

Geoff Croad answers 33 Questions

- 1) A genie gives you a single wish. What is it? **To be 40 again**
- 2) What makes you most happy? **My wife and my family**
- 3) Where would you like to live more than anywhere else? **New Zealand in summer.**
- 4) What makes you laugh more than anything else? **Being among family and friends**
- 5) What makes you cry? **People suffering, as at present in the Palestine/Israel war**
- 6) What scares you most? **Road rage**
- 7) You are shipwrecked on an island. Whom (except your partner or family) would you like to be there with you? **Someone who doesn't snore [OK, this gets first prize for "most unusual answer"!]**
- 8) Which three items would you want to have with you? **Lighter, axe, knife**
- 9) What is your favorite music? **60's pop, as in The Eagles** [Who? Ah, those! [Click on this link](#)]
- 10) Your favorite music, band, singer or composer? **Rod Stewart** [what about Neil Sedaka? He wrote 'Oh Carol...!' I can visualize you singing it!]
- 11) Your favorite movie? Why? **4 weddings and a funeral, it's light entertainment**



12) Your favorite female movie star? **Julia Roberts**

13) Your favorite male movie star? **Hugh Grant**

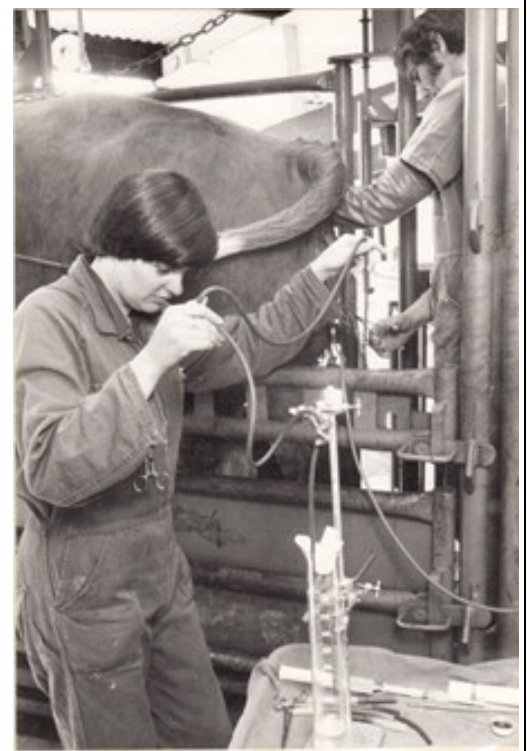
14) What is your favorite character in a play or novel, and why? **I don't read novels; rather I read autobiographies of successful business people.**

OK, except ...

- 15) Your most favorite author? **Dick Francis, British jockey and crime writer** (right)
- 16) What is your favorite colour? **Blue**
- 17) Do you have a secret skill (won't be after this is published)? **Social Media starter. But don't tell my kids!**
- 18) What is, in your view, the best invention so far? **Solar**
- 19) What characteristics do you esteem most in a human being? **Honesty**
- 20) What do you detest more than anything else? **People who don't follow through**
- 21) What was/is the biggest accident in human history? **The holocaust, or Chernobyl**
- 22) What does faith and religion mean to you? **A guide on how to live**



- 23) If you could change any one of your personality traits, what would it be and why? **I wish I wasn't so particular**
- 24) What was/would be is the most beautiful moment of your life? **Having children and meeting Carol** [hmmm... shouldn't that be the other way round..? ☺]
- 25) About what do you like to dream more than anything else? **Travelling South America**
- 26) Other than your immediate family, who influenced your life more than anyone else? **Geoff Mahon (Veterinarian) whom I was involved in Cattle Breeding (embryo transfer to increase the number of calves born to one cow.)** (See picture below.)
- 27) What is your favorite activity? **Socialising and chatting**
- 28) What is your best virtue? **Loyalty**
- 29) And your biggest vice? **Being demanding**
- 30) If magic existed, what ability would you like to possess most? **To turn the clock back, and to have had more time with my kids in their early years**
- 31) Whom do you most admire? **My father**
- 32) What is the theme of your life? **Keep a tidy mind**
- 33) False, Fact, Fiction (only one of them is true):
 - **I'm a qualified veterinarian**
 - **I am a qualified Artificial Insemination technician**
- 1) **I played Rugby in the All Blacks** [Yeah! That must be the one that's true! ☺]



This article appeared in our club bulletin of 20th March 2013, reporting on Geoff's talk about his former career in Artificial Insemination.

This photo is of me (top right of photo) flushing a number of embryos out of a female cow to plant into a number of recipient females to carry through to calving. So instead of getting just one calf by super ovulating you could get numerous live calves over a period of 12 months. I would also inseminate the donor first to fertilise the embryos! The lady assisting me was the Vets wife Linda Mahon. Ed.



Last week's Guest Speaker: Geoff Croad Man behind the Badge - Sorry, no notes...

Regrettably, your Editor wasn't present at last week's meeting. So, here is a "recycled" article from February 2011, when Geoff gave a presentation on one of his "previous lives" when, together with his father, he pioneered Artificial Insemination in New Zealand.

OK, who would have guessed it? "Gentleman Geoff" Croad, whom we know as an authority in Real Estate, was in the 1970's a pioneer and expert in Artificial Insemination of cattle...

At the last meeting on 19th January, Geoff presented us with a background on the early days of a science which is today common practice.

On a 450 acre property between Cambridge and Matamata (NZ), Geoff and his father Allen Croad pioneered a large scale program, using pure Simmental and Charolais frozen semen over Angus and Hereford Cows. These were inserted into Friesian cows; in essence surrogate mothers. Friesian



'Grogan Centurion', the first pure bred Charolais bull to be imported into NZ from England.

cows were selected because of their milking ability and ease of calving. They exported some 600 calves per year to Australia, registered as 1/2 bred Charolais and Simmental. After six crosses, they were accepted as pure Charolais or Simmental. But the first cross gave good growth rates over straight Angus or Hereford, so were ideal as vealers.

And just how to you find out when a cow is ready to receive her artificial insemination? Well, they used Friesian "teaser" bulls to detect the cycle of the females. But instead of these bulls getting a piece of the action, the females were drafted and inseminated. [remind me that in my next life I don't ask to come back as a Friesian bull in New Zealand in the 1970's... Ed.] After 90 days, provided that a pregnancy test was positive, they were then exported to Australia.

Not a bad business either: purchasing the heifers at between \$80 - \$100, they then were sold for \$800 once pregnancy tested in calf at 90 days.

Ultimately, repeated incisions on the donor resulted in problems with scar tissue. Geoff then developed a method which resulted in non-surgical collection and transfer. See the above photo (top right) right with his Veterinary Surgeon assistant Linda Mahon flushing a donor. With this method, they were able to collect some 1000 embryos from which over 700 live calves were produced from 35 purebred donors.

