

DairySA Project Update

05

2006 DON CAMPBELL MEMORIAL STUDY TOUR

In February three young dairy farmers were sponsored by DairySA to go on the

Don Campbell Memorial Study Tour of northern Tasmania.

Amy Hutchinson, Olivia Lawrence and Grant Schmidt report back on what they gained from the tour.

Gippsland farmer Don Campbell had a strong belief in encouraging young people in the dairy industry. The annual Don Campbell Memorial Study Tour, organised by GippsDairy, was established to continue his belief by providing young dairy farmers with the opportunity to meet new people and explore new ideas through a series of farm visits and social activities.

In February 2006, nine young dairy farmers, six from Gippsland and three from SA, travelled to northern Tasmania and visited 12 dairy farms and the Elliot Research Farm near Burnie, which left just a little time for site seeing, including a visit to the James Boag's brewery, on the five day trip. In the evenings BBQ's were held with local Tasmanian young farmers.

Amy Hutchinson is 25 and share farms a herd of 140 cows at Myponga. Amy found the trip a great opportunity to meet new people and share ideas. She was particularly interested in the method of paddock drainage that the Tasmanian's were using, especially as water logging can be a problem in paddocks at Myponga. Other items of interest were the automatic calf feeder and the herd being milked once-a-day.

The once-a-day herd also interested Grant Schmidt who is 20, and in partnership with his brother and father on their 280 cow herd at Mannum. Despite the huge differences in rainfall between northern Tasmania (1524mm per year) and Mannum (279mm) Grant felt the trip provided plenty of useful ideas. The once-a-day herd was a Holstein Jersey crossbred herd and the owner used a formula based on solid production to assess whether a cow should be milked once or twice a day.

"We have a few crossbred cows in the herd and it would be interesting to establish if we could save time in the dairy by only milking them once-a-day, but we would need to know that our milk income would not reduce," said Grant.

Grant enjoyed being part of a group of young farmers passionate about dairying. He is enjoying reading the draft of the book from the trip. For each farm visit two members of the group were nominated to produce a report, these are being compiled into a book to form a permanent record of their trip and a useful reference for the group members.

Olivia Lawrence has worked for Craig and Tamera Zilm at Birdwood since 2003, while completing here Certificate III in Agriculture. Until recently the Zilm's had been calving all year round and feeding calves twice a day. They have recently changed to seasonal calving and feeding calves once a day, so Olivia found it useful to talk to several of the Tasmanian producers who have run both of these systems for some time. Olivia was also interested in the herd being milked once-a-day but felt she needed more information on the system before suggesting any changes at Birdwood.

They all enjoyed meeting with the members of the group both from SA and Gippsland and with the young farmers from Tasmania. They found the trip a great balance between social and technical activities.

All three travellers wished to thank DairySA for supporting the tour and encouraged other young dairy farmers to take-up this opportunity when it is offered next year. The location for the 2007 trip is yet to be decided.

For more information contact Verity Ingham Executive Officer DairySA, 08 8766 0127.

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SA Dairy Network Extension Roundup



WHAT'S THIS "NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DAIRY EDUCATION"?

The National Centre for Dairy Education – Australia (NCDEA) is an initiative of Dairy Australia and Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE. The NCDEA has assumed the delivery of agriculture and food processing related training programs. Education and training delivered by the NCDEA will be both responsive and proactive to industry and student learning needs, and will facilitate the alignment of dairy education and training under one umbrella.

In order to extend nationally, the NCDEA is looking to establish its interstate links. A meeting was held in Adelaide with NCDEA and South Australian dairy industry representatives to begin discussions on the NCDEA operating in South Australia.

South Australian dairy industry attending the meeting were representatives from SADA, DairySA, TAFESA and the TAFESA (Dairy) Management Committee and processors. A small South Australian working group will commence to explore options and strategies for the National Centre of Dairy Education operating in South Australia.

For more information www.ncdea.edu.au

DAIRYSA BOARD VISITS RIVER MURRAY FORAGE FOCUS FARM

In April the DairySA Board visited the River Murray Focus Farm group at Tim & Trudy Hick's Jervois property. This group has been participating over the past twelve months in the DairySA Focus on Forage Focus Farm project, working with consultant Rick Jordan to increase their grazing and pasture management skills and knowledge. The group was

well attended and feedback from the group indicated that they had gained a lot of relevant information from the project, enabling them to increase forage production and better manage their pastures through the different seasons.

The Focus Farm project will be for the next twelve months with some changes – more details soon!



Far Left: River Murray Forage Focus Group discussing grazing strategies.
Left: You're never too young to learn about grass!

FLEURIEU DAIRY CAREERS PROJECT [Excerpt from the project report by Kym Mathew]

Through the Fleurieu Dairy Careers project nine dairy businesses have been involved closely with the Rural Operations Project (ROP's) students from Mt Compass Area School (MCAS), hosting them for their work placement.

This allows farmers the opportunity to have contact with potential youth employees. The business are participating in a training and promotional role through their involvement. They then have the chance to see young people in their working environment without the pressure of actual employment. Students are exposed to a wide variety of tasks and situations that occur in the dairy operation.

DairySA is a co-funder of the Fleurieu Dairy Careers project. Contact Kym Mathew 0427 604 969.

COMING EVENTS

30 May 2006	South Australian Dairy Outlook Forum 2006, Adelaide	Contact Verity Ingham
8 June 2006	South East Innovation Day	Contact Kirstie Murphy



SA DAIRY NETWORK IS A SUB COMMITTEE OF DAIRYSA AND OFFERS SUPPORT FOR DAIRY EXTENSION, DISCUSSION GROUPS AND TRAINING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. SA DAIRY NETWORK IS FUNDED BY DAIRYSA AND PIRSA.

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