



# Connecting Darwalla

DARWALLA GROUP



No. 16 – September 2017

**Message from Kate Benfer:** Sometime in the future I will share the responsibility as a part owner of Darwalla. Coming from 15 years as a federal public servant (Customs & Immigration – think 'Border Security'), the transition from dealing with airport travellers & visa applications, to learning about the family business has been enormous. Despite being on the periphery of Darwalla all my life, my knowledge of the business has been limited to school holiday jobs like cleaning the office & floor walking in the breeders. A key part of my learning has been through completing the Cert IV in Competitive Systems (Lean) course & working on projects with various team members. The support I've received from everyone has been incredible; from those on the Cert IV & everyone else who has endured my questions. The loyalty & dedication I've seen from you all has been inspiring. Thank you, I am humbled to be part of the Darwalla team.



## Welcome Allora Hatchery Crew:

After inductions and lean training the Allora team prepared for the installation of the Petersime Setters and Hatchers. It is very pleasing to see such a new team working well together. The results are that after only two weeks working together half of the Petersime Hatchers are built and by the 6<sup>th</sup> October all of the setter cabinets will be built.



**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.

**Hatchery:** Jnanashil Gautam, Shane Manawatu  
**Breeder Rearing:** Alyssha Edwards, Sotiris Ioannou  
**Breeder Production Mt Molar:** Hussin Essa  
**Breeder Production Vic Hill:** Mohamed Imran Mohamed Jawfer.  
**Catchers:** Yassin Athuman, Nicholas Carbery  
**Allora Hatchery:** Mark Ashburn, Carla Edney, Aleida Ouwinga, Codie Prendergast, Sarah Small, Rebecca Trost.

## Training - Certificate IV in Competitive Systems & Practices and Leadership & Mgt

On the 7<sup>th</sup> September the two groups of students met at the Lockyer Valley Cultural Centre at Gatton to finalise projects and assignments. On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September the final session was held at myHorizon at Capalaba, all students presented their completed projects to the Senior Management Team.



On the 29<sup>th</sup> September at myHorizon, the next round of students undertaking the Cert IV programme commenced their training. This new intake will run for 12 months and is expected to be completed by the end of September 2018.

## Continuous Improvement (CI):

Congratulations to the Mt Cotton Hatchery "Chick Masterz" and "Mt Molar Sharks" for being recognised as the first 2 CI teams at Darwalla. Both teams have achieved the requirements for becoming a team by implementing the foundation CI process in Workplace Organisation (5S), Daily Team Meetings and also have completed an improvement project that was communicated in a Darwalla Way. Members of the Senior Leadership Team have presented commemorative shirts to both teams to recognise their achievements.



"Chick Masterz"



Mt Molar Sharks

"At Darwalla we grow quality chickens, our business, our customers business and above all else we grow our people"



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**Passport Programme:** On the 14<sup>th</sup> September, members of the Mt Cotton Finance team and part of the Senior Leadership team visited the new hatchery being built at Allora. Team members were impressed at the size of the hatchery project and enjoyed the guided tour through the new facility. They were also impressed with the catering and being made part of the construction team for the BBQ lunch.



Darwalla representatives joined the RUOK day activities with the Badge Group and the Allora Hatchery installation team. Loretta & Anna from the Finance Team got involved with the fund raising activities and Badge and their crew raised \$550.20 for RUOK.



## Site Visits:



On 19<sup>th</sup> September, in conjunction with Griffith University, a delegation from Vietnam visited the Mt Cotton Mill. Gwynneth Brauns presented a lecture on Environmental Impacts of the Darwalla Feedmill and then undertook a tour of our facilities.

## Thank You 10 & 5 Years of Service Award:

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, David Greaves presented a 10 year Service Award to Anna Blackley. Also, in September, Guy Holcroft recognised Lee Mace for 5 years of service. We congratulate both of them for this great achievement and thank them for their continuous contribution to Darwalla.



## Hatchery – Progress

The progress of the construction of our new hatchery at Allora is really starting to take shape. We have finalised all of the concrete work for the main building and as of this Monday, we will be starting on the amenities and workshop areas. The number of people on site now has significantly increased as we start the installation work. Bondor won the contract to supply & install all of the insulated panels for the walls and ceilings. After a slow start, they are now working seven days per week to keep in front of MFP, who are laying the epoxy flooring. Our contractors, McCraig's are installing the ducting and are progressing well. The Darwalla team have started to learn how to lag the ducting and by the end of the project they will be as good as the professionals at it.

The plumbers have completed the fire hydrants and all the underground piping and drainage. They are now installing the firefighting pumps, the main distribution pumps and the high pressure washing system. The water treatment plant will arrive mid-October ready for the plumbers to install with the water storage tanks.



As well as finishing the amenities the concreters will be pouring the slabs for the generator shed, firefighting shed and pump shed next week. With the shed builders installing the sheds the following week. It is very pleasing that after more than 160 days there has not been any lost time injuries. This is a great testament to the calibre of contractors and staff we have on site. Communication is the key to a good project, and with our construction partners Badge, we have a great team! The project is on track to have construction completed before Christmas and commissioning completed by the end of January 2018. It is our intention to have as many of the Darwalla Staff as possible visit the hatchery before it is fully operational. I wish to thank all involved, both at Mount Cotton, on site and consultants associated with this project. I look forward to being able to showcase our Modern Hatchery in late January 2018.

**Audiometric Testing at Mt Cotton:** On the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September we undertook audiometric testing of staff. This year we had over 70 staff complete the assessments. This is organised every year and is free for staff.

## Darwalla Upcoming Events:

**18<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Safe Work & Return to Work Award @ RNA Convention Centre.

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017:** Graduation Ceremony – Certificate IV @ myHorizon.

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017:** Darwalla Staff & Contractors Christmas Party

