

Primary entry #1: Dungog Public School



THE PAGE TURNER



TOP STOCK: Jim Tickle with his prize bulls. Picture: Becky Tickle

Farming life rooted in family tree

By BECKY TICKLE

YOUNG Ben Tickle and his sister Becky are the sixth generation of Tickles to farm the 1850-acre property Sugarloaf Creek in the Dungog Shire.

Their early ancestor John Tickle first arrived in Australia in 1857, bringing with him his wife Anne and their 14 children.

Originally the Tickles bred dairy cows which were milked by hand, some Hereford cows and they also fattened bullocks, which were taken to the Dungog railyards by horse so they could be sent to the old Homebush saleyards.

Moving with the times, the Tickles currently run a very successful artificial insemination (AI) program.

"In the past the focus was fattening bullocks for local and export markets, now we focus more on breeding and selling stud bulls," said Ben and Becky's father and current owner, Jim Tickle.

"We select the best cows to collect embryos to put into what is called a donor cow and we use top AI sires from around the globe," he said.

Currently the Tickles run three AI programs a year.

On the property there are 250 cows and calves, 500 heifers and 100 bulls.

About 80 bulls are sold each year. These highly sought-after animals are sold privately from the property.

By JAMES OVERTON

SYDNEY International Airport at Mascot is Australia's biggest airport and the 31st busiest airport in the world, with 36,022,614 passengers a year.

As the airport is a base for 57 international, four domestic, five regional and 13 freight airlines, there is constant discussion about the need for a second airport in the city.

It is a profitable airport, with major employment through food outlets such as McDonalds, Sumo Salad and Subway; shopping facilities including Newlink, Apple, Flight Centre, SYD Airport Tax and Duty Free and RM Williams; car parking and the surrounding hotels. Yet it is not without its challenges.

Sydney Airport is expected to be flying 78 million passengers by 2029.

A joint state-federal report delivered earlier this year states that there will be an air gridlock by 2020. Flights will be redirected to other cities, resulting in job losses and missed opportunities for New South Wales.

There are also reports that Sydney Airport access will become so choked within three years that the roads leading to it, including the M5, will be in constant traffic jams and trains servicing the air-



TRAFFIC JAM: Sydney Airport is heading towards passenger overload.

Picture: James Overton

port will also exceed their capacity by next year.

A second Sydney airport would help with delays resulting from weather and flight curfews.

Head of Qantas Alan Joyce recently stated that Badgerys Creek was his preferred option for the second airport because the land had already been bought in 1986 by the Hawke government for \$65 million. According to former

prime minister Paul Keating, money was set aside to build the airport at that time.

Mr Joyce believes planning needs to start now.

Duncan Overton, a pilot for Cathay Pacific Airways who regularly flies from Hong Kong in an A330 based in Sydney, believes we desperately need a second international airport.

Mr Overton agrees that Badgerys

Creek is the best option because the current airport cannot cope with more traffic.

Wilton, the other option for the second airport, has a higher environmental impact.

Western Sydney local councils are now putting their weight behind the Badgerys Creek plan because of the expected economic benefits an airport will bring to the area.



NOISY, LOUD AND PROUD: Col Hatchman, centre, with Dungog Public School students. Picture: Nikolaus White

Screaming success hits schools

By STUART HITCHENS and JESSE GRIFFITH

EX-SCREAMING Jets drummer Col Hatchman is teaching school students drumming throughout the Hunter.

Dungog Public School is one of eight schools participating with 57 students taking part every Tuesday morning for half hour lessons.

Col teaches how to drum to different parts of a song.

The program was showcased in a finale at the end of year assembly in 2012.

School Principal Steven Richard said that drumming is something new and a bit different from other activities offered.

"This program provides higher engagement for students and our presentation assembly was a 'rocking' performance," he said.

Col started drumming in

schools in 2010 because he wanted to create the biggest drum corps in Australia. He achieved this in 2012.

Col started drumming in primary school and he believes that it "is the best time in life to begin to learn an instrument".

Col has played and toured with KISS, Rose Tattoo, Midnight Oil, Silverchair, The Living End, ZZ top, Ben Harper and Xavier Rudd.

Banking

Everyone deserves a fair go, especially when it comes to banking. But with most banks, your money goes towards raising profits for shareholders. That doesn't seem fair.

So we turned that idea on its head.

You see, we don't have shareholders. We're owned by you, our customers, so instead of our profit being split amongst the few, we share it with the many - through better value banking and supporting important community initiatives that you and your family can enjoy.

If you reckon that's the way banking should be, get on board today.

13 19 87 newcastlepermanent.com.au

Here for good. NEWCASTLE
PERMANENT

