



# Goat soap not froth and bubbles

By MARK NOLAN



Success . . . Leanne Faulkner with her goats

A PROJECT that began with a concerned mum trying to soothe her son's dry skin has ended up an international business success.

Leanne Faulkner converted her love for goats into a thriving export business by using the animals' milk to make a unique range of soaps.

Ms Faulkner's company Billie Goat Soap, based in the double garage of her Ourimbah property, now employs four people and exports shipments of the "skin-loving soap" to Korea and Taiwan.

Her handmade, chemical-free goat's milk soaps are also available at more than 245 health food, natural therapy and gift stores across the country.

The success story began about three years ago when Ms Faulkner's son Liam, now 5, developed eczema and traditional remedies did not work.

Already the proud owner of dairy goats for showing purposes, she took soap lessons and started making her own products for her son's skin and to give to friends and family at Christmas.

About 16 months later she is enjoying a lather of success, with people finding many uses for her products, including dealing with cradle cap and psoriasis or just for a touch of luxury.

While Ms Faulkner used to milk her six goats herself, she has now had to employ the help of a goat dairy farm at Wilberforce to keep up with the increasing demand.

"Having fresh goat's milk in our products is paramount," she said yesterday.

"Goat's milk has a pH level very close to our skin's own pH, and it contains many valuable vitamins and nutrients. It is really gentle on the skin."

With the help of Austrade, three shipments of about 6000 bars of the luxury oil and goat milk soap have been exported to Korea. Another two shipments of 1400 soap bars have been sent to Taiwan, with Ms Faulkner keen to expand into more export markets.