.

performance, sometimes with six or seven or eight generations of VG or Excellent. And it all tied in with their production history. For me it showed great reliability and gave us confidence in their potential."

Reliability and data history were the top priorities for Newbridge dairy farmers, Les and Jenny Stewart when they attended Jon and Nadine Holland's Master Breeder Holloddon Holsteins dispersal in September. Focusing on cow families, classification, Production Indexes (PIs), and genomic breeding values, the Stewarts purchased eight young cows, including the second highest seller at \$8,000 for Holloddon – R MVP Roxy 2660 GP83.

The couple enjoy researching pedigrees and cow families on the Holstein Australia database, and were excited by the opportunity to add a Roxy to their Allan Jay Holsteins herd.



Hightop Holstein's Nathan Smith with Murribrook Goldwyn Verbena-ET EX-92-1E 4* 1xEP 1xF LIFE2.

"I was set on buying a Roxy," Jenny says.

"But we've never paid that much for a cow before, and we wouldn't have done it without the genomic test to back it up."

Bred from the world famous Roxy cow family, the Sea-gull Bay MVP daughter sold with an August BPI(g)+293, which increased with the October run to BPI(g)+341.

"We try not to go below +200 BPI when selecting cows to buy," Les says. "We've found over time the results give a pretty accurate picture of a cow's potential. The high BPI cows consistently seem to have a strong will to work – they hit the dairy early and get straight into making milk."

The Stewarts herd test monthly, classify twice a year and genomically test all their young stock to help in their breeding decisions and feeding management, as well as building pedigrees for the future.

"We put about 50% emphasis on genomics when selecting cows, and the other 50% on classification and production," Les said. "Regardless of their BPI, they still need to be a quality animal, and I reckon when you combine strong genomics with quality type, you're nearly guaranteed the breeding is working, and has been working for generations."

"Like Brian (Leslie) often says – 'buy the best and breed them better'. A deep pedigree with reliable data gives you that opportunity."

HJ

Our youth are the dairy industry's key to future prosperity

Encouraging and developing the future leaders is crucial to the long-term prosperity of the Australian dairy industry. Younger members demonstrate tremendous passion for the dairy cow and dairy industry at local calf shows, camps and IDW's Youth Show.

At the same time, social media is coloured by proud photos of young people working on family farms, caring for their precious Holsteins, or training their next champion to lead.

COVID forced the cancellation of many opportunities that engage young people, along with other social activities such as school camps, junior sports and family holidays. Fortunately, Holstein Australia has some proactive members who have created new initiatives for younger members to share in their dairy passion.

Throughout September, kids were busy training and preparing their heifers, creating 30 second videos to submit for the inaugural Australian All Breeds Dairy Youth Expo, initiated by Fiona Hanks, Peter Semmens and his team at ST Genetics Australia.

Having a young family herself, and her long affiliation with youth programs, IDW and local shows, Fiona was well aware of the difficulties kids were having with so many traditional activities being cancelled.

"Fiona was the driver behind the original concept," Peter said. "She approached me with an idea, and we worked together to create a plan."

The plan was to invite breeders to submit videos of their favourite heifers, creating an all-breeds youth show hosted entirely on-line.

The response was overwhelming, with 175 entries featuring all breeds across all states.

"We wanted the competition to cover a wide range of kids, encouraging new members to give it a try as well as those more experienced members," Peter said. "We'd planned for hats and t-shirts for all participants, and I actually had to go back and double the order."

Youth

Youth is one of seven priorities in Holstein Australia's Five Year Strategic Business Plan. As an organisation we have an important role to play in youth development. We already have a strong core group of young people, and developing these people into future leaders is of great benefit to both the Association and the dairy industry.

Aspiration:

Holstein Australia has a defined pathway focused on developing skills and creating leadership opportunities that equip young people for a dairy industry career.

Objectives:

- Establish and lead an industry-wide dairy youth framework in conjunction with industry bodies and other Australian breed associations.
- Foster relationships with relevant international breed associations and organisations that benefit Australian dairy youth.
- Holstein Australia is an organisation that invests in the future of Australian dairy.

Kevin Ziemba, ST Genetics' eastern USA manager, judged the Youth Expo. Kevin specialises in genetics, reproduction and sire development, and has a strong passion for youth, acting as a mentor for the 4H program in the US, and coaching the Cornell University dairy judging team.

"I had a lot of enjoyment watching the videos," Kevin said. "It was an exciting event in a very challenging year. Hats off to all the youth for showcasing their animals and thank you to the ST Genetics Australian team for allowing me to judge



Luke Gardiner, Avonlea Holsteins. Winner of Supreme Champion – ST Genetics Australia All Breeds Dairy Youth Expo with Avonlea Sidekick Anna-ET.



the show. It was a treat, an honour and a privilege."

Results

The Champion Holstein, and Supreme Exhibit overall was awarded to the 8-month old Walnutlawn Sidekick daughter, Avonlea Sidekick Anna-ET. Entered by Luke Gardiner, Avonlea Holsteins, Kevin described the heifer as a walk-away winner, due to her beautiful dairy style and open angular frame.

This year has been difficult for Luke and his family, Master Breeders John and Cherie Gardiner. Their Avonlea herd, based at Cardinia, was included with metro Melbourne in Stage 4 lockdown during the pandemic, which has seen all travel halted, schools closed, sporting events cancelled, and all social contact limited to on-line.

Being a new initiative, John approached the event with no sense of expectation. "Luke saw the event advertised, and was very keen to get involved. We had a look at the heifers and Luke picked Anna out.

Normally at a show you have a sense of the competition, so he was pretty excited by her win," John said.

With his school closed, adjusting to home learning, and very restricted social interaction, the past six months have been challenging for Luke.

"He needed something else to focus on," John said. "The Youth Expo gave him something to look forward to – he had to get his heifer in, teach her to lead, wash her, feed her, clip her and prepare her. It was something very positive for the youth and for the industry."

Ongoing event

Peter hopes the event can remain an important part of the dairy calendar. For many participants it was their first chance to compete at a national level. Not everyone has the ability to get to the big shows in the southern states, and Peter was excited by the strong participation received from the more isolated states such as Queensland, Tasmania and WA.

"The agri-college in Western Australia in particular did an outstanding effort," Peter said. "There is so much enthusiasm out there in our youth and we've had a tremendously positive response to the concept."

Plans are already in motion to improve the video delivery methods for next year, and potentially divide some classes to allow for the larger entry numbers. The deliberate focus on youth is also something the ST Genetics team feel is very important.

"Young people are the future of the industry, and hopefully our future customers," Peter says. "It has been a good bit of fun and really very rewarding for our staff and the exhibitors."

"We have been delighted by the support the youth received from their friends and families in creating the videos, and the support received from the various breed societies who all came on board to back this new event."

HJ



Leah Dickson preparing for Youth Expo.



Preparations for the Youth Expo at Vala Holsteins.

MEMBER PHOTO COMPETITION



Look out for news of our new member photo competition on Facebook and Instagram, running until mid-January.

With prizes in each category, we are looking for photographs that showcase our members and the animals they love. The categories are: Holstein Community, Holstein Youth, Morning and Evening, Working Hard, and What We Make.

A professional photographer and Holstein Australia representative will short list the top images in each

category, with members voting to determine the winners and placegetters.

Holstein Australia communication and marketing manager, Adam Sawell, said there were a number of members with a highly creative eye.

"The quality of some of the images we see on our Instagram and Facebook feeds is amazing. People can take photographs specifically for this competition, or enter recent photographs they think will be up to the mark," he said.



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2019-20 Holstein/Semex All-Australian Winners

Celebrating double success

Congratulations to the 2020 Holstein/Semex All-Australian winners who were announced recently, with the Gardiner family, Avonlea Holsteins taking out a double gong with the Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor awards.

Vaughn Johnston, Semex National Sales Manager, said the competition was more important than ever this year with most 2020 shows cancelled due to COVID restrictions.

"The All-Australian has given us the opportunity to celebrate the mighty Holstein in a year of limited opportunities to come together," Vaughn said. "It's always been about allowing the best show cows in the country to compete without being physically in the one place. The only modification was that the judges worked together via Zoom instead of the usual face-to-face judging workshop. That wasn't ideal but it was doable"

To enter, animals must have been successfully shown at a show adjudicated by a judge from the national panel. "This entry requirement makes for stiff competition; it's a competition amongst the cream of the crop. And winning brings considerable prestige," he said.

"Taking out Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor requires a sustained breeding and showing effort. It really is a testimony to the Gardiners' skills and commitment."

Thanks to this year's All-Australian judging committee, Lisa Mackay (Linsand, Victoria), David Peglar (Sleepy Hollow, South Australia) and Matt Templeton, (View Fort, South Gippsland, Victoria).

The following pages feature the top three animals in each class.

PREMIER BREEDER

Awarded to:

**J H & C J Gardiner, Victoria,
Avonlea Holsteins**

Premier Breeder award
sponsored by WFI



PREMIER EXHIBITOR

**J H & C J Gardiner, Victoria,
Avonlea Holsteins**

Premier Exhibitor award
sponsored by WFI



The Holstein Australia/Semex All-Australian Competition is a national photographic competition that recognises excellence in conformation and showing. It is open to all Holstein Australia Herdbook and Appendix 1,2 and 3 females that have been successfully shown at a show adjudicated by a judge from the national panel. The three-member judging panel selected both the finalists and the top three places in each class.

6 YEARS & OVER



1st: AVONLEA DEMPSEY TAMMY

1st: Avonlea Dempsey Tammy

Sire: Lirr Drew Dempsey

Dam: Leader Dundee Timtam

Breeder: H T & V J & J H Gardiner Pty Ltd, Vic.

Exhibitor: J H & C J Gardiner, Vic.



2nd: AVONLEA STANLEYCUP RENITA

Sire: Gillette Stanley Cup-ET

Dam: Raybrook Gold Renita-ET

Breeder: J H & C J Gardiner, Vic.

Exhibitor: J H & C J Gardiner, Vic.



3rd: Glenunga Wind Butterbrook

Sire: Gillette Windbrook-ET

Dam: Glenunga Drake

Breeder: Glenunga Proprietors, SA

Exhibitor: J H & C J Gardiner, Vic.

4th: Warwick Farm Allen Licorice 2-IMP-ET; T D & K J Gilmore, Vic

5th: Mitch Aftershock Irene; Mitch Holsteins, Vic

6th: Rusty Red Liner Georgie-Red; J W Jennings, Vic.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

The winning mature cow was the standout of the competition for all of the judges and was closely compared to the 'true type model cow'. Faultless in many ways, we admired her for her squareness of frame, extreme dairy strength and quality udder. She placed over the reserve champion because she showed more snugness of udder, was higher and wider of her rear udder and had a better fore udder attachment.

In a closer placing, we found the reserve champion to be in slightly better form than the honourable mention – she was silkier hided and showed more bloom to her udder.

2019-20 Holstein/Semex All-Australian Winners

5 YEAR OLD



1st: Avonlea-YF Windbrook Cinnamon-ET

Sire: Gillette Windbrook-ET

Dam: Linsand Aspen Cinnamin-ET

Breeder: H T & V J & J H Gardiner Pty Ltd, Vic.

Exhibitor: Cinnamin Partners, NSW



2nd: Gorbros Atwood Shimmer

Sire: Maple-Downs-I G W Atwood-ET

Dam: Gorbros Sanchez O Shimmer-ET

Breeder: R K & J R Gordon, Vic.

Exhibitor: R K & J R Gordon, Vic.



3rd: Mooway Destry Carmel

Sire: Scientific Destry-ET

Dam: Mooway Maxlife Carmel

Breeder: Glendalin Pty Ltd, SA

Exhibitor: Glendalin Pty Ltd, SA

4th: Benlargo Sid Furry-IMP-ET-MFF-CNF-DPF-XIF-BLF; Benlargo Holsteins

5th: Bluechip MH Hero Marion; Declan Patten/Westmuir Holsteins/F & D Borba

6th: Amelia Park Reginald Roxette; J H & C J Gardiner, Vic.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

This class had an easy winner, a cow that we all admired for her extreme frame and super udder. She displayed more overall dairyness and was more correct in all of her udder traits over the reserve champion.

The reserve champion used her big frame, in particular the depth of her rib to place over the honourable mention.

4 YEAR OLD



1st: Mario Park Atwood Midas-ET

Sire: Maple-Downs-I G W Atwood-ET

Dam: Diamond Sid Midas-ET

Breeder: Murray Polson, NSW

Exhibitor: Murray Polson, NSW



2nd: Glomar McCutchen Anney 5506-CNF-DPF-BLF

Sire: De-Su Bkm McCutchen 1174-ET

Dam: Glomar Shamrock Anney 4832

Breeder: R Johnston, Vic.

Exhibitor: R Johnston, Vic.



3rd: Eagle Ridge Amazing G Pollyanna

Sire: Mr Atlees Altaamazing-ET

Dam: Eagle Ridge Goldroy Pollyanna

Breeder: R G & K V Eagle, NSW

Exhibitor: R K & J R Gordon and A Crawford, Vic.

4th: Elmar Goldendream Serenade; Elmar Holsteins, Vic.

5th: Elmar Firstclass Jessica-ET-MFF-CNF-DPF-XIF-BLF; Elmar Holsteins, Vic.

6th: Eclipse Archival Rae-ET; G B & M M Anderson, G Hardgraves and D&N Schirm

JUDGES' COMMENTS

The 4-year-old class was quite difficult to place - with many different types of cows forming the finalists. We thought the cow winning the class was the most complete. A cow that displayed a lot of width and openness. We preferred the length of her fore udder and the width of her rear udder over the cow in reserve.

The texture of udder, definition of ligament and depth of rib gave the reserve cow an advantage over the honourable mention.

2019-20 Holstein/Semex All-Australian Winners

3 YEAR OLD



1st: Lightning Ridge Beemer Camilla-IMP-ET

Sire: Pol Butte Mc Beemer-ET

Dam: Butlerview Door Camilla-ET

Breeder: American Holstein Friesian Association, USA

Exhibitor: BusyBrook Holsteins /Tuhinga Dairy Pty Ltd /G Fullerton



2nd: Avonlea Doorman Ritzzy 2nd-ET

Sire: Val-Bisson Doorman-ET

Dam: Avonlea Baxter Ritzzy-IMP-ET

Breeder: J H & C J Gardiner, Vic.

Exhibitor: J H & C J Gardiner, Vic.



3rd: Murribrook Reginald Victory-ET

Sire: Regancrest Reginald

Dam: Strongbark Linjet Victory-ET

Breeder: M J Sowter, NSW

Exhibitor: J H & C J Gardiner, Vic.

4th: Robsvue Doorman Barbara-ET; R & R Walmsley, SA

5th: Eclipse Octane Princess 5-ET; J H & C J Gardiner, Vic. and C R Cowan

6th: Murribrook Savior Violet-ET; R K & J R Gordon, Vic.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

The winning 3-year-old was a standout among the finalists; a young cow with a wonderful dairy frame and classy udder to suit. We found her to be much longer in her body and have better shape to her rear udder attachment than the reserve champion.

We placed the reserve over the honourable mention because she showed more depth and spring of rib and also gave her an advantage in the length to her fore udder.

2 YEAR OLD – IN MILK (OVER 30 MONTHS)



1st: Avonlea Conclusion Dream

Sire: Avonlea Atwood Conclusion-IMP-ET

Dam: Murribrook Goldwyn Dream-ET

Breeder: J H & C J Gardiner, Vic.

Exhibitor: J H & C J Gardiner, Vic.



2nd: Eastview Jacoby Bonnie-ET

Sire: Cycle Doorman Jacoby-ET

Dam: Eastview Contender Bonnie-ET

Breeder: Scott & Philippa Robinson, Vic.

Exhibitor: Scott & Philippa Robinson, Vic.



3rd: Clydevale Solomon Foxy-ET-CNF-DPF-XIF-BLF

Sire: Walnutlawn Solomon-ET

Dam: Clydevale Panopoly Feather

Breeder: Clydevale Holsteins Pty Ltd ATF Dee Family Trust, Vic.

Exhibitor: Clydevale Holsteins Pty Ltd ATF Dee Family Trust, Vic.

4th: Avonlea Kingboy Alana-ET; J H & C J Gardiner, Vic.

5th: Brindabella Solomon R Midge; Jade & Scott Sieben, Vic.

6th: Bluechip EV Awesome Destini-ET-RED; Michaela Thompson, Vic.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Winning the senior 2-year-old was again a very clean cut, feminine young cow. She was the most angular cow in the class - with a beautiful udder. It was the quality of her udder, in particular the evenness between her fore and rear quarters and her slope from hip to pin that raised her above the reserve champion.

In a closer placing; we gave the reserve champion a slight advantage in the openness of her frame and found her to be cleaner and more silky hid than the honourable mention.

2019-20 Holstein/Semex All-Australian Winners

2 YEAR OLD – IN MILK (30 MONTHS & UNDER)



1st: Eclipse Avalanche Delight-RED

Sire: Dymenthholm Mr Apples Avalanche

Dam: Eclipse Adonis Delight-RED

Breeder: Richard Hull, Vic.

Exhibitor: R & R Walmsley, SA

SENIOR YEARLING DRY (OVER 15 MONTHS)



1st: Cherrylock BH Apple Cider-RED

Sire: Cycle Mcgucci Jordy-RED

Dam: Bluechip EV Shesaawesome Apple-ET-RED

Breeder: B & J Gavenlock, Vic.

Exhibitor: G B & M M Anderson/G Hardgraves/D Schirm/F & D Borba



2nd: Glomar Hotline Sarah 6200-MFF-CNF-DPF-XIF-BLF

Sire: Peak Hotline-ET

Dam: Glomar Goldwyn Sarah 4601-ET

Breeder: R Johnston, Vic.

Exhibitor: R Johnston, Vic.



2nd: Rusty Red Jordy George-RED

Sire: Cycle Mcgucci Jordy-RED

Dam: Rusty Red Liner Georgie-RED

Breeder: J W Jennings, Vic.

Exhibitor: J W Jennings and Mal Nikora, Vic.



3rd: Gorbros Crushlm Shimmer

Sire: Maverick Crush

Dam: Gorbros Lauthority Shimmer-ET

Breeder: R K & J R Gordon, Vic.

Exhibitor: R K & J R Gordon, Vic.



3rd: Kit Jacoby Marion 2-ET

Sire: Cycle Doorman Jacoby-ET

Dam: Bluechip MH Hero Marion

Breeder: Bluechip Holsteins, Vic.

Exhibitor: Kit Davidson, NSW

4th: Elmar Solomon Jessica 5-ET; Elmar Holsteins, Vic.

5th: Mitch Solomon Olive; Mitch Holsteins, Vic.

6th: Gorbros Solomon Livia; R K & J R Gordon, Vic.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

We all admired the winning 2-year-old for her dairy strength and quality of mammary system. In placing her over the reserve we preferred her strength and width of front end, size and shape of teat and width of rear udder.

The reserve was a young cow with a lot of dairy quality and this combined with her overall angularity placed her over the honourable mention.

4th: Vala Lenux Angel-ET-PF; Vala Holsteins, Vic.

5th: Vala Polar Lavsue-ET-PC; Vala Holsteins, Vic.

6th: Wyena Okaliber Pam; Donna Edge, Vic.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Winning the class was a heifer that followed the mould of the champion heifers before her. She was ultra-dairy, oozed style and showed hardness through her top, a lot of depth to her rib and had a more correct set to her legs. In placing the champion over the reserve, we gave a distinct advantage in femininity and cleanliness of bone.

We found the reserve heifer to have more overall depth of rib and particularly more flank than the honourable mention heifer.

2019-20 Holstein/Semex All-Australian Winners

SENIOR YEARLING DRY (UNDER 15 MONTHS)



1st: Avonlea Goldsun Evie

Sire: Toc-Farm Goldsun-ET
Dam: Glenalbas Shottle Evie-ET
Breeder: J H & C J Gardiner, Vic.
Exhibitor: Luke Gardiner, Vic.



2nd: Winwood Diamondback Bae

Sire: Mr D Apple Diamondback
Dam: Rockstar Armani
 Bambam-IMP-ET
Breeder: Mal R Nikora, Vic.
Exhibitor: Mal R Nikora and K
 Bleijendaal



3rd: Clydevale Piston Sunsmart

Sire: Clydevale Contrast Piston-
 ET
Dam: Clydevale Solomon
 Sunspot-ET
Breeder: Clydevale Holsteins Pty
 Ltd ATF Dee Family Trust, Vic.
Exhibitor: Clydevale Holsteins
 Pty Ltd ATF Dee Family Trust, Vic.

4th: Beclah Park ND Memories; Beclah Park Holsteins, Vic.
5th: Gorbro Diamondback Darling-ET; R K & J R Gordon, Vic.
6th: Evergreen Doorman Alicia 2-ET; Kit Davidson, NSW

JUDGES' COMMENTS

A very balanced heifer won the class, a heifer that we all liked for her dairy strength and squareness of frame. We placed her over the reserve because she was more correct through her front end and displayed more depth through her mid-section. In placing the reserve over honourable mention; we found the reserve to have more length and depth of body.

ALL-AUSTRALIAN HOLSTEIN YOUTH CALF



1st: Clydevale Piston Sunsmart

Sire: Clydevale Contrast Piston-ET
Dam: Clydevale Solomon Sunspot-ET
Breeder: Clydevale Holsteins Pty Ltd ATF Dee Family Trust, Vic.
Exhibitor: Clydevale Holsteins Pty Ltd ATF Dee Family Trust, Vic.
Handler: Hannah Dee



2nd: Edge Chill Alice

Sire: Crasdale Chill-ET
Dam: Edge Addiction Alice
Breeder: Edge Holsteins, SA
Exhibitor: Edge Holsteins, SA
Handler: Angus Fraser



3rd: Beclah Park ND Memories

Sire: Beclah Park Nonis
 Dempsey-ET
Dam: Beclah Park Dreamweaver
 Memories
Breeder: Beclah Park Holsteins,
 Vic.
Exhibitor: Beclah Park
 Holsteins, Vic.
Handler: Kaitlyn Joyce

4th: Gorbro Diamondback Darling-ET; R K & J R Gordon, Vic.; Luke
 Gardiner
5th: Mario Park Sidekick Alicia-ET; R K & J R Gordon, Vic.; Andrew
 McCrae
6th: Brindabella Doorman Cherrio; Jade & Scott Sieben, Vic.; Georgia
 Sieben

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Winning the class was a stylish, clean cut calf that showed the best dairy bone of all the finalists. She had an advantage over the reserve through her length and stretch of front end and depth of flank. In placing the reserve calf over the honourable mention calf, we gave an advantage to the reserve in her rump structure, she blended much nicer over her tail head and was noticeably more refined and cleaner boned.

Cow of the Year an outstanding all rounder

BY JON HOLLAND

Page House Shottle Noni EX-92-4E 11* 3xM 4xF 1xP LIFE 2 first created headlines in 2008 when Hill Valley's Roger and Helen Perrett paid \$33,000 for the Picston Shottle daughter at the Page House Holsteins dispersal of Andrew Jones. Twelve years later, Noni has again created headlines as Holstein Australia's Cow of the Year 2020.

Since her arrival at Hill Valley, Noni has remained in the spotlight. She has been a multiple On Farm Challenge winner, OFC State Champion, and two-time All-Australian. Four times she has competed on Australia's biggest dairy stage, International Dairy Week, winning her class at every outing. Twice Noni received an Honourable Mention, and twice she was crowned Champion. Her son Hill Valley Niels (NIELS) was returned to service as a popular sire at ABS Australia, while her female descendants have topped ABV charts, provided further bulls to AI, won classes at major shows, and continuously demanded top sale prices.

According to Breed Development and

Conformation Committee (BDCC)

Chairperson Jenny Grey, Noni was a worthy winner of the prestigious title.

"The Cow of the Year should be the pinnacle of the Holstein breed – a cow all breeders should aspire to," Jenny said. "Noni is just that – an all-rounder, performing well over all the things that make a great cow. She is a very correct cow and a marvellous production cow. She's been a very fertile and successful flush and IVF cow and has been a great promotional cow for the Perretts with sales of her progeny having added real value to their bottom line."

As a passionate breeder herself, Jenny was also taken by the obvious passion the Perrett family had towards their famous cow. "Noni has the notoriety, but it's more than that. The grandkids love her and can pick her out from the herd. She is part of the Perrett's family and a great example of the relationship and love between a farmer and their cows."

Assisting the BDCC panel in their selection were two guest judges, Master Breeder David Johnston, Segenhoe Holsteins, and industry representative Dale Bryce from

Premier Genetics and Livestock Solutions.

Dale was quite overwhelmed by the quality of the nominees and their enviable list of accomplishments. Describing Noni as the total package, Dale was particularly impressed by Noni's show career and her impact on the Australian Holstein breed.

"Noni achieved the ultimate as a show cow, but also excelled in breeding the next generation," he said. "She is an amazing cow that has done so much for the breed. She really deserves to be put on a pedestal."

David remembers being in Camperdown in 2008 to witness Noni top the Page House dispersal and has followed her career ever since. "Noni is a cow that has proven her value over time," he said. "Her Excellent classification is evidence of the quality of her conformation, and her achievements in the showing highlighted that as well."

David also emphasised the importance of her lifetime record of 88,000 litres. However, for him it was the performance of her progeny that gave her the advantage over the remaining finalists.



Hill Valley Holsteins' Cow of the Year, Page House Shottle Noni EX-92-4E 11* 3xM 4xF 1xP LIFE 2. Left to right: Carley & Tim Perrett with Charlotte & Lincoln, Melissa Perrett, and Helen & Roger Perrett.

"Noni had such a large number of successful progeny," he said. "That was most important to me because it showed how her traits were transferring through her progeny."

While David found the quality of the entries a challenge to separate, the opportunity to discuss the incredible achievements of each cow with the rest of the panel made the experience very rewarding. "This competition illustrates the great capability of our breed to produce, to reproduce and to last," he said. "It is really a 20 year process that requires a great cow under great management. It is a testament to a lifetime's work for the cow and the breeder."

International headliner

The Noni family first grabbed national headlines in the late 1990s when Fernyhurst Raider Noni VG85 5* 2xM 2xF 2xP knocked the mighty Hill Valley Mascot Alice VG88 from the No.1 ASI position. Even today Raider Noni boasts an ASI +387 and BPI +309!

Bred in the Brisbane Valley by Max and Elaine Spring, Raider Noni produced a top production record of 11,394 litres, 414 kg protein, 472 kg fat with a PI 189 in 305 days, and was Reserve Intermediate Champion at the QLD State Feature Show in 1996. Her dam, Fernyhurst Tab Nona VG87 STP 6* 1xM 1xF 4xP LIFE 4 was Junior Champion at Lowood Show in 1993, exceeding 100,000 litres lifetime from nine lactations, while her grand dam, Judel L.F.K Nona VG88 STP 2* LIFE 3 produced 80,000 litres from 12 lactations.

Andrew Jones purchased a daughter of Raider Noni by Startmore Rudolph



Holstein Australia Cow of the Year 2020 – Page House Shottle Noni EX-92-4E 11* 3xM 4xF 1xP LIFE 2, breeder Andrew Jones, owner Roger and Helen Perrett, Hill Valley Holsteins, Kongwak, Victoria.

as an in-calf heifer, before moving from Queensland's Atherton Tablelands to Victoria's south west. Combining the trademark Noni high components and the longevity of Rudolph, Fernyhurst Rudolph Noni EX-91-3E 8* 1xF LIFE 2 completed nine lactations, exceeding 81,000 litres and 6,000 kg milk solids. She became a prolific bull dam, and along with many high VG daughters, she produced two Excellent daughters, Page House LS Noni EX-90-1E and Page House Morty Noni-ET EX-90-3E 11* 2xM 2xF 2xP LIFE 1 – the dam of Shottle Noni.

"We'd been following the rise of the Noni family for quite some time," Roger said. "They'd consistently showed big production figures and high components,

and managed to top the charts while using a lot of high type bulls."

Roger saw Noni as an opportunity to purchase something quite unique. She was the first Australian milking daughter of the 'hot bull' of the time Shottle, and her pedigree had an appealing sire stack of Stouder Morty, Hanoverhill Raider, Startmore Rudolph and Kingstead Valiant Tab.

"It was really a combination of the strength of her genetics, the strength of her cow family, and good timing," Roger said. "It was one of the highest prices paid for a cow at that time, but she was a VG 2-year-old from a well-proven cow family with a lot of index behind her, so she was somewhat a known quantity."



Four generations of Nonis at Hill Valley: Holstein Australia Cow of the Year 2020 Page House Shottle Noni EX-92-4E 11* 3xM 4xF 1xP LIFE 2 BPI+111, Hill Valley Planet Noni-ET EX-91-1E 5* 1xM 1xF BPI(g)+286, Hill Valley Uno Noni 2-ET EX-90-1E BPI(g)+313, Hill Valley Door U Noni-VG87 BPI+116.

Australian Holstein Cow Family

Her price tag and pedigree drew a string of visitors to Hill Valley looking to see the Perrett's newest investment. Noni had developed through her first lactation, and a number of breeders encouraged Roger to get her to International Dairy Week.

"Not in our wildest dreams did we actually buy her to show," Roger said. "But she had developed a lot, and we thought we'd get her into the ring and see what she could do."

Having previously only shown dry heifers at IDW, the Perretts called on fitters Stu and Bec Robinson to prepare Noni as a milker. The hype surrounding Noni each time she arrived at Tatura was immense, often drawing crowds of on-lookers to simply watch her being clipped. "Stu and Bec really think the world of her," Roger said. "They have really enjoyed working with her and sharing in her success."

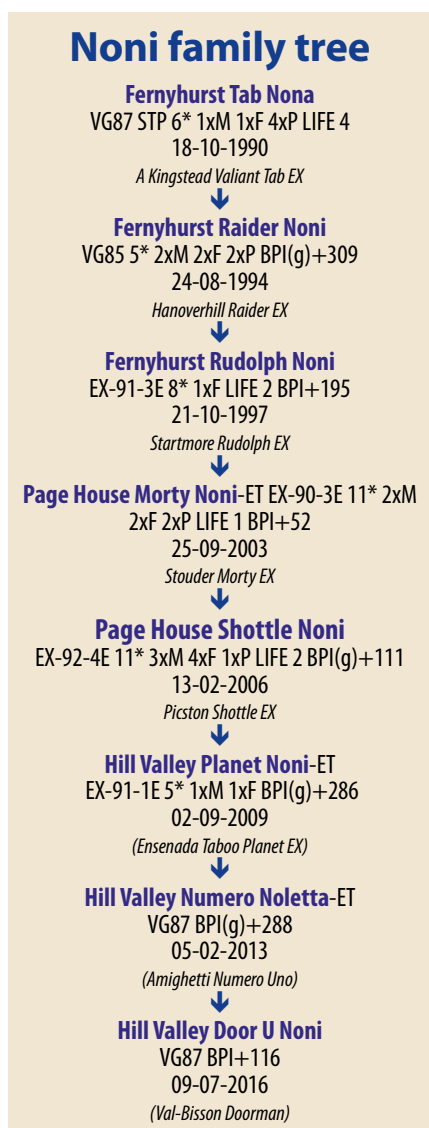
As Noni's IDW success grew, so did her admirers across Australia and overseas, including international offers, and Holstein International using her picture as a feature cover. "Dairy Week was huge for us," Roger said. "Her win really put Hill Valley on the map. Before then we were known just for high ABV cows – it really set the scene for us going forward."

Hill Valley

Hill Valley is a family operation, based at Kongwak in southern Gippsland. Roger and Helen, with their son Tim and wife Carley, and grandchildren Charlotte and Lincoln, manage 320 hectares across two farms, milking 500 cows, with a mix of 60% Holstein and 40% Jersey. Roger and Helen's daughter Melissa is also involved with the pedigrees and showing side of the business and works off farm as a local vet nurse.

Since the late 1990s, the Master Breeder herd has consistently featured among Australia's top ABVs, at one point boasting over 50% of the top ABV cows in the country. Dominating the charts for much of this period were members of the Alice family, founded on the former Australian No.1 ASI cow, and 2006 Holstein Australia Cow of the Year winner, Hill Valley Mascot Alice VG88 30*.

The herd has multiple breeding objectives, with some lines bred to high production and genomic sires, while other lines are bred with more attention on type. "With our breeding program, we're trying to



combine the best of genomics, production and type," Roger said. "At the same time we like to keep diversity among different cow family branches, trying to capitalise on different marketing opportunities."

While regular flush programs continue to play a major part in the development of the Noni family, Roger is also keen to use the latest technologies and advancements in genomic testing and IVF.

"We've often received comments from the vets around Noni's remarkable fertility," Roger said proudly. "The conception rates and vitality of her embryos, be it ET or IVF, is exceptional."

Even at 14 years of age, Noni has four new IVF heifer calves born over the last few months, with another twelve IVF pregnancies due early 2021.

Show-winning bull mothers

Noni entered her first flush program within

a week of arriving at Hill Valley in 2008, beginning with the new international protein specialist, and outcross sire Ensenada Taboo Planet. The result was three daughters and one bull, Hill Valley Niels (NIELS) BPI+73. NIELS graduated as a proven sire at ABS Australia, known for his daughter's desirable dairy strength, sound udders and extreme fat yields.

One of the daughters, Hill Valley Planet Noni 2-ET VG85, was syndicated to the Semex Spectacular Sale at IDW in 2010, selling for \$17,000, while Hill Valley Planet Noni 3-ET VG87 remained at the Perretts, with a top lactation exceeding 700 kg milk solids, a PI 124, and lifetime record of 52,000 litres. She also produced the Sea-Gull Bay Supersire son, Hill Valley SS Nardoo (NARDOO) who became a very popular genomic young sire at Genetics Australia.

The eldest daughter of the flush (by 6 days) was Hill Valley Planet Noni-ET EX-91-1E 5* 1xM 1xF. Boasting a BPI+286, and scoring EX-94 for dairy strength and EX-93 mammary, Planet Noni became the standout of the flush.

"Planet Noni got a lot of attention from breeders and the AI industry," Roger said. "She was one of the first cows to be tested for genomics and came up really well on Australia's ASI (Australian Selection Index) and the US TPI (Total Performance Index)."

Planet Noni has consistently held her position within the top 20-30 ABV cows in the country, placed highly on multiple occasions at IDW, and in 2014, Master Breeder Pam Malcolm named her Champion Cow in the OFC for South Gippsland. "Planet Noni brought a lot of new enthusiasm around bull dams," Roger said. "She proved that a bull mother could still be a show cow, and a show cow could still be a bull mother."

Her most successful flush was as a 2-year-old to the young genomic breakthrough sire Amighetti Numero Uno. Hill Valley Uno Noni 4-ET 1* was sold as a 3-month-old calf for \$15,000 at the Perrett's 'Best of the Best' Sale in May 2013, to Dean and Di Malcolm, Blue Chip Genetics.

Hill Valley Uno Noni 2-ET EX-90-1E BPI(g)+313 scored VG as a 2-year-old, and reached the No.1 BPI position in the country. "Uno Noni 2 is one of our favourites," Roger says. "She is a great cow with a great udder and a great temperament." Uno Noni 2 has an exciting

Peak Fortnite-ET
Positive X Frazzled X Montross

FORTNITE

ULTRA
SEXED



Miss OCD Robst Delicious

+2973
GTPI

+835
NM\$

+349
BPI

FORTNITE was heavily used as a Sire of Sons exclusively in the PEAK Program for 2019.

A2/A2, moderate stature, slopes rumps, improves udders and outcross
backed by the genetic powerhouse of Miss OCD Robst Delicious!



Agri-Gene Pty Ltd

Ph: 03 5722 2666 Fax: 03 5722 2777
Email: info@agrigene.com.au www.agrigene.com.au



Australian Holstein Cow Family



Hill Valley Uno Noni 2-ET EX-90-1E BPI(g)+313.



Hill Valley Door U Noni VG87 BPI+116.

2-year-old daughter by S-S-I Modesty Pizzaz in milk, and will calve again in June 2021, carrying a highly anticipated pregnancy to sexed Delta Lambda.

The makings of a marvellous cow

The third Uno daughter from the flush, and Roger's personal favourite is Hill Valley Numero Noleta-ET VG87. "Noleta is a marvellous cow," he says. "She's something pretty special. Great type, great temperament, great production – just so much potential."

Scoring VG87 as a junior 2-year-old, with EX-91 for dairy strength, Noleta won her class in the South Gippsland OFC with her sister Uno Noni 2 in second. Noleta's genomic proof sits at BPI(g)+288 with +107 for Overall Mammary and 105 Overall Type, and she has a top production record to date of 700 kg milk solids in 305 days with a PI 124.

Noleta's daughter by Val-Bisson Doorman, Hill Valley Door U Noni VG87 is considered to be the next rising star at Hill Valley. Carrying many of her famous grand dam's qualities and personality traits, she is a young cow that Roger is very excited about.

"She's a cow that really hits you in the eyeballs," he says proudly. You can see so much of the Shottle in her markings, her frame and udder, and her marvellous temperament. She really has the makings of a marvellous cow."

There is great excitement surrounding Door U Noni's sexed pregnancy due May 2021. She's in calf to one of the hottest udder and TPI bulls in North America, Delta Lambda. "Lambda is the no.1 bull in Canada for type and production – we can't wait to see the result!"

HJ

Page House Shottle Noni EX-92-4E Show achievements

- 1st 2½ years in-milk, Western Districts On Farm Challenge 2008
Reserve Champion 2 year old, Victorian State OFC Finals 2008
- 1st 2½ years in-milk, International Dairy Week 2009
Reserve Intermediate Champion Holstein, International Dairy Week 2009
- 1st 3½ years in-milk, International Dairy Week 2010
Intermediate Champion Holstein, International Dairy Week 2010
- 1st Holstein Australia, All-Australian 3 year-old 2010
- 1st 5 years South Gippsland On Farm Challenge 2011
Champion Cow, Victorian State OFC Finals 2011
- 1st 6 years in-milk, International Dairy Week 2012
Supreme Champion Holstein, International Dairy Week 2012
- 1st Holstein Australia, All-Australian 5 year-old 2012
- 1st 7 years in-milk, International Dairy Week 2013
Honourable Mention Senior Holstein, International Dairy Week 2013



Hill Valley Planet Noni-ET EX-91-1E 5* 1xM 1xF BPI(g)+286.

Polled goals improve animal welfare

There's one farm job Paul Condon loves to get done early. For him, the sooner it's completed, the better. It gives him more time for other jobs, but most importantly he has better animal welfare outcomes.

"The mantra I use is that I dehorn at conception," the NSW dairy farmer explained.

"Every animal that's born on farm has an opportunity to be polled, either with PP bulls (true polled bulls) or single P (polled carrier bulls). They all have an opportunity to be polled."

The quest to breed polled cattle started 10 years ago when Paul discovered a book titled *Dairying in Australia*. It was written in 1950 and had a chapter which said, "the best dehorner was a polled bull". Intrigued, Paul began investigating polled animals.

Now, the Condon's milking herd is about

Polled genes in Australian dairy cattle:

True polled: PP – homozygous dominant

Poll carrier: Pp – heterozygous

Horned: pp – homozygous recessive

75% polled while about 90% of the entire herd – including young stock – is either a true polled or polled carrier.

Paul, his wife Maxine and parents Frank and Carol operate Sea Breeze Holsteins at Gerroa, south of Wollongong in NSW. They milk 110-120 registered Holsteins year-round.

When the Condons first started breeding for polled animals there were only two polled Holsteins sires available on the Australian semen market.

"When I started looking for bulls they (the breeding and herd improvement industry) didn't know much about polled and what bulls were available. Now you will find all AI companies have a fairly good handle on polled," Paul said.

"There was a time when I knew every polled bull in Australian ... I can't keep up now, there are so many available."

In the August 2020 Australian Breeding Value (ABV) release there were more than 110 polled Holstein bulls with DataGene's Good Bulls status.

Breeding animals without horns has been one of the Condon family's primary objectives.

Initially, Paul selectively mated individual cows to polled sires but as the range of polled bulls increased, he expanded his use of the genetics.

Now sexed semen for true polled



Paul Condon and his daughter Molly with two of Sea Breeze Holsteins early polled progeny in 2014.

(homozygous) bulls is used across most of the herd and maiden heifers to increase the number of polled females bred.

Carryover cows get joined to dairy-beef semen.

Surplus heifers are generally sold to the export market, however, there's been some interest in polled heifers on the domestic market.

"We did have one sale to a breeder who specifically wanted polled," Paul said. "We sold a line of heifers to him."

Occasionally the Condons use horned bulls to mate certain cows, because of their other favourable breeding characteristics, but this hasn't affected the number of polled animals in the herd.

Dominant polled gene

Mating a horned bull to a true polled cow or heifer still produces a polled calf because the polled gene is dominant.

Paul does not believe his breeding has ever been disadvantaged by using polled bulls.

"There's an old saying 'all cows have got a mother, it is not just the sire,'" he said.

"I haven't suffered anything from fertility, production or type from using polled

bulls, I have strong cow families and have confidence in them."

The herd averages about 6,500 litres/ cow/lactation from a dryland pasture diet sourced from a 32 ha milking platform and a protein pellet ration of 6 kg/day/cow.

Calf management has become easier since using polled genetics. Nine in 10 calves are born polled, reducing the need for disbudding.

"I think it is obviously an advantage from the animal welfare side of things; polled is a natural state," Paul said.

"That's the thing about the polled gene – it is a dominate gene, it's been around for a while in modern cattle. The polled trait goes back to the early 1900s in North America, where they have records for it, and before that it goes right back to Holland."

Polled genetics has also delivered another benefit to the Sea Breeze herd – a dash of colour.

"There are a lot of Red Holsteins in polled genetics," Paul said. "Once I bred one of those (Red Holsteins) I got a bit of bug and now we have a few red and white Holsteins."

Paul uses DNA testing (genomics) to check

the polled status of animals – whether they are true polled or a polled carrier. The test is also a registration requirement for identifying true polled dairy cattle.

Specific breeding goals

Starting the polled journey, Paul set some specific breeding goals.

The first was to breed the polled gene into each of the Sea Breeze Holstein cow families.

"I did that pretty quickly, especially when I was using PP (true polled) bulls because it's a dominate gene," he said.

"Then my next goal was to breed homozygous (true polled) cows, and that's not that easy to do. I've got a few at the moment and a heap that are possible homozygous that I haven't tested."

The final goal is to breed a polled Holstein that is classified as 'excellent' by the breed society. With a few carrying a Very Good (VG) classification – just behind the excellent classification – he's hoping the next step isn't too far away.

HJ

More info: DataGene fact sheet 20: Breeding polled cattle (available on www.datagene.com.au).



To increase the number of polled females bred, Paul Condon uses sexed semen for true polled bulls across most of the herd and maiden heifers.



Truxton MGD:
Clear-Echo Missouri 3541-ET EX-90

TRUXTON **A2A2** AVAILABLE 4M SEXED

250HO15117 CLEAR-ECHO TAHITI TRUXTON-ET
TAHITI X BANDARES X MISSOURI

- 340 BPI AND +2838 TPI
- +2.37 FOR UDDER COMPOSITE
- +1031 FOR MILK
- POSITIVE FOR COMPONENTS
- BALANCED SIRE WITH GOOD HEALTH TRAITS AND LOW CALVING EASE

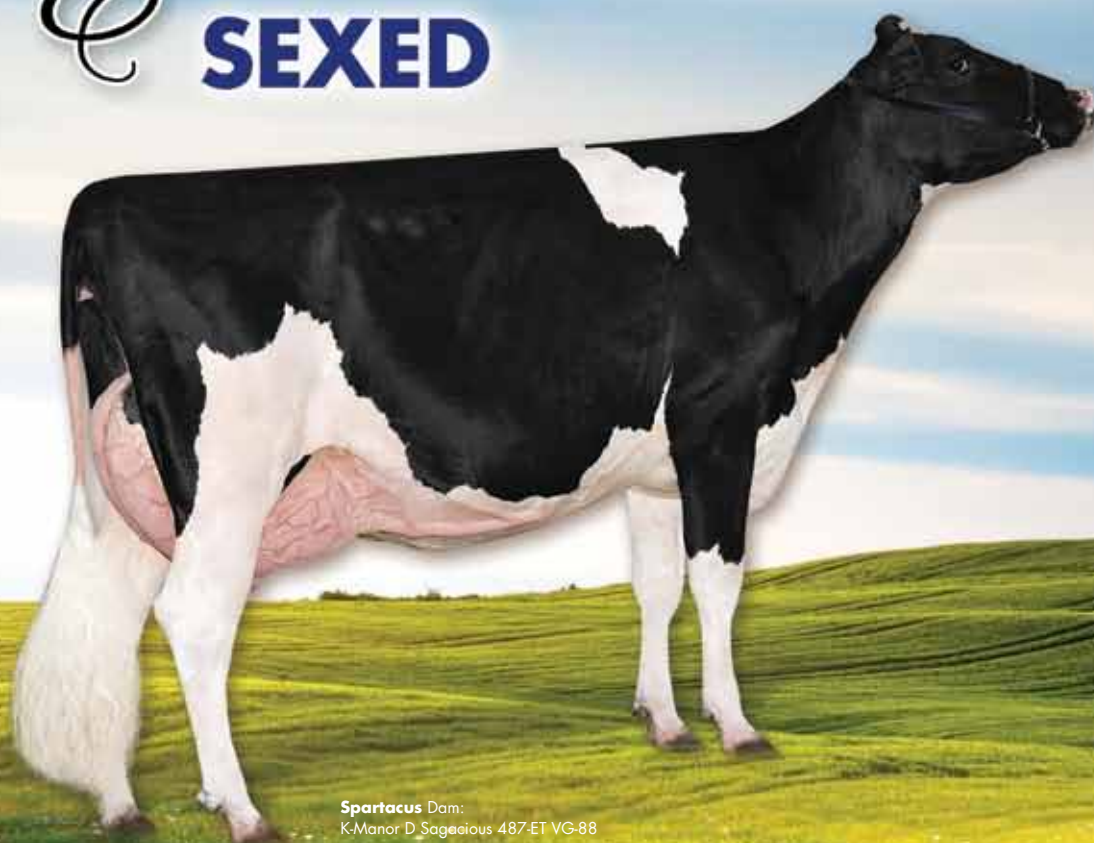
SPARTACUS **A2A2**

7HO14674 K-STYLE TARINO SPARTACUS-ET
TARRINO X DELTA X EPIC

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- OPEN RIBBED DAIRY COWS
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New project to deliver boost to genomics results

The Australian dairy industry will halve the time it takes to return animal genomic tests to farmers as part of a new project to assist on-farm breeding decisions.

A collaboration between DataGene and Dairy Australia, the Accelerating Genomics Project will also bolster genomics education and make it easier for farmers to capitalise on the benefits of DNA testing, particularly for females.

DataGene project leader, Michelle Axford, said improvements in the genomic testing process would have practical on-farm productivity benefits.

"Having a more complete set of genomic results quicker means farmers can make decisions early," she said.

"If you are going to genomically test animals, you may as well do this while they are still drinking milk. When you get the results, you can make the decisions about who's in the gate and who is not before the calves have been weaned."

Using genomics for early management decisions, such as identifying low genetic merit heifers, can minimise mistakes such as selling the 'wrong' animal, based solely on its appearance or date of birth.

It also ensures the best animals are reared as replacements and enter the milking herd, a proven way to increase a herd's genetic gain.

The project involves significant investment in enhancing DataGene's genetic evaluation system and a communication and extension campaign to support farmers in getting started and using the results.

Dr Stephanie Bullen, Dairy Australia Lead in Animal Health and Fertility said genomic testing of females had the potential for a quantum leap in genetic improvement in dairy herds.

Genetic gain is permanent and compounds every year and the genetic merit of the Australian herd has improved continually in the 30 years since Australian Breeding Values were introduced (see graph).

"In the past, most of that gain in Australian dairy herds has come from the use of better AI sires to breed replacements. Genomic testing your heifer calves allows you to accurately identify your best replacements and make more targeted management and mating decisions. It also allows you to fast-track gains in traits of importance to you, for example with fertility being one example," Stephanie said.

The first stage of the project is to improve the turnaround time for genomic test results.

Michelle Axford said that in Australia the current turnaround time for genomic results can be up to eight weeks.

"When you look around the world best practice is less than four weeks, she said.

System improvements

Speeding up Australia's turnaround time involves a number of system improvements that are in development with expected delivery over the coming nine months.

One example includes automatic corrections where the computer identifies

a pedigree mistake through DNA patterns and the technology finds the other errors and fixes them, for clients who want this service.

Another important step is the weekly release of genomic information replacing the monthly data dump where herd test centres will be able to feed information daily to DataGene.

"Whatever information is put in that day from a farm, a genomic service provider can use that night," Michelle said.

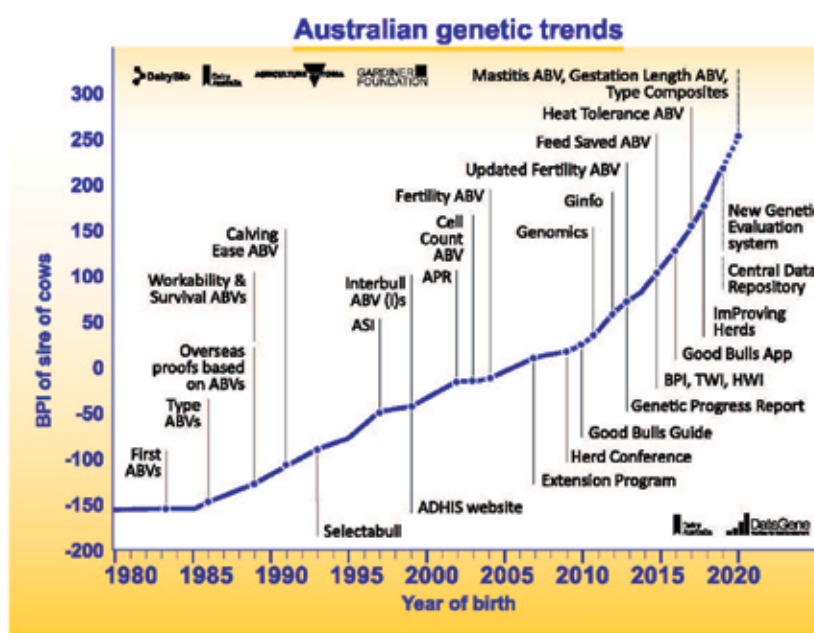
"For example, a calf born today can be entered in farm software and the dairy industry's Central Data Repository knows about it that night. That information will be available to initiate a test tomorrow or as soon as the sample arrives from the genomic lab. This avoids waiting for the next monthly dump of data."

Improvements in the efficiencies of the Australian genomic pipeline will speed-up results for both male and female animals.

For more information on the Accelerating Genomics Project contact:

Michelle Axford maxford@datagene.com.au
or Stephanie Bullen stephanie.bullen@dairyaustralia.com.au.

HJ



Genomic testing of sires has fast tracked the rate of genetic gain.

Kevin Max Young OAM

19/6/1930 – 29/9/2020

The South Australian Holstein community recently farewelled Kevin Young, Glenmar Holsteins, aged 90.

Kevin and Margaret Young established Glenmar Holsteins



in 1966 with females from Alby Gurney, Alvon Stud, Rendelsham and bulls from the Glenjoy Stud of Michael and Glenda Rathjen, Springton. In 1969 the family relocated to Glencoe West.

Kevin and Margaret joined the Holstein-Friesian Association of Australia in 1965, and Kevin became more actively involved in the South East sub-branch at a Committee level from 1969 to 1981. He was the sub-branch Secretary from 1971 to 1989 and an association representative on the Mt Gambier A&H Society Committee from 1975 to 1984. Kevin was awarded SA State Life Membership of the Holstein-Friesian Association of Australia in 2000.

In 1988, Kevin and Margaret retired from the farm and moved to Millicent. His son, Adrian, with his wife Sue, took over the farm. It is currently owned and managed by his granddaughter Angela and her husband Ben Tweddle, Benlargo Holsteins.

Kevin loved sport. Football, cricket and golf were his passions. Kevin was recognised as a Life Member of the Glencoe Football Club in 1962 and the Glencoe Cricket Club in 1972. His commitment to the Millicent Golf Club was acknowledged with Life Membership in 2002. He was awarded Life Membership of the Lower South East Veteran Golfers Association in 1996. His commitment to golf at a local and state-level also saw Kevin receive an Australian Centenary Sports Medal in 2000, Centenary Medal in 2001 and an Order of Australia Medal in 2006.

Geoff Hore

The Hore family (Elmar Holsteins, North-West Victoria), announced the passing of Geoff Hore on 10 November, aged 83.

He was the loved husband of Rosa for 60 years; father and father-in-law to Dean and Dianne, Shane and Andrea, Steven and Deanne, and Tony; and pop to 12 grandchildren.

Geoff's life and passion were farming. Holstein cattle and stud pigs became his love.

Geoff and Rosa continued on from Geoff's parents in 1960, with Elmar. Elsie and Martin began 'Elmar' in the late 1920s at Leitchville, Victoria. Geoff had an interest in not only breeding and showing cattle, but also governance of the Holstein Society. Geoff worked through the sub-branches of Northern and North West, and was Victorian Branch President 1989-91. Geoff also served on the Federal Council for nine years. Geoff was awarded life membership of Victorian Branch and received his Master Breeder Award in 1998.

Geoff and Rosa enjoyed the many friendships the cattle fraternity provided them. The family have many great memories and stories to share for years to come.

Alex Fraser

4/12/33-12/10/20

Farming was Alex's life and he strived to maximise what could be achieved. He quickly learnt that cattle breeding and improving the herd was key to improved milk supply and better stock values.



From the mid-'60s the small farm milked up to 50 cows with select cattle breeding and hay sales supporting the business. Alex pursued additional leased land in and around Seville, Victoria, to support the farm as a business. He saw the benefits of herd improvement and certifying (through the Holstein Friesian Association) his herd.

Alex was heavily involved in the Holstein Friesian Association, becoming Australian President, representing the dairy community while pushing for improved cattle genetics. Alex was one of the first dairy farmers to use embryo transplants.

A highlight was showing the cattle, peaking with 11 head at the 1981 Royal Melbourne Show. This was a big logistics effort – the cattle were required to stay for the full 10 days of the show – and someone still had to run the farm.

Alex loved opera music which ultimately led him to meet the talented singer, Claire. They married in 1965 and built a home on the property in 1972. Alex and Claire stretched themselves to develop both the herd and the farm – installing

infrastructure and purchasing top cattle. While the herd was being consolidated Alex took local contracting work and cattle buying jobs.

Alex was still making hay at 84. Even in December last year, he sat in the farm house texting grandson Aaron on which paddocks had to be raked first.

In the background of hard work was always music and horse racing. Alex LOVED horse racing – not the horses, not the breeding, not the industry – only the horse that got past the post first. He loved punting and had history of form dating back decades.

Information supplied by Geoff and Craig Fraser.

John Bevan

The Atherton Tableland community lost one of its quiet achievers when John Bevan (Bevandale Holsteins) was laid to rest on 9 October 2020.

John, who had received a Master Breeder award in 2016, was proud of this achievement and wore the badge on his work hat. He cherished the award so much John was laid to rest with his Master Breeder badge and award.



No doubt his lasting legacy is the marvellous job he has done in raising his eight children – Henry, Kate, Amy, Simon, Lucy, Justin, Aila and Tara.

When his wife Cherie passed away almost 11 years ago, their youngest, Tara, was only six months old and Aila just a few years more. With the support of the other children, John set about raising the family.

No matter what endeavour 'Team Bevan' was involved in – academic, sporting and the accomplishments of the Bevandale cattle – John was always in the background, quietly encouraging all of his children.

John had called 'Bevandale' home for all of his 63 years. He had first worked on the farm with his father and after marrying Cherie in 1993, they set about developing the property to the high standard it is today. John was never frightened to invest in the asset and took great pride in the farm's presentation.

HJ



The Points Boss Iron Marg EX 93-4E.

17 years old and still calving

A 17½-year-old Holstein cow has calved again after being retired off in a paddock full of bulls.

The Points Boss Iron Marg EX 93-4E – nicknamed Old Meggsie – is currently on her 15th lactation after calving in spring.

Victorian owners and Master Breeders Ian and Karen McKie from The Points Holsteins decided to retire Meggsie soon after she had been dried off and placed her in the paddock with the farm's bulls.

When it came to pre-testing time, Ian and Karen decided on a whim that to test her along with the other cows.

"She's been around forever and we decided we'd retire her out in the paddock; we thought she's not going to cycle again so we put her in with the bulls and lo and

behold she was pregnant! We couldn't believe it!" said Karen.

"Old Meggsie comes from a line of long-lasting cows; she is well balanced and has longevity and that's the type of cow we always aim to breed."

Old Meggsie is a STP Gold award-winning cow who often still travels with the herd, has an incredible cell count of 20,000 and is still milking about 30 litres a day.

Ian McKie said Megsie had made a huge financial contribution to the business. "She would have made approximately \$50,000 worth of milk let alone her calves and offspring. She would have milked around 120,000 litres or more in her lifetime."

Old Meggsie has calved 15 times

in 17 years and has two daughters, six granddaughters, two great-granddaughters and one great-great-granddaughter who are currently milking.

Ian and Karen have invested time and effort into registration, embryo transfer (ET), corrective mating and have prioritised type, production and nutritional feeding to achieve their breeding goals.

Holstein Australia's Services Extension Officer Simon Adams has been working with The Points Holsteins to assist them with their registrations.

"To have 15 lactations is a damn mighty effort; there aren't many cows that have more than 10 lactations. It's a tremendous effort to calve that many times and still be under 100,000 BMCC. That's incredible." **HJ**

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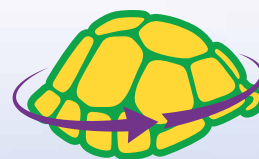
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Advertising material (finished artwork): Thursday 11 February

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DESCRIPTION

MINAZEL PLUS is the latest advance in mycotoxin binding. It's unique EU patented technology product is based on organic modification of mineral zeolite (clinoptilolite) surface, effective against polar and non-polar mycotoxins. Efficiency is characterised by rapid adsorption of the product after contact with the mycotoxin and at different pH values throughout the digestive tract.



ADVANTAGES

- ✓ **EFFECTIVE** – Unsurpassed binding of all mycotoxins versus other brands – result of unique patented technology.
- ✓ **FAST** – acts and adsorbs broad spectrum of mycotoxins quickly.
- ✓ **EFFICIENT** – product adsorption is stable in different parts of intestinal tract (different pH levels) without significant levels of desorption = **superior binding efficiency**.
- ✓ **SELECTIVE** – MINAZEL PLUS targets mycotoxins. Does not bind vitamins, minerals, amino acids, or micronutrients.
- ✓ **AFFORDABLE** – proven **cost-effective** in dairy cows under various climatic conditions (Australia and overseas).



USE

- ✓ 1-2 kg per tonne of feed depending on mycotoxin challenge, or
- ✓ Same inclusion rate as current mycotoxin binder at less cost and best binding efficiency.



ACTION

- ✓ Effective against mycotoxins from forage or grain sources.

MINAZEL PLUS - Adsorption speed



BINDING EFFICIENCY

- ✓ Effective against a broad spectrum of mycotoxins (data on file):

Mycotoxins	% Adsorption at pH 3.0 (high values required)		% Desorption at pH 6.5 (low values required)		Binding Efficiency (high values required)	
	Brands A-C	Minazel +	Brands A-C	Minazel +	Brands A-C	Minazel +
AB1 - Aflatoxin	54.2 - 100	100	0 - 0.1	0	54.2 - 100	100
FB1 - Fumonisin	24.8 - 92.5	91.4	22.9 - 95.7	2.9	1.1 - 45.6	88.7
T-2	7.1 - 21.1	69.1	25.0 - 61.6	0	3.2 - 8.1	69.1
ZEN - Zearalenone	54.8 - 63.2	87.1	10.4 - 16.7	2.0	45.6 - 56.6	85.4
OTA Ochratoxin A	54.9 - 84.4	83.8	33.7 - 48.9	3.9	36.4 - 43.1	80.5
Ergot Alkaloids	no data	98.0	no data	0.2	no data	97.8



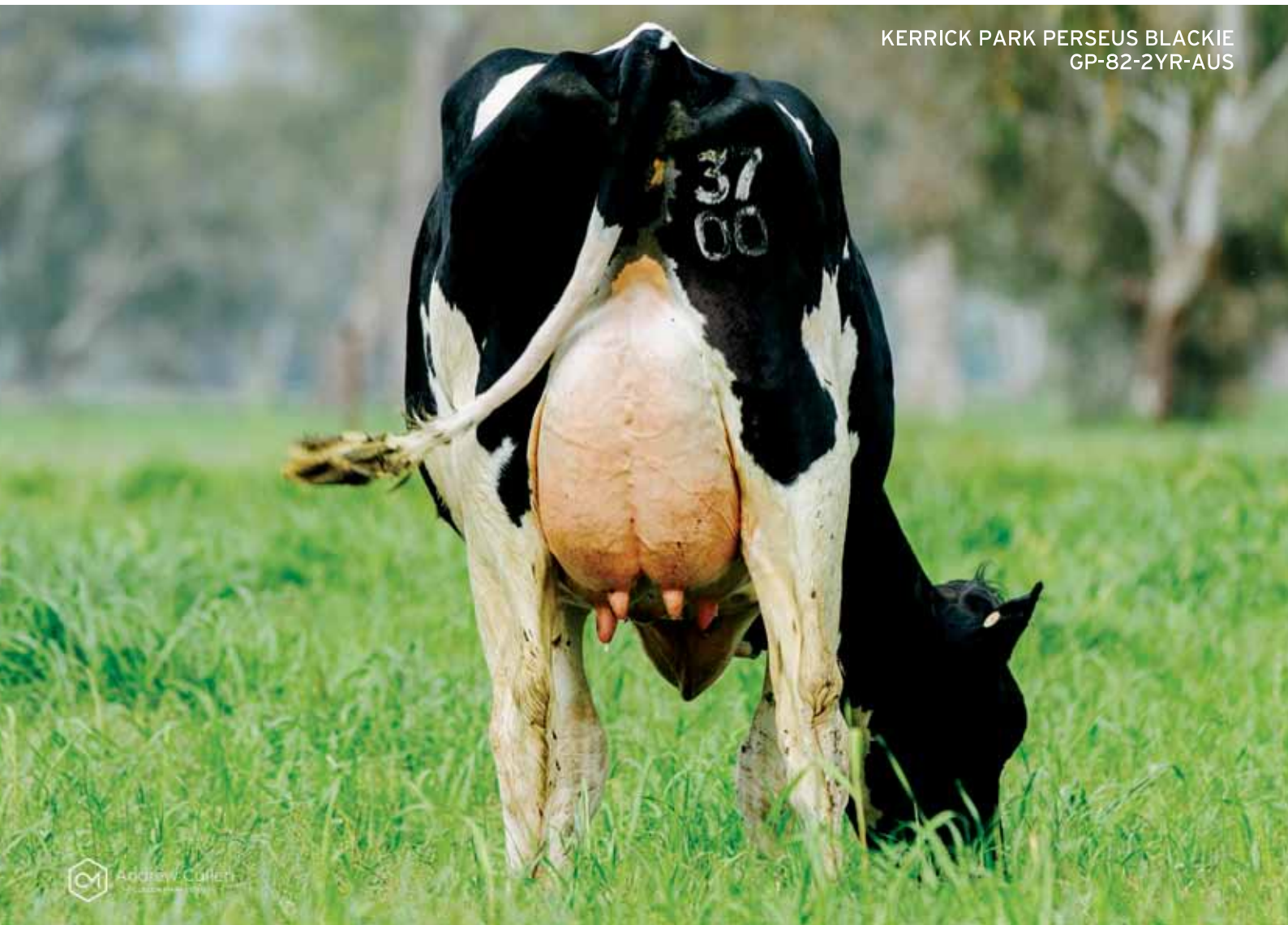
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CALVING EASE



ROBOT READY



A2A2



GOOD BULLS
GUIDE

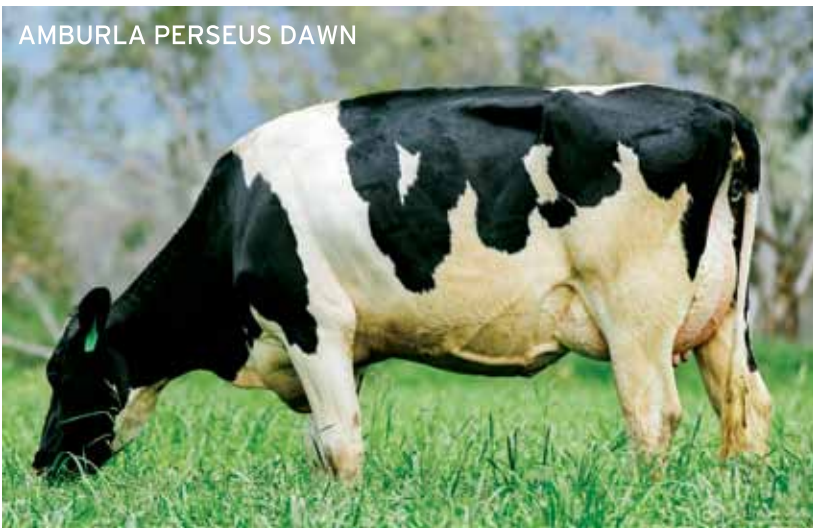


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