



SEASONS GREETINGS

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM ALBERT

With 2022 fast ebbing away this is an appropriate time to reflect on the year.

Despite many challenges, overall we have had a successful and safe year at Darwalla. High red meat prices means chicken remains a low cost and versatile meal for many of us.

The main challenge has been the highest price of grain we have ever experienced in our almost 90 years in business. The war in Ukraine has not helped this situation. This makes our milled feed very expensive which has a big impact on overall costs. Your care & diligence throughout the process of rearing, breeder production, hatching and broiler growing to some extent alleviates these high feed costs and enables us to continue growing the company.

Everyone's job is important and without your hard work and loyalty this would have been a very difficult year, so on behalf of the Benfer family I extend our sincere thanks. One thing I must mention is the support given to Foodbank. Many of you have personally contributed by supplying food items which is sent to a Foodbank charity to provide some relief to many of the marginalized and lonely people, so thank you.

Whatever it is you will be doing and whatever your beliefs, please have a safe and happy Christmas. especially those who continue to work over the festive season.



CHRISTMAS CHEER

Here is a good mantra to follow over Christmas: ask yourself, *'Is this helpful or is this harmful?'*

This is a question resilience researcher Dr Lucy Hone has posed to help steer you in lots of situations, such as reaching for a second (or third!) glass of wine or spending all day watching TV.

It is also a good question to consider in your personal and work relationships and interactions and to be more mindful about what we say & how we say it. Should you tell Aunty Mavis that you hate her special Christmas salad? Is there a better way of communicating which is more helpful than harmful? To paraphrase Ebenezer Scrooge, let's enjoy the Christmas spirit and make it last all year!

CONGRATULATIONS

Mayo, our Laidley Rearing Farm Manager, recently had his PHD in Agribusiness/Agricultural Business Operations conferred. Years worth of research, study and work have culminated in this admirable achievement.

We are proud of you Mayo and grateful for the learnings you share with us!

WELCOME

In December we've welcomed Amuthan & Reilly to our Hendon breeder farm plus Dakota & Clayton to our new rearing farm at Sandy Camp, which is soon to receive its first flock of chicks!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Tia and Jesse are two of the younger team members at our Laidley farm, both who celebrated their birthday's recently.

If you are a cake lover, Laidley looks like a great place to work...!!



RSPCA AUDITS

Due to COVID, for the past couple of years our regular RSPCA audits have been conducted remotely (online), which was a steep learning curve and has improved Luke's videography skills out of sight!

Recently the audits returned to being face-to-face site visits. We are proud to announce ALL FARMS audited received full marks, that is no non-conformances were received. The auditor mentioned that other companies had experienced a drop in quality, but not our growers!

Congratulations to all those who worry and slave over the audits to achieve such a great result. We are truly One Team Growing Great Chicken!

FARM VISIT

Amanda our livestock planner and Bec our receptionist recently stepped away from their phones and computers to get a glimpse of life on a broiler farm. They visited Ian at Monarch Farm to put a face to a name and in Bec's case, gain an appreciation of what the equipment is in the work orders she processes! As health and biosecurity allow, we are encouraging more visits between our sites to improve our understanding and consideration of each other. Thanks to Ian for welcoming the visitors.



LOCAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Redland Bay Golf Club's dance floor was set alight (figuratively, not literally!) by some of the 65 people who attended the local Christmas party! It was a fun evening where growers, contractors, family, employees and partners enjoyed each other's company and to send out the year.

Congratulations to Mimi who took out the first prize with her hole-in-one in the golf putting competition and sorry—you did not win a car!



WORKSHOP CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

The workshop boys host regular breakfasts for our local employees & contractors throughout the year, but at Christmas we put on something a bit more special.

This year we again welcomed Colleen 'The Coffee Lady' and food was cooked and served by the Albert, Alison and Anna Benfer. They volunteered their time so proceeds to go Cleveland Rotary. Anna baked a pile of delicious muffins which were appreciated—thank you! We also had a raffle on the day of various gifts & hampers items which raised \$204.20 for Surf Life Saving.

Thanks to all the boys in the workshop for their assistance & for allowing us to take over their workspace, also to Anna for coordinating the breakfast.



FOODBANK GIVING

This year the response to our request to share some love and foodstuffs was amazing. Altogether, we collected and delivered almost 20 boxes to two local charities in our areas.

The Lighthouse Community Centre in Warwick gratefully received the pile of goodies donated by the farms and hatchery. They are an emergency relief organisation to help Warwick's most vulnerable community members.

In the Redlands, Champions Support Services at Victoria Point also offer support food relief for those experiencing food insecurity. Each year we donate our collected good plus 400 chickens which are distributed to families struggling at Christmas. Thank you to everyone who contributed—you have made a positive impact on someone else's life this Christmas.



FOODBANK SPONSOR'S DAY

As financial sponsors of Foodbank Queensland, Darwalla was invited to participate in a 'take-over' day, where a small group of 10 of us helped out the volunteers with some of the tasks at their warehouse. We sorted grocery items plus weighed and packed chickpeas, all of which helps Foodbank to distribute food to the front-line charities.

We hope to include more of our staff in such activities in the future.

DID YOU KNOW?

Foodbank provides more than 70% of the food rescued for food relief organisations nation-wide.

NEED FOOD?

If you or someone you know needs assistance with obtaining food, please visit the Foodbank website to find a local charity to assist: www.foodbank.org.au/find-food

