



Wellard

MEDIA RELEASE
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Maiden voyage of MV Ocean Outback emulates MV Ocean Swagman success

The newest addition to the world's livestock shipping fleet, the MV Ocean Outback has completed its maiden voyage, with a perfect success rate.

The sister ship to the MV Ocean Swagman which was launched in January this year, the MV Ocean Outback transported 3784 steers and heifers without a single mortality to the Indonesian ports of Jakarta and Panjang. The vessel is currently loading cattle in Darwin for its second voyage.

Captain Antonio Tosques, who was in charge of both ships' maiden voyages, said the Ocean Outback had performed extremely well on its maiden voyage.

"The Outback performed without fault," Capt Tosques said. "The voyage success rates and the weight gain we achieved on the voyage prove the benefits of new, modern vessels, quality Australian livestock and a professional and dedicated crew."

The design and construction of both the MV Ocean Outback and the MV Ocean Swagman focused on one objective – enhanced welfare and safety of the livestock, vessel and crew.

Both ships set new welfare and safety benchmarks including a Dual Independent Propulsion System, comprising separate engine rooms and propellers, which provide increased levels of redundancy, and therefore safety.

The advanced ventilation system on the livestock decks distributes an average of 110 air changes per hour, four times the Australian standard for livestock vessels and 3.5 times the number air changes per hour on a commercial airliner.

"The MV Ocean Outback and the MV Ocean Swagman are the new generation of livestock carriers," Wellard and Siba Ships Executive Chairman Mauro Balzarini said.

"Some of the safety features incorporated into their design are rarely seen on large passenger liners, let alone livestock vessels. They set new shipping benchmarks and are another example of the Australian industry leading the world in investment and innovation in live export."

Mr Balzarini said the results achieved by the MV Ocean Swagman in its first 10 months of operation provided every indication that the MV Ocean Outback would be another tremendous asset to the live export industry.

Since its maiden voyage in January, the MV Ocean Swagman has carried 55,010 cattle with a success rate of 99.97%, which included four long haul voyages to Egypt and China.

Both vessels were built by Drydocks World of Singapore in Batam, Indonesia, at a cost of US\$40 million each.

Wellard Executive Director Steve Meerwald said Wellard's investment in new livestock tonnage would not finish with the maiden voyage of the MV Ocean Outback.

"We are already designing the next generation of large livestock carriers and we will have some more news shortly on their design and construction dates," he said.

"Wellard is continuing to invest in the future of Australia's livestock industry."

"Whether it's through the construction of new, modern livestock carriers to carry our livestock throughout the world safely and humanely or it's through funding production animal research and husbandry at Murdoch University, we are committed to the long term future of Australian agriculture," he said.

(Electronic picture of the MV Ocean Outback available on request)

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Specifications – MV Ocean Outback

Length: 130 metres

Breadth: 21.6m

Keel to mast height: 24m

Gross tonnage: 12,892 tonnes

Livestock area: 8,000m²

Number of decks: 7

Fresh water capacity: 2,000,000 litres (almost equivalent of Olympic sized swimming pool)

Fresh water production: 320,000 litres per day from 4 reverse osmosis desalination plants

Fodder capacity: 2000 cubic metres (equivalent 1,500 tonnes) in two fodder tanks

Air circulation: 110 air changes/hour (3.5 times minimum standard)

Speed: 17 knots

Engines: 2 Wartsila 9L32

Power: 9000kw

Crew: 34

Background – Wellard Rural and Trading

Wellard Rural and Trading is the Wellard Group's agriculture and international trade division.

Its two largest subsidiaries are Wellard Rural Exports, Australia's largest livestock exporter and ship owner, and Wellard Agri, a mixed farming land owner and operator specialising in the production of grains, legumes and livestock.

Wellard Rural Exports has supplied quality Australian and New Zealand dairy and beef cattle and sheep and goats to the world for 30 years, and its investment in the live export industry is without peer. Based in Fremantle, the company's operations cover every aspect of the export chain, including feed milling, road transport, feedlot facilities throughout Australia and modern shipping.

The company's flagship carrier, the MV Ocean Drover (formerly the MV Becrux), is a purpose-built livestock carrier capable of carrying 75,000 sheep or 18,000 cattle from Australia to major markets around the globe. She was commissioned in 2002.

Its MV Ocean Shearer (formerly the MV Stella Deneb) can carry 125,000 sheep or 23,000 cattle, or a combination of both.

A new, technologically advanced, purpose-built vessel, the MV Ocean Swagman sailed on its maiden voyage in January 2010. The Swagman's sister ship, the MV Ocean Outback, is due for launch in mid-late 2010. In August 2008 Wellard and Siba Ships announced a US\$250 million contract to build an additional two new livestock vessels which will be able to carry 17,000 cattle or 70,000 sheep or a combination of the two.

Wellard Agri owns and operates eight farms across three agri-hubs, two are located at Dongara and Watheroo in Western Australia's central midlands and one is located at Kojonup in the Great Southern region of WA.

The Dongara hub is home to The Grange, a 14,500 hectare property which is considered one of Western Australia's blue chip farming properties. It is primarily used for grazing, with some cropping.

The remaining landholding totals more than 18,000 hectares, of which 14,000 hectares is cropped to a variety of grains and legumes. The other 4000ha is devoted to sheep production, including the famous Hyfield Poll Merino stud at Kojonup.

In November 2009, Wellard Agri announced it was entering the farm machinery sector, when it commenced management of the CLAAS Harvest Centre at Katanning for the Landpower range of farm machinery.

For more information visit: www.wellard.com.au