

Global Event. Reds Cows. Down Under.

“Bringing Red Breeds together”

Conference Brochure

26th March and 27th March 2019

The Barn Palais, Nelson Road, Mt Gambier



**Come and join us at this fantastic event,
networking with breed identities from around the world!**

Hosted by Australian Reds - The Australia Red Dairy Breed Register Ltd
www.irdbf2019.com.au

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Programme

DAY 1 (Tuesday 26th March 2019)

8:30 am Registration

THE MORNING

Welcome by Masters of Ceremonies, Mr Erik Thompson and Mr Anthony Shelly

The Australian and New Zealand Experience

First up we will hear from Australia's and New Zealand's red dairy breeds, their breeding priorities and growth focus. Representatives will be present from Australian Reds, Australian Ayrshires, Illawarras Australia and New Zealand Milking Shorthorn Association.

Some Data

DataGene's **Peter Williams**, will expand on the Australian dairy industry statistics, including comparisons between red breeds and other breeds. Peter will be answering the question of what the unique characteristics of the Australian Breeding Values are.

The International Perspective

We introduce **Auli Himanen** of Viking Genetics Finland, **Prof Dr Georg Thaller** explaining the position of the Angler breed, **Duncan Hunter** of Ayrshire Cattle Society of Great Britain and Ireland, along with **Tim Humphris** of Australian Red Dairy Breed. They will discuss the topic 'Red Breed Genomics So Far', describing their countries' experiences to date.

Red Breed genomics- the science update

Dr Jennie Pryce will present an update on her research on red breed genomics, heat tolerance breeding values and feed use efficiency.

"The European ReDiverse Project"

Prof. Dr. Georg Thaller will take us through the ReDiverse project: Biodiversity within and between European red dairy breeds. This exciting project seeks to develop collaborative and integrated breeding and management practises to maximise the potential of red dairy genetics. Could this become a fully global effort?

A Great Discussion

And then **Dr Jennie Pryce** and **Prof. Dr. Georg Thaller** will flesh out the question of "Is the Phenotypic data set robust enough to support reliable red breed genomic evaluations? And is there room for improvement?"

Lunch is a great time catch up with colleagues and check out the trade displays

THE AFTERNOON

Part 1 - Maintaining red diversity, while breeding for productivity gains

We welcome back **Dr Jennie Pryce** who will explain the existing genetic diversity of all red breeds, and the experience of other dairy breeds which have narrowed their genetic pools. How can diversity be maintained while breeding for productivity gains?

Part 2 - The Commercial Realities

We then move into the first of our **Panel Session** discussions, looking at the experience of commercial realities influencing artificial breeding companies - Genetic Australia, Viking Genetics, AuzredXB, RSH eG, Cattle Services Ayr Pty Ltd, and Estonian Red Cattle.

We ask them "What are the commercial realities of maintaining diversity while breeding for productivity gains? What are the company policies?" We are pleased to present **Auli Himanen** of Viking Genetics Finland, **Christina Paulsen-Schlueter** of RSH eG Germany, **Anthony Shelly** of Genetics Australia, **Karen Moroney** of AuzredXB, **Duncan Hunter** of Cattle Services Ayr Pty Ltd, **David Kendall** of ST Genetics USA, and **Tanel Bulitko** of Estonian Red Breed to join this discussion.

Tim Humphris will summarise the discussion, pinpointing the highlights and opportunities identified.

Great Australian Research

Dr Jo Coombe of Dairy Australia will present her study on the performance of cross bred cows on Australian commercial dairy farms.

TO END THE DAY

Anthony Shelly of Genetics Australia will facilitate a panel discussion with the assembled delegates to focus on “**Bringing Red Breeds Together**”. Anthony will be joined by **Christina Paulsen-Schlueter, Duncan Hunter, Auli Himanen, David Kendall and Paul Cocksedge**. Food for thought will be “How do we communicate among red breeds around the world, and can this sharing be improved?”

Lee-Ann Monks of DataGene will analyse the discussion and present a summary of it.

Trade displays available for viewing from 8:30am and throughout Day 1.

IN THE EVENING

Join us for dinner along with guest speaker **Michael Harvey** from Rabobank, who will share his view on world milk production and consumption, and what opportunities there are for the red breeds.

Our part-sponsor for tonight’s dinner **AuzredXB** will make a short presentation.

We are excited to present musical entertainment by the ‘**Mitchell Wilmot Quartet**’ from the James Morrison Academy of Music.

DAY 2 (Wednesday 27th March 2019)

9:00 am Registration

THE MORNING

Dr Andrew Hoare of South East Vets will discuss the economic cow and herd life performance and the limitations in pasture feeding compared with housed cows.

To be followed by a presentation from Dairy Australia utilising DairyBase to answer, “Is it possible for Aussie Red herds to match it with the top 25% of their contemporaries in other breeds?”

We then visit “Hamilton’s Run” Australian Reds owned by Graeme and Michele Hamilton.

Some more networking over lunch.

THE AFTERNOON

For those wanting some free time there will be an opportunity to sightsee or shop in Mount Gambier. Time will be allocated for the formal business meetings of firstly, the International Red Dairy Breeds Federation Board, and secondly, the European Red Dairy Breeds.

THE POSTER NIGHT

This is a great way to finish the two-day conference showcasing red dairy breeds from around the world. A special photo competition from Australian Reds will be judged. **DataGene** is also presenting an award for the Highest Balance Performance Index photographed cow from the Photo Competition.

NOTE: Topics and speakers are subject to change prior to the day

Australian Red Dairy Breed Ltd is pleased to present the following speakers:

Prof. Dr. Georg Thaller *of Kiel University, Germany.*

Georg Alois Thaller became Professor of Animal Breeding in 2005 at the Christian-Albrechts-University. He studied agricultural sciences specializing in animal production at the Technische Universität München-Weihenstephan, gaining his PhD at the Institute of Animal Sciences of the TU Munich-Weihenstephan in 1992. Next on the list Georg became a Postdoctoral fellow at Virginia State University in Blacksburg, USA. Research assistant and later scientific assistant at the Institute for Animal Breeding of the TU Munich-Weihenstephan. Now he plays a lead role in the ReDiverse project at Kiel University.

Dr Jennie Pryce *Principal Research Scientist of Agriculture Victoria and La Trobe University, located at AgriBio*

Jennie leads a large team of scientists and supervises PhD students. Her main areas of interest are genetic improvement of functional traits in dairy cattle, optimising breeding scheme design under genomic selection and development of dairy selection indices. Jennie is Lead Scientist of DataGene and sits on several industry and research alignment groups that shape the future of dairy research in Australia. Jennie is also a member of the International Committee on Animal Recording working group on functional traits. Previously, she was employed by the Scottish Agricultural College, and Livestock Improvement Corporation in New Zealand.

Peter Williams *Extension Officer, DataGene*

After completing his Bachelor of Agricultural Science Peter started work in the dairy industry at VAB/Genetics Australia based at Bacchus Marsh Victoria and spent 13 years working in the area of Progeny Test and Sire Procurement. This involved the selection and importation of the first ever live bulls and embryos from North America. Following on from this Peter worked another 12 years managing the Sire Acquisition and Progeny Testing at RAB Albury and ABS Australia. Peter joined DataGene as an Extension Officer after its formation in 2016, following on from his appointment at the former Australian Dairy Improvement Scheme in 2011. He has many year's experience in the Artificial Breeding industry where he was responsible for selecting and proving some of Australia's most popular and influential sires.

Dr Jo Coombe *BSc (Hons) BVSc (Hons) PhD, Program Manager Animal Health & Fertility, Dairy Australia*

Recently appointed as the acting program manager for animal health and fertility at Dairy Australia, Jo has a long history with the dairy industry in Australia. After graduating from the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Melbourne in 2007, she worked for several years as a dairy vet in Timboon, south-west Victoria. She returned to Melbourne University to complete her PhD; which was sponsored by Dairy Australia and part of a large study at Ellinbank. Jo went on to complete her post doctorate in 2017, (also funded by Dairy Australia) which investigated crossbreeding in Australian dairy herds, alongside lecturing in dairy medicine at the University. For the three years prior to joining Dairy Australia, Jo provided input into several Dairy Australia programs, including Healthy Hooves, Rearing Healthy Calves and InCalf. When Jo left clinical practice, her goal was to be able to continue to work in the dairy industry; specifically, by contributing in ways that would directly help dairy farmers. She believes that cow health, welfare and fertility are the cornerstones of improvement in herd performance.

Dr Andrew Hoare *(BVSc) Practice Partner, South East Vets*

Andrew Hoare is a Practice Partner of South East Vets, Mount Gambier South Australia. Andrew grew up on a beef cattle property in southern Queensland but has found his way south and into dairy cattle work. Andrew has been President of the Australian Cattle Veterinarians, is currently the South Australian representative for Australian Cattle Veterinarians, and is also on the National Cattle Pregnancy Diagnosis Committee. Andrew is passionate about helping other veterinarians develop their skills in ultrasound pregnancy diagnosis and is currently an accredited manual and ultrasound pregnancy tester and examiner.

Michael Harvey *Senior Analyst – Dairy, Rabobank Australia*

Michael is an enthusiastic and experienced dairy analyst, based in Melbourne, Australia. He has been actively involved in the Australian dairy industry for much of his life, having been raised on a dairy farm in the northern Victorian irrigation district. Michael brings to this role more than fifteen years of experience as a professional analyst, researcher and adviser gained through working with Dairy Australia (the peak industry body) as part of the Trade and Strategy team before joining the RaboResearch team in 2011. Michael has an in-depth knowledge of local and global dairy markets and how dairy supply chains function. Michael holds a bachelor's degree in international trade from the Victorian University and a postgraduate degree in diplomacy and trade at Monash University

And to Introduce our Panellists:

Auli Himanen *Viking Genetics Finland.*

Auli is Breeding Coordinator at VikingRed for Viking Genetics and is a well known face amongst red dairy cattle circles.

Christina Paulsen-Schluter *RSH eG*

Christina grew up as a suburban city girl. Christina's grandfather was an Angler breeder and she spent all her holidays on the family farm. From a very young age her highest interest was dairy farming and breeding Angler cows. After completing high school, Christina spent some years studying for a master's degree in Housekeeping, an agricultural apprenticeship, and a Bachelor of Agriculture before taking over the family farm in Tolk, Angeln, Germany. Since 2001 Christina has been active in various leadership roles, including the Angler Breeding Committee, Board Member for RSHeG (cattle breeding cooperative for all breeds in Schleswig-Holstein), member of supervisory boards for other companies, and a member of umbrella organisations for red dairy breeds.

Duncan Hunter *Breed Manager, Ayrshire Cattle Society of Great Britain and Ireland*

Duncan is Breed Manager for Ayrshire Cattle Society UK and is Executive Director for World Ayrshire Federation. Duncan is a former Ayrshire breeder himself who has overseen significant growth in breed membership during his time at the helm. He also takes a special interest in fostering youth activities within the breed.

David J Kendall, *Director of Genetic Advancement, ST Genetics USA*

David has held many dynamic roles in red dairy circles including Executive Secretary of American Milking Shorthorn Society and Member of the American Ayrshire Association Breed Improvement Committee. He has also had significant input the Milking Shorthorn Society Young Sire Committee, and the Dairy Sire Evaluation Committee-National Association of Animal Breeders. He brings a well-rounded view of the American dairy cattle breeding scene to our discussions.

Tim Humphris *Australian Red Dairy Breed*

Tim is a vet, dairy farmer, university lecturer, member of Australian Red Dairy Breed, and has a passion for the technical side of breeding and genetics. He will present information on the Australian red breed genomic situation.

Paul Cocksedge *Australian Red Dairy Breed*

Paul is a dairy farm manager, breeding adviser, and Director of Australian Red Dairy Breed. He farms in the Eastern Victoria.

Karen Moroney *AuzredXB*

Head of the former IRCC, partner in AuzredXB, and conference committee member Karen Moroney will join a panel discussion on maintaining diversity in red breeds.

Anthony Shelley *CEO, Genetics Australia*

Anthony is a Senior Business Leader with a strong background in agricultural sales, team leadership and general management. He is renowned for building long-term and effective relationships with clients, business partners and colleagues in the team. Anthony has held senior positions with National Herd Improvement Association and Genetics Australia and holds the view that "Leadership is not a Position it is an Action".

Erik Thompson *Breeding advisor and Sales Manager, Viking Genetics Australia*

Erik has had a lifetime of experience in red dairy circles, being a part of the influential Thompson family who were foundational in creating the Australian Red Dairy Breed as a recognised breed. Erik has a keen eye for dairy cattle and is now a highly competent sales manager within the Australian dairy industry.

Tanel Bulitko *Estonian Red Breed*

Tanel is far too modest to supply his working credentials in the red dairy breed world of his home country. We think it is fitting to call our good friend and supporter Tanel Bulitko "Mr Everything" to the red dairy breed of Estonia as he is kept busy with a great number of responsibilities for his country.

Greg Goulding *Australian Red Dairy Breed*

Greg is currently Chairman of Australian Red Dairy Breed - "our boss"! He will introduce our breed on conference day. Greg is a dairy farmer, and Director of National Herd Development, he farms in northern Victoria