

RURAL YOUTH REPORT

AYRSHIRE CALF DAY – Saturday 14th September

The NSW Ayrshire society celebrated their 30th Annual Calf Show at HAHS on Saturday. This show has been held at Hurlstone every year since 1983, and there were a number of people in attendance on Saturday who have been to all thirty of those shows. This one was the biggest yet, with over 110 animals being exhibited. Hurlstone's team was also the biggest ever – with 28 students from years 7-12 showing 24 Hurlstone calves as well as a few from other breeders. It was a special honour to have an international judge this year – Mr Jamie McQuat of 'Mapleburn Ayrshires' in Quebec, Canada.

The 30th anniversary celebrations involved a massive group photo, the cutting of a huge cake and the presentation of a commemorative plaque to Hurlstone for our ongoing support of Calf Day. Christine Castle accepted the presentation on behalf of the school, and it will be displayed with pride in the school foyer.

The preparation of Hurlstone's animals (and students) started in term two, as the animals were broken in after school, and new students were introduced to the "art" of preparing and parading dairy cattle. Students worked at least two afternoons every week throughout term 3, parading their animals and learning to wash and groom them in preparation for the 'big day'.

Students spent many hours in the days immediately before the show, washing and clipping the calves and helping prepare the parade ground for the arrival of Ayrshire breeders from all over NSW.

Our farm manager, Leeanne Fraser and her team presented a great show facility for our visitors, with the new wash bay greatly improving the show experience for all exhibitors. Danielle Krix coordinated a tasty and much appreciated BBQ on Friday night, and Mr Schippers and Mr Brassil took on the role of Catering Managers on the day, cooking up a continual supply of refreshments throughout the day!

Thanks also to our 'official' photographer Martin Essam for giving up his Saturday and thanks also to the Ludington's who provided great support to both staff and students behind the scenes in their usual way. It was also great to have a number of parents and staff just 'pop in' throughout the day – your support is greatly appreciated.

Many breeders commented on the day about the great condition of our animals – testament to the hard work of Leeanne and her team, and our animals were rewarded with **many** ribbons in the show ring.

Highlights in the calf classes:

CLASS	CALF	LEAD BY	PLACE
5-7 months	Hurlstone Magical Norma	Polly Donoghoe	1st
	Hurlstone Majors Finale	Scott Essam	2nd
7-9 months	Hurlstone My Valentine Norma	Annie Paton	3rd
JUNIOR CHAMPION	Hurlstone Magical Norma	Polly Donoghoe	Honourable Mention
11-13 months	Hurlstone Laura Gwyn	Sarah Ludington	1st
Bull	Hurlstone Lex Norma	Jamie Whybrow	1st

In the Junior Judging competition, Polly Donoghoe won the junior division with Therese Dinh and Aimee Nguyen also placing and receiving medals. Hurlstone students dominated the Parader competitions. In the junior division, Sarah Ludington placed 2nd and in the seniors, Jamie Whybrow, David Webb and Sarah Nesbitt won all three medals.

The last event of the day is the fancy dress competition, where the handlers and the calves dress to impress. This year's winner was David Webb – he came as a Mexican and his calf was a tasty looking taco. In second place was Michael Webb as a Canadian Mountie with his steed and Dan-Tam Chu who was headed to the beach with her calf was placed third. Many thanks to Eve Webb who again helped our students prepare their costumes and create a fun last event of the day.

Calf Day provides a great opportunity for other breeders to see what our Rural Youth students are capable of, and the biggest compliment possible was paid to Esther Chong of year 10 when several breeders commented on her work ethic throughout the day! Congratulations to Esther and to all members of the team for their efforts.

ALBION PARK - DAIRY JUDGING - REGIONAL FINAL

On Thursday 29th August, students travelled to Albion Park Showground for the Regional Dairy Judging final. Competitors were required to judge three different breeds of dairy cattle, and then present their reasons for one of the classes to the audience. Hurlstone students performed well, not daunted at all by having to use the microphone to speak in public when presenting their reasons. The judge was very impressed with the knowledge and confidence of our students, and complemented them on their public speaking skills.

The Albion Park Show Society provided a very tasty lunch after the competition and gave students the opportunity to chat with local dairy breeders.

Junior Division

Sarah Ludington 2nd

Intermediate Division

Jamie Whybrow 1st

Scott Essam 2nd

Sarah Nesbitt 3rd

Ben Essam 4th

Jamie Whybrow of year 10 placed second overall and will compete in the Dairy Judging State Final at the 2014 Sydney Royal Easter Show.

UPCOMING RURAL YOUTH EVENTS

Wednesday 18th September – Agricultural Education Day – Canberra

Thursday 19th September – Wool judging workshop with AWI experts – HAHS

Saturday 11th-Sunday 12th October - Ayrshire Society Dairy Judging School – HAHS

Thursday 18th-Sunday 20th October - Cootamundra Show

Friday 30th- Saturday 31st October - Jersey State Show – Camden

Sunday 3rd November - All Breeds Heifer Classic – Berry

November – Beef Fitting Workshop (Date TBC)

November – End of Year Barbeque (Date TBC)