

# Dairy Goat Society of Australia Victorian Branch

## NEWSLETTER

### Autumn 2017

## BLUEBROOK VITTORIA SUPREME EXHIBIT BUNYIP SHOW 2017

Owner Belinda Appleton

Breeder Luke Loman





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BALLARAT SHOW JUNIOR HANDLER

## EDITORIAL

Finally this edition is finished. It has taken ages to get to it, I moved house eight weeks ago and didn't realise how much I would have to do, and as well as that I went back to work. The first problem was the goats... They kept getting out of their paddock, so finally I have managed to run five wires of electric around the exterior and I am keeping them in. I have another acre but because of the wet winter all the fencing contractors were behind so I have waited eight weeks for the contractor who has nearly finished the fencing, hopefully when the rain stops the mesh will go on the fence, then a shed which is taking ages because of Council Planning permits and shed permits. I have managed to get welded pens in the big shed and a roller door for access to the paddock. Quite a bit of expense for six goats, but I keep telling myself these improvements add value to the property and the fence will keep them in. The shows have all finished now but the goats seem very late to cycle so I think it will be a late kidding season again. I am always looking for articles for the newsletter, thank you to Ian Tyers and Ilana Leeds who have supplied me with articles. Bryony LePoidevin

## VALLEY VIEW YOKO



## NIGERIAN DWARF LINE UP BUNYIP



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## LAPGETTER GOATS IN SWEDEN

The Sami people traditionally known as Laplanders are an indigenous people inhabiting the Arctic region of Sampi which encompasses parts of far northern Norway, Sweden, Finland and Kola Peninsula of Russia. They are the most northern indigenous people of Europe. The Sami people have lived in the Arctic region for thousands of years. Traditionally they were fisherman, fur trappers and sheep herders. Their best known means of livelihood was reindeer herding and along with the reindeer they had Lappgetter goats. The Sami were originally nomads living in tents during the summer and more sturdy peat huts during winters. Today they live in modern housing most live in the north but there are Sami all over Sweden. Today for traditional, environmental, cultural and political reasons reindeer herding is reserved only for Sami people in some regions of the Nordic countries.



The Lappgetter or Sampi goat are a remnant of a heritage breed of goat from Northern Sweden they were discovered as recently in 2001. The breed originates from the goats the Sami kept with their reindeer and it is adapted to reindeer grazing grounds. They are not an actual breed but they've been geographically isolated for many years without being mixed with other breeds or purposefully bred to enhance characteristics. Today there are not many animals of the genetic breed left. The Swedish government has taken steps to protect this rare breed. Local variant as they are part of the history and have evolved characteristics that other goats in Sweden don't have. They are very hardy against the cold and even newborn kids can endure -30 C if they stay dry. They are incredibly good at finding food and don't hesitate to go through snow to find food in the winter.

The breed when discovered in 2001 started with 7 breeding animals and in 2008 there were 65. They have adapted to the environment that they live in and grow fat on an amazing variety of organisms more than just plants as they eat lichens and mushrooms too which are wild grown and not eaten by other domestic animals.



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The Lapgetter goats will graze out on a swamp and they also eat cranberries and sedges, they love climbing as well so electric fences need to keep them in. The milk is very good on these goats and they grow a very dense winter coat of long outer guard hairs and a very fine and luxurious wool like undercoat. They come in a variety of colours from white, grey and blacks.

Gullringstorp Goats in Sweden havea0 recently become a Gene Bank to help protect this Swedish Heritage Breed. One of the requirements is that you cannot have any other breed of goat on your property only the Lappgetter, this way the genetic pool is protected. Karen is the breeder and owner of these goats and also makes lovely natural goat milk soaps from their milk.

Thankyou to Karyn Stegenius from Sweden for sending me the photos and giving me information.

Other information sourced from Wikipedia



BALLARAT SHOW ANGLO NUBIAN LINE UP

# OFF TO THE ROYAL 1984

Sent in by Ian Tyers

The year was 1984. It was the Tuesday morning prior to Judging at the Royal Melbourne Show. I had gone to Woodend to take my mother, all manner of goods and chattels needed for a 12 day stay at the Royal, 3 of her Saanen milkers, 3 of her Saanen goatlings, 1 of her British Alpine goatlings, my 2 Toggenburg first kidders and about 8 kids to the Showgrounds. Woodend and Gisborne are both much colder than Ascot Vale, so the plan was to get the goats to the Showgrounds prior to lunch to allow them time to settle down before the milk test on Wednesday and Judging on Thursday.

It was a horrible day. Strong wind and pouring rain. Anyway, we managed to load all the goods and chattels into the back of my panel van, and then loaded all the goats into the trailer and off we went well before lunchtime.

Everything was going as planned until I noticed something in my right-side mirror as we were descending Gap Hill. We were being passed by a wheel! I thought to myself, "That's not something you see every day". A quick scan of the 2 lanes going up the hill and the 2 lanes going down the hill brought an unpleasant reality to me. There were no other vehicles in sight! Even though the car and the single axel trailer were still tracking in a straight line, (not sure how), the wheel disappearing into the distance had to be one of ours. I very slowly brought everything to a halt, having to deal with some fish tailing as we got slower. Having stopped, I got out of the car into the pouring rain to do a quick stocktake of wheels and found that the right-hand wheel on the trailer was missing. Off down the road I go to fetch the errant wheel which had thankfully come to rest about 800 metres down the road, off to the left, out of harm's way. I roll the wheel back up the hill, now thoroughly drenched and getting colder by the minute. Quick inspection showed that the wheel nuts had all disappeared, and that the wheel mounting itself had taken a beating from being dragged along the road as we stopped. What to do? Mobile phones were uncommon, and neither of us had one at that stage. The nearest house was the best part of a kilometre away, but if one of us were to go there who would we ring to get us out of our predicament?

In lieu of any clever thoughts we decided to try to move all the goods and chattels into the front seat and put mother and all the goats into the back of the panel van. Much, much easier said than done. We got most of the goods and chattels into the front seat, piled so high I couldn't see out of the left-hand side window. The rest went into the back of the panel van. Whilst I owned a mesh insert to completely separate the front and rear of the panel van, I hadn't loaded it that day as weren't planning to put any goats in the back, so only a barrier of about 30 cm between front and back. I couldn't remove the trailer from the car with all the goats still in the trailer, so we had to drag them all out into the pouring rain and tie them up along the left-hand side of the trailer. They weren't happy! Even with the goats out I still had to jack up the trailer in order to finally get it separated from the panel van.

For the loading, it was mother in first in order to hold onto as many goats as possible in to stop them from simply jumping out again as new goats were loaded. That part went reasonably well, probably because the goats would have done nearly anything to get out of the weather. Finally it was time to throw the kids into the mix, who up until this time were still safe and dry in a front compartment of the trailer. It's fair to say that bedlam soon broke out. Anyway, I left mother to deal with that as best she could, slammed the top door of the panel van down and jumped into the driver's seat and gingerly set off.

Even with the demister running flat out I was having trouble seeing out the front or right hand side window due to all the hot breath coming from the back. I had to partially open the right-hand window to alleviate this problem, but this only resulted in various goats poking their heads over my shoulder to get some fresh air. At different stages, most of the kids tried to leap the divide into my lap, so I had to keep on swatting them away with my right hand whilst still driving. Mother said "Bother" or words to that effect many times. Things only got worse as we neared the Showgrounds as we started encountering stop lights. It seemed to be a case of anything goes in the back every time we stopped, and I did end up with a few kids landing on my lap.

Finally with nerves completely shot we drove into the Goat Pavilion. Despite mother's valiant efforts pretty much all of the goats escaped as soon as I opened the top door of the panel van. Thankfully most of them stayed in the Goat Pavilion with a few wandering down the stairs to the Sheep Pavilion. Thanks to Gloria Baird, making her only Royal Melbourne appearance, and her daughter we were able to round up all the does and kids reasonably quickly and were able to get them penned before looking for a medicinal beverage or two. This was somewhere between 3 and 4 pm. So much for lunchtime and plenty of time for the goats to settle down.

Milk quantity from all our does was somewhere normal on the Tuesday night, but was well down on Wednesday for the milk test.

Some clouds do have silver linings however. I probably had my most successful Royal coming first and second in the Toggenburg first lactation class, and went on to win the then still prestigious Thebridge Cup, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Best Udder, Champion Toggenburg (not all bad considering that the Toggenburg 2 or more lactation class featured 4 Australian Champions), and best milking pair. Mother didn't fare quite as well, only winning a second with one of her Saanen goatlings. One of her worst years.

Despite the success that my two does had, never again do I want to spend an hour driving slowly through suburban traffic with various goats breathing heavily into my right ear and/or belching into the same ear and my hair. I had to shampoo my hair several times to finally remove the distinct cud aroma.

As for the trailer abandoned on the side of the Calder highway. It was still there the next day and my father and a friend somehow managed to get it home and operational again before the end of the Show. Nonetheless it was still a very tense drive home.



BEST EXHIBIT ROCHESTER SHOW TALLULAH BELLA

## GEELONG ROYAL SHOW

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016

### Judge's Comments

It was a pleasure to judge the Royal Geelong Show for 2016. The overall quality of the goats exhibited was strong, with some tough decisions in several classes. All breeds were represented except for Melaans. In addition, I got to see and judge purebred La Manchas and Alpines for the first time.

The udder classes were hotly contested with several does showing excellent well-constructed and capacious udders. The scoring saw the Anglo Nubian doe, Banfield Park Alexa take out Best Udder overall. The defining feature of this doe's udder is her forward attachment.

The Senior Champion doe saw strong competition between Banfield Park Alexa seriously challenged by the Saanen doe, Ashwynd Skyrim, and the British Alpine doe, Gheringhaven Velvyt who also was first in the first lactation udder class. In the end, it was the 'showy' Anglo Nubian Banfield Park Alexa who took the broad ribbon and the reserve went to Ashwynd Skyrim, a very milky Saanen.

Whilst the goatlings weren't as strong in number, there was certainly some quality on display. The Champion Goatling, a striking young Anglo Nubian with good maturity was Jazzy Naylor. with the Reserve Champion Goatling, a British Alpine, Gheringhaven Ulinda showing excellent height, depth and length of body with plenty of potential.

Champion Doe Kid was a British Alpine, Gheringhaven Tuppence which was a very good example of her breed. The Reserve Champion Doe Kid, a saanen with a lot of promise.

The Champion Buck was an outstanding young Anglo Nubian, Jazzy Knox with excellent growth and bone and showing strong AN characteristic.

The final decision for the day was choosing the Best Exhibit, which I awarded to the Champion buck, Jazzy Knox. In a decision that could have gone either way, I chose the Buck because he has the greater potential to influence an improvement in his breed.

I thank the organisers and stewards, especially Peter Keays for their hard work and hospitality. The exhibitors were very welcoming and engaging. I appreciate the privilege of being invited to judge again in Victoria. Brett Gleeson

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## RHONDA PATTON-DEVELOPING A SMALLER DAIRY GOAT

Rhonda Patton has bred show quality and commercial herd dairy goats for the past 21 years. Her early background is farming. She grew on her parents' farm around horses, sheep and cows. A move into Newborough township for four years cured her of the townie lifestyle and having neighbours an arm's distance away from the back fence.

She and husband Paul first purchased a five acre farmlet down in Moe South in 1990. They lived there for five years before selling and moving to Drouin West in September 1995, onto another small six acre block.

Their first dairy goats came in December 1995, when they purchased two doe kids - a Saanen and a Toggenburg – from a Mrs Anne Peck. Then around 14 months later, they obtained another Toggenburg and an Anglo Nubian doe from Mrs Denise Pardy, who was shutting down her stud. Goats were obviously starting to grow on them as their next goat purchase was in early 1998.

Then, they took on an Australian Brown kid Carolann Brown Misty they purchased from Carol and Charlie Burns.



But she wanted to reduce the size of some of the dairy does in her herd and thus, later in 2011, they had their first drop of “height reduced kids”.

In searching for a smaller dairy type breed, she developed a keen interest in the Nigerian Dwarfs. This is a breed developed in America from a goat

breed which has its origins in West Africa. It is noted for its high butterfat and creamy milk, as well as being a smaller goat that displays a good dairy type and style.

Late 2013, Michael and Ulrike Garwood imported Nigerian Dwarf semen and embryos into Australia. Rhonda relates, “I purchased some straws that year and had a few of my does inseminated. This resulted in five does and three bucks that were 50 % Nigerian Dwarf.”

In 2014 more Nigerian Dwarf semen was brought into Australia from the USA by Paul Hamilton whose company Semtech Animal Breeding Service specialises in AI and sells semen from both imported and Australian breeding livestock.

The difficulty with the imported semen is basically because of strict Australian Quarantine regulations; the breeding buck must be five years of age or more

**Topaz Park Eurydici**





and is restricted in what locations he has lived in. He is also euthanised at the end of the collection and quarantine period so he can be autopsied for diseases. Not many breeders want to sell a buck with prize winning progeny, knowing that he will be euthanized at the end of the process, despite the benefit the new genes bring to Australian goat breeders in improving the quality of the local stock.

**Picture comparing Topaz Park Anthea held by Laura Lamin with a full size British Alpine doe of Trevor Waterson's.**



Rhonda's current 50% Nigerian Dwarfs does are a fabulous size for milking and handling. At the wither, they are 60 to 65cm tall. In addition, they produce a rich, creamy milk which is excellent for cheese making. One of their 50 % does won Supreme Exhibit at the Warragul Agricultural Show against some full size does. This was a testimonial to the strong dairy type and elegance that this doe Topaz Park Eurydici shows, as well as her good conformation and udder attachment.

Rhonda and Paul will be joining their first 75% ND does this year. As Rhonda says, "I want to continue breeding for conformation and production - just in a smaller package which is a lot cheaper to feed and to manage."



Bendigo All Breeds Goat Expo Committee



## BENDIGO GOAT FEST

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*for more details*

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or Ph: Wendy – 03 5433 6160

Email: [expo@stentwood.com.au](mailto:expo@stentwood.com.au)

Web: [www.bendigogoatfest.com](http://www.bendigogoatfest.com)

#### Bendigo Goat Fest

Bendigo Exhibition Centre – 10 June 2017 – 9.30am-5pm  
Prince of Wales Showgrounds,  
Holmes Rd, North Bendigo VIC 3550,



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[expo@stentwood.com.au](mailto:expo@stentwood.com.au)

#### **Send Applications to:**

Bev Stent – Bendigo Goat Fest: 185 Booth Rd Woodvale 3556 :  
Email: [expo@stentwood.com.au](mailto:expo@stentwood.com.au)

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**EFT Payments to:** Bendigo All Breeds Goat Expo Inc - **BSB: 633-000, Account:**  
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## AROUND THE SHOWS



BUNYIP SHOW ACH F132 TALLULAH BELLA \*Q\*3 BEST ALPINE, BEST ALPINE UDDER, T&P Q\*



BUNYIP SHOW BRITISH  
ALPINE KID CLASS



TOPAZ PARK EURIDICI



RODEN SHYANNS LEGACY



RODEN SY GRACE



CARRIE FLORENCE WITH NIGERIAN DWARF KID  
LAURA LAMIN WITH B.A. DOE





## DAIRY GOAT SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA VICTORIAN BRANCH AUTUMN 2017

### BUNYIP SHOW RESULTS

BEST EXHIBIT BEST TOGGENBURG BLUE BROOK VITTORIA

BEST BRITISH ALPINE ACH F132 TALLULAH BELLA \*Q\*3

BEST SAANEN BICHANCE ELOQUENT

BEST AUSTRALIAN MELAAN ALLAWOONA OPALINE

BEST AUSTRALIAN BROWN TOPAZ PARK LAVINIA

BEST LA MANCHA RODEN SHYANNES LEGACY

BEST NIGERIAN DWARF TOPZ PARK EURIDICI

BEST ANGLO NUBIAN ANAMA SATIN

BEST ANY OTHER VARIETY ANAMA BAMBI

CHAMPION GOATLING KALEENA PARK SIRI

CHAMPION BRITISH ALPINE GOATLING VALLEY VIEW YOKO

CHAMPION KID SKYDREAMS BALLERINA

CHAMPION BRITISH ALPINE KID ALLAWOONA Yael

BEST UDDER KALEENA PARK FLAME

BEST UDDER BRITISH ALPINE TALLULAH BELLA

T&P TALLULAH BELLA/ HERD RECORDING VALLEY VIEW ROSY QUEEN



SKYDREAM BALLERINA

### BRANCH SHOW RESULTS HELD AT NOORAT

BEST EXHIBIT /CHAMPION TOGGENBURG BLUE BROOK VITTORIA

CHAMPION SAANEN ASHWYND SKYRIM

CHAMPION ANGLO NUBIAN BANFIELD PARK ALEXA

BEST OPPOSITE SEX JAZZY NOX

BEST UDDER BLUE BROOK VITTORIA

CHAMPION KID JAZZY OCTAVIA

CHAMPION GOATLING JAZZY NEILANI



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**BALLARAT SHOW RESULTS**

BEST EXHIBIT CHAMPION /BRITISH ALPINE CREMONA VINCA

ICHAMPION TOGGENBURG TUELLA DEE

CHAMPION ANGLO NUBIAN BANFIELD PARK ALEXA

CHAMPION BUCK RODEN THEO

CHAMPION GOATLING TUELLA SIENNA

CHAMPION DOE KID CREMONA MARIONETTA

T&P BANFIELD PARK

ALEXA

BEST UDDER CREMONA

VINCA





**NEWSLETTER via e-mail**

**If you have an email address and it is not listed in the Herd Book can you please supply me with it.**

**ARTICLES FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER TO BE RECEIVED BY 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

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