

### **2013 North West Spring Feature, Kerang**

At the 2013 North West Spring Feature, hosted at Kerang, Master Breeders the Hore family of Elmar Holsteins, again demonstrated why their Jessica line is one of the most respected in Northern Victoria. Two ET full sisters, Elmar Goldwyn Jessica 4 and Elmar Goldwyn Jessica 11, caught the eye of the judge Mr Cameron Bawden, who confidently chose them as his Senior Champion and Intermediate Champion Dairy Cow, Supreme Udder and Progeny Pair for Kerang 2013.

Jessica 4 had recently returned from a successful campaign at the Royal Melbourne Dairy Show, coming away with Honourable Mention Senior Holstein exhibit. It was a fair expectation therefore, that she would be tough to beat come the North West Feature. As she entered the ring, she clearly lived up to the hype.

But as more cows followed, it became apparent victory was not as easy as many would have anticipated. Behind Jessica 4 was the 2011 Spring Fair Champion Cow in Mooalong Dundee Kassie EX90. Behind her was the 2012 North West Cow of the Year, Clydevale Planet Fran VG87. And then in strolled Rowlands Park Shottle Lucky VG86, the 2011 Junior Cow of the Year for the North West, and last year's joint Senior Cow of the Year Runner-Up. This powerful line-up of Senior Holsteins was not only going to test the judge, but ensure the eventual Champion truly earned her place.

As strong as the competition was however, Mr Bawden could not overlook the awesome style and angularity of Elmar Goldwyn Jessica 4. "My Champion cow is such a great dairy cow, such a soft silky hide, she has plenty of width from head to tail with such a correct udder", Mr Bawden said.

Her extreme texture through the udder, and strength and width of attachments placed her above the eventual Reserve Champion, the beautifully balanced Clydevale Planet Fran VG87, exhibited by the Dee family of Macorna. "The reserve cow wasn't quiet as big and framey but I loved her correctness and dairyness." The Gordon's entry of Moolaong Dundee Kassie Ex90 was given Honourable Mention.

Jessica 4 has brought tremendous success for the Hore family. In 2011 Jessica 4 was Reserve Champion Cow at Kerang, followed by Champion Cow at Cohuna in 2012, 2<sup>nd</sup> 5yrs in milk IDW 2012, 2<sup>nd</sup> State Level Semex OFC 2012 and Senior Champion Cow for North West Victoria 2011-12. But Jessica 4 is not alone. Elmar Goldwyn Jessica 7 VG88 was pulled into 4<sup>th</sup> place in the mature cow line up, and was 1<sup>st</sup> 3yr North West OFC in 2009. Another sister Elmar Goldwyn Jessica 5 EX90 won the 6yr in milk class in Kerang 2011. Jessica 4, 5 and 7 are the result of a flush by the Canadian juggernaut sire Braedale Goldwyn over Elmar Boss Jessica 3 VG89, the Bosside Ruebens daughter of the much admired IDW Champion Elmar Leader Jessica EX90. "The Boss is no longer with us," commented Elmar's Deanne Hore, "but it gives us the opportunity now to focus on the next generation of Jessicas which is exciting."

After the success of the original flush, the cross of Goldwyn x Boss was tried again. And now, 4 years junior to her full siblings, Elmar Goldwyn Jessica 11 continues the tradition of success. After being runner up Junior Cow of the year for the North West in 2011, Jessica 11 came to Kerang in 2013 as her first show as an in milk exhibit. Jessica 11 lived up to her promise, maintaining the incredible stature, length and cleanliness of frame she had exhibited as a junior, while developing a smashing, silky mammary system typical of her sire Goldwyn, but with the rear attachment height and width more associated with the Jessicas.

As with the Senior section, the Intermediate Classes were a hot contest. Jessica 11's strongest competition came from her barn mate in Valivu Denzel Tamie VG85, also exhibited by Elmar Holsteins. Tamie was the Autumn Fair Intermediate Champion, and was in striking form on a second lactation. But Tamie could not match the size and scale of the Goldwyn, taking the Reserve Intermediate title. Mr Bawden was understandably impressed by his Intermediate Champion. "This tall dairy heifer is very special," he commented. "She is extremely long and has a lot of capacity from length and width with a super soft well attached udder"

Behind the two Elmar exhibits stood Hullaballoo Bolton Sundae, exhibited by Clydevale Holsteins. Sundae was purchased as a yearling at the North West Stars of the Future Sale. When tapping her as his Honourable Mention, Mr Bawden was full of praise for the Junior 2 year old, marking her as one to watch as she develops in the future.

In the junior section, the animal to watch was the 2013 Rochester Junior Champion, Glynyari Shocking Whynot. Exhibited by April Anderson, this striking Aftershock yearling is a granddaughter of the 2010 Royal Melbourne Champion Bluechip Drake Whynot EX91. Shocking Whynot has continued to grow and develop her massive frame, while maintaining the sharpness and style that brought her success during the autumn show season. This combination of style and scale held her above the very correct Reserve Junior Champion, Elmar Fever Serenade 2, entered by Elmar Holsteins.

"The junior champion is big long and wide. Balanced and deep bodied. She placed over the reserve heifer that is giving away a lot in age, but is so clean and dairy with a beautiful frame" Mr Bawden said in his comments. Honourable Mention Junior went to Mitch Holsteins entry, Mitch Iota Annie.

In a very tight battle for the Premier Banner, it was the Gordon brothers of Gorbro Holsteins narrowly defeating the Hore family of Elmar Holsteins for the Premier Breeder title.

As usual, the highlight of the day for many was not the stunning display of Holstein exhibits, but the admirable professionalism, confidence and skill shown at the very beginning of the day – the Handler competition. A total of 18 entries competed across the age groups. In the Mini Handler, April Wishart was pulled into first place for her control and patience above Emily Robins in second with Astre Modra third. The Junior handler was a tough contest, with Brady Hore placing above Kaitlyn Wishart for his balance on the walk and correct stance, with Mitch Lumsden in third. In the Senior Parader, Kaleb Quinn narrowly pipped his sister Erika Quinn, while Corey McGillivray was in third. The enthusiasm and energy demonstrated by the junior exhibitors flowed on throughout the day ensuring an enjoyable event for all involved.