



Animal Breeding Management



STARTING THE YEAR WELL..

BY PROFESSOR CLAIRE WADE
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Animal breeding teams today need a much more sophisticated understanding of genetic technology than at any time in the past.

Once the tools of trade for the animal breeder were a database and a statistician, but today the breeding manager may need to be just as at home with collecting a hair sample or a buccal swab. Understanding how to use the barrage of new technological solutions is just one thing that we can help you to do in the Animal Breeding Management program. Much of the knowledge available is being provided by commercial companies with a vested interest in convincing you to use their product. We aim to help the breeder take the best from the tried and true breeding approaches and to effectively incorporate the new approaches into their program while respecting what the new technology can and cannot do.

This year, our students got off to a great start with the residential program. In Advanced Animal Genetics, students revisited their basic genetics and got some practice breeding Dinodogs and Monkbears to learn about Mendelian inheritance. At the same time, we learned about each other and shared our diverse interests that ranged from maintaining diversity in heritage livestock breeds and poultry to better breeding of Alpacas, cattle and horses.



Claire delves into the world of Mendelian and quantitative genetics at the Advanced Animal Genetics 2010 Residential



Students at the Advanced Animal Genetics 2010 Residential. From left: Fiona Chambers, Claire Wade, Trevor Price & Ashe Briscoe.



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MID -YEAR EDITION IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 STARTING THE YEAR WELL - PROF. CLAIRE WADE
- 2 GENETICS RESIDENTIAL 2010
- 3 FIRST ABMGT MASTERS GRADUATES - APRIL 2010 GRADUATION CEREMONY
- 4 GRADUATE PROFILE
GREG POPPLEWELL
- 5 NO REST FOR ABMGT GRADUATE
JACQUI KING
CONTACT DETAILS
- 6 LEADERSHIP RESIDENTIAL FEB 2010

ABMGT ADMINISTRATION

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PROGRAM EVENTS 2010

14-16 JULY 2010

PROJECT MANAGEMENT RESIDENTIAL

13-16 JULY 2010

GENETIC EVALUATION & BREEDING

PROGRAM DESIGN RESIDENTIAL

(ARMIDALE)

2, 9 & 16 JULY

ACADEMIC WRITING SKILLS WORKSHOP

FACULTY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE

MONDAY 26 JULY

SEMESTER 2 COMMENCES

GENETICS RESIDENTIAL 2010

Professor Claire Wade conducted a residential in February to support students' genetics experience



One of the issues faced by many of our potential and current students has been a lack of background in genetics understandings - many of those interested in our courses have an informal working knowledge of these issues, but have

not spent time in formal instruction. This year, our students who were beginning the Advanced Animal Genetics unit of study had a chance to meet each other and take time to get back to some basics with Professor Claire Wade during the February Leadership residential in Sydney. It was an important time for getting to socialise and network in person instead of just on line, and to get practice in tools that would be used later in the unit. Many of this cohort had experience in breeding animals that had not been a focus in previous years - heritage livestock, horses and alpacas, and this diversity provided an interesting angle to the learning.

We hope to develop this idea as required to support the needs of our diverse student base, and would encourage any potential students to talk to us at program administration if they have any concerns about the extent of their knowledge base for studying in this program.

Phone Romi or Jann on (02) 9036 6364
or 9036 6365





ABMGT GRADUATES

SABINA KINDLER: GRADUATE CERTIFICATE 2009

JACQUI KING: GRADUATE DIPLOMA 2010

SAM GILL: MASTER'S DEGREE 2010

GREG POPPLEWELL MASTER'S DEGREE 2010

RESEARCH

"PREDICTED GENETIC GAIN IN A CLOSED NUCLEUS BRAHMAN BREEDING PROGRAM WHEN USING MULTIPLE OVULATION EMBRYO TRANSFER (MOET) AND GENOMIC SELECTION (GS) TECHNOLOGIES (WITH A HIGH ECONOMIC EMPHASIS ON DAYS TO CALVING)": - GREG POPPLEWELL

"BALANCING GENETIC GAIN AND THE COST OF PRODUCTION PER RAM SOLD IN MERINO RAM BREEDING PROGRAMS" - SAM GILL.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST ABMGT GRADUATES!

In 2010 we have seen a number of our students complete their studies, but the April Graduation ceremony was a great event for our first two Masters graduates and the ABMgt program...

After three years of late nights, sacrifice and deadlines, Sam Gill and Greg Popplewell became our first Masters graduates in the ABMgt program. Graduating with the award Master of Animal Science (Animal Breeding Management), both Greg and Sam have worked for many years in fields where their newly acquired knowledge will be applied on an everyday basis.

Both Greg and Sam are pioneers of our first cohort of students and among the first applicants to be awarded a scholarship by MLA and AWI. They 'broke in' many of the units of study as members of the first classes in Advanced Animal Genetics and Advanced Animal Biotechnology, and have provided much valuable feedback to us over the years, as well as plenty of laughs.



Sam has juggled the demanding position of manager of Sheep Genetics with the demands of a young family during the years he has spent with our program - we have celebrated the birth of both his children with him! Greg is Director of GP Genetics, a consultancy applying genetics and breeding technologies to dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep and goat supply chains.

We would like to congratulate both Greg and Sam for their achievements, and thank them for being such wonderful representatives of the program.

It's been a great time!



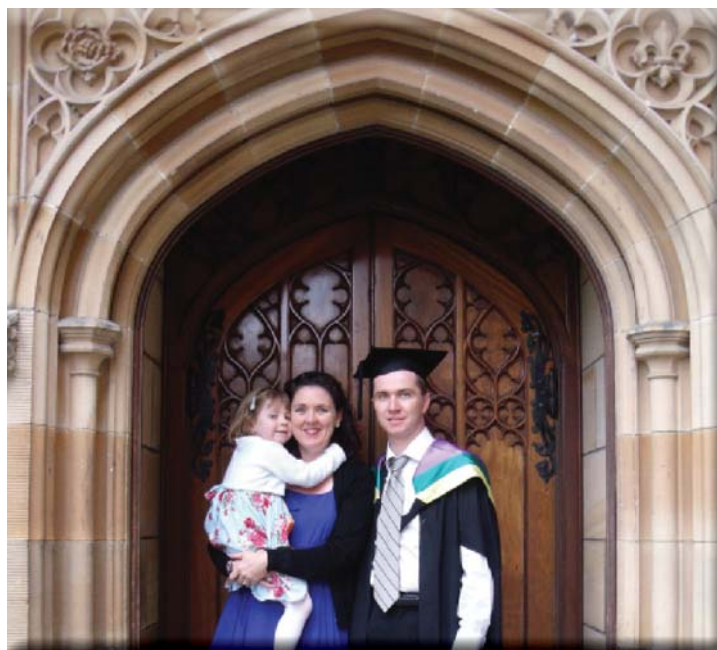
GENETIC EVALUATION & BREEDING PROGRAM DESIGN

JULY 2010 RESIDENTIAL

ASHE BRISCOE AND TREVOR NICHOLSON HEADED OFF TO CHILLY ARMIDALE THIS JULY TO START A CHALLENGING SEMESTER UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF PROFESSOR JULIUS VAN DER WERF, OUR ABMGT FACILITATOR FROM UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

There is no doubt that residential settings such as this are where real quality learning can occur, in a context of intensive practical experiences with other students from similar backgrounds and work contexts. And a chance to ask all those questions face-to-face!

Both Ashe and Trevor noted that it was very challenging - but as Trevor said, "a great unit, good lecturer, and will get a hell of a lot from the unit"



GRADUATE PROFILE : GREG POPPLEWELL

BY GREG POPPLEWELL

I believe a balance of determination, knowledge and skill is required to be successful in anything and that sustaining all three elements is a continual process. To be a true leader in the livestock breeding business, each of these three elements may be enhanced by either industry experience or formal learning; however I believe it is best done using a balance of both.

After working as an executive in the agribusiness side of breeding for 9 years since prior University study, I decided to enrol in the ABMgt Master's degree to update my knowledge and skills in animal breeding and genetics. At the same time as I updated my technical capabilities, the leadership components of the course really boosted my soft skills, personal direction and determination.

Students undertaking the course are extremely well supported online and over the phone by the Faculty's Post Graduate Support Office. The online collaborative structure of the course allows students to learn from each other and from industry experts in leadership and personal development, breeding program design gurus from the University of New England, and world leaders in Genomics and Reproduction Technology from the University of Sydney including those from the "Reprogen" team at Camden.

Whether they know it yet or not, the red Meat and Wool industries of Australia are all in desperate need for more Leaders with sharp skills and knowledge in breeding and genetics. I am confident that the ABMgt course will suit many people in or wanting to be in a variety of Animal Breeding roles. From my own personal experience I can thoroughly recommend it to those in the business of breeding livestock who want to strengthen their career path and business through learning.



NO REST FOR AN ABMGT GRADUATE

Jacqui King, who completed her Graduate Diploma in Animal Breeding Management in June this year was given little time to relax after her busy study schedule.

Jacqui was literally 'snapped up' by University of Queensland as a PhD candidate in 2009 and started on her research path while still completing her Graduate Diploma in semester 1 this year.

As well as graduating with a Distinction average, Jacqui completed her part-time degree in 18 months (an ABMgt record!), whilst raising a young family, running a farm and also working in the various careers that she currently manages!

Jacqui will be undertaking her research in developing a contraceptive vaccine for cattle, and MLA are already involved in support for Jacqui's work.

We have enjoyed Jacqui's time in ABMgt greatly and wish her huge success in her PhD and her very busy life and career!



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LEADERSHIP RESIDENTIAL FEBRUARY 2010

A number of our ABMgt students participated in the Leadership, People and Organisations residential 12th-15th February 2010 - and as can be seen by the photos, they participated in an 'interesting' set of exercises! In the process they worked hard to know themselves and their fellow participants better, despite the blindfolds and competitive instincts that were awakened.

It was lovely to welcome back Sharon McIntyre from New Zealand, as well as new scholarship awardee Fiona Chambers, Cheryl Pope, Sally Martin and Jacqui King.



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