In the last few weeks ABRI has added five new faces to its BREEDPLAN team - four of them being "pick of the crop" young graduates and the fifth a seasoned international software consultant. They are excited about being part of the BREEDPLAN delivery team just as ABRI is proud of attracting such talent. Benita Davis has won a coveted University Medal for her Rural Science (Animal Sc. major) degree at UNE; Colin Rex has industry experience which he drew on to top the agribusiness course at Marcus Oldham; Malcolm King performed well in his recent agribusiness degree from Hawkesbury; Michael Connors has just graduated with Honours in Agricultural Science from the University of Sydney and has been part of Australia’s inter-collegiate carcase judging team which visited the USA and Curtis Morgan brings two decades of international software development experience to ABRI. To address the needs of an expanding international market we need high quality young innovative staff - and the results of our latest recruitment drive have been very satisfying.

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**BREEDPLAN’s new staff**

Malcolm King comes from the Mid North Coast of NSW near Wingham. His family run an Angus stud along with commercial cattle. He is a graduate of the University of Western Sydney - Hawkesbury majoring in Agribusiness. Before coming to ABRI, Malcolm worked for an Agribusiness firm marketing machinery. He also worked as a heavy machinery farm hand at Sydney’s second largest rotary dairy.

His BREEDPLAN responsibilities are Gelbvieh, Angus (QLD, SA, TAS and WA), Droughtmaster and Belmont Reds. He is also the newly appointed General Manager for the Australian Gelbvieh Association.

“Wherever you are reading from, I hope this greeting finds you with an abundance of water, green grass, and fatter cattle in the paddocks. Let’s hope that the weather in 2003 is kinder to us all. I am very pleased to introduce myself as a recent addition to the BREEDPLAN team at ABRI. My responsibilities are Blonde D’ Aquitaine, Brangus, Limousin, Lowline, Romagnola, Salers, Simmental and Wagyu cattle breeds. An ardent Queenslander, I come from the Murgon area in the South Burnett district. I have had a strong association with beef cattle production from an early age, and a passion for cattle breeding which grew with the establishment of my family’s Charolais stud. I wish you all a successful year and I look forward to working with you to help you achieve your breeding goals.” - Benita Davis

Colin comes from the mixed farming area of Penola in South Australia, where the family farm was predominantly sheep orientated with a small Murray Grey stud and commercial herd. For the past 13 years he has worked on and more recently managed, several large stud properties. This has included some major Simmental, Angus, Limousin, Charolais and Hereford herds. While he has been heavily involved in the show arena, including high profile judging, all of the herds utilised BREEDPLAN as part of their breeding programme.

Colin has also had his own cattle enterprises including small Simmental and Angus studs. In 2002 he swapped the paddock for the classroom and returned to further his education at Marcus Oldham College completing the Diploma of Agribusiness. He will become the Executive Officer for the Red Angus, Red Poll and Brangus Societies.

Michael Connors joined the ABRI team in March. He will be filling a new position that will involve ensuring a smooth interface between BREEDPLAN and the new HerdMASTER product of Saltbush software. He will also be undertaking on-farm consultancies in breeding programs and promotion of seedstock.

Michael is an Honours graduate in Agricultural Science from the University of Sydney. In 2002, he was Chairman of the Angus Youth Development, an ING Rural Achiever and overall Champion of the Australian Inter-collegiate Meat Judging Competition. In February, 2003 Michael toured the USA as an member of the Australian Meat Judging team.

Curtis Morgan is joining ABRI’s software team for BREEDPLAN. He has an MBA from George Washington University and 24 years of international experience in software development - most of this being with the tools used by ABRI. His clients have included major corporations such as Boeing, Hoechst-Celanese, Network Information Systems, Electospace, State of Oklahoma and Trizetto Corp. His last assignment was in Chicago.

Curtis will add a great depth of experience to ABRI’s software team and enhance its ability to install and support BREEDPLAN in all corners of the globe.