

Happy vibe from youth cattle handlers

By COURTNEY WALSH

STROLLING through the lanes at the Brunswick Showgrounds when the annual WA Youth Cattle Handlers Camp (WAYCHC) is happening can't help but make you smile.

The event has a happy chaos vibe, with primary school aged kids up to young adults milling around, busily tending to their charges and learning about as many beef and dairy related things they can.

Run by a passionate committee of volunteers, the annual camp is the product of hard work on the part of beef and dairy producers and industry professionals who want to encourage and teach the cattle industry's next generation.

Nearly 100 youngsters came from as far as Esperance and Morawa to get involved in this year's camp which was a three-day extravaganza of all things to do with cattle handling.

Participants were put through their cattle handling paces in the ring, as well as given pointers on how to prepare cattle for the judging ring and how to judge cattle.

There were also presentations given by a number of industry



□ The enthusiastic group of young cattle handlers and volunteers pictured together at last week's annual WA Youth Cattle Handlers camp in Brunswick.

professionals who gave participants an idea of what they do within the agricultural industry.

Among the guest speakers were Nick Brasher and Sam Hall from major sponsor Farmwest, Beth Green and Andrew Longbottom from DPIRD, veterinarian Nicky Race, rural reporter from the ABC Tyne Logan, Kelly Woods from Headspace and Bill McNair.

By the end of the camp, awards were handed out to a number of participants who had done well throughout the event, with judges Mal

Nikora, ST Genetics and Hannah Powe, Goondoola Livestock, presiding over the dairy and beef sections of the competition respectively.

Among the awards presented on day three of the camp were the Mitchell's Livestock Transport low stress stock handling award, handling awards, judging awards and overall achiever awards.

Two award winners received a trip as part of their awards, with the highest beef achiever, Tatum Ryan, receiving a trip to the South Australia Junior Heifer Expo

with her Christopher Ferguson Memorial Award, sponsored by WAYCHC and highest dairy achiever Murray Findlay, receiving a trip to the National All Breeds Dairy Youth Camp with the WAYCHC highest dairy achiever award sponsored by Holstein Australia.

While not everyone won an award, the annual camp is a fantastic opportunity for all involved to learn, improve and gain insights into the WA cattle industry via the platform provided by a passionate and engaging organising committee.



□ WAYCHC president Jess Andony (left), presented Murray Findlay with the WAYCHC dairy highest achiever award, sponsored by Holstein Australia.



□ WAYCHC president Jess Andony (left), presented Tatum Ryan with the Christopher Ferguson Memorial Award sponsored by WAYCHC for highest beef achiever.