



NSW BRANCH NEWSLETTER

April 2009

NSW COWS SHINE AT International Dairy Week 2009

The following articles were written and published in the March edition of the Dairy Digest Newspaper.

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 3rd 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.



Above: Werombi Trident Grace—
2009 Reserve Senior Champion Cow
Owned by R & M Hayter & Sons
Exhibited by B & M Hayter

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 1st 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.

Below: Some onlookers say this was the best line-up of aged cows seen at IDW.



25th NSW Ayrshire Calf Show - A great milestone

In September of last year, the NSW Branch of Ayrshire Australia celebrated the 25th 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: Paschendaele Renaissance—
Eagles Partnership,
Gooloogong

Res. Junior Champ: Mayfield Farm Solair—
Vicki Smart & Paul Timbs,
Jaspers Brush

Senior Champion: Paschendaele GB Bellissima—
Eagles Partnership,
Gooloogong

Res. Senior Champ: 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.

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.



Above: Competitors got creative as they competed in the Best Dressed Calf class.

Below: A lovely line up of heifers in the 3-5 month heifer class at the 25th Calf Show.



AYRSHIRE AUSTRALIA – NSW BRANCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS for 2009

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
March, 27 th 2009	Dairy Cattle judging – Camden Show	Commences 9.00am	Camden Showground
April	Newsletter due out		By post/email
April, 11 th & 12 th , 2009	Dairy Cattle judging – Sydney Royal Easter Show	Commences 9.00am both days	Homebush
April 12 th , 2009	Annual Member/Breed Function & Presenta- tions Night at Sydney Royal Show	Commencing at 6pm fol- lowing completion of judg- ing at Sydney Royal Show.	Ayrshire Cattle Pavilion Sydney Royal Show Homebush
April 9-14 th , 2009	General Face to Face Meeting	Some time during the dura- tion of the show with mem- bers present.	Ayrshire Cattle Pavilion Sydney Royal Show Homebush
June/July	Herds Competition & Presentation Dinner	T.B.A.	T.B.A.
June/July	AGM & General Meet- ing	T.B.A.	At Herds Competition Presentation
August	26 th Calf Show	Judging commences 9.00am	Hurlstone Ag High School (hopefully)
October	General Meeting Tele- conference	T.B.A.	Phone Hook up
November	AAL Federal Photo- graphic Competition	Entries due	By post
November	Newsletter due out		By post/email
November	International Dairy Week	Entries due	By post or online

Please note: as you can see there are some dates, times and venues to be advised. As they are decided we will endeavour to update you all as the event gets closer. Thank you.

THE FINAL WORD

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Recently we have had the enquiry as to whether we could include more classes in our State Photographic Competition. We are calling for expressions of interest into having 2 additional classes, possibly coming under the title of "Out 'n' about on the farm" or "Farm Scene" as well as a class along the lines of the Youth Entries run in the Federal Competition. Please bring along any ideas to our next meeting or contact Secretary Janine Eagles on 02 6344 8418 to have them included in the meeting agenda.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Congratulations to Stuart and Rebecca Cole on the safe arrival of their new baby girl, Indiana, born on the 18th of February.

Indiana's arrival was eagerly awaited by older sister, Matilda. We wish the family all the best as they continue their new venture at Condobolin back on the farm with Stuart's mum and dad, Richard and Heather Cole.

INVITATION

The NSW Branch of Ayrshire Australia is holding its annual Breed Function following the completion of judging at this years Sydney Royal Easter Show on the 13th April, 2009. We invite all Ayrshire breeders, enthusiasts, members and family to join us for a presentation and supper commencing at 6pm in the Ayrshire Cattle Pavilion at the Showground.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It has been suggested by many members that the Annual General Meeting be held in line with the Herds Competition Presentation Dinner Night. After the wonderful successful of the night last year, we feel it is a wonderful opportunity to have a fabulous representation of all members and enjoy a night out at the same time. Please don't avoid the night thinking you will get a job, but come and support our current committee in their endeavours to continue a job well done by committees gone by. We will advise you of the date and venue for both the Herds Competition Presentation and AGM in due course.

HELP SAVE HURLSTONE'S AG HIGH SCHOOL FARM

The NSW mini budget passed in November has slated 140ha of the 160ha agricultural teaching land at Hurlstone Agricultural High School (HAHS) for sale for the purpose of housing development. The NSW Government has declared the land "surplus to educational needs". The school body, the Alumni and third party experts have formed SHEAP Inc. to stop the sale.

We are seeking the support from the Ayrshire Society because HAHS has an Ayrshire Cattle Stud and an operating dairy which supplies milk into the Sydney market. The school shows these cattle at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and other local shows. The NSW State Branch has been holding its annual calf show there for 25 consecutive years, since 1984. Saving the Hurlstone farm is about what the students learn from the farm now, its capacity to educate urban students about the agricultural sector, in particular the dairy sector and its future value in terms of becoming a model learning centre for students in the Sydney basin.

Below is a brief overview of why we must stop the sale of the Hurlstone farm:

- 1.. Students Need Land for Practical Education in Agricultural Enterprises
- 2.. Food, Fibre and Natural Resource Security Requires:
 - a.. More Not Less Investment in Sustainable Agricultural Education
 - b.. More Not Less Urban Agriculture in the Sydney Basin

We are seeking:

- i) 3rd Party Endorsement
- ii) letters opposing the sale to be sent to the Minister for Education Verity Firth and relevant newspapers eg The Land; and
- iii) expressions of interest to attend a Parliamentary Conference to be held on Agricultural Education and the Future of Hurlstone at 12.00noon on 24th March.

You can find out more about our campaign at www.sheap.org or by calling Felicity Woodhill on 02 42674059.