



Helen Dorresteyn (Hames)



1979-1982

Helen Dorresteyn's two great passions in life are gardening and great food, and she is lucky that she has been able to combine them both in her business, the Clevedon Valley Buffalo Company. Helen runs the company with her husband Richard, and makes buffalo mozzarella, which they sell at the Clevedon Farmers Market.

Helen and Richard decided to import New Zealand's first milking buffalo herd, and together learnt to farm them and make cheese, which Helen describes as a great project, that has at times been hard, but never boring. Throughout her life, Helen has set herself goals and worked to achieve them. Helen says *"the trick is not to give up when you make mistakes or fail - you just have to approach the problem from a different angle."*

Helen's greatest personal successes are her children and her loving stable relationship, but her proudest achievement in terms of her business would be being on Country Calendar in 2010, which Helen described as a wonderful experience that will be treasured.

"Nothing is troublesome that you do willingly. Never stop asking questions and if you are not prepared to work for it don't expect to get it."