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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT REWARDING AND ENJOYABLE

Cooriemungle supplier Andrew Powell and his parents, Ross and Val, milk 500 seasonal-calving cows on around 900 acres, with the help of four employees.

As well as his farming commitments, Andrew is heavily involved in the regional community in dairy-related organisations and community and recreational clubs.

'I like to keep busy. I'm not the person to sit around and do nothing', he says.

One of his key industry involvements is as current leader of the Port Campbell Discussion Group, which, at more than 50 years old, is Australia's longest continuously run dairy farmer discussion group. Andrew has been involved for more than ten years and says the culture of the group is very positive and members are very interested in learning. Andrew's father Ross has also been involved for many years and is still an active member.

'It's a good, proactive group, and members' interests are broad', Andrew says. 'Different people in the industry are at different points. We're a young discussion group. Older members stay on and act as mentors for younger farmers. We have well-attended days and we are well supported by the department and WestVic Dairy with facilitation. It makes the group simple to run and makes it attractive to members.'

Last year the group organised a social night for dairy farmers that was attended by more than 130 people and featured the Coodabeen Champions.

'The group just wanted to do something good and have a bit of fun in a difficult period', Andrew says. 'It was a massive amount of work by the committee.'

For the past couple of years, Andrew has also been involved in the Regional Extension Committee of WestVic Dairy, helping to provide 'live feedback' about farmer views and priorities for extension.

As a former student of Timboon P-12 School, he has been pleased to be a speaker at the Timboon Agriculture Program (TAP) and Maths and Science at Work, helping to engage students in seeing the relevance of their studies to agriculture. TAP students have also enjoyed visiting the farm to look at the dairy and its technology and how the various measurements are used to inform decision-making in the farm business. Recent technological advances at the farm include yield and cell sensors at the dairy and activity meters attached inside cows' ears, which have all contributed to improvements in herd health and production. The rotary dairy is computerised, and has automatic cup removers, grain feeders and drafting gates. Andrew notes that the students really enjoy seeing how technology is used at the farm.



Andrew Powell (right) is pictured here with WCB Field Officer James Maxwell at the Powell's picturesque Cooriemungle farm.

Outside the farm and his wider dairy industry involvement, Andrew has held various leadership positions (including as Club Captain) at the Port Campbell Surf Lifesaving Club, where he has been involved for more than ten years. His club involvement is a very enjoyable outlet from farming activities that allows him to interact with people that he might not otherwise meet.

'Boat rowing is my big outlet – my recreation', he says. 'I don't play football anymore, and I'd rather spend a 30-degree day on a beach than a cricket field.'

A recent highlight was the club winning bronze at the 2016 surf boat rowing state finals.

'It's such a healthy sport, and very rewarding', he says. 'It takes a lot of training to put yourself in the best position.'

His involvement has taught him a great deal about developing a club environment where people want to join and volunteer.

'My involvement has also given me opportunities to learn and step up through the ranks', he adds.

His activities here and at the local branch of the SES have helped him gain valuable skills in prioritising, decision-making, human resources and training. He has been able to take many of these skills back to the farm, where employees are encouraged to be proactive and to undertake off-farm training or traineeships.

Andrew's key piece of advice to other young dairy farmers is to surround yourself with good people, both on the farm and in life in general.

'I've been part of an environment growing up with lots of positive people who were clear on right and wrong', he says.

BULK MILK CELL COUNTS

The Top 25 recognises the efforts of suppliers in keeping their average monthly BMCC to low levels.

Top 25 July 2017

1	Glenmead Pty Ltd (I,V & N Smith)	34,000
1	Peter & Joy O'Keeffe	34,000
2	Carl Walder	35,000
2	Howard Partnership	35,000
3	Powell Dairy Farms	42,000
4	Andrew & Jamie Vogels	45,000
5	Ian & Jenny Rhode	48,000
5	Kippers Family Trust	48,000
5	Gerard & Jo McNamara (Nathan)	48,000
6	Cyril & Marjo Nijskens	49,000
7	RG & TA Morey (Rachael)	50,000
7	Jarod & Ebonie McVilly	50,000
8	Rohan & Jayde Smith	52,000
9	Andrew Buckley	53,000
9	Steven & Carolyn Bond	53,000
10	Mark & Tania Nevill	58,000
11	Trevor & Carolyn Beasley	59,000
11	F & P Van Bergen	59,000
11	AF & EM Darcy	59,000
12	S & P Rea	60,000
12	Matthew Ross	60,000
13	John & Mary Meade	61,000
13	Mary, Robert & Helen Grieve	61,000
13	Paringa View Park	61,000
13	Corey Baulch	61,000
13	Rod & Libby Swain	61,000
14	Stephen & Allira Smith	62,000
14	Lex & Rachael Moloney	62,000
15	P, A & J Gillin	63,000
15	Les & Julie Gass	63,000
15	Craig & Annette Smart	63,000
16	D C Johnson Pty Ltd	64,000
16	RC & RJ Methven	64,000
16	Costin Partnership (Colin)	64,000
17	Bob & Sharron Atwell	66,000
17	Triple T Farms	66,000
17	John & Jennifer Inglis	66,000
18	Kevin & Glenice Parsons	67,000
19	Stephen & Anne Watson	68,000
20	Peter & Angela Parsons	69,000
20	Max & Helen Armistead	69,000
21	Michael & Nicole Uebergang	71,000
21	Russell & Mary Hussey	71,000
22	PG & AC Parsons	72,000
22	Wayne Jenkins	72,000
22	Des, Belinda & Simon Roche	72,000
22	Balpat Pastoral	72,000
22	Lyn Logan	72,000
23	Mayfair Dairies	74,000
24	Doolan Family Trust	75,000
24	RB & JE Pike	75,000
24	Tim & Anne McSween	75,000
24	Luke Benson & Susan Rae	75,000
25	Trevor & Debbie Anderton	76,000
25	Les & Vicky Farrer	76,000
25	WEJ Kampschoer & CL Bell	76,000
25	W Akrigg & H Muller	76,000
25	The McNabb Family Trust	76,000

Factory Average BMCC July: 145,000

QUALITY MATTERS

By Anne Prince, Farm QA Manager

Suppliers who are due to be audited before the end of the year will receive a reminder notice in the mail that includes a pre-audit checklist. If suppliers wish to bring their audit date forward to facilitate silage making etc. they should contact myself or their Field Officer. If suppliers in Victoria want to delay their audit, it is necessary to seek Dairy Food Safety Victoria's approval. Suppliers can do this directly by calling (03) 9810 5900 or through myself or their Field Officer. Once an audit time has been arranged, please remember that auditors have many commitments and need a minimum of 48 hours' notice to rearrange an audit time or date. Auditor contact details are printed on the reminder sent in the mail.

This is a great time of year to spring clean the milk room and attend to any maintenance jobs around the dairy. It is important to wash the entire outside surface of vats, including any ladders and around the seals in the hatch, ensuring good quality water is used for cleaning (WCB can test water samples for suppliers to verify the quality, free of charge). It is also important to ensure the ceiling of the milk room is clean to prevent flaking paint, dust and cobwebs getting into the vat (or milk samples). Lights above the vat, especially those positioned over the vat opening, must be protected from breakage and provide good light. If you are having other electrical work done, why not get the waterproof light switches checked too and consider improving exterior lighting? This is a worthwhile activity for your OH&S program.

All suppliers need to read the new Quality Manual. As with the previous version, the Quality Statement should be filled in to identify the farm the manual applies to, and signed. Please also complete and sign activity pages in the back of each section. This personalises the manual to your farm and is key to meeting licence or accreditation conditions.



UPCOMING SHOW SEASON

Ecklin South supplier Ashlea Church is President of Camperdown Pastoral and Agricultural Society – her first year in the role. She is also Chief Cattle Steward, with 2017 marking her eleventh year on the committee that oversees the cattle competitions.

Camperdown Show, the first show in the season for southwest Victoria, will be held on 14 and 15 October (cattle Saturday only) 9 am to 4 pm. The theme this year is 'Food comes from farms', with lots of activities tied into the theme.

The show will feature performances from George the Farmer (educating children about farming practices), a Beaut Ute competition, pet parade, mobile animal farm, gumboot decorating competition, camp oven cook-off, and a whip cracking demonstration with 15-year-old Hexham local Jarrad MacDonald, who won the under 16 Bushman's Whipcrack at the 2017 Man From Snowy River Bush Festival at Corryong. A mystery showbag (to which WCB has contributed) will help draw younger people to the cattle and poultry areas.

This year's cattle program includes an all-Australian Holstein feature, with the show rotating through the main dairy breeds in their features from year to year.

Ashlea says Camperdown Show is a great opportunity for people to take time off from the farm and socialise.

Her steward role involves setting the program, classes and championships, as well as organising a wide range of sponsorships. Ensuring biosecurity protocols are adhered to at the show is also an important part.

Ashlea is keen to encourage young cattle judges and provide them with valuable experience. In particular, she likes to promote the junior section where children can show calves that are less than 12 months of age and do not have to be registered.

She appreciates the importance of mentoring young people in showing and judging, and was herself mentored by Sam Bamford for many years.

Ashlea explains that Camperdown Pastoral and Agricultural Society owns the showgrounds, unlike many other show societies. She adds that the grounds cost around \$15,000 each year to maintain and there are monthly bills to pay.

'It's a big thing for a little show to do', she says.

The show society has good committees and helpers, but is always looking for more stewards and volunteers, even if on a casual basis. Those who show animals cannot themselves be judges or stewards, which tends to limit volunteer involvement in organising.

Ashlea is also the secretary of the southwestern group of Victorian Agricultural Shows (VAS), which includes ten show societies. VAS supports local communities to deliver local and regional show events, and runs statewide competitions. Ashlea is keen to see greater collaboration among societies in the region in show organising.

For the past 11 years Ashlea and husband Geoff have run Bubblefrost Jerseys, showing their cattle at many local and regional events. Geoff has also been establishing an Illawarra stud, Bubblefrost Illawarras, and showed for the first time last year.

Ashlea finds that trying to juggle the farm, showing cows and running events can be a struggle.



Supplier Ashlea Church with one of her prize-winning Jerseys.
Photo supplied.

With the Camperdown Show, she explains that this is made somewhat easier with the help of the sub-committee, which consists of other farmers from around the area. 'I'm also lucky that Geoff takes on the main role of the farm', she says. 'He's the backbone in the lead-up to the show. It gets easier every year, but it's a big job.'

Bubblefrost Jerseys sponsors several local and regional shows and Ashlea often donates her hand-made halters as prizes.

Ashlea is happy to hear from people of any age who would like to learn more about entering the world of cattle showing. She can be contacted on 0448 910 565.

You can find out more about the Camperdown Show at www.facebook.com/camperdownshow.

WARRNAMBOOL SHOW

WCB Field Officer Rachel Alexander is Chief Steward for the dairy section at the Warrnambool Show, after being on the committee for the past three years. The show will be held on 27-29 October 2017, with the dairy show from 9 am on the Sunday.

This year's show has a Jersey feature and has a section for unregistered heifers (animals usually must be registered to be shown). Rachel says this is a great opportunity for new breeders to get a free membership and registration pack sponsored by Jersey Australia.

'We also look after our exhibitors by providing a free breakfast on the Sunday morning, which is always well received', she says.

'Local shows can be a great opportunity to show off their stock in a friendly and competitive environment', she explains. 'But as a chief steward of a section like dairy, I realise it is difficult for everyone to get off farm for the day when there are jobs that need to be done. Warrnambool Show has a long-standing partnership with the Noorat Show and that is why we have once again teamed up to run the on-farm challenge. This allows farms to showcase the milking ability of the animals on the farm rather than the show ring. I hope that in future we can extend the area covered in the on-farm challenge to allow farmers from across the western district to take part in the competition, not just the farms in the Noorat/Warrnambool region.'

Find out more about the Warrnambool Show at www.warrnamboolshow.com.au or www.facebook.com/warrnamboolagriculturalsociety.

If suppliers are involved with their local dairy shows, we'd be happy to help promote such events through the newsletter. Please talk to your Field Officer if you have a dairy event you would like to promote.

CLASSIFIEDS

TO PLACE OR CHANGE AN AD IN THE CLASSIFIEDS:

Please email your ad to james.maxwell@saputo.com or contact your Field Officer before the 24th of the month to place an advertisement.

EMPLOYMENT:

Farmhand position available, Byaduk area. No milking experience required. Must be able to work independently and as a team. Must be competent with tractor work. Ph Rachel 0439 790 252.

FOR SALE:

1550 L Sunset vat & refrigeration unit in good working order, \$1000; also Sitrex V hay rake for sale, 12 wheels, good condition, \$2000, located Macarthur. Ph 0417 109 009.

20 'Milka-ware Pro 4' ACRs in excellent condition, selling due to moving dairies, Price negotiable. Ph Sam 0447 308 321.

Hay for sale, dry cow quality, predominantly ryegrass, 4 x 6 rolls, located Darlington, \$25/roll + GST. Ph Greg 0429 901 230.

Oaten hay \$125/t and vetch hay \$175/t ex-GST delivered Warrnambool, feed tests available, sourced Nhill area, Ph Mont 0428 861 159 or Syd 0428 504 487.

Cereal hay, feed test available, sourced Murtoa area, \$138/t ex-GST delivered Warrnambool area, Ph 03 5385 2236 or 0429 391 206.

Hay for sale, approx 20,000 big squares, discounted with payment plan available over several months; feed test available. Ph Westwind Farming & Trading 0417 354 703.

11,000-litre vat 15HP compressor and Packo vat wash \$18,000 ; 2X DeLaval Plate coolers \$600 each; RVS M7000 vacuum pump \$1800; 2 X Nupulse double-ended diaphragm milk pumps coupled together, \$500 each. All prices ex-GST. Ph Nick 0419 316 850.

Herringbone dairy plant: complete 30-unit DeLaval milk plant (no filter or plate cooler), automatic cup removers including swing arms, 3" loop milk line, electronic pulsators, harmony plus clusters, wash jetters, vacuum pump, milk pump. Best offer. Ph Phil 0428 988 134.

Contracting: Power harrowing with air seeder & rippers for summer crops. Coorimungle and surrounding areas Ph Colin 0429 206 180.

WANTED:

100-180 acres lease ground in Coorimungle area. Ph Colin 0429 206 180.

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'You learn so much from good people. It helps you grow as a person, increases your self-esteem and helps you to back your own decisions.'

'Dad has been a respected person in the industry for a long time', he adds. 'And behind every good man is a woman: Mum has a lot of strengths. They are such positive role models, both on and off the farm. That's my normal.'

Andrew received the WCB Young Farm Leader of the Year Award at the Great South West Dairy Awards in May, presented by WCB's General Manager Milk Supply, Anthony Cook.

Andrew was very honoured to have been nominated and to receive the award, but is keen to point out that he volunteers because it is rewarding and enjoyable, not for the recognition.

'I always get a lot more out of it than I put back in', he says. 'For example, SES has been really valuable for learning the processes in decision making under pressure, and we get to do some amazing things such as abseiling off the twelve apostles cliffs for training purposes. I look at it as a privilege to be able to do this.'

Congratulations to Andrew on a well deserved win!



Andrew Powell (front left) rowing with members of the Port Campbell Lifesaving Club, including WCB Field Officer James Maxwell (back left). Photo by Coralee Thorsen Photography.

INFORMAL SUPPLIER MEETINGS

Several informal supplier meetings are scheduled in the coming months, as shown below. These meetings are a good opportunity for suppliers to receive outlook and business updates and catch up with WCB management, staff and other suppliers over lunch. For further information, please contact your Field Officer.

Venue	Date	Time
Terang Football Club	3 October	11 am
Simpson Football Club	2 November	11 am



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