

## Article for Dairy Digest Newspaper – March 2009

### 25<sup>th</sup> NSW Ayrshire Calf Show -A great milestone

In September of last year, the NSW Branch of Ayrshire Australia celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their annual Calf Show. The Ayrshire breed has long been known for its longevity and its breeders their dedication to the promotion of the breed and its youth movement. With the longest running state breed Calf Show, what better way to display that devotion than staging 25 consecutive shows since its inception back in 1984. It has always been well supported and many successful days of showing had with entries often reaching over 80 head.

Hurlstone Agricultural High School, Glenfield, once again provided a fabulous venue. The first calf day was held there at a school fair day, and has not looked back since. While many of the original four legged participants have long since moved onto greener pastures, the long time breeders and supporters of the breeds' youth movement joined the current band of breeders and enthusiasts to put on a day worthy of celebration. With more than nine exhibitors travelling from as far away as Nimmitabel and Gooloogong and more locally from the South Coast, Camden and of course Hurlstone, the standard of entries on the day was exceptional. With all classes well-supported competition in both junior and senior sections proved strong, testing judge, former Hurlstone Ag High Herd Manager, Robert Dolman. Four Champion ribbons were awarded on the day with the winners being:

- **Junior Champion Heifer:** *Paschendaele Renaissance* – Eagles Partnership, Gooloogong
- **Reserve Junior Heifer:** *Mayfield Farm Solair* – Vicki Smart & Paul Timbs, Jaspers Brush
- **Senior Champion Heifer:** *Paschendaele GB Bellissima* – Eagles Partnership, Gooloogong
- **Reserve Senior Heifer:** *Paschendaele Trinity* - Eagles Partnership, Gooloogong

Proving the quality of animals paraded before the judge on the day, the Junior and Reserve Junior Champions would later go onto to battle for the Junior Championship award at International Dairy Week, Tatura, Victoria. This time victory would go to Mayfield Farms Solair in a reversal of the calf day placing. (For a full wrap of the Ayrshire Show at Dairy Week catch the article below).



Photo Source: S. Gordon

**“A beautiful line up of under 3 month old heifers parading for judge Robert Dolman”**

Another important part of the breed promotion is the development of the youth involved in the many of the aspects of the industry. The annual Calf Show highlights the importance and need for a day like this to improve many of the vital skills necessary for a successful and long-term association with the industry. Two of the major paths ahead of many young breed enthusiasts these days are judging and preparation of a show team. The NSW Branch is keen to enhance its young breeders skills recently running a 2 day judging school and with the inclusion of classes in the Show

Schedule for Junior and Senior judging as well as Best Prepared Animal they get their chance to improve their skills and knowledge and show just what they have learned.

With the serious side of the competition done and dusted, the day ended with the inclusion of some new novelty classes. Patience and toes were tested with the Under 6 years Tiny Tots Paraders, weird and wacky costumes worn in the Best Dressed Calf and some serious games of tug-o-war with a Junior and Senior Obstacle course. Once again the day proved a huge success and with 25 years gone and looking forward to another 25, congratulations to all involved. We hope to see all of you and many more next year.



Photo Source: V. Smart

**“Some of our young breed enthusiasts in the Best Dressed Calf Novelty Class.”**



## Ayrshires Shine at International Dairy Week, 2009

International Dairy Week has long been regarded as the pinnacle of Dairy Cattle shows in the Southern Hemisphere. For the Ayrshire Breed the 2009 IDW Ayrshire Feature was no exception. With entries this year exceeding 80 head and 22 exhibitors some say it rivalled the best ever seen. It was a fabulous display of the breed and a great testament to its breeders and loyal supporters. With temperatures above 40 degrees on judging day it was a credit to the exhibitors to prepare and parade their cattle. Many exhibitors travelled vast distances and many hours from localities in New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria, with the hope of competing for a ribbon.

With over 27 entries in the Junior Section, the competition was hot with place getters from all states vying for that illusive championship. Success was sweet for two New South Wales breeders with the **Junior Champion Heifer** award going to Mayfield Farms Solair owned and exhibited by *Vicki Smart & Paul Timbs, Jaspers Brush* and the **Reserve Junior Champion**, Paschendaele Renaissance owned and exhibited by *Eagles Partnership, Gooloogong*.

In the Intermediate Section the awards were travelling home to South Australia with **Intermediate Champion** going to Geelunga Admiral Tracey owned and exhibited by *Geelunga Ayrshires, Echunga, SA* and to Victoria with the **Reserve Intermediate Champion** being awarded to locally owned and exhibited heifer Midway Park Butter Magic, *RW & LL McCartney of Tatura*.

It was in the Cow classes that the competition exceeded all expectations with 25 fabulous Ayrshire cows all exhibiting the wonderful traits that make the Ayrshire breed the ideal dairy cow. With 13 entries in the aged cow class alone, many onlookers commented it was the best class of Ayrshire cows seen at IDW for a long time. With the Champion and Reserve Champion cows coming from this over 6 year old class it only proves that the breed has a valuable asset in longevity that is a true testament to the breed. Once again the grand old cow, Geelunga Tri Star, owned and exhibited by *Geelunga Ayrshires, Echunga, SA* was triumphant in winning her 3<sup>rd</sup> Champion cow award at IDW, while Werombi Trident Grace, owned and exhibited by *B & M Hayter, Werombi, NSW* took home the **Reserve Champion Cow** award.



Photo source: Crazycow

**“Some say the line up of aged cows was one of the best brought before a judge at IDW.”**

It was no surprise when Tri Star was awarded the Supreme Champion Exhibit Award and Judge David Stalker from New Zealand said the Ayrshire show was one of the strongest he had seen at International Dairy Week in the 10 to 12 years he had attended the show. “She is a great cow. Everyone aims to breed cows that last as many lactations. She has definitely stood the test of time.”



Photo source: Crazycow

**Champion Cow for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time “Geelunga Tristar” paraded by Jessica Bailey (nee Edmonds) sashed by David Mayo, Semex Australia.**

Tuesday night brought the IDW Protein Breeds Sale to the forefront of breeders minds with 10 lots going under auctioneer Brian Leslie’s hammer. All lots were of outstanding quality with some pedigrees boasting three generations of excellent (EX) cows behind them. Top priced lot was Glenfield Raker Hilda (\$4,600.00) who earlier in the day placed 1<sup>st</sup> in her class. She was sold to J. Bailey to make her new home in Echunga, South Australia. The sale averaged \$3,444.00 (second top sale average for the five protein breeds) for the 9 lots sold at auction and was a very fitting conclusion to a wonderful exhibition of the Ayrshire Breed. Congratulations to all involved in a wonderful show and to many more entries next year.

Just a brief reminder to all interested the Australian Ayrshire Breeders Association (AABA) is holding a Fanfare Sale in conjunction with Dairy Livestock Service in Glenormiston on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2009. For more information see the DLS website at [www.dairylivestockservices.com.au](http://www.dairylivestockservices.com.au).