

OWNERSHIP

We own our
work—it is our
legacy

DARWALLA MARKS 90 YEARS

It was back in 1933 when Dolf Benfer bought 200 pullets (young layer hens) to his farm at Mt Cotton, at the site where the feed mill is now located. Along with wife Luise and a growing family, they wanted to supplement their fruit and vegetable crops with some eggs. However, most of the first batch of chickens died, likely from what we now know as ILT, a deadly respiratory virus. Dolf persevered and bought some more chickens which was the beginning of Darwalla.

The name Darwalla was suggested to Dolf by a friend, because it means 'bird' in one of Australia's Indigenous languages. Research indicates the word originates from a Tasmanian Indigenous group.

Dolf first grew chickens to produce eggs, with a transition to broiler (meat) chickens occurring in the 1970's. All of Luise and Dolf's children worked hard on the farm, with Evelyn, Albert, Esther and Noel making their livelihoods from growing chickens. Third generation and fourth generation family members are still involved in Darwalla: growing chickens, grain purchasing, grain delivery and management.

Pictured below are the original layer sheds, some of which still stand at the feed mill. We intend to mark Darwalla's 90th year—watch this space!



GOVERNANCE

OWNERSHIP

We are accountable for our own actions and those of our team

As Darwalla has continued to grow, so too has the need for strong leadership and oversight of what has become a large and complex business.

Darwalla's Board now has three independent Directors, with the recent addition of Margaux Beauchamp, who joins Chair James Beck and fellow Director David Greaves (Darwalla's previous CEO). Two family members complete the Darwalla Board, currently filled by David Bray and Kate Benfer.

Pictured below are Board members, senior management and bank representatives touring the new hatchery facility. From left: Commonwealth Bank (CBA) employee Gordon, Jonathan, Kate, David G, Dave B, Margaux, Dirk, James and Andrew (CBA).



APPRECIATION

Luke has chosen not to be interviewed for the newsletter, but passed on his appreciation for Grant, Anthony, Will & Nitin. Hopefully we can track down one of these gentlemen for an interview next month!

WELCOME

In the previous months, we have welcomed the following employees to Darwalla:

- * Welcome back Pat & Aslan—two people returning to Darwalla
- * Yenga, Welathanthrige, Fardin, Racheal, Chikala, Nishanth & Edwin—Breeder farms
- * Olivia, & Garrett—Hatchery
- * Bridget—Human Resources (Mt Cotton)
- * Michael—Laidley rearing farm

CONGRATULATIONS

RESPECT

We empower,
support and take
care of each

PREGNANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Huge congratulations to our Breeder Serviceperson Lou & partner Tracy on their announcement that Lou is expecting a baby!

Pictured at left is their baby chick due around Easter next year.

BABY NEWS

Michelle (at right) and partner Josh welcomed baby Charlotte in early October.

Michelle is the assistant manager at Double Jump 1-4/16-25 free range farm and the daughter-in-law of farm manager Michael.

Charlotte is their first baby and Michael's first grandchild. Needless to say, they are all besotted with little Charlotte!

We wish them all the best as they settle into parenthood.



AUDIT RESULTS

Darwalla recently undertook a barrage of audits as part of Golden Cockerel's supply to KFC (Yum) & McDonalds (Turosi). Our entire operation was subject to audits, with all areas achieving over 90% compliance for KFC and 100% for Turosi.

While everyone did very well, we'd like to give a shout-out to Sandy Camp (rearing), Bony Mountain (breeders) & Mt Walker (broilers) & the hatchery who all did exceptionally well, with most earning 100% in their audits.

Thank you to everyone involved & congratulations!



RECOGNITION

UNITY

We share out successes and trust each other

SERVICE RECOGNITION

Alex (at right) from our Mt Cotton weighbridge has reached the milestone of 20 years working with Darwalla.

Alex started in our feed mill and has progressed to assisting with grain inventory and quality assurance of our feed ingredients and finished feed.

Alex was presented with a Darwalla—Adina watch in recognition of his service to the company.

Thank you Alex!



Brahma (at left) is one of our hatchery supervisors and has been with Darwalla for just over 5 years. Brahma's is another story of career progression within Darwalla, where he started on our breeder farms as a farm hand, then moved across to the hatchery initially as a hatchery process worker, then leading hand and now supervisor.

Congratulations Brahma on this milestone!

BIRTHDAYS

Dan, Aslan & Ahkil all celebrated birthdays at our Victoria Hill breeder farm.



PROJECT UPDATES

HATCHERY EXTENSION COMPLETION

The Allora hatchery extension has been handed over by project managers McNab and 12 new setters plus 6 restore machines & 14 hatchers are currently being commissioned by Petersime.

When our Allora hatchery opened in 2018, we anticipated it had the capacity to keep us going for the next 10 years, however strong growth by our customers pushed forward the extension. While the extension looks large, it is mostly empty space to be filled, corridor by corridor, with setters & hatchers as demand continues to grow.

The extension also includes a livestock office and meeting room, plus staff accommodation upstairs for on-call staff plus visitors from Mt Cotton.

Our thanks go to many—Darwalla project manager Dave, builders McNab, external project managers Cushman Wakefield, plus the Darwalla hatchery management & maintenance team. Pictured below are before & after photos, with the red arrow indicating the extent of the original hatchery.



FIRE ANTS

Unfortunately, fire ants have been able to spread throughout much of South East Queensland. Please check your home and farm and report any suspected nests.

You may also be eligible for free fire ant baits. For information, please go to:

www.fireants.org.au/



SEAVIEW ROAD SAFETY

Please be cautious when driving up and down Seaview Road during school pick up & drop off times. It is a busy section of road with young children and lots of vehicles moving about!



COMMUNITY

FOODBANK ASSISTANCE

Darwalla is a Foodbank QLD corporate partner, where we donate money to help Queenslanders who might be finding it difficult to afford to feed their family.

This donation fits with our Darwalla family values as we care for the local communities and want the people who live there to thrive, including of course, our employees. With the rising cost of living, should you need assistance to get through to the next pay day, Foodbank's member charities can help. For a list of locations near our Darwalla sites, see [this link](#) or go to foodbank.org.au and click 'find food'.

RESPECT

We treat each other the way we would like to be treated

Feeding
Queenslanders
in need
every day



CHRISTMAS

Please join us at one of our Christmas parties:

- ◆ Cleveland Sands Hotel, Saturday 25 Nov from 5:30pm
- ◆ Allora Sports Club, Friday 1 Dec from 5:30pm

Please RSVP for the party of your choice with numbers & dietary requirements at least 2 weeks prior.

Employees can RSVP directly through ConnX, growers please RSVP by emailing: hadmin@darwalla.com.au

As there will be alcohol available, please prepare a safe way home if you intend to drink, and remember that appropriate behaviour also applies at work functions.

