



Wellard

MEDIA RELEASE
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MV Ocean Swagman sets sail on maiden voyage

The newest and most technologically advanced livestock vessel in the world, the MV Ocean Swagman, has commenced its maiden voyage from Fremantle, Western Australia, setting new welfare and safety benchmarks for livestock, vessel and crew.

The Wellard vessel was carrying 5500 cattle to Jakarta, Indonesia, but has the capacity to carry 6000 cattle or 25,000 sheep, or a combination of both.

At a cost of more than \$40 million, the design and construction of the vessel was focused on one objective – enhanced welfare and safety of the livestock, vessel and crew.

Its Dual Independent Propulsion System, comprising separate engine rooms and propellers, provides levels of redundancy, and therefore safety, rarely seen in cruise liners and never before built into livestock vessels.

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

“The Ocean Swagman is the next generation in livestock vessel design and construction,” Wellard Executive Chairman Mauro Balzarini said.

“It is a state of the art livestock carrier which we are extremely proud of at Wellard, and will ensure more than ever that our livestock are delivered safely and in excellent condition.”

“While the launch of the MV Ocean Swagman means the MV Ocean Drover (formerly MV Becrux) loses its mantle as the world’s most technologically advanced livestock carrier, it is extremely rewarding that the honour remains in the Wellard fleet.”

The MV Ocean Swagman has been classified by the Registro Italiano Navale (RINA) as a ‘Green Star Vessel’, due to its low emissions and pollution prevention design and systems.

Its extensive feed, water and fuel systems, combined with a fast 17 knot cruising speed, will enable the vessel to complete non-stop voyages to distant destinations, such as Fremantle to Novorossysk, Russia, in 18 days, compared to the 30 day voyages experienced by other vessels.

The new vessel was built by Drydocks World of Singapore, which is also constructing a sister vessel, the MV Ocean Outback, for Wellard, to be launched later this year.

The MV Ocean Swagman was scheduled to enter service in 2007, but shipbuilding delays caused its delivery date to be delayed.

“It has been a long and frustrating wait, but a wait well worthwhile given the advances in livestock vessel design the MV Ocean Swagman displays,” Mr Balzarini said.

“Like fine wine... and most middle aged livestock exporters... we have no doubt it has improved with the passage of time!”

Both vessels will become regular fixtures at Australian ports, loading quality Australian livestock to supply to international markets.

Wellard Executive Director Steve Meerwald said the MV Ocean Swagman’s maiden voyage was typical of the investment and innovation which put it at the forefront of the industry.

“This investment is more than just the construction of a ship, it is an investment in the future of Australia’s livestock industry,” he said.

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Specifications – MV Ocean Swagman

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

The MV Ocean Swagman was launched in January 2010 and 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 both.

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

Its total landholding is more than 18,000 hectares, of which 14,000 hectares is cropped to a variety of grains and legumes. The remaining land 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