

AUSTRALIAN AYRSHIRES





AUSTRALIAN AYRSHIRES AMALGAMATION

In 2015, Australian Ayrshires amalgamated from having two breed organisations for 37 years, forming Australian Ayrshires Ltd.

This amalgamation led to the application to host the 2020 World Ayrshire Conference and we are so very grateful in being elected to host this and in turn, welcome you all to Australia.



FEDERAL COUNCIL

Current Federal Council:

President –	Mr Scott Braendler
Vice President –	Mr Brett Hayter
Treasurer –	Mr Greg Klatt
Secretary –	Ms Anne Ryan, Livestock Business Centre

Other Council Members:

Bill Macadam, Cheryl Liebich, Caitlin Hentschke, Michael Eagles, Shane Wadley, Kelvin Haberle and Rod Morris.

MEMBERSHIPS & REGISTRATIONS

Ayrshire Membership: 2017 – 162 2019 – 165

Ayrshire Registrations: 2017 – 549 2019 – 708

In this comparison period there were a few major herd dispersals which we thought would have had a real negative effect on future registrations, but due to new memberships being a result of those dispersal sales, this enabled many registrations to continue where they otherwise may have been lost.

HILLCREST HERD BREAKS RECORDS

In 2019 the dispersal of the Queensland based Hillcrest herd was held, with the Smith Family compiling over 106 years of Ayrshire Breeding.

Records were smashed at what was the highest classified Ayrshire herd ever to be sold.

The previous National Breed record price was surpassed twice, with the new record price now being \$21,000.

Hillcrest Jumper Lorette 2, sold to Boldview Farms of South Australia. The sale average also surpassed any previous average for an Ayrshire Sale, whether Herd Dispersal or Mutli-Vendor Select Sales.

87 head averaged \$3,636.

IN GOING FORWARD

This shows the future and outlook of the Ayrshire Breed is moving forward with great results.

Our breed in Australia has all other Dairy Breeds in awe of what we have as a family unit amongst our Breeders across the country.

The number of youth we have in our breed is the big positive for us. State-run calf shows and camps have great representation from Ayrshire youth and show-cases our breeding and values with Australian Ayrshires.

GENOMICS

Australian Ayrshires Ltd has tried many avenues to encourage breeders to undertake genomic testing. ST Genetics has offered to test bulls to potentially find a bull to market overseas, however only a small number of breeders have come forward to take up this opportunity.

Discussions with several Ayrshire breeders in NZ have been held, to source more genomic tests to help build a comparative base across the two countries.

CLIMATE / INDUSTRY ROUND UP

Dairy Industry and climatic conditions felt over the past 2-3 years across most of the dairy region in the country have had a big impact on farmer's profit margins, and it is felt that having to tighten one's belt has had a negative impact on things like genomic testing, classification and even herd testing.

Feed prices, due to drought throughout Qld, NSW, SA & Vic have had a big bearing on farm profits with hay prices pushing well past \$300 per tonne with grain prices reaching \$415 per tonne in the Spring of 2018, and irrigation water hitting above \$1,000 per megalitre for leasing allocations. Freight subsidies are in place for some of the states, but for those states who are not eligible, the high cost of the fodder and then the freight costs as well make the financials look bleak.

CLIMATE / INDUSTRY ROUND UP

Now that there have been such disastrous bushfires as well as the on-going drought in many parts, there is much talk of fodder shortages moving into the Winter of 2020 which would further adversely impact our industry. Farmgate milk prices have risen over the past 6 months to around the \$6.90 per kg milk solids, or approximately 47 cents a litre. Still below what is needed to sustain costs and be able to make capital improvements where needed.



Many thanks for joining us on the 2020 World Ayrshire Conference Tour, proudly hosted by Australian Ayrshires Ltd.

We hope you enjoy your visit including the sights and hospitality we provide you.

Safe travels from Down Under!

