

# DEEP DIVE INTO WATER

## E/ View from inside the farm gate; Reducing the environmental footprint while building a stronger dairy business

Chaired by Lynaire Ryan, Agribusiness Consultant



### Glenn & Sarah Jones

Sharemilkers, Canterbury, New Zealand

With our three kids in-tow; Esmé (4.5), James (2.5) and Alfie (8 months), we (Waterton Agricultural Ltd) 50:50 sharemilking 650 cows on a 175ha farm in Hororata, Canterbury. Also, shareholders in Highveld Pastures Ltd, a 1150 cow dairy farm in Methven, Mid-Canterbury.

Waterton Ag's goal is to utilise our resources sustainably and efficiently to produce a premium quality product. To achieve this our own farming philosophy is a simple pasture-based system where we can utilise all grass grown and convert this into milk with a herd of high-quality well-bred cows.

Waterton Ag operates an inclusive transparent farming system where staff all get exposure to all aspects of the farming business. This gives our staff an opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, abilities and experience that will help them progress in the dairy industry.

***During our farming journey we have progressed and evolved. We will share some of the lessons learnt along the way. In relation to people and environment, we will discuss the challenges we foresee; on-farm, regional and in the greater NZ dairy industry. What are our solutions to these challenges? How we are going to address them whilst continuing to build equity.***



### Gillian & Neil O'Sullivan

Dairy Farmers, Co Waterford, Ireland

Gillian & Neil O'Sullivan both graduated as vets and came to dairy farming on Gillian's homefarm in 2010. They have 4 children and operate a family farm, milking 100 crossbred cows on a OAD system along with Gillian's father Michael. They are keen on continual education with Gillian further studying Dairy Herd Health and Neil currently completing a Masters in Environmental Sustainability. Efficient, low input, pasture based dairying is their focus

and they are highly motivated to create a sustainable system that works for their family, the cows and the environment.

***How can dairy farms meet environmental targets while building resilience and capacity within the business? Putting science into practice around herd genetics, clover & multi-species swards, min-till grassland rejuvenation and biodiversity incorporation. Practical management steps and better outcomes at farm level. Measure, monitor, improve.***