

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

I would like to commence this report for our Tenth Annual General Meeting by thanking the past President Peter Ness for his leadership and commitment to Jersey Australia. I am honoured and it is my privilege to serve as President, as a growing desire for Jerseys becomes stronger.

Last year it was reported that the Board had formulated a strategic plan. From this plan came the "Farming Together Project". Enormous time and effort was put into the project by Jane Sykes with the value of butterfat and its role in component pricing being the main focus. Now with the report release, tremendous responses and reactions have happened, we look forward to hopefully taking this further forward.

Financially, we finished stronger this year and the managed fund investments have returned well again, as did export sales. Some initial discussions were had as to looking at ways that can create further income sources other than the current, going ahead. For some time now fees have basically remained the same and the Board have felt it necessary to make some changes.

The transition to moving into the Bio Ag premises has continued to draw out. Thankfully the main hurdles have passed and documents signed which should see the office set up and operating by the end of July. The persistence to get to this point on our behalf has been Glen Barrett from Datagene. Glen has represented Datagene, Holstein Australia and Jersey Australia. Thank you Glen for your endurance in this process on Jersey's behalf.

Throughout the year there has been times when things were a little tough, but then something would happen to give a lift and create a focus or talking point on Jerseys:

- Bushlea Van Fernleaf 10, Supreme Dairy Cow, two times IDW Supreme Jersey Cow sold for a record \$50,000.
- Jersey Semen sales are increasing with reports of 20% of total sales coming from one company and another naming a Jersey bull as their highest individual seller.
- Jersey exports remain strong with healthy indicators that this will continue particularly into China which is a market that is growing rapidly for Jerseys.

As part of the ongoing services provided to members, we have tremendous support from other organizations. I would like to thank Semex, Genetics Australia and Central Sires for their involvement in different programs. A number of members have also benefited from the services of Beevo. Further on Promotion, it is just great to have so many breeders involved with the On Farm Challenge, IDW, Royal and State Shows, Classification and Production Awards. Being involved - further promotes.

In mid-March our General Manager, Mike Weise resigned and I thanked him for the contribution he made to JA. I do thank the Office staff for the great effort they put in, as not everything comes in straight forward. Often the telecommunications haven't worked properly and things become a little frustrating. Thank you: Sherri, Melanie, Jenny, Allison, (who recently left) and Jen.

The contribution from all Board Directors has been tremendous. The work and effort that Lisa Broad and Jane Sykes as Chairpersons of Genetics and Promotions, respectfully, has certainly been appreciated. May I also thank the family members of our Directors, for their backup and home support which allows Directors to attend the meetings.

A positive and healthy sign for Jersey Australia is the need for an election through members wanting to be involved on the Board.

So as we move into a new era by looking to appoint a new General Manager, I am confident that Jerseys will go forward.

Chris MacKenzie, President.