

KANGAWARRA by Geoff Cochrane

Kangawarra was established in 1969 soon after I left school. The name comes from **KANGA**roo Valley where we were farming at the time and **IllawARRA** our chosen breed. Although my father, Reg never registered or showed cattle he took great pride in his herd of purebred Illawarras and he always went to the shows to watch the judging. When I left school in late 1967 Myrtle 5 was a young cow with amazing dairy refinement and great strength of constitution.



Myrtle 5

US judge, Keith King saw her and said "we don't see cows that sharp -that don't have both front legs coming out the same hole". When we started herd recording she was our first cow to produce over 20,000 lbs (pounds) (8811 litres) in 300 days. I reckon if she were here today she would be our highest producer with today's feeding regime.

regime.

My grandfather, Tom did register and show under the prefix, Oakleigh. He won reserve Champion cow in Sydney in 1928 with "Lady Milton of Oakleigh".

His first "Gladys" was born in 1912 and first "Tulip" was born in 1907. Other families in the herds from our appendixing my dad's cows are "Passion, Bunny and Myrtle". A few weeks ago at Shepparton Show the winning aged cow, Riversleigh Tulip 10 and the Res. Intermediate, Lara Twister Gladys are both descendants of my grandfather's cows born over 100 years ago.



Lady Milton of Oakleigh.

Today Cathie and my 3 sons Tim, Dan and Tom along with their wives Natalie, Bec and Kyleigh all register Illawarras with the prefixes "Eagle Park, Kangawarra and Wogamia" - all on separate farms within 10 kms of Nowra. Their children are the 7th generation Cochranes to be on dairy farms in Australia. At Sydney Show two years ago all 3 families exhibited, and only last Thursday, 23/10/2014 all 3 exhibited at the Spring Fair in Berry. Next year I plan to take our truck with exhibits from the 3 studs to the Illawarra feature show in Adelaide.

In 1968, my first year home from school I can remember us only getting 6 cans (280 litres) a day in April - about 164 000 litres for the year. That was in the worst drought I have seen. When our boys were small I remember producing 400 000 litres. Some years later I remember hitting 1 000 000 litres. This last year we produced around 9 000 000 litres and it will be more this year. I reckon these figures more than anything else are testament to my claim that our Illawarras have always been very profitable even if they haven't been the highest producers in the country.

Our first show was Kangaroo Valley in 1971. There were a lot of exhibitors in those days and many of them also exhibited at Sydney. We won Jr. Champion heifer with Kangawarra Beauty, a springing heifer very close to calving. That win infected me with the incurable disease that makes you want to show cattle. Over the 43 years since then we have shown Kangawarra cattle at 22 different shows including Adelaide, Brisbane and Melbourne and I think we won broad ribbons at all 22. In all those years we never had a calf born at a show. There have been many highlights but some that come to mind are winning Jr. Champion, Res and Hon Men. at the Adelaide Feature Show in 2010. All three had won their class and we also got Supreme. In 2008 Jewel 2352 whom I consider to be about the best

show cow I ever had was in top form so I took her to the state feature show at Lismore, a trip of over 1 000 kms each way. She got Reserve to Panorama Angeline 9 in a very very tight contest.

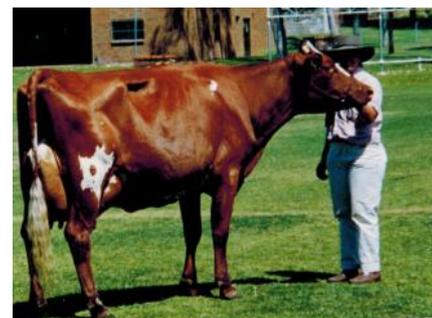
Angeline had the advantage of having the master showman Alan Whatman on the halter. Alan was at that very first show I went to in KV and he will probably be at the last one I go to. Alan and his wife Denise were married on the same day that Cathie and I were and this last Sydney Show we all had dinner together in the Councillors' dining room to celebrate our 40th anniversary. A few weeks after Lismore I took Jewel 2352 to Shepparton Vic. in a car trailer and won Champion cow, then back home to win Bellringer at our Spring Fair. During all this travelling she was flushed twice very successfully.



Kangawarra Jewel 2352

Around 2004 I bought a truck load of cows from Robert Martin of Dapto when he ceased dairying. Among them was Glen Avon Red Chiefs Molly. At 9 years of age she was one of the easiest cows I ever broke in to lead and she went to the state show at Casino twice, winning Res. Cow once. She won the aged cow dry in IDW and had a PI of 150 for butterfat. I took her into Nowra sale yards to weigh her one afternoon just before she calved and she went 1020 kgs. She was the biggest red cow I have ever seen.

We have had 3 cows that were each in our show team for 10 years and all at the same time, Jewel 9, Pet 1391 and Clarie 1545. Jewel won Jamberoo, Sydney twice, Kiama and many others. Pet won Sydney, Jamberoo twice, Supreme at Kiama and twice Reserve at IDW. Clarie won IDW and Sydney twice plus many other shows and is still running around today at nearly 18 years of age with her udder well above her hocks.



Kangawarra Pet 1391

Thinking of longevity, we have had 2 cows reach 100 000 litres lifetime, White Gates Kate 9 who came to us as a weaned calf and K. Heather 2132. There are 2 more that will reach that milestone on their current lactation: K Venus 2270 and K. Myrtle 2268 whose dam Myrtle 1275 held the Australian Mature Milk Record for quite a few years with over 14 000 litres and was by the US bull Momentum whom I consider to be the best bull I ever used. Venus 2270 and Myrtle 2268 are both by Fynaks who is also by Momentum making Myrtle 2268 double Momentum. The current mature record holder Llandoverly Mario Poppy is by a son of Momentum with 2 lactations over 15 000 litres.



Kangawarra Clarie 1545

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of his herd at a sale in Shepparton. I bought it thinking it would be very interesting and may be the only time I would get to do that. After two visits to his farm I took home his show cow Wallumlands Fussy 13 who had been Res Cow at Shepparton the year before. I won a few Champions with her but in 1998 she was in my winning pen of 3 at Sydney. That was the last year Meadowhaven exhibited there, and Ted Walsh was the first to congratulate me.

The other 2 cows in the pen were K Jewel 9 and Mallavale Dairymaid 6 whom I had bought in Tasmania a few years earlier at Max Austin's dispersal. Cathie and I and son Tom were on a flight to Bali when our plane got turned back to Sydney so we had to rough it at the Airport Hilton that night at the expense of the airline. Next day we got back on the plane and were given \$600 credit. Mallavale sale came up a few months later so we decided to spend our credit going to Tas. for the sale.

Back to W Fussy 13 she produced 2 daughters by Parkes.

K Fussy 1910 won Jr Ch twice at IDW and I can remember Brian Leslie announcing that was the first time any heifer had ever did that. The next year K Fussy 2001 was Jr Ch at IDW and later on a daughter of K Fussy 1910 won her class there.

K Socks 7 by K Lyndon was for quite a few years the No.1 ABV cow in the breed, she was one of only a handful of cows we had do over 12 000 litres and I still regard her as one of our best all-round cows. Her VPrince daughter, Socks 2104 was No.1 ABV cow for one year and a very successful show cow winning Jamberoo Spring Fair twice and many other championships.

Another highlight was being asked to give the speech on behalf of the Illawarras at The World Shorthorn-Based Conference at IDW in 2008.



Kangawarra Jewel 9 winning at Nowra

In 2012 we were able to purchase the very tightly held property "Wogamia" up the Shoalhaven river. Dan and Bec moved there, milking the herd that was on the place. I have carted quite a few loads of Kangawarra cows up there and I now judge it to be the best property in the whole district.

It is now over 7 and a half years since I stopped milking and over 5 since I have any real input into the breeding. The future of our breed is in the hands of the young people in Illawarras and I am very pleased to know my family are part of it.

Last Monday night, 10/11/14 we had the presentation of the NSW Red On Farm Challenge run by the Australian Red Breed. Illawarras won every class with Kangawarra Pretty 3012 named as Champion Cow. In her present form I consider her to be our best show cow ever.

My lifetime of involvement with the Illawarras has been richly rewarding and it's not only the cattle, it's the Illawarra people as well. After a lifetime of involvement with the breed it has been an honour to serve as Federal President since 2012.

Last week Geoff Potts rang to tell me he had pulled a list of cows out of his computer that have done over 50 000 litres lifetime current for Lloyd Peters to put in the Year Book. Of the 95 cows on this list recorded by Dairy Express in NSW, 54 have the Kangawarra prefix.

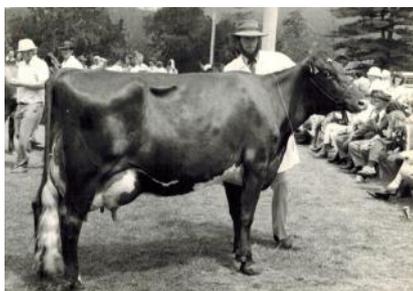


Kangawarra Pretty 3012



Kangawarra Socks 2104

In 2009 Tim and Natalie moved up the road to Tera taking half the Kangawarra cattle there. We "flipped a coin" to start the process of dividing the herd in half. Tom had first pick then Tim got the next two. Around 1000 head to divide, then they had to be physically divided the day before the move. The automatic drafting gate couldn't cope. Natalie was helping me in the rain that afternoon and, then, the next morning she gave birth to Dusty and was disappointed not to be able to help me drive the cows the 10kms up the road. Then we had to divide the rego papers and transfer the NLIS numbers, it was a big job but we got there.



Kangawarra Linda 2 dam of Kangawarra Lyndon



L-R: Tom, Dan & Tim Cochrane about 1988