



## Mobile laboratories - Australia's first

Total Livestock Genetics became an industry leader with the introduction of Australia's first mobile embryo laboratory. Now with a second mobile unit TLG provides the most innovative and comprehensive embryo service in Australia.

TLG has provided on farm and on centre embryo transfer programs since 1989. With three full time embryo technicians, large and small scale projects can be carried out efficiently and quickly, right across the country. We use the latest reproductive technology including ultrasonography, embryo splitting and embryo sexing.

The mobile laboratories ensure consistency and quality control in all aspects of embryo work. Constant ambient temperature, strict hygiene protocols, independent power facilities

and a computerised embryo tracking system are just part of the service the mobile units provide. Being AQIS approved they allow embryo production for export.

The emphasis of the TLG ET team is quality assurance aimed at producing the maximum pregnancies per embryo transferred. We are also working with leading animal nutritionists to ensure that all aspects of donor management is covered to maximise reproductive performance.

## Northern exposure

Since Gunbower based embryo technician Gary Sivesind joined the TLG team earlier this year, we have been able to fully service the needs of clients in northern Victoria and southern NSW. Gary says the new mobile labs are a great leap forward.

"We just drive the mobile labs on to the farm, plug into the 240 volt system and go straight to work," says Gary.



"The units provide us with a much more efficient work environment with very high quality control."

"With stainless steel benches and reverse cycle air conditioning we have a quality controlled safe environment in which to work with embryos. All we need is with us in the van."

"It's time saving for both the farmer and us. Once we have finished we can leave and go onto the next job. With a battery pack the freezer continues to operate while we are travelling."

**"TLG is an exciting small business which is growing rapidly and they are a great bunch of people to work with."**

## Welcome...

Welcome to this first issue of *Total Times*.

This year we have been very busy exporting semen and embryos to many global destinations, producing IVF pregnancies, developing new land, putting mobile laboratories on the road, freezing stallion, sheep and dog semen and participating in research projects as well as running Australia's largest custom breeding centre.

Having started from scratch some 13 years ago, I know some would say we are too busy but, with the level of commitment from our personnel and having improved support infrastructure, we are in better shape than ever to deliver the best service to our customers.

We have produced this newsletter to make sure you - our clients and potential clients - know all about the services we offer and the people that provide them. In future editions we hope to include more technical content to help with common breeding issues.

We're proud of the quality of the services we provide and the products we produce.

We hope you will enjoy reading our newsletter and we look forward to hearing from you in the future!

**Shane Ashworth**  
Managing Director



## Quality is our password – says Rebecca

“When you set a very high standard – it’s interesting how often you achieve it,” says Despatch Manager Rebecca Dickson. “The quality we are achieving at Total Livestock Genetics is outstanding.”



**Safe, Independent and Confidential**  
TLG offers a complete storage and despatch service for semen and embryos with accreditation for all global destinations.

Offering an independent storage and despatch service to the Australian AI industry, TLG is currently responsible for about 30 percent of all semen shipments in Australia. This is expected to increase rapidly as more semen marketing organisations take advantage of the cost savings and efficiencies provided by an independent specialist service.

**“One of the things I love about TLG is that we work for many different organisations. We’re in touch with the entire AI industry.”**

Rebecca and her able assistant Victoria Butler are responsible for packing and despatching semen tanks to national and international destinations most days of the year.

“The service we provide takes the burden of semen despatch and delivery from our clients, the marketing organisations, and allows them to focus on what they do best which is helping their clients with breeding programs and marketing their products,” Rebecca says.

“The key to our success in this field is a very high standard of service and strict confidentiality.”

Semen storage is protected by low level Liquid Nitrogen alarms with remote warning and major storage tanks on LN auto fill. All storage and despatch is controlled by a computerised inventory backed up by an independent check on the integrity and accuracy of every shipment.

TLG can account for every single dose in storage, coming in and going out.

### World’s best practice

“We are tested to world’s best practice for everything we do,” says Rebecca.

“I’m really keen about maintaining high quality standards. Why? Because I’m a dairyfarmer and if I didn’t think our product was good enough to go in my cow I wouldn’t want it to go to anyone else.”

**“One of the exciting aspects of the job is seeing young bulls I have put through testing and sampling come back with a good proof.”**



## Bringing it all together

Whether its an embryo transfer program onfarm, a bull entering the licensed centre, a semen collection for progeny testing, an export semen shipment or liaising with a customer, Programs Manager Deb Emeny is likely to have a hand in it.

“Customer liaison is an important part of the job,” Deb says. “Dealing on a day to day basis with semen marketing companies and embryo transfer clients or providing our on farm semen collection clients with feed back on how their bull is progressing is part of the service we offer.”

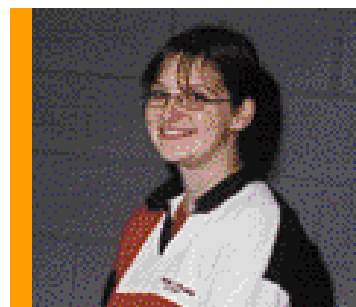
The bull centre is governed by two separate protocols, Australian Bovine Semen Collection Centres and Certified Semen Services, a US based organisation. TLG was the first organisation in Australia to achieve accreditation for CSS collection standards.

Deb manages all our on centre and on farm projects and, for many of our customers, she is the main contact with TLG.

If you are seeking information about any of our programs, call Deb, she can help you. 03 5593 2016

## Detailed reports to clients

The most recent addition to the TLG team, Sharon Duynhoven, believes she has landed on her feet. After completing a Science Degree, majoring in Chemistry, she says she is really pleased to have a job that combines her love of the country, previous office experience and her academic qualifications.



“Everyone at TLG is very enthusiastic about what they do and they take pride in doing a really good job for our clients,” she says. “It’s exciting to be involved in an industry which is helping farmers improve the quality of their animals.”

Sharon is taking over some of the liaison with customers involved with ET programs, working in the semen production lab and preparing reports for clients on the progress of their bulls.

When a bull goes on collection Sharon begins a record which details the full history of the bull including, dates of collections, number of straws collected, successful and unsuccessful jumps, semen evaluation, ongoing total of doses compared to target for the bull and weight and health information.

**“Everyone at TLG is very enthusiastic about what they do and they take pride in doing a really good job for our clients”**

“It’s a very detailed report which tells our clients everything they want to know about how their bull is progressing,” Sharon says. “Regular communication with our bull owner clients is a major priority. They know their bull is producing high quality semen and will return home in excellent condition.”

## Meet Kathryn - Frequent Flushers Club

Accounts Manager Kathryn Cecil grew up on a dairyfarm but these days she is focussed on figures – everything from accounts to budgets. Kathryn also runs our Frequent Flushers Club.

To reward loyal clients who regularly use our flushing services – every sixth flush is free. The flush is credited back to the client. That’s worth \$330 and if the clients is really lucky - they will also receive a TLG Tshirt.

If you want to know more about our Flushing Club - call Kathryn.

03 5593 2016



## Digitcool for best results

**“Quality Assurance - that extra ingredient that ensures what we put in a straw is semen of the highest quality possible.”**

### QA and CSS Certification

Tony Urek is Semen Production Manager at TLG and leader of the Quality Assurance program.

“The quality of TLG products and services is the result of a stringent QA program and CSS accreditation backed up by our aim to be industry leaders for quality,” Tony says. “Certified Semen Services is a North American standard of quality assurance and we were the first company outside North America to achieve that accreditation. An assessor regularly flies in from the US to check our procedures from animal husbandry to collection, to processing and handling. It’s a very thorough assessment.”

“Every batch of semen we produce is subject to a stress test - if it doesn’t meet our standard that batch will be destroyed. Where our semen has been measured against others for conception rates it has been outstanding.”

### Digitcool

Digitcool is the other major influence on TLG quality. It’s a computerised semen freezing machine which allows the

operator to program in the optimum freezing curve for each batch of semen - eg a different curve for bovine, equine, and ovine semen. The correct freezing curve ensures a more consistent freeze.



Dog semen collection and storage is an exciting new field for TLG. Working mainly with blue heelers and kelpies and some grey hounds the results have been very good.

“We are looking at the possibility of putting down cell lines from dogs and growing them out with a view to possible cloning,” Tony says.

Total Livestock Genetics was established in 1989 by Shane and Erin Ashworth. With offices, laboratories, semen storage facilities and a licensed bull centre based at Camperdown in Victoria it is ideally located close to the greater part of Australia’s dairy industry and a large beef population.

As a result of location and design, TLG is one of the few Australian AI centres licensed to collect semen for the European Union.

But there is more to Total Livestock Genetics than location and design. The magic ingredient that enables us to meet stringent quality standards is our dedicated and enthusiastic personnel.

People like Rebecca Dickson, Deb Emeny, Kathryn Cecil, Sharon Duynhoven, Tony Urek, Gary Sivesind, Brendan Clarke. Read about them in this newsletter.

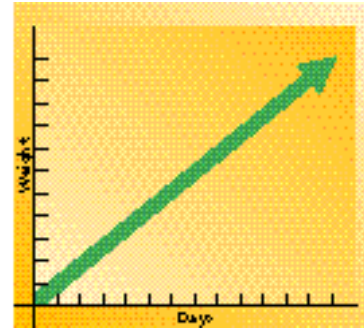
## Nutrition - the key to quality

"At Total Livestock Genetics every bull is an individual," says Farm Manager Brendan Clarke. "Their health and well being is the key to successful semen collection."

The Total Livestock Genetics semen production centre provides licensed semen collection of bulls for a variety of clients including some of the major semen marketing organisations in Australia.

Many of the bulls collected are young progeny test sires which stay on centre until the required number of doses is collected then move onto our agistment property to await their proof.

TLG Farm Manager Brendan Clarke says weight and condition are key factors in collecting high quality semen from bulls.



"Nutrition plays a vitally important role in maintaining the optimum weight for a mature bull or achieving the required growth rate in a young bull," he says. "We watch weight very closely and regularly weigh each bull as they come in for collection."

"The weights are graphed in the office so we have regular feedback on each bull's progress and can adjust the ration accordingly."



We can also provide regular reports to the bull owners detailing the progress of their bull in semen collection, weight gain and general health.

The 50 acre TLG bull centre has recently been extended to enable more bulls to be housed on centre and to improve land management.

**"Our aim is to have a centre which provides the optimum in bull handling, health and comfort."**

"Our objective is to have a centre which provides the optimum in bull handling, health and comfort," Brendan says. "TLG is already an industry leader in technology and we aim to be recognised as a leader in bull management."

### IVF Technology Update!

See our next issue of *Total Times* for an update on IVF services and success rates. Contact us today if you have enquiries about IVF services and its applications.

## Export/Import Services

TLG offers a world-wide import and export service. Up to date AQIS and Animex protocol requirements to qualify reproductive material for export, facilitation of shipments through AQIS clearances and customs agents, export documentation and import permits.

Where possible we combine shipments with others to minimise your costs.

- TLG offers a full range of export/import services world-wide
- AQIS/Animex Export/Import requirements
- Import permits
- Export documentation
- Clearance shipments through AQIS and customs agents

## Contact us



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