

THE Wellard LEADER



ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER



ABOVE: WELLARD RURAL EXPORTS MANAGING DIRECTOR STEVE MEERWALD HELPS DISTRIBUTE THE FOOD PARCELS
LEFT: RESIDENTS LINE UP TO RECEIVE THEIR FOOD PARCELS

Wellard Rural Exports Managing Director Steve Meerwald travelled to Sidoarjo in late August to witness the distribution of the last of 6000 food parcels from funds provided earlier in the year.

“Some women had tears rolling down their faces as they received their food parcels while others were just so happy that they didn’t have to worry about where they would find their next meal. It was an amazing collection of emotions and I was extremely fortunate to have witnessed it and to have played a part in facilitating it,” he said.

As a result, Wellard and Siba decided to fund another 6000 parcels of rice, sugar, cooking oil, ketchup and instant noodles to the families displaced by the mud eruptions.

Distribution of the second phase of parcels will take place in two rounds about three weeks apart to provide food for about six

weeks to thousands of families over the forthcoming Hajj religious festival.

The purchase and distribution of the first food parcels was funded by a charity auction held in Darwin earlier this year when Wellard Rural Exports’ associate company Siba Ships donated for auction 1000 square metres of space aboard the first Asian voyage of its new livestock vessel currently under construction, the MV Stella Castor.

Livestock exporter Northern Australian Cattle Company paid US\$135,000 for the MV Stella Castor space, and part of that total was earmarked for the food parcels, alongside donations to the Isolated Childrens’

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STOP PRESS

Wellard has been selected as a finalist in two categories of Australia’s pre-eminent agribusiness awards, the NAB Agribusiness Awards. Wellard Rural Exports Managing Director Steve Meerwald is a finalist in the NAB Agribusiness Leader of the Year Award and Wellard Rural Exports is a finalist in the Monash University Exporter Award. The winner of each category will be announced in Melbourne on October 30.



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Parents Association, the School of the Air and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Wellard and Siba then worked with a long-term feedlot customer from nearby Surabaya, PT Agrisatava Jaya Kencana, to organise the purchase and distribution of the food parcels, through a local Islamic group Banser (a part of Nahdatul Ulama) which also organised free transport of the food.

Steve said the families remaining in Sidoarjo after the mud eruptions were the most deserving and the most needy. They could not rely on family support from outside districts; the mud eruptions had wrecked their subsistence crops forever; and they could not prove land title to receive compensation for the mud eruptions.

“They are literally surviving one meal at a time. Any money they earn buys their next meal, so they can’t afford clothing, books or

schooling – purchases we would regard as necessities but they regard as luxuries.”

“Many of the families were living in the former Porong market, where each family occupied one former market stall, while the remainder lived in tents.”

Steve said the impact of watching the relief effort would be everlasting. “I came away knowing we had facilitated something that was quite extraordinary.”

WELLARD BEEFS UP PRESENCE IN TOP END LIVE CATTLE INDUSTRY

Wellard Rural Exports is beefing up its presence in Australia's north.

In a sign of confidence in the future of the top end live cattle trade, Wellard Rural Exports in the past few months has:

- Purchased the Goyder airstrip at Bachelor to construct a new export aggregation facility
- Leased the Santavan export yards
- Appointed on-board head stockman Tim O'Donnell to oversee its Northern Territory operations
- Leased the Woolner Station floodplains

The multi-million dollar investment in property, infrastructure and personnel is a demonstration of Wellard's long-term commitment to growing the northern live cattle trade - and the stations across Queensland, Northern Territory and the Kimberley that are reliant on it.

In 2007 a record number of cattle were shipped to Indonesia from Australian ports, largely from Darwin. In total 517,000 cattle were exported to Indonesia, eclipsing the previous record of 430,000 in 2002. And numbers have continued to rise in 2008.

Despite the increase in trade to Indonesia, cattle exports to all destinations reached 720,000, well below their 2000 peak of 895,000, leaving considerable room for the trade to increase.



TIM O'DONNELL AT THE SANTAVAN EXPORT YARDS LEASED BY WELLARD.

Two new ships to be launched in the next year will be used by Wellard to increase the shipping capacity available to service the South East Asian live cattle trade. The new acquisitions in the Northern Territory will enable the efficient purchase, aggregation, processing and transportation of large numbers of cattle to meet that demand.

The size of the pre-export facility to be built at the 1200 hectare Goyder airstrip is still to be decided but planning is well underway to ensure the new facility continues the Wellard traditions of excellence in livestock infrastructure. In the meantime cattle will be aggregated at the 4000-head Santavan export yards recently leased by Wellard Rural Exports, as well as other third party export yards.

To run the top end operations for Wellard Tim O'Donnell has relocated Darwin. Tim who has worked as an exporter in the past, and as head stockmen on-board vessels for Wellard, will continue with work on the vessels as well as overseeing Wellard Rural Exports' NT operations and supervising all on board stockmen and their training.

Tim, who features on the Discovery Channel's Mighty Ships episode on the MV Becrux, is already established in Darwin, where he is working alongside Ben Seidel and newly appointed cattle buyer Ben Larsen.

Tim can be contacted on 0409 298 384
Ben Seidel can be contacted on 0427 678 133
Ben Larsen can be contacted on 0448 871 618

\$250 MILLION INVESTMENT IN THE LIVE EXPORT INDUSTRY



AN ARCHITECTURAL
DRAWING OF THE NEW VESSELS

Wellard and its associate company, Siba Ships, have announced the biggest financial investment in the history of the live export industry, a US\$250 million order for two, new, state of the art, livestock carriers.

The vessels will be built at the Uljanik shipyard in Croatia, which built the flagship of Siba Ships' livestock fleet, the MV Becrux in 2002.

The new vessels will each carry 17,000 cattle or 75,000 sheep in comfort and security, and will enter service in 2011.

They are in addition to the mid-sized MV Stella Castor and MV Stella Pollux, which will be launched in early 2009 and late 2009 respectively. Those vessels will each carry 6500 cattle or 26,000 sheep.

The financial size of the order is indicative of the recent rise in shipping costs.

The MV Becrux cost US\$ 40 million to build in 2002, the mid-sized vessels cost \$40 million each when ordered in 2005, while the new vessels, which are the same size as the Becrux, will now cost more than \$125 million each.

The MV Becrux, MV Stella Castor, MV Stella Pollux and the new ships are the only mid to large sized livestock carriers to have been built since 2000 – indicating a real commitment from Wellard and Siba Ships to invest in the future of the live export industry.

Siba Ships Chairman Mauro Balzarini said the MV Becrux was the world's first new build large livestock carrier, and set the benchmark for animal welfare standards.

"After almost 80 successful voyages we now know that we can deliver livestock to their destinations happier, healthier and heavier than when they boarded," he said.

The two new ships will boast a similar design to the MV Becrux, with the addition of modifications to improve operating efficiency and animal welfare.

"In total we have invested over US\$330m in new livestock vessels. That benefits the animals, the producers, the shippers and the receivers, and we see significant and increasing demand for this standard of livestock carriage, which exceeds governmental standards and is totally focussed on animal welfare," Mr Balzarini said.

The new vessels will be 180 metres long, nine decks high and will boast stronger ventilation and better air and fodder distribution systems, higher redundancy in livestock services and will be more environmentally friendly. Built to RINA class they will have Green Star voluntary environment certification and also Green Passport.

Electronic control of the main engine will deliver significantly lower emissions than current vessels of comparable power, and they will deliver a service speed of 19.8 knots, cutting voyage time considerably.

> NEW SHIP FACTS

- >> CAPACITY: 75,000 SHEEP OR 17,000 CATTLE, OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH
- >> DECK SPACE: 2.4 HECTARES
- >> FRESH WATER GENERATION: 900 TONNES PER DAY
- >> FODDER CAPACITY: 5000 TONNES
- >> MINIMUM MECHANICAL AIR CHANGES PER HOUR: 70
- >> SPEED: 20 KNOTS
- >> LENGTH: 180 METRES
- >> HEIGHT: 9 DECKS

AHOY! POTENTIAL STOCKMEN

The ship-based stock men and women employed by Wellard Rural Exports on each shipment, are an integral part of Wellard's success.

They oversee the health of the shipment while on-board short voyages and work with the shipboard veterinarian on long-haul voyages, so perform an invaluable role for the company.

Due to increasing activity in the live cattle trade Wellard is now seeking people with stock handling experience to care for cattle on our existing vessels, as well as two, new, state-of-the-art ships to be launched next year.

International travel and the rewards from successfully overseeing up to 22,000 cattle at a time are just some of the benefits available to stockmen and women.

The ideal candidates will possess livestock management/handling experience (ideally in a feedlot); computer skills; the ability to travel; an enthusiastic attitude, team spirit and a strong commitment to animal welfare.

Full time and contract positions are available.
Contact:

Justin Morrissey
Live Cattle Manager
Wellard Rural Exports
PO Box 796
Fremantle
Western Australia 6959

justin@wellardgroup.com.au
Phone: 08 9432 2800

2008 EMILIO BALZARINI TRAVEL PRIZE

By Michelle Abraham, 5th year Veterinary Student, Murdoch University School of Veterinary and Biomedical Science and Emilio Balzarini Commitment to Equine Travel Award recipient.

The Inaugural 2008 Emilio Balzarini Commitment to Equine Travel Award marked a new era for the veterinary students of Murdoch University, giving one student the opportunity to travel to the Balzarini Family's Thoroughbred Training Stables and Stud in Italy, 'Azienda Agricola Antezzate' [Scuderia Siba].

Thank you to everyone at Wellard Rural Exports for sponsoring the prize and for their hard work in arranging the trip. Trying to report on my experiences in a brief summary is extremely difficult!

From the early morning track work and my daily dose of adrenalin riding some future racing stars, to the glamour of the races and accepting winner's trophies on the biggest race days on the Italian Thoroughbred racing calendar.. not to mention a photo with Frankie Dettori, one of the world's greatest jockeys.

Then there were the breeding activities which took me to the base of the Italian Alps conducting pregnancy examinations on mares and health checks on foals and yearlings against a backdrop of glaciers and stunning scenery.

Whether it was the training, racing or breeding, the Balzarini Family, their veterinarians and staff were extremely welcoming and eager to expose me to the Italian equine industry...and of course, the hospitality wasn't complete without experiencing other aspects of Italy including the amazing food and wine, and a couple of nights in Venice.

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Balzarini Family, Wellard Rural Exports and the Dean of Murdoch University School of Veterinary Medicine Professor John Edwards and Kristen Mannix from the Murdoch University Veterinary Trust for their contribution to organising the trip, and of course the staff at the Murdoch Equine Hospital for their ongoing support and encouragement of keen equine students.



MICHELLE LOOKING AT JUST SOME OF THE TROPHIES WON BY SIBA'S RACEHORSES.

AUDIT TO BENCHMARK ANIMAL WELFARE AT BALDIVIS

Work has just begun on the development of a best practice animal welfare guide for Wellard Rural Exports' pre-export depot facility at Baldivis, south of Perth.

Although the undercover, raised pen operation, which can hold about 80,000 sheep, is considered one of the best pre-export facilities in Australia, Wellard wants to be able to benchmark key animal welfare performance indicators at Baldivis to measure ongoing performance in animal welfare, handling and infrastructure development.

The development of the best practice guide is consistent with the company's philosophy of continual improvement in all aspects of the industry and will be backed by a strong commercial imperative, as animal health directly affects Wellard's revenues on each shipment.

Other benefits include market accessibility, improved management systems, identification of any training, infrastructure and procedures upgrades, standardised systems and a whole

of chain approach to encourage consumer confidence in the live export industry.

The animal welfare audit will be overseen by Dr David Beatty (BSc BVMS PhD Murdoch), who is the Wellard Senior Lecturer in Leadership in Animal Health and Production position at Murdoch University's School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, and Dr Leisha Hewitt who is an Animal Welfare Research Fellow at Murdoch University.

Dr Hewitt has worked as a trainer and animal welfare assessor in the UK, EU, Brazil, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Canada, Indonesia, Taiwan, Australia and Chile.

The partnership with Murdoch University reflects the commitment of Wellard to the future of Australia's livestock industry and to improved animal welfare.

Murdoch School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences has worked on a number of significant live export research projects in the past few years, the

outcomes of which have already become part of industry operational practice, so has considerable expertise in this area.

The pilot project at the sheep pre-export facility will be duplicated at one of the company's northern cattle facilities, providing a template for the company and industry in best practice management of both animal welfare and personnel management and training.

We wish Murdoch Uni and their team of students all the best with their work and we look forward to the results of their research, which will benefit farmers and livestock exporters.

FOOTNOTE: Dr David Beatty has been appointed to co-ordinate Meat and Livestock Australia's live export R&D program and will be leaving his position at Murdoch shortly.

We wish David all the best with the move to Sydney, and we will no doubt continue to work closely with him in his new position.

ISDE TEAM WRAP

A top 10 finish in the world's most famous Enduro motorcycle race was a fantastic reward for effort and endeavour for this year's Wellard Yamaha ISDE 2008 Team riders and management.

Held this year in Serres, Greece, in early September, this year's event was a true test for man and machine.

And the Wellard Yamaha Team faced some huge hurdles just to get to the start line, when the team's shipping container, complete with customised motorcycles and all the supplies and gear, failed to arrive in Greece.

So just days before the event began, Team Manager Peter Strickland, Team Technical Director Peter Burell and Riders Matt Gangell, Paul Humberston and Liam Robertson were scouring Greek motorbike shops to beg, borrow, buy or steal gear and equipment, including renting new, standard Yamaha WR250Fs and a WR450F to compete in the 1300km race.

The Wellard Yamaha team faced many issues from start to finish, but even with all the

problems Matt, Paul and Liam were able to maintain a positive and professional outlook.

Matt was at his second ISDE. After last year's challenge in Chile, he competed in the Australian series to prepare for the rocky and dusty terrain of the Mediterranean peninsula. Paul and Liam were at their first international competition, but proved to be strong and determined to achieve. As Team Manager Peter Strickland said: "Matt, Paul and Liam pushed the boundaries of themselves in some of the harshest conditions that we will never really understand."

That included a gut wrenching and tear jerking push to the finish for Matt on Day 4. With a cracked engine casing, courtesy of a rock, and time slipping by, Matt was forced to push his WR450F more than 850 metres to the finish line, in full protective gear and in 40C heat at the end of a seven hour day in the saddle. Every race competitor, mechanic and spectator was cheering the gutsy 18-year-old rider on as he reached the finish line and collapsed in a heap, physically and mentally spent.

It wasn't the only interaction with spectators for the team. The rush to get to a final checkpoint caused Paul to forget to pump his brakes after a wheel change. As a consequence, when he grabbed the brake to slow for a corner there was nothing, and he careered into a group of spectators – fortunately no-one was injured.

Although they achieved a Top 10 Finish against the world's best, it was the way they overcame challenges rather than the final result which was the true measure of this year's team's success.

You can read about their trials and tribulations at http://www.wellardgroup.com.au/isde2008/team_news/team_news.phtml

Wellard is very proud to sponsor the Team and to offer the chance to young WA sportsmen to showcase their talent in the most important motorcycle Enduro race in the world. The ISDE is in fact the true-test of man and machine and is regarded as the Olympics of off-road motorcycle racing. We wish all the best to the Wellard Yamaha Team and we look forward to ISDE 2009 in Figueira da Foz, Portugal.

FIRST YEAR, FIRST PLACE

Wellard-sponsored riders fly

The Wellard brand has enjoyed a stellar inaugural year in the Australian Off Road Championship (AORC) with Wellard-backed riders winning four titles, including the Open Championship.

A bid to increase its exposure on the East Coast plus a genuine interest in off-road motorcycle racing prompted Wellard to become the principal sponsor of the powerful Ballards team in the AORC this year.

The support was rewarded when Wellard Ballards riders won the Pro, Expert, Junior and Master championships in the 2008 AORC.

While Chris Hollis' domination of the Open Pro series was the highlight for the Wellard

Ballards team, Matt Gangell's victory in the Expert championship was particularly sweet for Wellard.

Matt was a motocross rider but was introduced to enduro riding when he was selected for the Wellard Yamaha ISDE 2007 Team to contest the International Six Day Enduro (ISDE) in Chile last year.

After setting some sizzling times in Chile, he was sponsored by Wellard to enter the 2008 AORC as part of the Wellard Ballards team.

That faith in his ability was repaid when he easily took out the championship aboard his Yamaha WR450F.

Matt was more than excited about his strong ride this year, and gave special mention to his unique opportunity to ride in the Ballards



MATT GANGELL WON THE EXPERT CLASS IN THE AUSTRALIAN OFF ROAD CHAMPIONSHIPS, RIDING FOR THE WELLARD BALLARDS TEAM.

team via the great support the Wellard Group and its Managing Director Mauro Balzarini.

Mr Balzarini said the success enjoyed by the team was fantastic.

"Wellard is extremely pleased not just with the championships won by the Wellard Ballards Team, but the team's professionalism, passion and dedication – values which are extremely important to our company," he said.

THREE MILLION SHEEP, HALF A MILLION CATTLE AND STILL STEAMING



THE WELLARD RURAL EXPORTS TEAM OF MANAGING DIRECTOR STEVE MEERWALD; LIVE CATTLE MANAGER JUSTIN MORRISSEY; SHIPPING MANAGER GREG BURTON; SIBA SHIPS CHAIRMAN MAURO BALZARINI; FEED AND TRANSPORT MANAGER DAVID JARVIE; MV BECRUX CAPTAIN ANTONIO TOSQUES; AND LIVE SHEEP MANAGER GARRY ROBINSON WATCH THE THREE MILLIONTH SHEEP BEING LOADED ONTO THE MV BECRUX.

The MV Becrux has celebrated the successful transportation of its 3,000,000th sheep.

The vessel unloaded its milestone cargo in Doha, Qatar, in mid-September, only two months after the vessel's 500,000th cattle milestone was achieved.

The MV Becrux entered the Siba Ships livestock fleet in 2002 and has now completed 79 voyages since its launch. Its speed and animal welfare advances have cemented its position as the flagship of the world's livestock fleet.

"With its superior feed, water and ventilation systems, the MV Becrux has been a resounding success for Siba Ships and Australian sheep and cattle producers," Siba Ships Chairman Mauro Balzarini said.

"It was that success which prompted Siba and Wellard to place our recently announced US\$250 million order for two new sister vessels to the Becrux."

The Becrux doesn't just exceed the industry standards in terms of voyage success rates, the sheep and cattle on-board the Becrux arrive at their destination in better condition than aboard any other vessel and we are disappointed if we do not achieve a weight gain for both sheep and cattle.

That ability enables Australian producers to retain their competitive advantage in the global live export trade.

THE MV STELLA DENEK SETTING NEW RECORDS



CAPTAIN SEBASTIANO AMATO WITH THE MV STELLA DENEK AT THE FINAL PORT OF PANJANG, JUST BEFORE THE 22,372ND HEAD WAS UNLOADED.

The MV Stella Deneb has broken its own world record for the largest maritime cattle shipment, with the bulk of the cattle supplied by Wellard Rural Exports.

At the end of July the MV Stella Deneb successfully unloaded the last of 23,372 cattle at the Indonesian port of Panjang, eclipsing the previous world record of 22,184 cattle the vessel set in October 2007.

The steers, heifers, cows and bulls were loaded in Townsville (14,166 head) and Darwin (9,206 head) and were shipped to the Indonesian ports of Cigading, Jakarta and Panjang.

The MV Stella Deneb is owned and operated by Wellard's associate company, Siba Ships.

Siba Ships Chairman Mauro Balzarini said the inclusion of the Cigading Port, a deep water port which doesn't have the same draft restrictions that have previously prevented the Stella Deneb from being loaded to its rated capacity, and a different mix of cattle, had enabled the successful transport of an extra 1200 head.

For Wellard the condition of the cattle was more important than the size of the shipment, and the consignment arrived at each port in great health.

"The number and condition of the cattle that walk off the vessel is our measure of success, and the fact that this record shipment has met all of our standards and the cattle gained weight during the voyage, is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in this shipment," Wellard Live Cattle Manager Justin Morrissey said.

"The logistics involved with aggregating, transporting, loading and shipping more than 23,000 cattle were huge, so the efforts by the holding yards, truck drivers, stevedores and on-board stockmen were instrumental in achieving a successful shipment, and setting the new world record."

The cattle on-board ate 2,300 tonnes of feed and consumed 13,000 tonnes of water throughout the voyage.

RURAL YOUTH SET TO GROW

The future of the WA Federation of Rural Youth is secure, after Wellard agreed to become a major sponsor of the organisation for the next two years.

Appreciating the role WA Rural Youth plays in rural Western Australia, Wellard hopes the financial support and stability its sponsorship provides will enable WAFRY to grow, prosper and build on its services to members.

WAFRY has an exciting program of events planned with its Convention and National Young Farmer Competition in 2009, and it only recently held its 75th anniversary celebration where old and new members gathered in Perth to catch up. Wellard was the main sponsor of the 75th anniversary celebration.

Rural Youth State President Tony Black said organisations like Wellard who flew the flag

for rural Western Australia, would assist organisations such as WA Rural Youth to enjoy a strong and sustainable future.

“I see a bright future for rural WA, and the opportunities this organisation can offer young people,” Mr Black said.

“Wellard have been keenly involved in the National Young Farmer Competition in the past, and will again be major sponsor for this in 2009.”

“As well as the National Competition, Wellard is sponsoring a live export module at each of the heats of the State Young Farmer Competition. We look forward to a growing relationship with Wellard over the coming



ABOVE: PETA CLARK FROM CUBALLING ON THE DRAFTING GATE DURING THE LIVE EXPORT MODULE OF THE WA YOUNG FARMER OF THE YEAR HEAT AT BRUCE ROCK, ASSISTED AND JUDGED BY WELLARD RURAL EXPORTS SHEEP BUYER BARRIE WILKIE.

years, and thank them for the involvement in taking WAFRY to a new level.”

Contestants in the Wellard live export module in the WAFRY Young Farmer competition have been required to answer a quiz, and then draft a line of sheep into different export specifications.



GARRY ROBINSON,
LIVE SHEEP MANAGER

BEEFING UP SHEEP EXPORTS

Wellard Rural Exports is Australia's largest live cattle exporter. New Wellard Live Sheep Manager Garry Robinson wants it to hold that mantle for sheep too.

Garry began work overseeing the sheep export operations for Wellard in April this year, but is no stranger to the live export trade. It is an industry he has built his career in for 10 years, starting off as a yard hand and shipboard stockman to fund his way through university.

He also had used the Wellard facilities in his previous position, so hit the ground running in his new role

Wellard's focus on continual improvement in all aspects of the export trade appealed to him.

“The company's proactive programs of improvement in areas such as animal

handling and nutrition, and significant financial investment in infrastructure both domestically and internationally stands not just the company, but the industry as a whole, in good stead for the future,” he said.

His role with WRE encompasses all aspects of the WRE business associated with the export of sheep, including sourcing, preparation, shipping and sales in our destination countries.

The best part of the role for Garry is the variety of work required on a day to day basis. On any given day he can be moving sheep around the Baldivis feedlot, directing trucks at the wharf or flying to the Middle East to liaise with new and existing clients.

“Live export is a dynamic and exciting industry to be in,” he said.

It can also be frustrating when things don't go quite according to plan, for example diving into the Swan River at Fremantle Port to herd a recalcitrant camel or chasing feral goats through the Rous Head Rottnest ferry terminal have tested man, beast and a man's patience and sense of humour. (Eds note: This was prior to joining Wellard – though we

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have to admit to the odd escapee ourselves which included a steer running down the main shopping mall in Townsville!!)

And despite these hiccups the chances are strong that another young Robbo might follow in his laconic Dad's footsteps.

Young Finn, Garry and wife Maria's 18-month-old son already loves to spend time in the sheep yards and his first word wasn't Mum or Dad, it was Baa!!!

With the Islamic religious festivals of Ramadan just finished and Hajj just about to begin, Garry has been flat out of late, and he expects that with a softening of the Australian dollar, live sheep exports to the Middle East will remain healthy.

"In general demand for Australian sheep in the Middle East is strong," he said.

"Middle East countries traditionally have preferred older heavier types of Australian sheep. With the changing nature of the Australian sheep flock in terms of age and weights, our customers in the Middle East are becoming much more receptive to purchasing a wider selection of different types of sheep for their markets."

You can contact Garry on garry@wellardgroup.com.au or 0447 950491

WELLARD STAR OF THE WEST CAMPDRAFT



CAMPDRAFTING IS A TRUE TEST OF
HORSEMANSHIP AND STOCKMANSHIP

Preparations are stepping up another gear with the inaugural "Wellard Star of the West" Campdraft drawing closer.

More than 250 entries have been received from all over the state so far, so the Campdraft, to be held on November 14-16th is promising to be a huge event.

Major sponsors have been secured for all of the drafts, ensuring top prize money will be on offer to those leading the standings at the conclusion of each draft. More than \$12,000 in prize money will be up for grabs and finals prize money will be paid down to 10th place.

This adds to the commitment already provided by Wellard Rural Exports, and will ensure that the "Star of the West" will be one of the premier horse sport events in the state.

Spectators are invited to come to Northam and experience this unique Australian sport. Entry is by gold coin donation with

proceeds going to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Childrens Leukaemia and Cancer Research Foundation.

Saturday afternoon and evening will be ideal time to head to Northam, with several top grade drafts to be run before hitting the bar with live entertainment until late.

Drafts include Open, Novice, Maiden, Juvenile, Junior, Local, Stallion and Open Restricted.

In addition to enabling some of Western Australia's great horse men and women to showcase their talents, the event will also help bridge the gap between the country and city.

For further information, follow the link on our website (www.wellardgroup.com.au) or call Justin Morrissey at the Wellard office on 9432 2800.

Draft participants are urged to get their entries in as soon as possible.

POLOCROSSE RESULTS

Wellard recently sponsored the champion pony prizes at the Twin Pines Polocrosse carnival held in Northam on the 20th and 21st of September.

It was a great weekend with the weather being kind and some great polocrosse action providing the ideal warm up for many members of the state teams in the lead up to the national championships at Brigadoon in October.

Winners of the Wellard horse rugs for champion pony were;

A Grade – Aiden Thurkle, Walkaway Club

B Grade – Hannah Watkin, Kojonup Club

C Grade – Alan Edwards, Murray Club

C Grade Mixed – Emily Walsh, Kojonup club

D Grade – Amy Besendorp, Twin Pines Club

E Grade – Asha Maguire, Jesters Flat Club

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR
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BACKGROUND

WELLARD RURAL EXPORTS

Wellard Rural Exports has supplied quality Australian dairy and beef cattle and sheep and goats to the world for more than 29 years. Based in Fremantle, the company's operations cover every aspect of the export chain, including feed and high fibre milling, road transport, feedlot facilities and modern shipping.

Wellard has priority access to the most modern fleet of livestock carriers on the ocean through its association with Siba Ships. The company's flagship carrier, the MV Becrux, is a purpose-built livestock carrier capable of carrying 75,000 sheep or 18,000 cattle from Australia to major markets around the globe. She was commissioned in 2002.

www.wellardgroup.com.au