

Hopper's Maleny Dairies

Harold Hopper



H Hopper

Ellendean Guernsey Stud, Maleny, Queensland.

Half a century ago in February 1948 Dad and Mum purchased 89 acres in Maleny Queensland. As Dad had already set my brother and sister up on a dairy each, this one would be available for me to purchase on easy terms later on.

I was thrilled as the farm had nine stud Guernsey cows in the herd of 40 mixed cattle. However, Dad was short of money so sold the stud Guernseys to Dick Johnston of "Okay" Guernsey Stud for 25 guineas. I was so disappointed that Dick gave me a heifer calf and Dad bought a bull calf, which I showed in Maleny against Bert Cranney "Fernhill" Stud, Joe Cooke "Laureldale" and Eric Taxton "Toba". Most people drove their cows to the show along the roads, but driving two calves was impossible, so I harnessed up the draught horse and put them in the wagon and drove them to the show in style. Okay Sunbeam won the U12 months heifer class aged 4 months and Okay Sweetman came second in the U12 months bull class. I also won the young judges competition and second on my pony in the boy rider U14 years.

So after the first show I had attended I was very keen to become a stud breeder.

We also started herd recording that year and although the Jersey cows would be top BF producers when fresh, at the end the Guernseys were far ahead, some even gave more on their last test than their first, which made them superior in the case of poor seasons and drought etc. When the feed was right they worked.

In England the Guernseys were enjoying a "Penny a Pint" for their unique flavour and protein content, unfortunately that never eventuated in Australia.

As soon as I had about eight stud cows milking, we started advance herd recording for registered cattle, much different from today's recording schemes. The recorder was a specially trained person and he came for three milkings, the first milking he stripped them out, then the next morning he would test the milk on the farm, which was quite an interesting event.

My first annual report was very pleasing as we came in second for Guernseys in Queensland. We got very interested in high production after a while and bought bulls from top cows around Australia, like Moongi Ladylove AAA, the best producer alive at the time and Caronia Dutchess AAA, she broke her age group production on every lactation. Then we purchased Moongi Emperor II AR at the age of 11 years, from Albert Fletcher "Cossartvale", to breed some of the best cows I've ever had. For a number of years then we used his sons and grandsons Ellendean Albert AR, Ellendean Masterpeice VG88, Ellendean Dominate VG88. As I was line breeding and perhaps too close decided to try Glenville Herald. The first calf was Ellendean Belladonna VG85, she was recognised around the world as one of the greatest cows of all time. The World Guernsey Federation gave us a certificate for a world class leader, the Australian Guernsey Society gave us a plaque and the AGB awarded her the 1994 cow of the year award.

As soon as I realised Herald was niching with my linebred Moongi Emperor blood line I bought 100s of straws, I had to, as I got mostly bulls. In fact the last 45 cows in calf to Herald only had five heifer calves. However, if you look up the Australian Honour Roll all but two Ellendean cows are by Herald. In my opinion Herald was the most consistent Guernsey bull in the world.

Since then we've used mostly Belladonna's sons, Ellendean Bellvic VG87 +58ASI +706M +20P +20F; Ellendean Bellbop VG85 +62ASI +673M +19P +24F and Ellendean Incredibull Excellent, and Ellendean Workaholic. So now I guess I've line bred too close again, so I imported 1100 straws from a Windcrest Vayette Grace son, as Grace too has broken five world records.

With some of my other Herald cows producing 10-11000 litres

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mated to Belladonna's sons and their progeny mated to Grace's son I can now write some interesting production pedigrees.

In the past 50 years I've had a lot of fun and great success with my Guernseys, especially in production. I recall a feature show in Maleny when I entered six head and won Supreme Bull All Breeds with Bellvic, broke the 24 hour all breeds ground butterfat record with Bellinda, also got 1 and 2 in the weight of milk, 1, 2 and 4 in BF with Belladonna, who had been milking 13 months. Also in type and production all breeds we came 1, 2, 3 and 4 with Belladonna, Noele, Larikeet, and Bellinda. In fact only one Jersey and one AIS won a ribbon.

I'd like to close, wishing everyone lots of pleasure with their Guernseys, as we've had with ours. We've registered 1900 of them and we love 'em all. They've only been in Australia 100 years and we've been amongst them for 50 great years.

Regards Harold Hopper and family.

Newspaper article from 1992

Every so often cattle breeders hit on the right combination and breed an exceptional animal.

For the Hopper family of Maleny that animal is seven-year-old Guernsey cow Ellendean Belladonna who has so far produced 44,800 litres of milk.

Her unofficial best daily production is 71 litres of milk - 42 litres in the one milking (an average milk production of three litres per hour); her highest officially-recorded milk yield was 64.5 litres.

Belladonna has already broken 12 Queensland Guernsey production records and five Australian records.

With 5476 litres of milk, 203 kg of butterfat and 162 kg of protein so far in her first 89 days of lactation, she is well on the way to breaking her own Australian Guernsey record for 300-day milk, fat and protein.

Belladonna is owned by Kay Hopper, daughter of well-known Guernsey breeders Harold and Dorothy Hopper of Maleny.

Harold believes Belladonna may have been the top-producing cow for all breeds in Queensland last year with 13,280 litres of milk, 619 kg fat (4.7 per cent) and 438 kg protein (3.3 per cent) in a 344 day lactation.

Converted to a 300-day lactation her figures were 12,520 litres, 580 kg fat and 408 kg protein.

Classified GP84, and with a current ABV of 1399 for milk and 84 for fat + protein, Belladonna is by Canadian sire Glenville Herald out of a cow with Moongi Emperor 2 bloodlines.

Harold Hopper has been breeding Guernseys and herd recording since 1948; in that time Ellendean Guernseys have always been top or second-top production Guernsey herd in the state for herds of 100 or more.

“But Belladonna is twice as good as the next-best cow in the herd. I don’t feel her production is due to any special treatment that we have given her; she’s just set up to be a phenomenal milk maker.

“The blood supply to her udder is massive, with an obvious third large blood vessel to the centre of her udder. And she’s an extraordinary converter of forage. Like the rest of the herd, the major part of her diet is ryegrass in winter and kikuyu in summer, but we don’t make her walk the longer distances the rest of the herd moves to graze. And presently, in her third month of lactation she is receiving around 8kg of grain per day.”

Mr Hopper calculated that Belladonna earned him a gross income of \$5710 last lactation.

“Last year’s fertiliser cost was \$133 per cow and grain/supplements were \$155 per cow; Belladonna received 2 to 3 times as much feed as the other cows, so her feed bill was about \$720.

“Her profit after feed was around \$4990. And she certainly paid her share of dairy industry levies - an all-milk levy of \$328 and a market milk levy of \$209 for the year.

“In her productive lifetime (1461 days of milking) she has

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Harold (on the right) with his goat herd 2010

averaged 31 litres of milk, 1.3kg of fat and 1kg of protein per day.”

The Hopper family have decided to concentrate Belladonna's breeding lines in the herd, and already have 72 of her half sisters and 120 doses of Glenville Herald straws still to use.

“So we hope we haven't made a mistake. A dozen of those close-bred heifers have calved so far, and the best of them look as though they will be as good as Belladonna.

“They are an extraordinary line of producers.

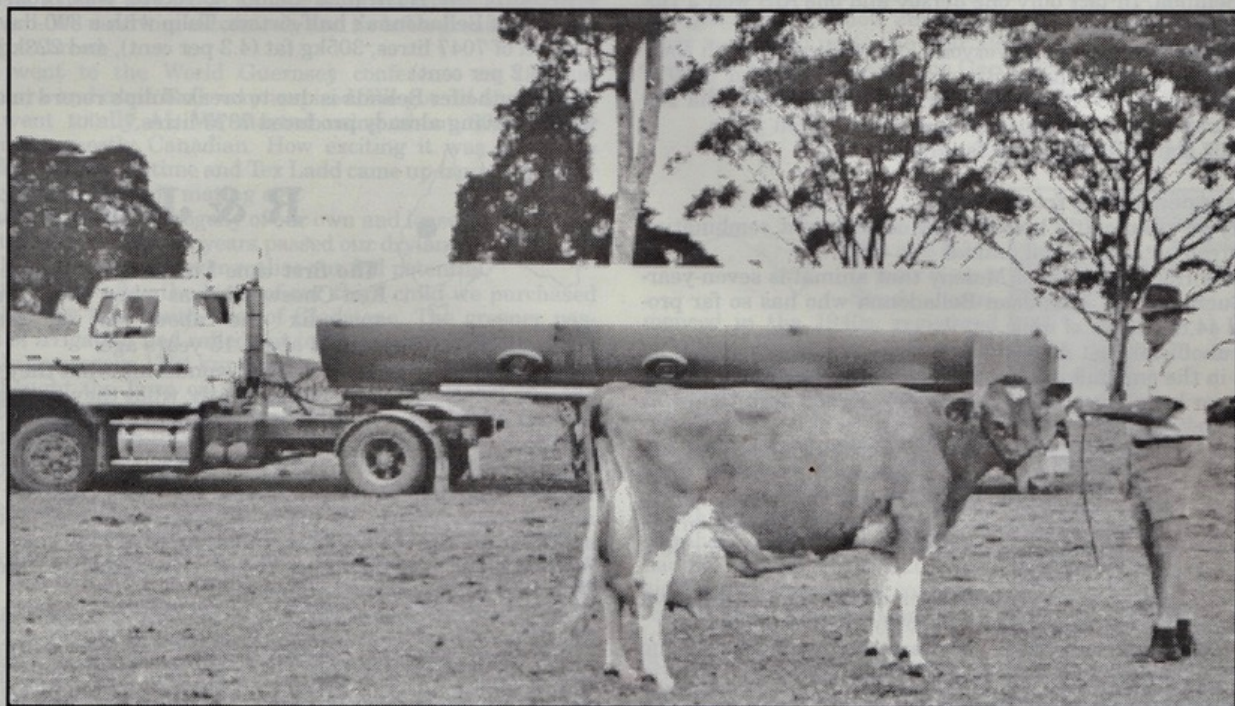
“Ellendean Lorikeet for example is about to break the Queensland Junior 2 Guernsey record, and should also break the Australian record for milk.

“So far, with 38 days to go, she has produced 7084 litres.

“Recently the Australian Senior 2 record was broken by another of Belladonna's half-sisters, Tulip with a 300-day production of 7047 litres, 305kg fat (4.3 per cent), and 223kg protein (3.2 per cent).

“Another heifer Belinda is due to break Tulip's record in a few weeks, having already produced 7375 litres.”

Our greatest achievement ELLENDEAN BELLADONNA VG85

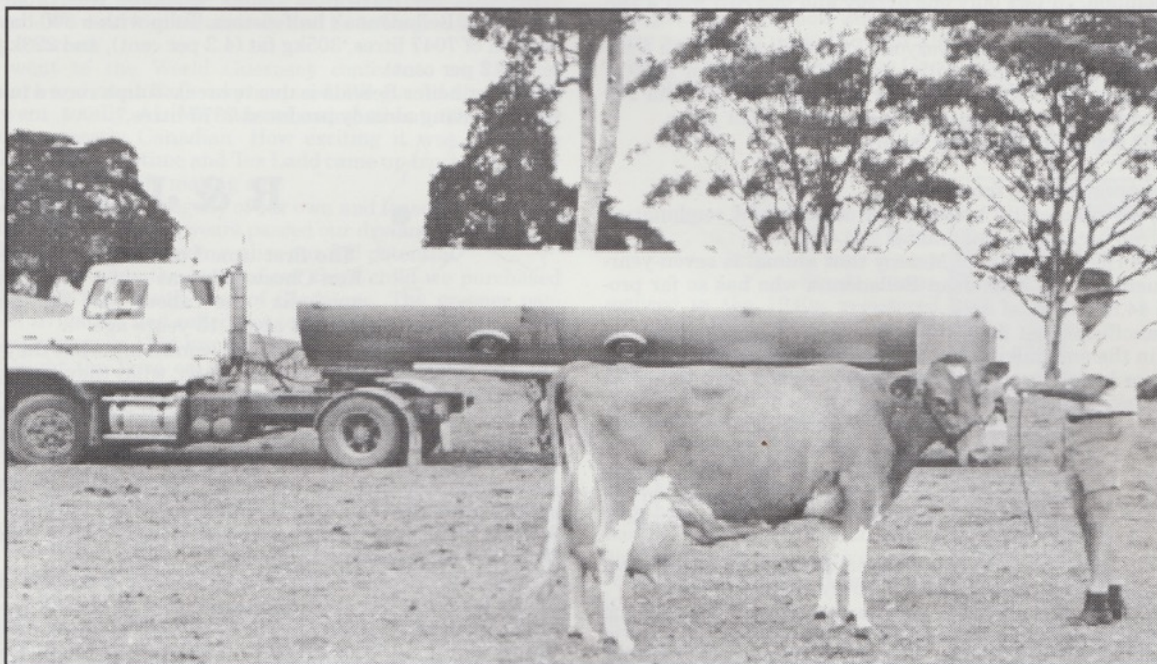


**Belladonna and the 18,000 litre truck she overflowed five times in her lifetime,
a total of 90,709 litres of milk, 3060kg Protein, 3824kg Butterfat**

Australia - 100 years of Guernseys

Ellendean - 50 years of Guernseys

Our greatest achievement ELLENDEAN BELLADONNA VG85



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a total of 90,709 litres of milk, 3060kg Protein, 3824kg Butterfat

8/12/87 S2 300D 6781M 3.5% 234P 4.5% 305F; 348D 7326M 3.5% 257P 4.5% 330F
 29/12/88 S3 300D 7140M 3.4% 240P 4.3% 307F; 337D 7618M 3.4% 259P 4.3% 327F
 22/3/90 S4 300D 9939M 3.3% 329P 3.9% 392F; 362D 11367M 3.3% 380P 4.0% 450F
 5/5/91 MA 300D 12520M 3.3% 408P 4.7% 586F; 344D 13280M 3.3% 439P 4.7% 619F
 23/7/92 MA 300D 15670M 3.1% 486P 4.4% 696F; 424D 19833M 3.2% 634P 4.4% 874F
 9/5/94 MA 300D 14946M 3.5% 521P 3.6% 544F; 392D 17217M 3.6% 612P 3.7% 635F
 23/8/95 MA 300D 8520M 3.3% 280P 4.2% 358F; 485D 14068M 480P 589F;

Lifetime x7 lactations 90709M 3060P 3824F.

World record: 305D 9yrs 6th lact. 529P (1166 lb), 365D extended lact. 611P (1347 lb) presented at WGC - America, previous lactation for milk presented in New Zealand.

We have been blessed with a few other great cows like the ones below as well.

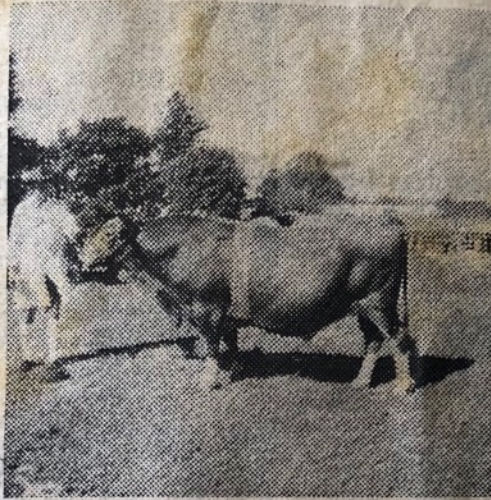
SRY	Ellendean Tangoett 2	8095M	272P	308F	JR4	Ellendean Bellinda	10077M	353P	483F
JR2	Ellendean Noelene	8337M	284P	335F		Ellendean Princess Fay	9861M	354P	488F
	Ellendean Lorikeet	7659M	271P	325F	SR4	Ellendean Rita	10501M	381P	447F
SR2	Ellendean Luxury	8595M	278P	433F		Ellendean Folly	10473M	363P	473F
	Ellendean Somebeam	7952M	267P	334F		Ellendean Lorikeet	10817M	369P	469F
JR3	Ellendean Lady Linkon	8944M	336P	438F	MA	Ellendean Noelene	11815M	415P	490F
	Ellendean Princess Fay	8233M	275P	392F		Ellendean Bellinda	10174M	343P	398F
SR3	Ellendean Lorikeet	10011M	357P	440F		Ellendean Rita	11528M	386P	388F
	Ellendean Folly	9277M	328P	430F		Ellendean Folly	10240M	368P	400F
						Ellendean Lorikeet	10170M	361P	427F

It's been great researching for this 100 years of Guernseys publication. We praise the good Lord for the pleasure they have given us, and wish everyone lots of pleasure and success into the next century.

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Downs success



Mr. Harold Hopper of "Ellendean" Guernsey Stud, Maleny, was very successful with a team of 10 Guernseys at the Toowoomba Show, taking eight firsts, seven seconds, and one third, as well as champion bull, champion cow, and champion junior bull.

At a special Darling Downs Guernsey Society dinner following the show, Mr. Hopper was presented with the breeders' group award and the exhibitors' prize.

Picture shows Mr. Hopper with Ellendean Albert, champion Guernsey bull at the Toowoomba Show.

Albert was reserve junior champion at the Brisbane Show in 1965, and champion of the Downs Guernsey feature show in 1966.

Maleny Dairies' world record Guernsey Cow, ca 1994



GUERNSEY - AUSTRALIAN HONOUR ROLL - FAT

ANIMAL	OWNER	YEAR	PRODUCTION	SYSTEM
MATURE				
ELLENDAN BELLADONNA	HW & DN HOPPER	1993	703	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN BELLADONNA	HW & DN HOPPER	1992	628	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN BELLADONNA	HW & DN HOPPER	1994	544	OWNER/SAMPLED
BOGAR FAY G BABYDOLL	TF ROBINSON	1997	520	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN LADY LINKON	HW & DN HOPPER	1996	490	OWNER/SAMPLED
SHANNON CAMELLIA	WL & CJ SWAN	1978	479	OFFICIAL/NSW
ELLENDAN NOELEAN	HW & DN HOPPER	1996	478	OWNER/SAMPLED
KOOKABURRA GALAHS BOOLOO	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1989	468	OFFICIAL/NSW
ELLENDAN NOELEAN	HW & DN HOPPER	1995	461	OWNER/SAMPLED
BOGAR LR DOLLY	TF ROBINSON	1995	461	OWNER/SAMPLED
ASHGARTH EMPRESS	WL SWAN	1988	456	OFFICIAL/NSW
SENIOR 4				
ELLENDAN LORIKEET	HW & DN HOPPER	1995	469	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN RITA	HW & DN HOPPER	1993	447	OWNER/SAMPLED
SHANNON CAMELLIA	WL SWAN	1976	410	OFFICIAL/NSW
ELLENDAN BELLADONNA	HW & DN HOPPER	1991	405	OWNER/SAMPLED
BOGAR LES LH TANYA	TF ROBINSON	1995	404	OWNER/SAMPLED
BOGAR BIO R LINDY	TF ROBINSON	1995	386	OWNER/SAMPLED
KOOKABURRA TRUST	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1975	384	OFFICIAL/NSW
ELLENDAN RITA	HW & DN HOPPER	1994	381	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN NAN	HW & DN HOPPER	1994	375	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN SUNSILK	HW & DN HOPPER	1996	372	OWNER/SAMPLED
JUNIOR 4				
TUI-GLEN TELESTAR DENISE	L FROST	1992	493	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN PRINCESS FAY	HW & DN HOPPER	1995	488	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN BELLADONNA	HW & DN HOPPER	1991	483	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN LADY LINKON	HW & DN HOPPER	1995	461	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN BELLADONNA	HW & DN HOPPER	1993	453	OWNER/SAMPLED
KEMWARRA PRINCESS JOSEPHINE	WL & CJ SWAN	1976	419	OFFICIAL/NSW
CROOKSLEA CC NANCY	NM & MN WILKIE	1988	413	OWNER/SAMPLED
BOGAR LES HER G BABE	TF ROBINSON	1993	411	OWNER/SAMPLED
KOOKABURRA CLAUDES TUCK-A-TUCK	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1987	406	OFFICIAL/NSW
CLAREMONT MERRYSOONG 2	JV & CF MASLEN	1964	368	
KOOKABURRA CLAUDES JAKADJERIE	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1988	363	OFFICIAL/NSW
SENIOR 3				
BOGAR FAY G BABYDOLL	TF ROBINSON	1997	511	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN LORIKEET	HW & DN HOPPER	1994	440	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN FOLLY	HW & DN HOPPER	1992	430	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN NOELEAN	HW & DN HOPPER	1995	416	OWNER/SAMPLED
GLENHAVEN LADY CAMELLIA	WL & CJ SWAN	1978	386	OFFICIAL/NSW
KOOKABURRA BOOMER'S RENINNA	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1996	370	OFFICIAL/NSW
ELLENDAN TULIP	HW & DN HOPPER	1992	358	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN RITA	HW & DN HOPPER	1993	354	OWNER/SAMPLED
YARRAVIEW ROUGETTE	AT PAYNE	1943	354	
OVERPORT JENNIFER	RG WATSON	1962	349	
ELLENDAN LORNA JEAN	HW & DN HOPPER	1993	346	OWNER/SAMPLED
JUNIOR 3				
ELLENDAN LADY LINKON	HW & DN HOPPER	1994	437	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN PRINCESS FAY	HW & DN HOPPER	1994	392	OWNER/SAMPLED
BOGAR BIO F MADGE	TF ROBINSON	1994	375	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN CHARMING	HW & DN HOPPER	1995	364	OWNER/SAMPLED
SWANVALE POPPY	WL SWAN	1989	360	OFFICIAL/NSW
KOOKABURRA HI BOOLAWAH	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1996	352	OFFICIAL/NSW
ELLENDAN TANGOETT	HW & DN HOPPER	1996	349	OWNER/SAMPLED
KOOKABURRA CLAUDES BINNABURRA	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1987	346	OFFICIAL/NSW
KOOKABURRA CLAUDES BOOKOOLOO	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1987	341	OFFICIAL/NSW
YARRAVIEW ADMIRATION	AT PAYNE	1950	336	
SENIOR 2				
BOGAR FAY G BABYDOLL	TF ROBINSON	1996	466	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN LUXURY	HW & DN HOPPER	1996	342	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN TANGOETT 2	HW & DN HOPPER	1996	334	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN SOMEBEAM	HW & DN HOPPER	1992	334	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN GOLDEN OPAL	HW & DN HOPPER	1992	332	OWNER/SAMPLED
BENLEIGH SIMON'S DELL	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1997	332	OFFICIAL/NSW
YARRAVIEW ROUGETTE	AT PAYNE	1942	332	
KOOKABURRA BOOLEE EUKABILLA	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1997	324	OFFICIAL/NSW
KOOKABURRA FALCON BUNGALOOLOO	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1994	319	OFFICIAL/NSW
ELLENDAN BELINDA	HW & DN HOPPER	1992	318	OWNER/SAMPLED
KOOKABURRA CLAUDES JAKADJERIE	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1987	313	OFFICIAL/NSW
OVERPORT JENNIFER	RG WATSON	1961	312	
OVERPORT LYNNA 2	RG WATSON	1963	305	
ELLENDAN BELLADONNA	HW & DN HOPPER	1989	305	OWNER/SAMPLED
JUNIOR 2				
ELLENDAN NOELEAN	HW & DN HOPPER	1992	359	OWNER/SAMPLED
BOGAR BOO CORAL	TF ROBINSON	1995	334	OWNER/SAMPLED
KOOKABURRA BOOLEE TARKONDI	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1997	334	OFFICIAL/NSW
ELLENDAN LORIKEET	HW & DN HOPPER	1993	325	OWNER/SAMPLED
KOOKABURRA FALCON BUNGALOOLOO	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1994	319	OFFICIAL/NSW
BOGAR G MADGE	TF ROBINSON	1996	314	OWNER/SAMPLED
ELLENDAN DEB	HW & DN HOPPER	1995	314	OWNER/SAMPLED
KOOKABURRA BOOMER'S SCUD	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1997	314	OFFICIAL/NSW
BOGAR BOO CARO DEANNE	TF ROBINSON	1996	312	OWNER/SAMPLED
KOOKABURRA D PEEBINGA	DJ & JJ CLARKE	1988	307	OFFICIAL/NSW



Harold

