



Northern Australian youth looking to the future

This year, Subtropical Dairy have a number of our Young Dairy Network members participating in programs facilitated by Dairy Australia and the Young Dairy Network Australia (YDNA) including the DairyPATH program and the Dairy Research Foundation Symposium, held recently in Camden, NSW.

The DairyPATH program offers participants an opportunity to get help and support in mapping and planning their careers, a chance to network with other members of the dairy industry from across the country and access to events they may not normally be able to attend.

The DairyPATH program offers participants an opportunity to get help and support in mapping and planning their careers, a chance to network with other members of the dairy industry from across the country and access to events they may not normally be able to attend. This year 11 participants were accepted into the program, with five of those coming from the Subtropical Dairy region. The participants included Owen Daley and Bryana McNamara from Far North Qld, Pieter van Jaarsveld and Tim Bradley from southern Qld and Jeremy Miller from northern NSW.

Owen Daley is also excited about the different activities that he and his fellow DairyPATH members get to attend, along with the networking opportunities that are opening up for them to learn about topics they are most passionate about. Owen says the first trip to Melbourne to kick off the program was an eye opener, especially getting the chance to learn about what makes himself tick. He has already started to think about the way he can improve his interactions with others based on their personality type and communication preferences, a skill that can take many of us years to learn.

Jeremy, from Lismore NSW, works on two dairy farms in the area and is highly involved with the local YDN group. He applied after having a chat to his employer and deciding that dairying is an industry he wanted to be in for the long term. From then, Jeremy has set his career goals and begun to expand his network and gained some confidence in asking about new

opportunities for him to be involved in different activities, particularly with the YDN and other industry opportunities. He enjoyed going to the symposium in Camden and is excited about the mastitis vaccine in development after hearing Dr Jully Gogoi-Tiwari from Curtin University present her teams research.

The YDNA also sponsored eight participants to head along to the Dairy Research Symposium held in Camden NSW, of which three came from the Subtropical region. Those three were Maddie McDonald from southern Qld along with Riley O'Shannessy and Shatarne Newman from northern NSW. Riley who headed along to the symposium enjoyed hearing the young scientists' presentations, in particular new automatic subclinical lameness detection, irrigation efficiency and new ways of feeding calves through more regular feeding. Shatarne has already been discussing with her employers ways they could reduce mastitis and focus on udder cleanliness by using individual cow cloths to clean and dry udders before milking rather than paper towels.

All our participants in the programs would encourage other members of the industry to apply for these types of programs, regardless of your age, career goals and industry experience. If you would like to be more involved in any of these programs, please keep an eye out for information from Subtropical Dairy and the Young Dairy Network. You can also contact your local Extension Co-ordinator or YDN Co-ordinator.