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## A STRONG PASSION FOR JERSEYS

Cooriemungle supplier Chris McKenzie was recently announced as the new President of Jersey Australia. He is one of the original members of the Jersey Australia board – inaugurated around nine or ten years ago – and is also a member of the Victorian committee.

Chris's passion for Jerseys stems from his father's interest in the breed.

At the age of 16, Chris's father Alex worked on a farm with Jersey cows, after which he decided that he wanted one day to farm Jerseys himself.

The opportunity eventually arose in 1962 when Alex and his wife Pat were allocated a 169-acre block of land in the Heytesbury Settlement. Chris says that at one stage the Heytesbury Settlement was the most intensive dairying area in the southern hemisphere, as every farm was a dairy farm. He adds that most farms had around 175 acres and an initial maximum of 40 animals.

'There were heaps of wood and sticks through the pasture that had to be picked up', he says. 'The first ones to be done were the ones you were cutting for hay. There was boundary fencing only – no internal fencing. It was a bare, pastured farm.'

Chris says the farms were set up to milk 60 cows, building up from the initial 40, and the agreement was that farmers had to stay on for a minimum of 5 or 6 years.

'It more than doubled the Timboon School population', he says. 'There were that many school buses – there were four going past here! They were all young families, and there were about 1,500 kids at Timboon, with a minimum of 40 to a class. They had to put new classrooms in during the holidays.' Chris was in grade 2 at school when they made the move to the farm.

Alex started a stud, Coorievale Jerseys, in 1964. Over time the farm has grown to 419 acres, milking 230 cows, with calving split 40 per cent in autumn and 60 per cent in July/August. Alex, now 86, is still involved with the farm.

'We've milked here, power permitting, every day since we've been here', Chris says.

Chris and his wife Pam started their own Jersey stud, 'Jireh' in the mid-1980s. Chris explains that their early breeding of the Jerseys related to the butterfat payment system, but that American genetics were then introduced, producing a bigger, stronger cow, and lifting 3,000-litre per year cows to 5,000 or 6,000 litres.



*Cooriemungle supplier Chris McKenzie is the new President of Jersey Australia. Photo supplied by Jersey Australia.*

'In the meantime, we knew how to feed cows better', he says. He adds the breed has come a long way and the genetics now come from all over the world.

Chris used to show their cows at the Royal Melbourne Show and many local events. While they have taken a few Jerseys to International Dairy Week and the Heytesbury Show in the past few years, Chris doesn't have as much time now for showing.

'We used to do a lot of showing', he says. 'Now it's more about breeding a really good type cow. The challenge now is breeding the cow that's going to take us into the future. Every mating we're planning for the next generation.'

He says the strengths of the Jersey breed are that they are very efficient in converting inputs to products, and that they lead-feed well, with exceptionally good ease of calving.

He adds that their Jerseys are calm and gentle. 'They are also treated well', he explains. 'They have a good environment.'

'Some people refer to them as yellow field mice', he says. 'But they compete efficiency wise; they are well out front.'

In his role as Jersey Australia President, he hopes to go along to as many club meetings as time permits, while still running the farm.

'Marketing Jersey milk is a big priority for us', he explains.

# BULK MILK CELL COUNTS

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

## Top 25 August 2017

1	Glenmead Pty Ltd (I,V & N Smith)	33,000	15	Andrew & Jamie Vogels	61,000
2	Carl Walder	37,000	15	Steven & Carolyn Bond	61,000
3	Powell Dairy Farms	38,000	15	Corey Baulch	61,000
4	F & P Van Bergen	40,000	16	Rod & Libby Swayn	62,000
5	Howard Partnership	43,000	17	Mary, Robert & Helen Grieve	63,000
6	Peter & Joy O'Keeffe	47,000	18	Stephen & Allira Smith	64,000
6	Jarod & Ebonie McVilly	47,000	18	Lex & Rachael Moloney	64,000
7	PG & AC Parsons	52,000	18	C & C Costin	64,000
7	John & Jennifer Inglis	52,000	19	Ted, Doreen & Andrew Delaney	66,000
7	Gerard & Jo McNamara (Nathan)	52,000	19	Donna Weller	66,000
8	Cyril & Marjo Nijskens	53,000	20	D C Johnson Pty Ltd	67,000
8	Matthew Ross	53,000	21	Bruce & Jane Pike	68,000
9	Craig & Annette Smart	55,000	22	Shane & Petrina Brandrup	69,000
10	Rohan & Jayde Smith	56,000	22	John & Mary Meade	69,000
10	Ian & Jenny Rhode	56,000	22	Araluen Pastoral Holdings	69,000
11	Les & Vicky Farrer	57,000	22	BR & YC McVilly	69,000
11	Bob & Sharron Atwell	57,000	23	Shane & Raina Bushell	70,000
11	Kippers Family Trust	57,000	24	Moore Dairying Pty Ltd	71,000
12	AF & EM Darcy	58,000	24	Lyn Logan	71,000
13	RG & TA Morey (Rachael)	59,000	24	Craig & Andrea Duro	71,000
14	Andrew Buckley	60,000	25	David, Nareda & Owen Simpson	72,000
14	Trevor & Carolyn Beasley	60,000	25	Kevin & Glenice Parsons	72,000
14	Mayfair Dairies	60,000	25	Eirenclare Farms – Eirenclare	72,000
15	Peter & Angela Parsons	61,000	25	Kieran & Raymond Campbell	72,000
15	S & P Rea	61,000	25	Stephen & Anne Watson	72,000

**Factory Average BMCC August: 150,000**

## QUALITY MATTERS

*By Anne Prince, Farm QA Manager*

Now is a good time to have your farm vats checked by qualified professionals. Ensure the refrigeration plant is working well and is ready to cope with the hot weather when it arrives. You can also use your WCB hand-held thermometer to check the vat thermometer and record the check in your diary. If there is a discrepancy larger than 2°C it is time to have the thermometers checked. You can also compare both readouts to temperatures recorded on tanker dockets. Contact your Field Officer if you have any concerns.

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) has announced that from 1 October 2017, biosecurity and animal welfare requirements will be included in the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program.

To learn more about what this means for dairy farmers, visit [www.mla.com.au/lpachanges](http://www.mla.com.au/lpachanges). Click on the link titled: *As a dairy farmer what do you need to do?* The flyer linked at the end of that section has instructions on how dairy farmers can maintain their LPA accreditation.

## REDUCING FEED WASTAGE

Supplier Anthony Farrer milks 240 mostly Holstein Friesian cows on 540 acres, north of Purnim. His parents, John and Judith, have dairy farmed here for 45 years, in addition to building up a successful earthmoving business that specialises in farm track construction. These days, Anthony takes care of the farm while his brother Greg handles the earthmoving business, and John helps out as needed.

'I'm very proud of my boys', John says.

The farm produces all its own hay and silage from the predominantly Italian ryegrass pastures, and all young stock are run on the farm. Chicory is also grown as a summer crop.

Last year a feed pad was installed at the dairy, with a hay feeder that can accommodate 50 to 60 cows at a time. The feed pad was set up so that each run of cows leaving the dairy can have a feed of hay, silage or straw on their way out. However, loading the hay into the feeder soon became an issue as their old feed cart wasn't high enough and was nearly worn out. Anthony says that loading the hay with the front-end loader meant the feed would go in in one blob and make a mess, with the result that some cows wouldn't be able to access it.

They recently purchased a new feed out cart from WMI that was designed to be high enough and throw the hay out far enough to direct it more effectively into the feeder. This also allows them to mix silage and straw during wet weather to help prevent the silage from becoming mouldy.



*Purnim supplier Anthony Farrer with his new feed out cart.*

The new feed out cart has reduced their wastage of feed at the pad, helping them to make the most of their home-grown hay and silage, and all cows can now access the feed in the feeder. Anthony is pleased that the cart will also be able to be used to feed out in the paddocks during the dry summer months.

## DEAKIN UNIVERSITY OPEN DAY

*By Kim Kavanagh*

More than 1000 people attended Deakin University's Warrnambool Campus Open Day in August, gathering information on courses, participating in campus tours and getting involved in fun activities.

WCB hosted an information booth in the 'Careers in Our Community' section of the Open Day alongside other local businesses and professional organisations. This activity provided an excellent opportunity to speak with potential students and their families about the career opportunities at WCB. Staff members Sheree Smith, Louise Duffy, Nathan Kenna, Victoria Lee, Derek Elwood, Ben Anderson and Kim Kavanagh volunteered their time across the day to share their individual work experiences and the WCB/Saputo story.

Many visitors were surprised to learn about the various career opportunities available at WCB and the possibilities that working for a leading international company may provide, or simply that they could apply to do work experience with us.

Information was collected in the form of a survey with all entries going into the draw to win one of three gourmet cheese hampers.

We promoted Cheese World and the company products with a complimentary tasting of the Warrnambool Heritage cheeses, which certainly enticed everyone to our display!



*WCB staff (from left) Louise Duffy, Kim Kavanagh, Victoria Lee and Sheree Smith at the Deakin University Warrnambool Campus Open Day.*

WCB is committed to giving Deakin Warrnambool every support to ensure we have a vibrant local campus going forward.

# 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.

## FOR SALE:

Oaten hay \$120/t and vetch hay \$170/t ex-GST delivered Warrnambool, feed tests available, sourced Nhill area. Ph Mont 0428 861 159 or Syd 0428 504 487.

Hay for sale sourced across Western Victoria, current season and soon to be new season off the baler, all large square bales and feed tested. Ph Matt 0427 711 902 or Vic 0407 711 902.

900 L vat, no refrigeration, agitator works, suitable for calf milk. \$250 + GST. AMCC vat 4,600 L \$6,500 + GST. Ph 5235 0270.

6,000L vat for sale, POA. Ph Steve 0481 306 823.

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, 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 \$15,000; 2X DeLaval plate coolers \$400 each; RVS M7000 vacuum pump \$1500; 2 X Nupulse double-ended diaphragm milk pumps coupled together, \$350 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 jettors, vacuum pump, milk pump. Best offer. Ph Phil 0428 988 134.

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

## WANTED:

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

Second-hand Larsen stall gates, up to 30 in total. Ph Matt 0439 038 773.

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### A STRONG PASSION FOR JERSEYS

'We believe we have something to offer, with a modern, efficient cow. People want to see value and reward for being in the industry and that they can achieve something through genetics and stud breeding. There are a lot of hurdles facing the industry, but I have a strong passion for the Jersey cow and I'm convinced we have something of value to put forward to younger breeders and to other farmers.'

Chris is also very passionate about educating people about where milk comes from. 'I'm keen to see dairy nutrition education in schools', he adds.

You can find out more about Jersey Australia at their website [www.jersey.com.au](http://www.jersey.com.au).

# CHEESE WORLD CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

With Christmas less than three months away, now is the time to order your Cheese World Christmas hamper. These hampers make a practical and meaningful gift that is ready to share with friends and family, featuring the cheeses you help to produce.

Hampers can be tailored to your liking with a selection of our award-winning range of cheeses as well as other gourmet products made in the region, such as chocolates, sauces, wines, honey, jams, preserves and more. Hampers can be made to any value that you require.

WCB suppliers are welcome to use their supplier accounts when making purchases at Cheese World, but please note that the supplier discount is not available on hampers.

Call the hamper hotline on 03 5565 3279 to order your hamper now!



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**LOCALLY PRODUCED MILK**

