



DARWALLA GROUP

# Connecting Darwalla



No.20 July 2018



**Message from Business Improvement Manager** As the curtain draws on another financial year, we have an opportunity to reflect on our performance for the previous year as well as set plans for the new year. We should all be extremely proud of our achievements for the previous year, we have overcome some significant challenges, and whilst doing so, achieved some remarkable results. However, we cannot rest on our laurels, rather we need to continue to pursue improvements, to remain competitive in the market. You will soon see some information about our "War on Waste". This is our program that will be aimed at removing waste and frustration from our daily work processes. There will be training conducted in early July where further details will be given, including the rewards that will be on offer. I look forward to seeing you all there.

**New Appointments** We are pleased to announce that new members have joined our company. We are looking forward to seeing them grow and develop within the organisation and hope that they find their work to be rewarding, challenging and meaningful. Welcome aboard to our Darwalla team!



Congratulations to Venkat Sarasam, who in June commenced his new role, as Hatchery 2IC. Venkat started with Darwalla on the Breeder Farms and worked his way up to 2IC at Back Plains Breeder Production Farm before joining the hatchery.

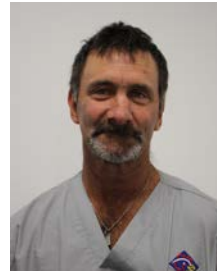
**Hatchery:** Deanna Locke, Cody Roderick, Helen Tambunan, MD Islam, Victoria Stabile, Ravi Kumar Chintala, Gavin White.  
**Breeder Production Hendon:** Kristin Bracic. **Breeder Production Back Plains:** Tracey Barnes, Alexander Bailey.  
**Breeder Production Mt Molar:** Srinivasa Ariveni, Venkata Mettu, Tulasee Rao Boddapati, **Breeder Production Victoria Hill:** Harish Kothi, Srinivasa Guntaka, Suraj Vemulapalli.  
**Breeder Rearing Laidley:** Raheela Randhawa

**Bruce Pollard** – Maintenance Supervisor (Electrical)



Bruce commenced at the Hatchery on the 4th June. He completed his electrical apprenticeship with the Toowoomba Foundry and has experience in most facets of the trade. Bruce brings vast experience with automated farm machinery.

**Duane Gatti** – Maintenance Hand - Hatchery



Duane commenced at the Hatchery on the 25th June, he will be working with Bruce to ensure the facility is serviced and maintained. Duane comes with extensive farming maintenance experience.



Darwalla bid a fond farewell to John Hughes, who retired on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June. John joined Darwalla in 1992 as an Electrician and worked on the installation of automation and upgrading the equipment in chicken sheds, Feedmill and Hatchery. We wish him well in his retirement



**10 Years Service.**

David Greaves presented Bill Jackwitz– his 10 year service award. Bill delivers feed from the Mt Cotton Mill to the local farms.

**5 Years' Service** David Greaves presented Peter Mackay with his 5 year service award. Peter started at Hendon farm as part of the clean out crew and has continued to work on all production and rearing farms catching and cleaning.



**5 Years Service** Guy Holcroft presented Sam McLary with his 5 year service award. Sam started as a Rearing Farmhand and in December 2015 was promoted to Killarney Breeder Rearing Farm Manager.



As part of Darwalla's on going health initiatives, Paul Davidson (Deltaphysio) an occupational therapist/ physiotherapist visited the Mt Cotton site to undertake workstation assessments. Workers posture, work station set up, physical and muscular work demands, equipment and workplace design were assessed. On the 6th of April, Jason Darbyshire, an **Occupational Therapist** from Wise Therapy, undertook a functional demands assessment on tasks within the new hatchery.



**Working with the Future** On the 20th April Dr Peter Davey and students from Griffith University Environmental Programme visited the Mt Cotton Feed Mill. Gwynneth Brauns, Darwalla's Compliance Officer, discussed with the students the impact of feed mill on the local community including how it may impact on two local waterways – Native Dog Creek and Erapah Creek.

### Feedsafe Reaccreditation

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, the Mt Cotton Feedmill had their annual FEEDSAFE audit for reaccreditation. Congratulations to the Feedmill team on a very successful FEEDSAFE audit, with no non conformances raised. An excellent team effort.



**Congratulation to Jonathan Millard joint winner of the 2018 "Jack Houweling Achievers Award"**. This award recognises an achiever in the farming sector of the chicken meat industry. Jack was a long time employee of the Darwalla Group and was responsible for all aspects of the farming operation and over the years contributed greatly to the success of the Darwalla Group. Jack also was very active in organisations associated with the industry, PIX in particular.

As a recipient of the award Jonathan will be provided with a two-week overseas study tour to investigate selected aspects of the livestock farming section of the chicken meat industry.



### Passport programme Laidley visit to Allora Hatchery, Back Plains & Gatton Broiler Complex.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> May the Laidley team visited the Back Plains Production farm to inspect the birds that they had transferred 3 weeks prior. Second stop was to the hatchery, they last saw the hatchery in November just prior to it commencing operation so it was good to see everything operating and producing good quality chicks. A big thanks for Aleks and her team for a great tour. Third stop was the Gatton broiler complex for a look through Matt & Sam Grima's day old sheds then on to Sothy's 38 day old sheds. Once again, a big thanks to Sam & Travis for the great chat at each farm.



On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June, Julia Benfer from Double Jump Broiler Farm visited Victoria Hill and Back Plains Production farms to see where her birds come from. Thank you, Warren and Tony and their teams for their time. Her second stop was to the hatchery to see the hatchery in operation. Thank you to Simon and Aleksandra for showing Julia how the hatchery produces great quality chicks.



**Biggest Morning tea** On the 24<sup>th</sup> May, as part of Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea, the Mt Cotton Office held a morning tea, over \$ 400 was raised in support of cancer victims and their families. Amanda picked the winning Tea Cup Bingo number and donated her winnings. There were 62 tea bags in the jar for "Guess How Many Tea Bags Are In The Jar" competition, Claudia had the closest guess. Anna was successful in Pin A Handle On A Giant Tea Cup. As always, the selection of crackers, cakes, biscuits, muffins, dips, pies and tartlets was polished off in no time. Thanks for donating time and baked goods, helping with setting up and organising the games.



### Darwalla Upcoming Events

**18<sup>th</sup> July:-** Ridley Feed Mill - Clifton Site Visit

