

Beauna Vista Stud – 100 Years

Written by David Henry

In 1903 the Beauna Vista Stud had its beginnings on the Northern bank of the Shoalhaven river flood plain four miles east of Nowra. My Great Grandparents started on a 40ac farm leased from the Berry Estate and produced milk and cream supplying a small butter factory at Bomaderry. By the 1920s they were able to purchase two adjoining blocks which brought the holding to approximately 120ac.

James William Henry, my Grandfather, commenced recording and registering Milking Shorthorn type dairy cattle from 1915. He was a member/Councillor of The Illawarra Dairy Cattle Association which published a herd book in 1921 vol 2. Cow families mentioned in that herd book that are still in the herd today include Blossom, Buttercup, and Scarlet. The interest in recording and registration of stud cattle continued through to the formation of the Australian Illawarra Shorthorn Society. About 1938/39 my father “Jim” James Albert Henry became responsible for the breeding of the stud. Jim Henry showed cattle at local shows, was an Illawarra and Southern Branch committeeman, eventually being awarded Life Membership of the Branch.

1963 saw the purchase of a further 80ac and by then a milking herd of 70 to 80 AIS cows being milked year round supplying milk to Nowra Co-op Ltd factory at Bomaderry. The 1970s saw three major floods in the Shoalhaven river and in 1979 a further 94acs were purchased bringing the holding to almost 300acs. By now the AIS society was changing to the Illawarra Cattle Society of Australia Ltd and I, David Henry, began taking on the responsibilities of the breeding herd which by now totalled over 300 head of registered Illawarra dairy cattle.

The year 2000 saw my son Ashley Henry assume the responsibilities of the stud breeding, registration, herd recording and showing of the Beauna Vista cattle.



Beauna Vista Silver 2042 – typical of many of our young cows in 2013

Over such a long period of time there have been many achievements. In the early days studs such as Fairfield, Greyleigh, Swanlea and The Wattles played an important part in its development. During the late 1950s and onwards, and with the introduction of artificial insemination, many studs contributed to the breeding program. Studs such as Parkview, Tabbagong, Lemon Grove, Sunny View, Alanview, Meadowhaven and Midlands to name just a few appear in our pedigrees. Cattle from the stud have been sold to most states including Western Australia. One of our greatest satisfactions has been the success of Beauna Vista stock in other herds. Michelle Alcorn purchased Beauna Vista Marigold 1381 at an Illawarra and Southern Breed sale. With much success at local show she also won Reserve Champion cow at Sydney Royal. Another local breed sale consignment, Beauna Vista Plum 26 won Champion Cow at Liama for the Strong family. Another Beauna Vista Cow, Marion 31 won the Mature Class Real Australian Photographic Competition for Lemon Grove. Consignments sent to Western Australia have also proved successful.



Geoff Cochrane chatting with David Henry after Geoff had replaced David as Federal President.

Purchases have also been made, one most noteworthy was the purchase of Alanview Plum 5th at the Alanview dispersal sale in Qld. She was the dam of Beuna Vista Plum 5th who was awarded Supreme Champion Dairy Cow at Nowra show in 1982 and was later exhibited at the Sydney Royal Show by Tom and Ted Walsh and was awarded Champion Cow on two occasions. Another purchase at the sale of the Berry Child Welfare Department herd dispersal commenced the Canary family of which there are now two recently classified Excellent.

The stud continues to progress and uses the young Illawarra bulls that are available through Artificial Breeding Centre's as well as sampling genetics from overseas.

We are confident the standard of our herd has never been higher.

Although not a clear copy it gives indication of the Beuna Vista shed book maintained back in 1920. It also lists some cow families still in herd today. The handwriting here would be that of David's grandfather.

No	Name	HB No	Dam.	Sire.	Colour	Born	Colour
1	Juno v	1-3786	Juno III	Stairfield	Female.	31 st Aug. 1921	red
2	Bet IV	1-3787	Bet	"	"	14 th Sept. 1921	"
3	Buttercup IV	1-3788	Buttercup III No. 473	"	"	15 th Sept. 1921	roan
4	Tiny V	1-3785	Tiny II	"	"	16 th Sept. 1922	"
5			Scarlett II	"	"	22 nd Feb. 1922	red.
6	Fairy II	1-3790	Fairy.	"	"	25 th Feb. 1922	red & wh
7	Speck. II	1-3789	Speck.	"	"	25 th Feb. 1922	" "
8			Beauty	"	Male.	14 th Mar. 1922	red.
9			Scarlett III	"	Female.	24 th Mar. 1922	"
10			Blossom	"	Male.	26 th Mar. 1922	"
11			Daisy	"	Female.	9 th Apr. 1922	"
12			Plum.	"	"	11 th May 1922	"
13			Jean	"	"	17 th May 1922	"
14			Molly.	"	"	29 th June 1922	red & wh
15			Wendy	"	"	30 th June 1922	red.
16	Juno VI	1-3791	Juno III	"	"	21 st July 1922	"
17			Buttercup III	"	"	2 nd Sept. 1922	roan.
18			Rosy	"	Male.	14 th Sept. 1922	red
19	Melba II		Melba.	"	Female.	23 rd Sept. 1922	"
20	Speck III	2-8534	Speck.	"	"	31 st Dec. 1922	"
21	Fairy III	2-8533	Fairy	"	"	31 st Dec. 1922	red & wh
22			Beauty.	"	Male.	21 st Jan. 1923	red
23			Blossom	"	"	21 st Jan. 1923	"
24			Juno III	"	"	21 st Jan. 1923	"