

PROFILE



Cloe's true Canterbury tales

By EMILY SPINK

AFTER winning a judging competition across the Tasman, an Australian teen had the chance to bring her Lowline expertise to Canterbury for this year's Christchurch A&P Show.

Hailing from Goondiwindi, 17-year-old Cloe Wallace was billeted in north Canterbury, where she was able to get some insight into the sector in New Zealand.

While attending Queensland's Goondiwindi State High School, Cloe's teacher re-established the school's cattle show team.

After competing at shows there, she moved to Downlands College in Toowoomba for the second half of this year. The college is home to many students who come from remote areas.

JUDGING DEBUT

The Toowoomba Agricultural Show was Cloe's first time judging, but that didn't stop her from winning gold and claiming first place in the individual judging for Lowlines.

Her reward was a trip to New Zealand and the chance to be the associate Lowlines judge at the show in November.

"I never expected that I would get it," she said.

Ahead of the event, Cloe was hoping to judge the junior sections and enter the show ring herself on Friday, which she is used to doing back home.

As an associate judge she was called on to assess the quality of the animals, as well as selecting the most suitable breeding beasts.

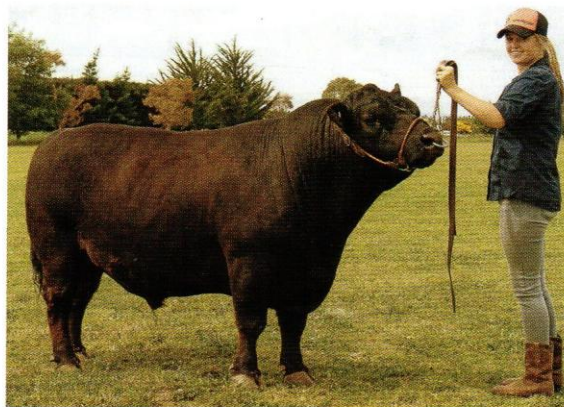
BENEFIT OF EXPERIENCE

"Because I've been living on a farm, I know what a good cow or steer looks like."

It is this experience, growing up on a steer-breeding block, that she says enabled her to "pick out the good ones".

"I love being at home, doing all the cattle work."

She said that sometimes meant working in 45 degree



ALL black: Australia's Cloe Wallace made new friends on her billets' farm in Fernside, ahead of judging Lowline classes at the Canterbury A&P show. One candidate in the ring was four-year-old Seismic, above, who was born after the September earthquake.

temperatures in the summer. For the Worthingtons, 2014 is the ninth year they have hosted a student from Australia.

She was right at home on Kay and Philip Worthington's Fernside farm.

Cloe fed calves and angora goats and helped wash the show cattle, before setting up at the showgrounds.

The Worthingtons had 10 yearlings, a cow, a calf and two adult bulls entered in the show.

'ALWAYS KEEP LEARNING'

"I always maintain that you're never at the top of your game. You can always keep learning," she said. Eventually, Cloe hopes to become a secondary school music teacher – but one who can go home to a farm. She has just one more year left of school and went home to tackle her end-of-year exams, which began just two days after her return. 