

There is more to Godini



When Godiniland purchased the parcel of land, currently being developed into the Albany Green Acreages Estate in the middle of 2006, it also acquired some 100 head of Black Simmental Cattle. Many might think this was a strange acquisition for a land and property developer and they are probably correct but it was a conditional element of the land sale to us ... the previous land owner simply refused to sell the property without an existing herd of cattle on the land.

He held simple farming beliefs and regardless of how many times he was informed that our intent was to subdivide and develop the property, he refused to abandon his beliefs – **farming land needs to be sold with farming cattle, was his view.**

Initially our thoughts were ... let the old man have his way, we'll simply wait until we officially gained title to the land and the herd and then send them off to market or giving them away. However the more time the cattle remained on the property the more we appreciated their importance and Godiniland became temporary cattle farmers.

Part of the reason for retaining the herd was the fact that the development of the entire Estate would take many years to complete. The damage caused by the cattle was manageable and they were not adversely impacting on Godiniland's finances. More importantly though, their continued presence on the estate, ensured that grass got eaten and the property did not become a fire hazard.



ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT - Kim with some of the herd, Kim at work on the farm, Rory on his bike and Kenton all dressed up and looking the part.

LEFT - Black Simmental grazing near one of the existing lakes on the Albany Green Acreages Estate.

land than meets the eye



“You might take the boy out of the country but it is impossible to take the country out of the boy”.

Kim Gibbs acts as our Farm Manager on those areas of the Estate which are yet to be developed and has done so since we took over the property. He takes care of the cattle, looks after the fences and fire breaks as well as keeping an eye on our contractors working on the Estate where development is underway.

He knows that the job won't last forever and that the cattle herd will be removed one day in the future but until then he is happy to live in the moment and live his farming dream.

Kim was one of three children. He grew up on a sheep and cattle farm just East of Esperance and has deep childhood memories of his experiences on the farm.

He vividly remembers pedalling home from school each day and being unable to wait ... he simply had to locate his father wherever he might be on the farm and see what he'd been up to during his day. He also recalls that he was saddened by his parent's decision to sell the farm when he was a 15 year old

but realised that it was something that was needed at the time, even if it limited his chances of following in his father's foot-steps.

In his youth, Kim trained as a Heavy Duty Diesel Mechanic and this experience has given him an advantage on the farm. He is able to take care of most machinery problems on the farm as well as, his childrens' various toys.

Everytime one of the Godiniland staff from the Perth office visit him and his family, there seems to be some new motorbike which the children wish to proudly put on show and demonstrate its speed, agility or power.

After completing his apprenticeship, a very young Kim (only 19 years of age) moved to Perth and joined the Swan Districts Football Club. He says it was a difficult move for him as he had come from a small country town with a close knit community. The pace of life in Perth was too much and he continually yearned for a quieter more relaxed setting. He reluctantly abandoned his budding football career and moved south to Bunbury where he worked in his trade and eventually met his wonderful wife Mary-Jane.

Their time in Bunbury was happy and care free but after a few short years they

decided to move to Esperance to start a family.

In talking to Mary-Jane and Kim it is clear that life in the early days in Esperance was hard and having two very young children didn't make matters any easier.

Ultimately, they decided to settle in Albany, which was Mary-Jane's home town and they have never looked back. They now have 4 fantastic children (3 boys and 1 daughter) and are intent on living each day to its fullest and being unafraid to hope and dream.

Kim told me that he truly appreciates the opportunity which he and his family have been given by moving onto the Albany Green Acreages Estate. He not only gets to indulge his passion which is farming but more importantly, he says that it is a fantastic thing for his children.

“Bring up children on a farm is the best thing”, he says. “The kids have room for all their toys, it's generally safe and they get to learn about life as well as death”.

His two youngest children, Kenton and Rory aged 9 and 6, got their first experience of seeing a couple of calves being born last year and Kim says that while they were extremely 'wide-eyed', the experience certainly changed them.



The other two children in the Gibbs Family are Jason and Amy (17 and 15 years of age). Both help out on the farm when and where they can, especially Jason who seems to be following in his father's footsteps with similar dreams.

Although Kim's prior experience as a farm manager may have been limited when he first came to Albany Green Acreages, he has repeatedly demonstrated to Godiniland, his passion and commitment to his task. He is unafraid to ask questions and seeks advice when and where he needs to, thus improving his knowledge and skills.

Besides being a local postie in Albany, he works two days a week at the Mount Barker Saleyards sorting out cattle, correctly grading them according to their weight and height as well as, manoeuvring the stock into their appropriate pens where they are auctioned.

In 2007, he and Jason successfully cropped some 135 bails of hay from the Estate and this hay will be used to feed the cattle over the coming winter months, when grass is less plentiful on

ABOVE - Kim and Jason working on the farm tractor which had overheated in the summer heat.

RIGHT - Grazing Black Simmental on the Albany Green Acreages Estate.

the estate. Most importantly though, Kim has single-handedly increased the size of the Godiniland herd. There are currently 4 bulls, 90 cows and 80 calves in the herd. These calves are last year's yield and will soon be sent off to market. They are quickly being replaced/added to with a new season of calves, which are being born as we go to print (at last count 10 new calves had joined the Godiniland herd and more are on the way).

Besides managing the farm and undertaking their regular employment commitments, Kim and Mary-Jane seem to find the time and energy to also give generously to the local community.

Godiniland is extremely proud to have the Gibbs Family form part of its extended family. Without hard-working people around the State we would be unable to achieve the goals we strive for.



SIMMENTAL CATTLE originated in Switzerland and have now become the second most common breed of cattle in the world. Their popularity can be attributed to their extremely docile natures and the fact that they are extremely versatile, be it for meat, breeding or milking. They have the ability to put on weight faster than any other cattle breed and thus their young can be weaned from their mothers sooner than other cattle breeds and sent to market quicker.

Black Simmental Cattle are a cross breed between the Simmental and Angus cattle breeds (Angus Cattle being the most common cattle breed in the world). They carry the Simmental characteristics indicated above as well as the Angus breeds tendency to be compact animals, making them easier to handle and of course they are black in colour.

In the Perth Godiniland Office we often joke about marketing Godiniland wagyu beef, maybe it can become a specialty item on our Dinner Menu at the Flora Resort in Kalbarri.