



# AYRSHIRE AUSTRALIA LTD

## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2009

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### **Letter from the Federal President, Mr Greg Edmonds**

To All Ayrshire Breeders and Friends,

Once again I find myself writing to you with the Australian Dairy Industry at another crossroads. After receiving record prices for our milk in the 07/08 year things came with a quick and unexpected jolt at the start of 2009. Fortunately, many of our members are lucky enough to be in a contract with their dairy company and some are reporting record payments for March & April. On the reverse side any of our breeders supplying the Victorian companies have had more than a 30% drop in their milk price. On the bright side feed & fuel costs have dropped a little from the previous year to help just a little.

### **Memberships & Registrations**

I must congratulate you all on the great result that Ayrshire Australia has had with our memberships and registrations this year. Memberships are currently up from the same time last year while registrations have more than doubled. It appears that we have had a few of our breeders start registering their cattle again after not having done so for a while, along with some new members. We welcome you to our organisation. It is a pleasing result and we must all remember that proceeds from memberships & registration are the only income that the Federal Body receives to run Ayrshire Australia.

### **International Dairy Week**

Once again IDW was a great success and it has become the showcase for our Ayrshire Breed. I must congratulate everyone who exhibited, for the effort that they had put in, travelling from all over Australia, making the show such a wonderful display of Ayrshire cattle. Many have made comment that it was the best display of Ayrshire cattle ever seen in Australia. Its comments like these that show us that we are breeding the type of cow that can compete and be successful in the Australian Dairy industry.

The bar-b-que tea that was held during IDW was also a great success with over 70 Ayrshire breeders & friends attending. It certainly makes an ideal venue to present the All Australian Photo & Production Awards.

Once again we say a big thank you to Mike Perry and his family for all the effort they put in organising, preparing and cooking the meal. The Victorian, NSW & SA branches all contributed financially towards the cost of the tea to make it a free night for everyone.

The sale held on Tuesday night was a huge success with the 9 lots averaging \$3400. We hope that we can be included in the sale again next year so I ask you all to look at your heifers and pick out a good one for 2010.

### **A.A.B.A. Amalgamation Talks**

Since the last newsletter we have received from the AABA a letter regarding a number of points that they were concerned about and needed to be addressed by Ayrshire Australia regarding the amalgamation of our two groups. Federal Council has replied to the questions that were asked and we are now waiting for a reply from the AABA, which should be after their meeting in May at the Fanfare Sale. One point that has been brought to my attention is that as reported in our last newsletter I stated that a vote by the members of the AABA had been taken, with the result being that they are in favour of an amalgamation of our two breed groups. I have been informed that the AABA members have only voted to have talks with us regarding amalgamation and it wasn't actually a vote for amalgamation.

Hopefully after the AABA meeting in May we can continue to move ahead with a positive outcome in joining our two Ayrshire groups for a stronger, united Ayrshire breed. It is hoped that once we get together we can again start printing an Ayrshire Bulletin/Journal. If anyone has any questions regarding our talks please feel free to contact me at any time.

### **All Australian Photo Competition and Production Awards**

Well done to all who made the effort and entered our competitions in 2008. I congratulated all the winners at the presentation at IDW. The All Australian Photo competition was outstanding with all the overseas judges commenting on the quality of our cattle. NSW breeders definitely showed the way winning all the classes in the Photo Competition.

### **E-Mail Address**

I am still trying to get all your e-mail addresses. If you have an e-mail address and haven't forwarded it to me yet could you please send it to - [geelunga@adam.com.au](mailto:geelunga@adam.com.au)  
Please also let me know if you would like the newsletter e-mailed to you.

Regards,  
Greg Edmonds

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## **INFORMATION FROM THE LIVESTOCK & BUSINESS CENTRE, KIAMA**

**AYRSHIRE AUSTRALIA WEB SITE:** The web site is now up and running with online pedigree searches available as well as online registrations. The address is [www.lbcentre.com.au](http://www.lbcentre.com.au) and click on "Ayrshire" in order to access this facility and any other online facility you will need to be an online member. The latest subject to go online is our photo competition results. Check out the web site if you have any news to share please contact the office on 02 4232 3333 or email [kerren@lbcentre.com.au](mailto:kerren@lbcentre.com.au).

In order to become an online member if you haven't already done so log on to the above address "pretend" to be a "new member", just ignore the prompt for payment. Once this is done the web site will send the information to us and I will update your details and send you an email with your password.

Livestock and Business Centre are offering members of the Ayrshire Society special rates for advertising on our web page. For a small add (business card size) or to have a link to your web site it is \$22.00 per year. If you would like a full page advertisement and link to your web site that will be \$110.00 per year. Send all information to Kerren at [kerren@lbcentre.com.au](mailto:kerren@lbcentre.com.au) or phone 02 4232 3333. If you need help with formatting your advertisement we can supply help with this as well.

**CREDIT CARD FACILITIES:** Our Secretary, Livestock and Business Centre, now has credit card facilities to allow us to pay our memberships, registrations, transfers etc over the phone, online or by simply returning the completed slip enclosed with your credit card details. This facility will make online registrations and membership applications simpler yet again!

### **National ID's and ADHIS**

The problem with National ID's needs to be addressed it is an ongoing problem that the society has had for some time and at this stage information is not getting through to ADHIS because members are still not informing the office of the animals National ID's when registering their cattle and then the office is issuing a second National ID. Therefore when your animals are classified and the information send to ADHIS they are unable to find which animal has been classified because two National ID's have been issued for the same animal.

This matter needs to be addressed urgently members need to contact their herd recording centre and ask for a list of National ID's for all their herd recorded animals and this list needs to be sent into The Centre as soon as possible so that your records can be updated. Until this happens incorrect information will continue to be sent to ADHIS. If you have any questions about this please don't hesitate to contact either your branch secretary or the office.

## AYRSHIRE FEES JANUARY 2009

<b>Registrations:</b>	Under 12 months	\$ 9.90
	12 months and over	\$14.30

The fee to register Appendix animals is the same as other entries (under 6 months) with no late penalties.

**Transfers** \$2.20 plus 2% sales levy. Total = \$11.00 minimum

<b>Membership</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>New</b>
QLD, TAS	\$ 88.00	\$71.50
SA	\$ 99.00	\$77.00
VIC	\$104.50	\$79.75
NSW	\$110.00	\$82.50

(The Federal Council Levy is \$55.00; any new members pay only half of the state levy)

Herd Books are available for \$11.00 each.

### **Associate Memberships**

(pay half of the Federal Levy and half of the State Levy, get the journal, cannot register animals or vote)

QLD, TAS	\$44.00
SA	\$49.50
VIC	\$52.25
NSW	\$55.00

### **Junior Memberships (20 years and under)**

(pay half of the State Levy, get journal, can register up to 4 animals per year, no voting rights)

QLD, TAS	\$16.50
SA	\$22.00
VIC	\$00.00
NSW	\$27.50

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## NSW BRANCH NEWS

- The NSW Branch of Ayrshire Australia will holding their on farm Herds Competition during the month of July with Stuart & Tricia McCraw from Victoria accepting to judge the competition. Their expedition will take them from Finley in the south, thru the Central West, the South Coast, Camden and as far north as Coraki (near Lismore). Good luck to all competitors.
- The NSW Branch will be holding their Annual General Meetings on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 from 10 in Camden. The meetings will co-incide with the Presentation of Awards for the Herds Competition.
- For the 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the NSW Branch will be holding its annual Calf Show. This year the show will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> at there long serving location; Hurlstone Agricultural High School.

## 2008 ALL AUSTRALIAN PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION RESULTS

For possibly only the second time since the competition's inception all the winners of the All Australian awards were entries from New South Wales. Congratulations to all entries.

Class	All Australian	Reserve All Australian	Honorable Mention
Heifer under 2yrs dry	Regal Park Shiver DJ & SM Mayo	Paschendaele Bonnie Brae Blossom Eagles Partnership	Roland Lodge Corny Canobie Partnership
Heifer under 3yrs	Regal Park Vicki's Surprise V. Smart & P. Timbs	Geelonga Admiral Tracey G W Edmonds	Boldview Armadilla Boldview Farms
Cow 3-5 years	Regal Park Shower DJ & SM Mayo	Paschendaele Stella Tee Too Eagles Partnership	Paschendaele Daisy Kate Eagles Partnership
Cow 5yrs & over	Paschendaele Triple Spice Eagles Partnership	Kalinda Stardust Jake Mathews	Pineville BW Faith PJ & SM Graham
Group of three cows	Eagles Partnership	Boldview Farms	Eagles Partnership
Youth Competition	Ashley Mayo Mayfield Farm Rosae	Jessica Eagles Paschendaele Lovely Sapphire	Amy Hayter Werombi Kellogg Twinker
Farm Scene	"Paschendaele Ayrshires" Eagles Partnership	"Mat-Jew-Lay Ayrshires" M & L Luck	"Geelonga Ayrshires" G W Edmonds

### 2008 COW OF THE YEAR

**"Auchenflower E L Pride"**

AJ & SE Ludwig  
31542 points

### 2008 NATIONAL PRODUCTION CHALLENGE

Section	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
<b>Section A: Herd Average Highest Total Butterfat + Protein</b>	AJ & SE Ludwig 18 head – 458kgs	Eagles Partnership 88 head – 415kgs	Boldview Farms 206 head – 409kgs
<b>Section B: Team of 10 Cows Highest Total Butterfat and Protein</b>	Eagles Partnership 5800 kgs	Boldview Farms 5644 kgs	AJ & SE Ludwig 4960 kgs
<b>Section C: Cow 2yrs Highest Total Butterfat + Protein</b>	Boldview Tri Rosella 497 kgs Boldview Farms	Char-Bar Tri Dreamex 435 kgs Boldview Farms	Boldview Paella Harmony – 433 kgs Boldview Farms
<b>Section D: Cow 3yrs Highest Total Butterfat + Protein</b>	Boldview Priscilla Rip 514 kgs Boldview Farms	Paschendaele Dixies Pride – 502 kgs Eagles Partnership	Boldview Admiral Gold & Boldview Tassy Sandra – 486 kgs Boldview Farms
<b>Section E: Cow 4 – 9 yrs Highest Total Butterfat + Protein</b>	Auchenflower EL Pride 769 kgs AJ & SE Ludwig	Roland Lodge Titanic Trixie – 743 kgs M & L Luck	Eden Holme Retake Bangle – 710 kgs LA & LM Giglia
<b>Section F: Cow 10 yrs &amp; over Highest Total Butterfat + Protein</b>	Boldview Heligo's Monolopy 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 532 kgs Boldview Farms	Marble Bar Bonnie Lass 497 kgs Boldview Farms	Ayrlands Milky Tea 464 kgs Boldview Farms

**INTERNATIONAL DAIRY WEEK – January 2009**

**Judge: Mr David Stalker, New Zealand**

Class	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Exhibited By	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Exhibited By	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Exhibited By
<b>Heifer born on or after 1/7/08:</b>	Torgannah Joyous Rose Teitz, Hentschke & Schultz	Midway Park Spunky RW & LL McCartney	Amarula Nolan Cob Anderson & Harrop
<b>Heifer born 1/1/08—30/6/08:</b>	Mayfield Farms Solair V Smart & P Timbs	Paschendaele Renaissance Eagles Partnership	Mayfield Farms Roxette V Smart & P Timbs
<b>Heifer born 1/707-31/12/07:</b>	Roland Lodge Corny Canobie Partnership	Magic Park Maid of Ice Robyn McFee	Paschendaele GB Bellissima Eagles P'Ship
<b>Heifer dry born 1/1/07-30/6/07:</b>	Paschendaele Gentle Harmony – Eagles P'Ship	Wattle Park Duchess RW & LL McCartney	Tasman Lodge Fiesta GP Crowden
<b>Heifer dry born 1/7/06-31/12/06:</b>	Glenfield Raker Hilda A Taylor	Overdale Royal Deli Malebo Pastoral Co.	Jaden Wiltons Moira GA & LJ Klatt
	<b>JUNIOR CHAMPION</b> Mayfield Farms Solair	<b>RESERVE. JUN CHAMP:</b> Paschendaele Renaissance	<b>HON. MENTION:</b> Roland Lodge Corny
<b>Heifer, 2 yrs in milk</b>	Paschendaele Bonnie Brae Blossom – Eagles P'Ship	Blackwood Grove BBN Satin 2 H Bawden & C Bawden	Werombi Vale Kates Lady B & M Hayter
<b>Heifer, 2 1/2 yrs in milk:</b>	Rockvale Conn Bangle MI & JR Hyland	Ben-E-Geez Wilton Beautiful BG Hentschke	Magic Park Conn's Fairytale Robyn McFee
<b>Heifer, 3 yrs in milk:</b>	Geelunga Admiral Tracey Geelunga Ayrshires	Midway Park Butter Magic RW & LL McCartney	Paschendaele Tri It With Spice – Eagles P'Ship
	<b>INTERMEDIATE CHAMP:</b> Geelunga Admiral Tracey	<b>RES. INTERM. CHAMP:</b> Midway Park Butter Magic	<b>HON. MENTION:</b> Pasche. Bonnie Brae Blossom
<b>Cow 4yrs in milk:</b>	Midway Park Lucky Spirit RW & LL McCartney	Rockvale Laser Lorna MI & JR Hyland	Overdale Ice Gin Malebo Pastoral Co.
<b>Cow 5yrs in milk:</b>	Enterprise Iceman Rose MJ & LR Hentschke	Enterprise Pardners Rose MJ & LR Hentschke	Magic Park Ice Maiden Robyn McFee
<b>Cow 6yrs &amp; over in milk:</b>	Geelunga Tri Star Geelunga Ayrshires	Werombi Trident Grace B & M Hayter	Roland Lodge Titanic Kelloggs Anderson & Harrop
<b>Senior Udder:</b> Enterprise Iceman Rose	<b>SENIOR CHAMPION</b> Geelunga Tri Star	<b>RES. SENIOR. CHAMP:</b> Werombi Trident Grace	<b>HON. MENTION:</b> Enterprise Iceman Rose
	<b>SUPREME CHAMPION</b> <b>AYRSHIRE EXHIBIT</b> Geelunga Tri Star	<b>Premier Exhibitor</b> Eagles Partnership	<b>Premier Breeder</b> Eagles Partnership

**SYDNEY ROYAL SHOW—April 2009**

**Judge: Mr Greg Edmonds S.A.**

Exhibited By	Exhibited By	Exhibited By
<b>JUVENILE CHAMPION</b> Liddel Pardner Rose RJ, HE & SN Cole	<b>RESERVE JUVENILE CHAMPION</b> Mayfield Farms Solair Vicki Smart & Paul Timbs	<b>HONORABLE MENTION</b> Paschendaele GB Bellissima Eagles Partnership
<b>JUNIOR CHAMPION</b> Paschendaele Trident Rose Eagles Partnership	<b>RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION</b> Pasch. Bonnie Brae Blossom Eagles Partnership	<b>HONORABLE MENTION</b> Hurlstone Fabiola Rose Hurlstone Ag High School
<b>BEST JUNIOR UDDER</b> Paschendaele Trident Rose	<b>BEST SENIOR UDDER</b> Woodburn Park Delilah	
<b>SENIOR CHAMPION</b> Regal Park Vicki's Surprise Vicki Smart & Paul Timbs	<b>RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION</b> Werombi Trident Grace R & M Hayter & Sons	<b>HONORABLE MENTION</b> Overdale Bam Anna Eagles Partnership
<b>Most Successful Exhibitor</b> Eagles Partnership		<b>Most Successful Breeder</b> R & M Hayter & Sons

## Sydney Royal Youth Program

*'The future starts here'*

*Report by Kellie Cooke*

The Semex All Breeds Dairy Youth Challenge was again held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and attracted over 70 young participants and almost 25 sponsors. The competition attracted a total of 9 teams including a team who had specifically travelled from Victoria to compete.

The challenge consists of 3 disciplines – clipping, parading and judging. The clipping section this year used heifers from Hurlstone Agricultural High School working to both promote the plight of the HAHS sale and also the Ayrshire breed. Organizers had catered for 8 teams but due to an overwhelming response had to find an additional animal that was not clipped for the clipping section, bringing in a milking Guernsey (the team preparing this animal was placed first at IDW and so were quite capable of handling the extra task!). Generally the teams are comprised by the organizers to ensure that teams are even in ability and also to provide an opportunity for participants to mix and meet new people. Judges of the event are always young keen dairy people who have competed in similar events themselves and are role models for the next generation. The judges this year were Mr. Brad Gavenlock (NSW) and Ms Lisa Thompson (TAS); Lisa commented after the event that “this is the best dairy youth event in Australia.”

The RAS Dairy Youth Committee also revamped its youth clinic and this year invited Mr. Dean Malcolm of Crazycow to give a presentation on ‘Shows of the World’ featuring World Dairy Expo (USA) and the Royal Winter Fair (Canada). Again we experienced an overwhelming response with over 65 participants tuning into the presentation. The presentation was interactive and provided participants with an opportunity to talk frankly and also question Dean on all aspects of showing.

The RAS Dairy Youth Committee is committed to the future of the industry and is now looking forward to the 2010 show!

The eventual winning team of the perpetual Bruce Moxey Trophy in a close placing was the South Coast Dairy Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> was the South Coast Holstein team and 3<sup>rd</sup> went to the Victorian team. The 2 Holstein International encouragement awards were awarded to Tom Pearce (Bega) and Kayla Bradley (VIC).



L-R front row: Brad Gavenlock, David Ninness (announcer and Semex Rep), Jess Monteith, Tim Bendesy, Grace Pardoe, Cassie McDonald, Bruce Moxey, Lisa Thompson  
L-R back row: Dale McMillan, Mel Bendesy, Tom Pearce

## 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AYRSHIRE FANFARE SALE

The Australian Ayrshire Breeders Association recently staged their Fanfare Sale again at the Glenormiston College. Breeders from throughout Victoria, SA, NSW and WA sold a great line-up of quality Ayrshire to buyers from 3 States. **Sale top** of **\$4700.00** was paid for the outstanding young cow, **Boldview Romeo Fashion**, this show winner sold to L McInnes of Gorae West and was a/c Boldview Farms of Jervois SA. Next best price of **\$3800** was the outstanding joined heifer **Geelunga Raker Tweed** a/c of Greg Edmonds, Echunga SA to Anderson & Harrop of Simpson. Third top seller at **\$3200** was **Jaden Wiltons Majestic** a top young cow a/c G & L Klatt of SA selling to Masada Dairies of Boorcan.

Selling Agents Dairy Livestock Services report the following details:

8 Young Cows avg \$2162

15 Joined Heifers avg \$1547

1 Calf \$550

1 Embryo Package \$3600

**25 Ayrshires Gross \$44,650.00 Average \$1786.00**

### Results 18th Annual Calf Day – Tasmanian Branch AAL

**8th Feb 2009 Judge: Rachael Radford**

Class	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Exhibited By Sired By	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Exhibited By Sired By	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Exhibited By Sired By
<b>Class 1: Heifer Born April/May</b>	Gordella AW Bee K and K Haberle Gordella Alota Willy	Craigville Nolan Kristy Johns Family Bonnie Brae Nolan	
<b>Class 2: Heifer Born June/July</b>	Burnlea Amber B Margetts Meikle Laught Triple Crown	Craigville Heligo Ruby Johns Family Bonnie Brae Heligo	Burnlea Ann B Margetts Burnlea Danny
<b>Class 3: Heifer Born August</b>	Gordella Journey To Paris K and K Haberle Yellow Briar Journeyman	Burnlea Venus B Margetts Elizadale Nolan	Winlea Pearls Michelle A Taylor Elizadale Crown Michael
<b>Class 4: Heifer Born September</b>	Winlea Two Part A Taylor Elizadale Crown Michael	Winlea One Part A Taylor Elizadale Crown Michael	Gordella Robyns Journey K and K Haberle Yellow Briar Journeyman
<b>Class 5: Heifer Born October/November</b>	Burnlea Bell B Margetts Elizadale Nolan	Mat-Jew-Lay SL Mariska M and L Luck Blackwood Grove Silk Lord ET	Mat-Jew-Lay BBN Satin M and L Luck Bonnie Brae Nolan
<b>Class 6: Pair Heifers Any Age</b>	B Margetts	Johns Family	K and K Haberle
<b>CHAMPION BULL</b>	Craigville Nolan Malcolm Johns Family Bonnie Brae Nolan	Gordella BBN Kris K and K Haberle Bonnie Brae Nolan	Gordella Tin Man K and K Haberle Yellow Briar Journeyman
<b>CHAMPION HEIFER</b>	GORDELLA JOURNEY TO PARIS K AND K HABERLE Yellow Briar Journeyman		
<b>RESERVE CHAMPION HEIFER</b>	BURNLEA AMBER B MARGETTS Meikle Laught Triple Crown		

# Dairy farmers turn to Ayrshire cattle

## Dairy farmers are turning to the traditional Ayrshire, a beautiful beast with a bountiful nature.

(The following article was published in the UK with reference to Duncan Hunter, who is one of the UK's leading Ayrshire breeders at this time. – Greg Edmonds)

"Bella has big brown eyes that would melt your heart. She recently made her cinema debut as an extra in *Son of Rambow*, some scenes of which were filmed in the lanes and fields of Hertfordshire. But it is not on account of her film-star qualities that I am casting a lingering, devotional eye across her silky smooth flanks today. Rather it is because Bella is Duncan Hunter's pride and joy, a prize-winning Ayrshire dairy cow, and as fine a stamp of beast as you'll find anywhere in the county.

Her head may be small and pretty, and her legs short, but from shoulder to tail, she's built like a tank. "This is what I call the engine room," says Hunter, running his hand over her rib area. "The bigger the engine room, the greater the forage intake and, therefore, the more milk she can produce." Her bone structure has such density and openness that I can place my flattened palm between each rib, a sound visual indicator of her yield potential.

Bella will be calving in a few weeks. It will be her seventh lactation, and her capacious udder has swelled to such proportions that it hangs below her hocks. She produces an average of more than 12,000 litres each year, and at the showpiece Dairy Event at Stoneleigh in 2006, she won the Interbreed Champion prize.

In truth, high-yielding cows are no rarity in modern dairying, and my interest also arises from Bella, as an Ayrshire, representing something more than just a four-legged milking machine. Instead, she stands for a hardier, more traditional type of animal that has long been out of favour, and only now is the circle of farming fashion swinging back towards her once more.

Hunter is the third generation of his family to keep Ayrshire's on the farm. His grandfather founded the herd just outside Stranraer, in Scotland in the 1920s, and when he hired a train to move the entire farm's assets – cows, horses, tractors, the pram and "everything that wasn't bolted to the ground" – to Berkhamsted in 1960, it made newspaper headlines.

But while Ayrshire cattle had taken well enough to new mechanised milking systems, and their milk quality was still good, a "black and white revolution" – the importation of high-yielding Friesian and Holstein cattle from the continent – was making these old Scottish beasties look dated. Even staunch loyalists like the Hunters eventually started to breed from Holsteins, and by the time Duncan Hunter took up the reins in 1994, the herd was split 50-50 between black and white cows and Ayrshires. "The thing is, you didn't want to get left behind," he explains. "Yields had become so high with the Holsteins that every farmer was under pressure to produce as much milk as possible."

The changing nature of the milk market and current economic pressures – rising fuel and feed prices and farm gate returns that, in spite of recent rises, still don't reflect production costs – have caused many farmers to rethink their methods. Some have quit altogether. Hunter has given over a portion of this land to a livery yard. But most drastically of all, he has just sold all his Holsteins, reducing his herd size to 160 and placing all his faith in the Ayrshire's as the cows of the future.

Notwithstanding the productivity of a cow like Bella, he knows this will knock yields and income, but it could mean an easier life.

"High-yielding cows require high inputs in terms of extra feeding, and they are very labour-intensive to manage," he argues. "But to get staff to work in dairying these days is increasingly difficult. The hours are unsociable and we can't afford to pay much. You end up doing it all yourself. I have got a wife and four children. I don't see them very often and that has got to change. Having fewer cattle will hit my income, but it will improve my quality of life."



Ayrshire's will allow him to do this because their hardy, foraging natures mean, as Hunter puts it, "they will do things naturally", happily grazing outside for much of the year, rather than hovering miserably by the gate waiting to be brought in and fed costly, extra "buffer" feeds. A cow that is outside is less prone to mastitis, so vet bills will be lower. The fact that Ayrshire's live longer also means he will have a surplus of calves to sell off, rather than buying in expensive replacements. "This will be an extra income, rather than just relying on what we receive for the milk."

To understand the rugged independence of an Ayrshire cow is to recognise its Scottish origins, sure-footedly seeking out its meagre rations on the exposed terrain of the Lowlands. In the 19th century, the breed bore splendid horns as upstanding as a reindeer's, but although the doe-eyed look of some of Hunter's youngest calves is striking, the modern Ayrshire cow is a rather more handsome creature than the smaller, coarser specimens of those times.

Ayrshire's are so pleasing to the eye that many a farmer will buy one simply to adorn his pastures, or to have fun with in the show ring. They are still a minority breed across Britain, admits Hunter, though numbers are rising, and to see a large gathering of them here, congregating under the oak trees – their brown and white colours ranging in shades from deep brown, to sandy, to almost all white – is a rare, but gratifyingly pastoral sight. It's easy to see why Prince Charles keeps a herd of them on Highgrove estate. But this is unlikely to be mere sentiment. Their thrifty, versatility makes them popular with organic farmers, and they'll thrive in extreme conditions, from Scandinavian winters to the heat of Africa.

"The thing about cows is that they are there to earn my living. It's not about me having to work for them, which was what was happening before," says Hunter, who is convinced he will stick to them from now on. And he's alive to the irony that their return will mean history repeating itself. "We've dabbled in this and that here over the years, and now we're going back to where we started," he laughs."

Article source: [www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk)

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## World Ayrshire Youth Conference

By Kellie Cooke

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 8pm I boarded a flight that would lead me on one of the best experiences of my life, the flight arrived on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm and was headed for Montreal - Canada (via Japan and Detroit, that Monday was the longest day of my life!). I touched down in Montreal amidst thick French accents and was greeted by an outside temperature of -21<sup>0</sup>C. It was here I was met by Yves Charpentier, the national fieldsman for Ayrshire Canada. I spent the next 2 days on the road with Yves. Yves is employed by Ayrshire Canada and he is responsible for visiting every Ayrshire breeder annually and assisting them with registration, breeding, looking at bull daughters and generally ensuring they are happy with the Ayrshire breed – this includes looking after those who are new to the breed and supporting work being done in Finland and Sweden with the Ayrshire breed.

Whilst travelling with Yves I saw some spectacular countryside of Canada made all the more beautiful by the inches of snow that covered everything, the further we went into the Quebec the deeper the snow got but surprisingly it was not that cold – this they tell me is due to the low humidity, the coldest day I experienced other than my arrival was -14<sup>0</sup>C and was nicely bearable! In Quebec I was deep in French country, thankfully the majority of the people and restaurants we went to were bilingual, but most people just choose to speak to Yves in French who was very good at translating to me and excusing me as I was from Australia! In Quebec the average herd size is around 40 cows. The noticeable difference is that generally most of the farms I visited only had Ayrshires – they did not mix breeds. The farms in Quebec are incredible to see, while I thought I was prepared for what a tie stall would look like I can safely say it was still definitely a shock!

Now to the exciting part of my trip; the farms, from dawn till dark whilst I was with Yves were spent on farms. I must say none of the farmers we visited spoke very good English and I was left to the capable translation of Yves (every now and then I would pick up a bull name!) The first farm I was to visit was one of the largest I saw in Quebec, **Margot** was the herd and was home to a milking herd of 100 with around 240 cows in the barn, which included all the heifers and the dry cows. This herd had 11 excellent cows and over 50% of the herd were either VG or EX. This herd bred the well known bull **Margot Calimero** (Trident x Dropstad) -a sire I saw a lot of very nice typed calves by at WDE last year and also in Canada. Whilst Calimero's mother was no longer on the farm I did see his full sister and many, many calves, a key aspect to this farm was that there were a number of older cows 7-8 or older and they were surprisingly youthful.

Next stop was **Richard Drioun's - Janid** herd and while you might not recognize the stud name you might recognize the silky brown cow used by Semex when advertising Legace Ristourn (B Jurist x Trident). This farm milks 40 and was noted for having high production. On route to the next farm we stop at Yves' brother's farm that has housed Border Leicester sheep, they are pedigreed show winners and I can assure you it is very strange to see sheep in such small numbers and inside! The next farm is **Troupeau Ayrshires**; here we find the number 1 type Ayrshire in Canada. This herd milk 75 and the cows have very big frames and nice type. They were the best type herd in Canada around 10 years ago but have expanded numbers since then and are now looking again at improving type again.



**Capriolait Ayrshires** is a herd that has only been around since 2006, this young farmer entered the dairy industry in Quebec through a program that the milk company runs aimed to help 10 farmers enter the industry every year by giving them half of their quota (they have to buy the same amount), no other province in Canada has this program.

**Legace** - cows I had heard a lot about, late on my last day with Yves we visited this herd, this was the first time I had seen cows outside in the snow (heifers and dry cows only). It was here that I saw the **dam of Modern** and full/half sisters. This was a herd that lived up to my expectations and delivered some really nice typed cows, cows that had both production and longevity.

We departed Legace for the Ayrshire Canada national office in St Hyacinthe. Where I raided them for Ayrshire Canada journals, which are a good read for anyone who is interested! **St Hyacinthe** is the **home to the International Dairy Showcase**, this spring show is the biggest in terms of entry numbers for Ayrshires in Canada, and from here late on Wednesday night I arrived at the home of Robert Ness. The following day I spent the morning with **Linda Ness** who is the **Executive Director** of **Ayrshire Canada**, we visited the herd of the McCaig family,- Lashburn.

**Alex McCaig** had judged the NZ Dairy Event, where I worked for the Brookview team earlier in the year; unfortunately as the show was the week after IDW I fell asleep and didn't get to meet Alex and Judy. I can safely say I made up for that on their farm! This is close to if not the best herd I visited in Canada, with many current show winners standing in their stalls I felt very overwhelmed at the quality that stood before me! My pick of the herd at the time was **Mapleburn Shakers Skye**, a 4 year old Mapleburn Remington daughter, who is **classified VG 88**, stalled next to her was the **current Royal Winter Fair honourable mention- Faucher Medalist Mona sired by Saguenayenne Kate Medalist and classified Ex 93**, and these were only 2 of many to choose from. If ever you get the chance to head to Canada this farm is worth the visit, not only will you see great cows but also to meet a great family!

After **Lashburn** I was left in the capable hands of **Larry Ness** who showed me around the Ormstown area, he took me to a Maple syrup farm and I can safely say it wasn't what I expected! I had seen the crazy maze of plastic tubing coming out of trees whilst we had been driving around and it turns out this is how they harvest maple sap, it is then cooked (boiled down) into a concentrate which tastes absolutely nothing like the maple syrup we have in Australia. I learned that maple syrup is like wine – good and bad, ranges in colour, taste etc! At this point we were almost close enough to see the USA border and the snow had thinned quite significantly.

Whilst at the WDE last year one cow really took my fancy and I searched the sheds for hours in an attempt to find her up close to no avail. So visiting **Terrance Bank** was highly anticipated for me, as I would see this cow. The cow is **Blackadder Olympic Model (2 time RWF class winner)**, the wait had paid off, I actually got to pat her and see both daughters and bulls out of her and I even her mother. Larry Ness is also producing bulls that he markets worldwide I saw a couple of interesting additions from South Africa and in snowing and minus degree temperatures I saw some Australian expats in calf hutches outside. The calves were from **Werombi Dame Helena** by Brookview Casanova – an outcross to Canada – if you ever want to talk Ayrshire pedigrees and lineage than you must meet Larry Ness.

The following day I made my way – with the whole Ness family to Kemptville College (a campus of the University of Guelph), here there was an annual heifer sale – selling was a catalogue of Holsteins and the last lot in the catalogue was an Ayrshire and while she didn't sell last she definitely made a lasting impression. The summer yearling was a granddaughter of Olympic Model and sired by Faucher Loto out of a Wilton, this heifer topped the sale by a long way and made \$5000 selling to Holstein breeders in Alberta. The more I looked at this calf the more I needed to bring her home! The most interesting thing at this sale was that buyers had travelled from Wisconsin in the US and all over Canada to look at this Ayrshire heifer, the thing that blew me away was the large turnout of Ayrshire breeders that had come to the sale to 1 to support their breed and 2 to make sure the calf sold well (the Ness's travelled 2 hours just to make sure the Ayrshire breed was supported).



It was at the sale that I was exchanged into the hands of **Henri Hofer**. Henri is the **current President of Ayrshire Canada and Vice President of the World Ayrshire Federation**. I stayed with the Hofer family in Ontario for the remainder of my trip. They milk 100 Ayrshires in a free stall arrangement (much more common in Ontario as well as larger herd sizes), while fresh and close up cows are still in tie stalls while heifers are housed in a separate heifer facility on another part of the property. The farm crops all of its own hay, green feed and grain. Henri and his wife are immigrants from Switzerland as are a large percentage of the farmers in the Ontario region. Henri is an extremely passionate man and if you didn't believe in the Ayrshire breed before meeting him you will afterwards. **He is the brainchild of the youth conference** and hopes that through our participation we will lobby the world federation to run a similar youth event. Henri and his family toured me to a variety of farms (Holstein mostly) in the area before the other delegates started to arrive. On Sunday evening the majority of delegates arrived to be billeted with Ayrshire families for the start of the activities on Monday. We were joined by Jonathan Glentworth from NZ.

Monday morning saw us driving into freezing rain and by that I don't mean it was really cold I mean the rain actually froze on impact and created an ice shell on the car! We headed to a feed mill near Ottawa where we were met by the rest of the youth delegates. Delegates represented NZ, UK (Ireland), Denmark, Finland, USA, Sweden and Canadians representing the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario (South Africa pulled out at the last minute). At the mill we discussed the milling process, feed testing and regulations. From here we travelled to the Canadian Dairy Commission – the Dairy Commission controls all the milk in Canada, the regulated milk marketing system differs dramatically from Australia and anything I had heard of. It is called supply management, producers sell to their respective marketing board (which is mandatory) and the marketing board then sells it to the milk processors. While the marketing boards never actually take ownership of the milk they are responsible for the transport from farmer to processor. Processors cannot buy their milk directly from the farmer even cheese makers need permission from the commission to purchase 1 litre of milk! The milk price in Canada was very good the industry is difficult to enter however due to the high cost of quota.

Next stop was Parliament Hill home of the Canadian Federal Parliament. Anne Boswell met us and acted as our tour guide of the parliament building including the Peace Tower which overlooks the eternal flame, Ottawa city and a number of the embassies surrounding the parliament. It was here that we met Henri Hofer's local member and the Federal minister for Agriculture - Hon. Gerry Ritz. We sat in on parliament which was very interesting – half speak in English half speak in French and when the agriculture minister spoke



he was the only one to not be heckled – it appeared he had respect amongst the members and the general public.

The following day we visited a co-op which operates, fuel, supermarkets, stock feed and liquor outlets and a visit to the University of Guelph Ontario veterinary research dairy facility – 30 cows in a free stall (all Holstein, but the Ayrshire breeders are working very hard to get Ayrshires in the herd and have been successful at other similar facilities) the manager told us that when the cows were first introduced to the outside world they were like small children and didn't know how to run etc! From here an important stop off was to Beau's micro brewery – I wouldn't leave home for this beer! Then on to a cheese factory that makes specialty Ayrshire cheese which many claim tastes better than Holstein cheese and has a lighter (less yellow) colour. By now the group was getting very restless to see some cows and we headed to the farm of Alex and Mac Cumming – Glen Malcolm Ayrshires, here there was a number of interesting cows, these breeders had started using some red Holstein over the Ayrshires.



While this is not all of the herds I visited all in all I found the herd visits absolutely eye opening, I very much appreciated the young sire program that Canada has and I saw young sires being used on every farm I visited. Whether you trust my opinion is another thing but I will give it to you anyway! In general cows were taller in stature and noticeably longer than our cows. They were significantly longer through the rump and as expected they did have feet and leg issues. The bull that I was most impressed with was Margot Calimero – used a lot in Canada and the USA he drops pins and makes some really stylish calves, he is a Dropstad grandson (1 of 4 Swedish red bulls approved for use in Canada at the moment in an attempt to outcross for health and production traits the Canadians are very strict on the type of these 4 bulls, most breeders are using them (some are resisting) my only hesitation with these Swedish red bulls are while they do have great production, I was a little concerned with namely udders and the need to maybe protect this trait. Calimero has limited supplies left in Canada and was not approved to come to Australia I would recommend using his sons. I found that the Canadians liked Wilton's as found in Australia they do lack a bit of rib but mature down ok, I saw some nice Pokers and very few Hectors, in fact the bulls being used in Australia were not the predominant sires used in Canada. If his proof comes back ok I have been told a bull called Reality will be one to watch, I saw some, I liked them they had good udders and legs and they milked, they might need protecting through the front end. The 2 top sires in Canada at the moment are Dilligent and Ristourn – both are B Jurist sons (SR).

Unfortunately I had to leave the tour early and I missed the Ayrshire Canada AGM, my presentation on Australia and our Ayrshires was given by Linda Ness. Canadian breeders are the friendliest and passionate dairy people that you would ever wish to work with and I left Canada feeling so energized about our breed and the really great attributes it has. We need to promote our breed better and work together as a unified society to ensure the future of our breed in Australia. Until we can work together we will not succeed and have the strength that other Ayrshire societies have around the world.

My suggestion to the youth delegates on tour was that we put to the World Ayrshire Federation that we hold a youth conference inconjunction with the world conference in South Africa in 2012. I urge all breeders to support this idea and send letters of support to the World Federation.

The weeklong tour was organized by Ayrshire Canada and in particular the Ontario branch who catered for our every need through their breeders and generous sponsors. I cannot thank them enough; I especially thank Yves Charpentier and Linda Ness for a fantastic 8 days! I can't wait to go back and I urge all Australian breeders to take the opportunity to go!

I would also like to thank my sponsors Subtropical Dairy and the NSW Branch of Ayrshire Australia Ltd.



NSW BRANCH

## Obituaries

### Andrew Ludwig

Members of the Ayrshire community were saddened to here of the death of Andrew Ludwig on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009, aged 42yrs, tragically killed in a vehicle accident. Andrew and his family have been involved in dairy farming for many years being mainly involved with Guernsey's but Andrew has for the past 10 years been increasing his herd of Ayrshires, "Patona Park", building up a very fine group of Ayrshire cows having purchased foundation females from Auchenflower and Auchen Road.

Patona Park Ayrshires were shown successfully at Queensland regional shows and the Brisbane Royal, highlighted in a very successful 2008 Dairy Spectacular winning Senior, Intermediate and Juvenile Championships all having the Patona Park prefix. Andrew's Ayrshires were also doing well in production with "Patona Park" winning Ayrshire Australia's highest production herd in 2007 and 2008 - with several different cows being placed in the individual awards. His star cow "**Auchenflower EL Pride**" has been awarded Ayrshire Australia's top award, "**Cow of the Year**" in 2007 and 2008, the 2008 award being presented at IDW only just a week before Andrews's death.

The Ayrshire breed has lost a young, progressive, enthusiastic, dedicated and devoted member. All Ayrshire enthusiasts pass on our deepest sympathy to his wife Sue, children Tyla, Jade and Mike and parents Sid and Elaine.

### Thelma Ielasi

Thelma Ielasi and her husband Mario were well known in the Ayrshire world especially in South Australia being involved with Ayrshire cattle during the 70s and 80s. Their "Bugle" Ayrshires were shown successfully throughout South Australia and they were regulars at the Adelaide Royal. Thelma was very active on the Ayrshire committee in South Australia for many years holding various positions. After relinquishing dairying the Ielasi's turned their skills towards beef cattle and continued to be involved in the shows, always keeping their friendships with the Ayrshire fraternity. Thelma passed away on 14th May 2009, aged 73, at the Flinders Medical Centre after a short illness. Ayrshire Australia passes on our sincere condolences to her husband Mario, children Angela & Kent and their extended families.

### Beth Fielding

It was with great sadness that we report the passing of long time Ayrshire breeder, Beth Fielding, on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2009, aged 71.

Dale and Beth Fielding started their association with Ayrshire's in 1963 commencing their "Elizadale" Ayrshire Stud at South Riana in Tasmania. During their 40 plus years being involved with the Ayrshire breed "Elizadale" had many great successes with cattle in all aspects of the dairy industry. Show success, Australian Production Records, AI Sires, All Breed Milking Trials and All Breed Champions were all achieved by their very successful Ayrshire business. With sons Chris and Greg helping with their business enterprise, Elizadale set the standard for the Ayrshire breed in Australia. In 1993 "Elizadale" purchased Invergowrie Dales Gold for the Australian record price for any Ayrshire, \$17,000, adding this amazing cow to their already outstanding herd. Beth and Dale supported Ayrshire functions throughout Australia travelling to many shows, conferences and meetings in all states, having many Ayrshire friends throughout the country. Beth was awarded Life Membership of the Ayrshire Australia, Tasmania Branch, for the contribution she has made to the Breed in their State. Beth and Dale have been married for 53years.

All Ayrshire enthusiasts pass on their heartfelt sympathy to Dale, Chris, Greg and their families. Our breed has certainly lost one of our great Ayrshire Ladies.

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## IN BRIEF

Do You Have Any Show Results, News, Sales Or Anything At All That You Want Your Fellow Members To Know About. Please Send Information to **Kerren Britton** via email [kerren@lbcentre.com.au](mailto:kerren@lbcentre.com.au) or fax 02 4232 3350 or **Janine Eagles** – [meagles@westserv.net.au](mailto:meagles@westserv.net.au) or 02 6344 8418 ph/fx.

**This is your newsletter please support it with your input.**



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**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

I/We hereby apply for Full/Associate/Junior/Journal (please circle one) membership of Ayrshire Australia Ltd and agree, if accepted, to pay forthwith the appropriate subscription fees and during my membership to abide and be bound by the Rules/Regulations of the Society for the time being in force and by all by-laws made thereunder.

**STUD PREFIX** (In order of Preference)

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Note: In general a stud prefix is the name of a breeder's property and when registered, is to be placed before the name of each animal bred in the stud.

**TATTOO BRAND** (In order of preference - 3 letter maximum)

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Note: A tattoo brand is a distinguishing mark in the form of the breeder's letter or symbol placed in the cows or bulls ear.

FULL NAME: Mr / Mrs / Miss \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

National Herd ID \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

FAX NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINEE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

(Required if membership is in the name of two initials  
Eg. SG & JK Bloggs - JK Bloggs is the nominee)

Date of Birth (Only applies to Junior Members) ..... / ..... / .....

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward this form and a cheque or money order for the appropriate amount  
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