

## *Junior Members to Canada*



*Carl Baldry, Melissa Henry and Matthew Rand*

During July 2006, Matthew Rand, myself Melissa Henry and Carl Baldry, (*Baldry Park Simmentals*), were fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to travel to Alberta, Canada. This was to participate in the inaugural World Simmental Youth Forum, Calgary Stampede and self organised farm tours.

The 21 days that was spent in Alberta can be described as an eye-opening life experience. We went to Canada to see the cattle over there that we had heard so much about and of course to experience the Calgary Stampede and to take part of the Youth Forum. We all agreed that the trip turned out to be a far greater experience than ever expected.

The Canadians that we spent time with went above and beyond for us. They welcoming us into their home and shared with us their views and opinions on the Beef Industry. In total we visited 23 farms, 14 of which are 'Fleckvieh' breeders and 9 breeding Black or Red Simmentals. We saw powerful breeding cattle in the paddocks and that was what it was about for us – seeing what's behind the 'show gloss'.

The World Simmental Youth Forum was a lot of fun and the three of us were proud to be apart of it. The five days were packed with seminars, open discussions, official proceedings of the Congress, Simmental Judging & Sale,

the Calgary Stampede & rodeo as well as a lot of beef and beer consumption! Dana & Carla Hicks, Andrew Godfrey and Amanda Sheehan were responsible for the organisation of this event and what a great job that they did!!!

The 31 Participants in the Youth Forum represented Germany, United Kingdom, USA, provinces across Canada and the three of us from Australia. We are all passionate Simmental/Fleckvieh enthusiasts coming from different perspectives: from the dual-purpose cow in Europe to the black terminal sire in North America. We learnt to respect varying perspectives and that all Simmentals have a place within the Beef Industry based on market demands and preference.

We would like to thank all of the Canadian families that welcomed us into their homes and properties: Anchor D Ranch Simmentals, Czech-Mate Simmentals, D Bar L Fleckvieh, Eagle Ridge Simmentals, Gist Simmentals, GSB Simmentals, High Country Cattle Services, Lazy RS Ranch, Mader Ranches, Oslanski Simmental Farms Ltd, Pearson Simmentals, R-Five Simmentals, Remington Cattle Co. Riverbend Ranch, Southpaw Cattle Co. Springlake Simmentals, Spruceburn Simmentals, Stone Simmentals, Twin Anchor 7 Simmentals, Twin Butte Simmentals, Ultra Livestock, Virginia Ranch and Wa-Na-La-Pa Simmentals.

I would also like to thank *Simmental Australia* for the support that I received in undertaking this learning experience and the *Canadian Simmental Association* for hosting the first World Simmental Youth Forum.

Melissa Henry  
*2006 Junior Simmental Ambassador.*