



Message from Jonathan Millard – Operations Manager



I started at Darwalla in 2014 as a Breeder Farm Manager. In 2016 I was promoted to Breeder Operations Manager. I have recently been appointed as the Operations Manager.

During my time at the Breeders we made good progress through the years. We had to get over the Aviagen issues but once that was resolved some of the highlights from the Breeder Department has been low Rearing mortalities to the point where we reduced our placement numbers, improved bodyweight control and tighter CV's, improved vaccination practices which has ensured our future flocks are protected, hatchability improvement of 8% over 18-24 months, improved egg production (although we still have a lot to work to do to be where we want to be but have ideas in mind to work on this) low staff turnover and during this time we have also promoted quite a few members of the team into more senior roles.

We have improved our male management by feeding the males a separate ration which has assisted our bodyweights control. We have purchased new male feeders and nest boxes at Hendon. The early results have been exciting and I expect to see an improvement throughout the production chain. We will be rolling this out on the other 3 Breeder Farms. The hatchery has been going well. The combination of cleaner eggs and the newly built hatchery will improve results out in the field. We have had some great results coming from the broiler farms and hope this can be achieved on a more consistent basis. I think this will become a lot easier once all the Breeder farms have the new nesting system.

There are some exciting projected increases in bird numbers going through Golden Cockerel which means Darwalla will also expand. Our Free Range has been an exciting project and although we have had a few teething issues I think it will be the way we grow chickens in the future. Luke and his team have done a great job in converting 3 farms and there will possibly be more to come in the next 12-18 months.

I am excited and looking forward to the new challenge ahead of me. We have a very good team within Darwalla and feel the momentum gained over the past 2-3 years will continue. The SLT team has been very supportive and I will make sure the communication channels are always open and the good things happening on the ground will be celebrated and acknowledged by the SLT team.

I will be based out West, with a permanent office in the hatchery and come through to Mt Cotton most Wednesday's and Thursday's.



👍 Safety: Lava and the team at Mt Molar created this concise safety reminder – a simple but important message to always keep safety front-of-mind. Well done, team!

MOUNT MOLAR SHARKS



ALWAYS SAFE

- **ALWAYS** speak up – don't look the other way
- **ALWAYS** make time for safety
- **ALWAYS** lead by example
- **ALWAYS** look out for yourself and your workmates
- **ALWAYS** think of your family and loved ones



🏆 Service recognition

Phil Hewitt – 30 years

David Greaves - 10 years

Albert thanks Phil and David for their contribution to Darwalla's ongoing success.



👤 People: The newest addition to the Darwalla family is little Octavia, daughter of Kyle Savage (new manager at Killarney, formerly 2IC at Laidley) and partner Alyssa (also formerly of Laidley). Congratulations to the new parents & welcome Octavia!

👤 People:

Congratulations on the latest promotions:

- **Cody Logan** to Laidley rearing farm 2IC
- **Kyle Savage** to Killarney rearing farm manager
- **Sam McLary** to Mt Molar breeder farm manager
- **Dinesh Kandana Liyanage** to Mt Molar breeder farm 2IC – welcome back, Dinesh!
- **Jacob Heidenreich** to full time feed delivery driver at Mt Cotton

A warm welcome to Darwalla:

Chad Dilks, who will commence as Breeder Operations Manager in early July. Chad is coming to Darwalla from ProTen and has extensive industry experience in all aspects of rearing, breeder, hatchery and broilers.

Jordan Dippelsman, David Tukuafu, Bhargav Sutariya in the Hatchery

Samuel Beaumont at Laidley

Connecting Darwalla



✓ **Production:** After a very busy few months of building, Darwalla's Double Jump farms and the Stern Rd farm have been certified Free Range under the RSPCA outdoor and FREPA (Free Range Eggs & Poultry Australia). A huge thank you to everyone involved in the free-range farm conversion – it was a mammoth task!



Farm managers Julia (DJ 5-15), Michael (DJ 1-4 & 16-25) & Banjo (Stern Rd), together with our partners Woodlands, are producing 120,000 free range birds per week. Golden Cockerel process & sell the free-range birds to Coles & Aldi under their own brands & under the Elgin Valley logo to smaller independents.

👉 **Passport program:** The Laidley Larrikans undertook a tour of the Golden Cockerel processing plant during their recent Passport Program visit. It's great for the rearing team right at the beginning of the growing cycle, to see the final outcome of their hard work. If your team needs assistance in organising a Passport Program tour, please chat with your manager & get in touch with Anna 3822 0551 or ablackley@darwalla.com.au



✓ **Customer:** The Golden Cockerel plant is now secured behind fences & gates; this is to prevent unauthorised access. For those wanting to take advantage of cheap product through the staff shop, an employee list has been provided to security. They will check you off the list & allow you entry. A reminder that the staff shop hours are Tuesdays & Fridays: 1000-1300, 1340-1500 & 1520-1630. For safety, you will need to wear closed-in shoes.

👉 **Darwalla supporting the community:**



Little Black Dress is an annual fundraising event organised by the Redlands Bayside Rotary Club, raising money for Maybanke, a women's domestic violence shelter in the Redlands.

This event is a chance for the ladies to frock-up and let down their hair, while supporting a very worthy cause.

The strength of women: our gorgeous Darwalla girls were joined by the first ladies to ever work for Darwalla – Evelyn (far right) and Esther (far left). As daughters of the founders, Evelyn & Esther are now shareholders of Darwalla.

..at Darwalla we grow.

Connecting Darwalla



Community: Every year Darwalla quietly donates tens of thousands of dollars to local causes, both in the Southern Downs and Redlands area. Diner en Rouge is an annual fundraiser supporting victims of domestic violence. This year the fundraising dinner was attended by (from left): Eric & Michelle (QA & Safety), Karen (nutritionist), Anna (HR Coordinator), Loretta (Accounts Payable) & Steve, Luke (Broiler Services) & Sue, Gudrun & Gary (Grain Buyer).



Community: Darwalla sponsors the Wattles Warriors rugby league football club, based at Clifton. This **Sunday 16th June** the Warriors are playing a home game against Oakey. If you'd like to cheer on the Warriors, Jonathan has some free tickets for the game, to be held at Platz Oval, Clifton. Please get in touch with Jonathan for a ticket ph: 0427 753 701.

Community: Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea
On 23rd May the Mt Cotton office hosted a morning tea in support of the Cancer Council. \$375 was raised and matched by Darwalla, making our total donation \$751. Thanks to all who baked, iced and ate for a good cause!



Your story here!

There's so much great stuff going in Darwalla – please let us know so we can include your story in the next newsletter. Please send info and photos to Kate: kbenfer@darwalla.com.au

..at Darwalla we grow.