



• That's my girl: Emma Visser and her most recent very best friend.

## No chewing a cud here

JENNA THOMPSON

jthompson@kiama-independent.com.au

WHILE others are still trying to decide what career they might want to pursue, for 16-year-old Illawarra Christian School student Emma Visser, her dreams of working outside and with animals have already come true.

Currently in year 10, Emma has been offered an apprenticeship with Jamberoo dairy farmer Lynne Strong, which is just the stepping-stone to a variety of career paths within the dairy industry.

Although initially not sure what vocation path to follow, Emma was certain she didn't want to go to university. The thought of sitting in class all day, studying at night and getting snowed under with assignments for three years was not her idea of an enjoyable learning experience.

But along came Lynne and her Cows Create Careers high school program earlier this year and from then on, Emma has been hooked.

The growing success of the Cows Create Careers program, which has students rearing calves for a three-week period, has allowed thousands of students to gain a richer

understanding of Australia's great dairying industry as well as promoting an environmental awareness of modern farming.

"We had to learn how to feed them, weigh them, check them for any diseases and learn all about the industry," Emma said.

The program also involves more practical assignments including PowerPoint presentations and designing a poster, but Emma said her favourite part was working directly with the calves.

"The fact that I can work outside and work with animals is really exciting," she said.

Emma, a resident of Oak Flats, revealed that before the program began, she knew next to nothing about cows.

She said it was the initial presentation from Lynne that made her decide to pursue a career in cows.

Lynne has expressed an interest in employing Emma full time once she has completed her HSC in 2010.

"It's exciting to know that you already have a job waiting for you," Emma said.

"And it's something I love as well."

So, no plans for an office job then?

"Definitely not," she said.