

Wagin Woolorama

(March 2008 Western Australia) Ellen Moffat

Wagin Woolorama is second to the Perth Royal show for exhibits in farm livestock and attracts entries from all over WA so I spoke with Maureen Giglia and Dominic Auguste (Maureen was awaiting the arrival of her new home and could not attend) if they would take some Square Meaters to Wagin as I had earmarked this as our first show experience with bovines.

We (my daughter, her friend & myself) arrived at the grounds quite late after 5 hours driving with 3 heifers in a small crate on a 5 x 8 trailer, our friends of Quicksilver Charolais was quick to help us unload and settle the girls (K Charlie, K Cleopatra & K Czarina) in next to Dominic and Joshua Auguste's cattle with minimal fuss – and they showed no hesitation in eating and then sitting down to sleep in strange surrounds which surprised and pleased me.

Many of the cattle breeders set up camp in the disused trotting stables – tents, swags and camp beds, fridges for some wanting home comforts and this area backed onto the cattle shed - a noisy night followed with much mooing to reduce the sleep for some of us unseasoned handlers.

With the dreaded daylight saving one cannot rely on the sun to wake you so it was a struggle to read the watch and then to realise that it was after 6.30am and time to wash and feed the girls although they were not on until after lunch. This second wash was almost as incident free as their first – except I seemed to wear as much water as the heifers, first from my daughter then from the high pressure hose in the bays on either side of us!

We had not clipped out any part of the heifers and our daughter Courteney completed the brushing up of the heifers' wet coats and they looked a treat with their well defined lines and then back to bed for breakfast.

Dominic and Joshua had been spot washing their heifer and bulls – being lucky enough to have wash them before they left home the day before it was great to have their support and offers of help to prepare the girls.

We were classified with the Specialty Breed section (Dexters the only other entries) even though both Dominic and I at time of registration suggested we should be with the British Breeds – the show secretary actually said she had never heard of them and then when collecting my cards I found that my heifers were not listed in any classes – but that was sorted quite quickly.

After lunch we prepared the girls for our debut along with Dominic and Joshua preparing their heifer and bulls for their classes in ring 2 to be judged by Mr Leon Giglia of Farmwest Breeding Services (WA) with Mr Ben Glatz an Angus breeder from South Australia in ring 1 – judging a combined 150 cattle nominations.

Woolaringa Ben B56 handled by Dominic and Chevy Farm Chev C4 handled by Joshua both won their age classes.



We then took Kilayr Czarina and Kilayr Cleopatra in for the 'heifer born on/after 1 April 2007 and were pleased to place first with Czarina, Cleopatra being unplaced. Courteney then took Kilayr Charlie in for the second heifer class and was lined up in first place but on closer inspection by the judge he placed her second behind a Dexter heifer his comments stating that "she was too much of a heifer for this class" in other words she was 'over conditioned'!



Dominic's senior bull Woolaringa Ben B56 went on to be Champion Specialty Breed Bull and our baby heifer Czarina to be Champion Specialty Breed Female with Woolaringa Ben B56 taking out Grand Champion Specialty Breed.

Well, we were thrilled with our placing and ribbons and after a little discussion with my daughter Courteney - were we to colour code? or type code? - we finally agreed on which of the two heifers

to take for Pair of Females – K Charlie and K Czarina – and out of a ring of 12 pairs of females our heifers were placed 2nd – this was just amazing for us.

Comments from Mr Giglia described Woolaringa Ben B56 as "a thick bull with good capacity, great muscle pattern from shoulder to hindquarter, muscling thickness and width throughout" and comments describing Kilayr Czarina that the "10 month old heifer was square in the rump with good depth of rib, is well made and has good depth which she carries right down to her feet and legs." The judge was very consistent throughout the day with his place winners looking for muscling, depth, thickness, capacity and correctness in each breed no matter how large or small they were.

I did not even have time to feel nervous before the show and Courteney just 'breezes' on with what ever is happening and her friend Sadie always ready to add a helping hand, but we were all just a little excited with the outcomes phoning home regularly to update my husband Adrian and son Marcus with our great results!

Photos courtesy of Farm Weekly