

New face at Alpine Angus

A NEW face, the same quality cattle and the same reliable service.

That is the way forward at Alpine Angus.

With the herd in amazing shape, and bull sales going from strength to strength, long-time manager and herd co-founders Willie and Joanne Milne are heading into semi-retirement in Wangaratta.

Chris Oswin has been appointed manager and is working with the Alpine team to build on the solid foundations created.

Chris has moved to Porepunkah, from Beveridge near Melbourne, with his wife Elissa and two young children.

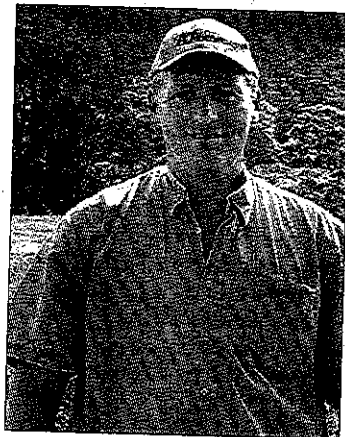
For the past five years, he has been heavily involved in the running of another Angus stud and the growing out of feedlot steers.

Previously he ran a 1000 cow herd in South Australia, targeted at the production of EU steers.

Elissa will take up the running of the boutique Kilnhouse accommodation, based at the riverfront property at the foot of Mount Buffalo.

Two Kilnhouses are already built in the picturesque valley, and a third is under way.

Chris joins stud principals Jim and Clare Delany, Tim Brown, David Burrowes and Jeff Hennig at Alpine Angus and, for the past month, has worked with Willie



NEXT CHAPTER: Chris Oswin is the new manager at Alpine Angus, following the retirements of Willie and Joanne Milne.

Milne, learning the nuances of the Alpine herd, and planning for the future.

"It is an incredible opportunity to take up the reins of a stud with Alpine's standing and reputation for consistently producing sound, reliable, performance orientated cattle," Chris said.

"It is a testament to Willie's ability and vast experience within the breed that he has been able to incorporate high-performance genetics, while maintaining a true Angus type with terrific structure."

Chris will continue with this philosophy, in what will be a seamless transition in the breeding program.

Jim and Willie have

collectively built Alpine, with the purchase of leading bulls and superb cows and genetics, during the past 14 years.

Sires such as Dinky Di and, currently, Casino are leaving an indelible mark on the herd and building on the strength of Te Mania Unlimited progeny, in which a share was purchased some years ago.

The use of leading AI sires from across the globe has further enhanced the program.

Females have been developed from outstanding lineages.

It is no coincidence that the true matron of the herd, Wilcoola Q6, descends from arguably the country's strongest cow family.

The property overall has benefited greatly from the work ethic of Tim, David and, more recently, Jeff.

Tim's stock skills during the past eight years have been an invaluable asset.

He has been an integral part of Alpine's development and, with what Chris, Jim and Tim hope will be a speedy recovery from his latest round of knee surgery, will be playing an even more proactive role from now on.

Jim, Chris and Tim, together with the rest of the team, will strive to ensure that the Alpine brand continues to prosper, and to further enhance its reputation within the cattle industry.

Beef Week 2012 set to be biggest

ORGANISERS of the 2012 Stock and Land Beef Week, which runs from January 27 to February 3, are confident it will be the biggest and best Beef Week ever.

At the time of going to press, an avalanche of entries was still being processed, but Beef Week director Geoff Phillips said he was confident 2012 would be a record-breaking year for the event.

"The season, cattle prices, bull sales and overall industry confidence are all lining up to generate an exciting time for seedstock producers in south-east Australia," he said.

"Two new major Beef Week sponsors, Rural Finance and the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, have joined Ivomec Eprinex and naming sponsor Stock and Land to ensure the event is strongly promoted to the widest possible audience."

In recent years about 230 beef cattle studs from Victoria, the Riverina and the south-east of South Australia have entered Beef Week, but those numbers will be surpassed in 2012, according to Mr Phillips.

An innovation for 2012 will be the RASV Heifer Challenge, where properties will display a pen of 10 of their best registered heifers under two years of age.

"Beef Week has come up with \$4500 cash prize money for the winners and this has really stimulated entries," Mr

Phillips said.

More than 100 studs have decided to enter pens of heifers, and these will be clearly signed on their Beef Week day, adding a new level of interest to the event.

The importance of south-east Australia as the nation's premier temperate zone beef cattle seedstock nursery has been highlighted by the usual strong representation across a wide range of breeds.

"For over two decades Stock and Land Beef Week has been the premier event of its type in the nation and serves to promote the excellent seedstock herds in Australia's south-east," Mr Phillips said.

In 2012, Beef Week commences in East Gippsland and ends with day eight in the Western District.

"There will be thousands of cattle on display and potential bull buyers are expected to be out in force looking and purchasing during Beef Week itself, or inspecting bulls that will be coming up for auction at on-property bull sales this autumn," Mr Phillips said.

"With over 30 breeds on display, Beef Week is a great opportunity for cattle producers to discover how each breed can perform in different environments and meet the needs of various markets."

Details of the studs entered in Beef Week will be available on www.beefweek.com.au.