

2020 Australian Red Cow of the Year

This year we had 8 nominations from farmers for '2020 Australian Red Cow of the Year'. The eight nominations are described below. After the cows were nominated, Members of the ARDB were asked to vote for their top 3 cows. Votes were tallied, and the top 3 cows were announced (see the end of this document for placings).

The first cow nominated was Waikato Primula 3776 EX-90-4E, owned by Mike Green.

Sired by Larsgard, 3776 was the only heifer calf sired by Larsgard from a Bosgowan dam that Mike purchased from John Williams.

3776 is 10 years of age and on her 9th lactation. Of her 9 calves, there have been 7 heifer calves to date. She has never been at the top nor the bottom for herd tests, but every year she has gotten in calf and has never had any troubles. She recently had a REDFLOKI heifer calf in August, and has since been re-mated to the angler sire Scheli.

3776 was awarded a Superior Total Performance Certificate in February 2020. To date, she has produced 70,496 litres with 2,227 kg of protein and 2,425 kg of fat in 2425 days, averaging 29.1 litres and 1.93 milk solids daily.



Waikato Primula 3776

The second cow nominated was Beaulands Foske Birdie 4, owned and bred by the Graham Family.

Currently on her 7th calf, she has gone in calf to her first mating every season, except one season where she had 2 matings to achieve a pregnancy.

She has been entered into the NSW On Farm Challenge every year, and was 2nd in her class in 2016.

She has a very quiet temperament; has a low cell count; and is just a great cow to have in the herd.



Beaulands Foske Birdie 4

The third cow nominated was Cluain 3070 Empress, owned and bred by the Hamilton Family.

3070 Empress had a wonderful milking career over six lactations before going to have embryos harvested to extend her genetic input into the Hamilton's herd.

Empress is sired by ABS Waikato, and was classified VG87 in January 2018. Her lifetime production was 77,315 litres; 2,482 kg butterfat; 2,677 kg protein; and PI 117. Her movie star qualities before the camera make her the ideal all-rounder in the herd.

To cap off her solid contribution to Cluain Aussie Reds, 3070 Empress produced 33 embryos; 20 embryos to GGI Willow and 13 embryos to VR Vario.



Cluain 3070 Empress

The fourth cow nominated was Paco David Georgia 143 VG88, owned and bred by Paul Cocksedge.

She's six and a half years old and currently halfway through her 5th lactation. She has two sons in AI (REDGEORGE and GEORGE2) awaiting proofs, who each have a BPI of 306 as of December 2020.

Her current BPI is 324, and she was classified VG88 last season as a 5-year-old. At the end of last season, she made the transition to a new herd of 700 cows and never missed a beat, remaining as one of the highest production cows in the herd. Her lifetime production to date stands at 36,316 litres with 1,656 kg of fat and 1,386 kg of protein (average fat and protein tests of 4.60% and 3.84%) and has an average PI of 125.



Paco David Georgia 143

The fifth cow nominated was 3058, owned and bred by Andrew and Vanessa Hibberson.

Hibson's Illawarra's and Aussie Reds is an organic dairy farm milking 150 cows. Milking Aussie Reds was a commercial and lifestyle decision, wanting a cow that can produce the required quality of milk and be adaptable to the farming system, as well as bring traits such as disease resistance, ease of calving, fertility and temperament. As such, 3058 is an excellent example of this; with her gentle easy-going nature, she has calved down every year without assistance, and started her lactation with no mastitis issues.

3058 was recently judged as the winner of the 5- and 6-year old Red Cow Class in the National Photo Competition, and was also judged as the Overall Champion of the Competition.



3058

The sixth cow nominated was 256, owned and bred by Andrew and Helen Dunbar.

256 is a 7th lactation Peterslund daughter.

Everything about her makes her an easy cow to manage. No health issues on record. At the last herd test her cell count was 17 with a fat of 5.40% and protein of 3.06%. This type of cow has allowed us to bring the herd 2 week rolling average for cell count to 26, achieving Dairy Australia Gold Awards for the previous 3 years.



256

The seventh cow nominated was Glenview ARIMPALU 1555, owned and bred by the Drury Family.

1555 was born on 01/06/2015 and is due to calve 05/02/21. She has very good fertility and a placid nature. She was classified GP 82 as a heifer.



Glenview ARIMPALU 1555

The eighth cow nominated was 256, owned and bred by Andrew and Helen Dunbar.

Moyola Roanbow 35, also known as 2202, is sired by Tosikko and currently in her 4th lactation.

Her fertility has been outstanding with only once failing to hold on her first service. While she unfortunately has not produced any heifers to follow yet, 2 of her bull calves, sired by Cigar, have been sold to commercial herds.

2202 has a BPI of 232 and an ASI of 224. Her current Lifetime Production is 32,099 litres at 4.02% fat and 3.60% protein. The first 6 months this lactation she has averaged 44.5 litres per day at 3.61% fat and 3.45% protein. 2202 has been the top combined PI cow in her herd every lactation; 1st lactation PI 127, 2nd lactation PI 127, 3rd lactation PI 130, 4th (current) lactation PI 131.



Moyola Roanbow 35

2020 Australian Red Cow of the Year

1st Place, 2020 Australian Red Cow of the Year: Beaulands Foske Birdie 4



2nd Place: Moyola Roanbow 35



3rd Place: Cluain 3070 Empress

