

1st Prize in Heifer Draw reaches new home in South Eastern Queensland.

Nellie's Journey

I felt compelled to write the story on how Nellie, the Square Meaters heiffer from Yackandandah, Victoria, came to be a part of the "Nell" family in Rochedale, Brisbane, Qld. We felt that us winning the raffle was meant to be as not only is our surname Nell, but my husband grew up with the nickname Nellie, my grandma's name was Nellie and my husband's business is called Nellbuilt - so you can imagine our surprise and delight when we received a phone call one Saturday afternoon in May to let us know we had won first prize in a raffle, which was a Square Meaters heiffer that was not far from calving. I'm not sure what was more surprising to us - that we had won a cow - not a wheelbarrow full of wine or a box of chocolates, or that in the next couple of days we found out that the heiffer that had been donated for the raffle was named "Nellie".



Our story started with my mum and I attending a Square Meaters open day at Eric and Marlene Ross's stud Rosellinos. It was a great day and mum and I were instantly taken with the cattle that were on display. We have a small acreage at Rochedale which has some elderly cows, so we were thinking of starting a new herd and Murray Greys have always been the favourite breed of our family, so Square Meaters seemed perfect. After we had purchased a couple of raffle tickets each, viewed the cattle and enjoyed the day we left planning on looking more seriously into Square Meaters. Time got away from us and the subject was not broached again until the "raffle call".



Nellie came from Kelkette Park in Yackandandah and so with the help from Margarete Bohm of Kelkette Park, Eric and Marlene Ross and Peter Voss we organised Nellie to be transported by truck to Casino where mum and I picked her up. After a few funny/unnerving stories from the truck driver about Nellie's dislike of transportation we nervously loaded her up and dubiously trekked back to Rochedale.

Now cows seem to be no fuss creatures, so Nellie has had no idea of the captive audience she has held since her arrival in this mostly suburban district and the fuss she has created within our family, the 25 prep students I work with, half the residents in Rochedale and all our new friends in the Square Meaters Association - who were all eagerly awaiting the birth of her calf. A huge sigh of relief went out when Buttercup, a beautiful silver heiffer, was born on the evening of 16 June.

To everyone who has helped us with Nellie's Journey I want to say a huge thank you - Eric and Marlene Ross of Rosellinos who hosted the Square Meaters open day and who have since helped us with hands-on procedures and information needed, Peter Voss who generously lent us his trailer - without even knowing us, to allow us to transport her home and Margarete Bohm who donated Nellie from Kelkette Park and who has also been a wealth of information and extremely patient with my millions of "cow" questions.



We have only had Nellie and now Buttercup for a small amount of time, but in that time we feel we have already made some wonderful friends within the Square Meaters' community and we look forward to the start of our own little Square Meaters herd!!

Janine Nell