

DROUGHTMASTER

Digest

DECEMBER 2018





THANKYOU!

to all of our return and new buyers, bidders and underbidders who supported our 5th annual on property sale.

Bulls topped at \$19,000 and females topped at \$5,750.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year

on the **24th August 2019.**



FALCON \$19,000 TO LOCKYER PASTORAL CO.

TOP PRICED LOTS

Top priced Bull - Falcon \$19,000

to Lockyer Pastoral Co.

Google \$18,000 to Valera Vale Stud

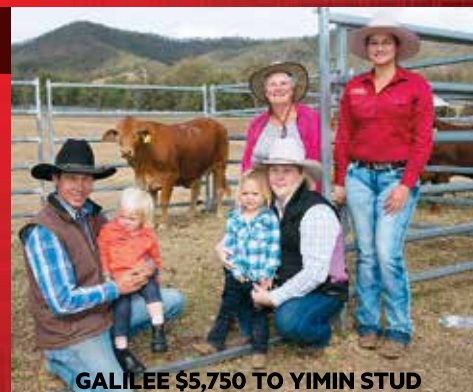
Genesis \$11,500 to Grey Gums Stud

Gambler \$10,000 to Yimin Stud

Top priced Female - Galilee \$5,750

to Yimin Stud

Giselda \$4750 to Yimin Stud (Sale bulk buyers)



GALILEE \$5,750 TO YIMIN STUD



WHYNOT - 3/4 SHARE \$47,500

THE NEW GENERATION

2018 ADDITIONS TO OUR SIRE BATTERY

Glenlands D Whynot	22 mths, 914 kg, EMA 143, IMF 5.3
Bryvonlea Rambo	27 mth, 964 kg, EMA 147
Glenlands D Ventura	29 mths, 986 kg, EMA 146
Valera Vale Kenworth	22 mths, 824 kg, EMA 131, IMF 5.2
Valera Vale Kalahari	22 mths, 824 kg, EMA 130, IMF 5.2
Kiverton Noosa	24 mths, 964 kg, EMA 138
High Country Game On	19 mths, 800 kg, EMA 126



GAME ON



RAMBO



VENTURA



NOOSA



KENWORTH

Paul, Lisa, Steph & Michael Laycock, Lachlan Young - Eskdale (07) 5423 2398 / 0438 788 201

www.highcountrydroughtmasters.com.au



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BOOKINGS

FEBRUARY DIGEST DEADLINES

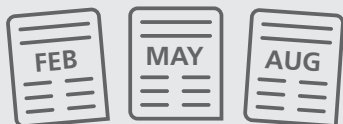
Advertising bookings and copy:
DECEMBER 13, 2018

BREEDERS BULLETIN BOARD

GET IN EARLY

ADVERTISE YOUR
DROUGHTMASTER STUD
FOR 2019

\$150 INC GST
FOR 3 EDITIONS



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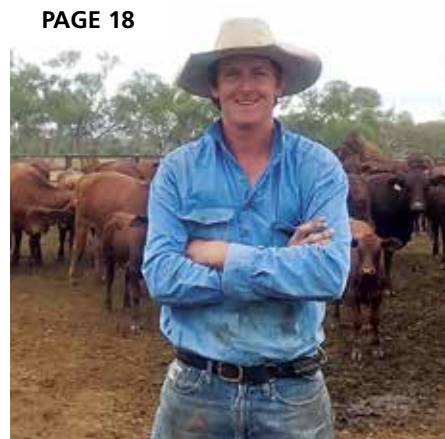
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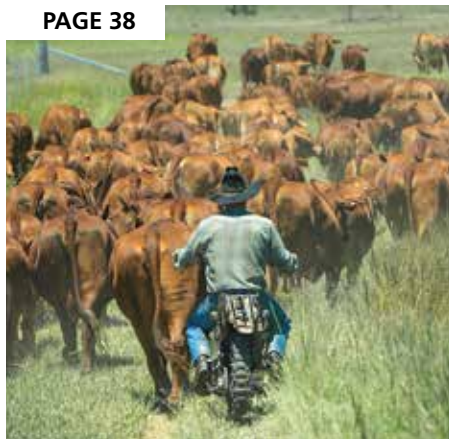
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President's Paragraph

It's with great pride that I write my first column as President of the Droughtmaster Society. It's an honour and privilege to follow in the footsteps of the numerous presidents who have led this breed before me. In my term as President, I'll be doing my best to continue the progress made by my predecessors and by previous Boards.

With the sudden, unexpected passing of my wife earlier this year, 2018 has obviously not been a good year for me and my family. However, it has been a great year for the Droughtmaster breed with solid demand for bulls and females resulting in strong average prices at auction sales throughout the year. The auction results have exceeded expectations, considering the dry conditions being experienced across most of Australia.

One of the highlights of the beef industry this year was the Beef Week expo in Rockhampton and it was pleasing to see that the Droughtmaster breed shone once again. We had the largest numbers of any breed in the stud arena and dominated in the commercial classes. The icing on the cake was the Ken and Kerry McKenzie once again winning the Grand Champion Pen of Commercial Cattle with their Droughtmaster cross heifers.

There are a number of other field days which are held throughout Australia on an annual basis, where the society organises a promotional display in conjunction with members who're displaying cattle, however there are also quite a few other field days which members choose to display at under their own steam. On behalf of the membership and the board, thank you to those studs who spend their time and their money displaying at those other field days. While this is obviously of benefit to the stud displaying, it also increases the exposure of our breed and is therefore of benefit to the whole membership.

My sincere thanks to the staff who have been working hard behind the scenes making sure the society keeps functioning like clockwork throughout the year.

On behalf of the board, I wish all Droughtmasters breeders and members a happy and joyous Christmas and a wet and prosperous 2019.

JEFF WILLIAMS
President



Looking Ahead

Irrespective of your viewpoint on global warming, the frequency and the geographical spread of dry conditions certainly seems to have been increasing over the past ten years. It seems ironic to hear politicians (and others) pontificating about "drought proofing" our agricultural industries, when the pioneer breeders of the Droughtmaster breed did that very thing for the Australian cattle industry almost 100 years ago.

"Business coaches" talk about businesses needing to be "agile" so they can respond quickly because marketplaces are ever changing – with unreliable seasons becoming more common place across a larger proportion of Australia, the marketplace for commercial beef producers is becoming more and more unpredictable. Because the Droughtmaster breed is suitable for a multitude of end markets, it provides flexibility for commercial producers – it allows their businesses to be "agile" in an ever-changing marketplace. The strong demand for Droughtmaster genetics during the spring bull sales clearly demonstrated that more and more commercial breeders are realising that not only do Droughtmaster handle the unreliable seasons best, but they also suit a multitude of markets.

As the year draws to a close I'd like to thank all supporters of our wonderful breed, particularly our sponsors with whom we have built strong partnerships. A big thanks also to the members who volunteer for various roles, help out on our displays at field days and/or make the effort to take their cattle to shows throughout Australia. A special thanks to our staff who do a fantastic job servicing the members.

I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful contribution made by our office manager, Samantha Horridge who has decided to move on to greener pastures. Sam has been our office manager for more than five years and has been a dedicated, industrious, committed and loyal servant for the society's members throughout that time. Nothing was ever too much trouble and she spent many hours of her own time doing things for the society and the breed. We thank her for her efforts and wish her well for the future.

NEIL DONALDSON
CEO



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One of Gavin and Lisa Kleidons' homegrown first calf heifers looking after the kids on-property at Etloe West, Gilgilgul, south of Wandoan. Photo courtesy of Lisa Kleidon.

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Thank you...

**To all purchasers, underbidders and selling agents
of our 2018 draft of bulls & females.**

**15 bulls sold to average \$6,820
7 females sold to average \$3,530
Clearance 100%**



Our top priced Female for 2018

Nindethana Halle

**\$5,000 to Eversleigh & Wallace Vale
Droughtmaster
National Female Sale**

**Thank you also to our
wonderful support team...**



**NINDETHANA
PASTORAL** PTY.
LTD.
Droughtmaster Stud (No.315)



Our top priced Bull for 2018

Nindethana Jean Valjean "Jean"

**\$25,000 to Valera Vale Droughtmasters
Scenic Rim Bull & Female Sale**



**Bronwyn Betts & Michael Hawkins
Camp Mountain QLD 4520**

Tel: 07 3289 1554 | Mob: 0408 700 510

Email: nindethana.droughtmasters@gmail.com

www.nindethanadroughtmasters.com.au

AgQuip Droughtmaster Display a Winner Again

People queued happily for a succulent rib fillet steak burger at the Droughtmaster stand during the 2018 AgQuip Field Days at Gunnedah, NSW, in August.

Droughtmaster members and associates volunteered their time to cook and serve more than 2500 steak burgers over the three days at the field days.

Apart for the popularity of the steak burgers, the spectators were also drawn to the Droughtmaster cattle which were the centrepiece of the breed promotional display, as they have been every year since the AgQuip Field Days commenced more than 30 years ago - Droughtmaster cattle have been displayed every year since it commenced.

Display cattle provided by the Lloyd family, Heitiki, and the Allan family, Clayfield, attracted plenty of comment and attention. The Lloyd family generously donated a heifer called Heitiki Miley as the prize for the lucky draw, with everyone who bought a steak burger getting a ticket. Drawn mid-afternoon on the third day, the heifer was won by Gary Burge, Bunando, Trundle, who was very excited by his win and his prize.

The grainfed rib fillet steak was sourced from Nolans Meats at Gympie (as it has been for the last 20 years) and it proved to be succulent, tender and tasty as usual and prompted lots of enquiries from people who wanted to buy the steak locally.

This year the committee decided that half the profits would be donated to the drought appeal and Aussie Helpers was chosen as the recipient. Nolans Meats generously donated \$1500 towards the charity before Agquip had even begun. The Droughtmaster backpacks were a hit with the kids and adults were asked to make a gold coin donation to the Drought Appeal when they took a backpack.



The grainfed rib fillet steak for the burgers was sourced from Nolans Meats at Gympie (as it has been for the last 20 years) and it proved to be succulent, tender and tasty as usual.

The cooking and serving of more than 2500 steak burgers over three days was carried out very capably by the team of regular volunteers. It was great to welcome to the team, Bill and Chris Riley who volunteered their time this year – they have no connection with the cattle industry, but are friends of the Heyman family - they thought they would come along to help out. They had such a good time they have volunteered again for 2019.

Mark, Lynn and Todd Heyman did a fantastic job once again planning and organising pre-event and then managing and participating in, the cooking and serving of more than 2500 steak burgers plus drinks.

The team of volunteers had a great time and the camaraderie experienced every year continued with lots of fun and of jokes (plus a couple of cold drinks at the end of the day). If you would like to volunteer (and have some fun along the way) at Agquip in 2019, contact the Society on (07) 3281 0056. You don't have to be a member - all volunteers are welcome. AgQuip will be held in Gunnedah on August 20-22 in 2019.



Droughtmaster members and associates volunteered their time to cook and serve more than 2500 steak burgers over the three days of the AgQuip Field Days.

SC Sires Sell to Munda Reds in WA

Earlier this year, SC Droughtmasters stud principals Steven and Claire Farmer, sold seven leading 2016 drop prospective sires to Munda Reds Droughtmaster stud in Gingin, WA.

The sale of these sire prospects out of the paddock earlier this year follows on from the Farmers selling 300 stud females and the Comanche stud prefix to Munda Reds in 2015.

The on-property sale averaged \$25,000/head and included the first released sons from Lisgar Dallas, Clonlara 340, and two sons of Billabong Barnaby.

"He (Lisgar Dallas) has consistently passed his traits onto his progeny, including a very good temperament,"

- SC Droughtmasters stud principal Steven Farmer.

In negotiating the sale, Munda Reds' Mike Thompson said he was "impressed with the performance data available at hand and the opportunity to purchase leading sires in paddock condition".

SC Droughtmasters also offered eight bulls at the Fitzroy Crossing Sale in WA on August 20, with the sale team, including seven sons of Lisgar Dallas, selling to \$6500 for a \$4531 average, the third best average in the Droughtmaster section of the multi breed sale.

On October 12, the Farmers offered seven bulls at the Bullzeye Sale in Capella, with six selling for a strong average of \$7416.

The Bullzeye sale team included four progeny by another new SC sire in Comanche Go Burnsie, in addition to sons of Lisgar Dallas, Billabong Barnaby and SC 538.

Following the success of the last drop of Lisgar Dallas progeny, SC Droughtmasters has decided to release semen to the domestic and international markets.

Lisgar Dallas is a homozygous polled bull, which the Farmers describe as being "structurally correct and large framed with very good performance and fertility data".

"He has consistently passed his traits onto his progeny including a very good temperament," Steven said.



*A Big Thankyou to Warren & Carolyn Kenny of Wajatrbyn Droughtmasters
for the purchase of \$55,000 DN Sale Topper "Vinnie"*



*Thankyou to Brett and Leanne Warne
of Jembrae Droughtmasters Purchasing
our top priced DN Wingfield Bull \$27,500 Oklahoma
Also \$10,000 Roma Bull Minlacowie Velocity*



*Thankyou to the Carter Family
of Cedar Springs and Cedar Springs A for
Purchasing
our top priced Roma Bull
\$16,000 Vidler*

*We sincerely thank all of our Supporters
throughout 2018. We wish everyone
a Merry Christmas
and a safe and Prosperous
New Year*



*MW Minlacowie
& Wingfield
Droughtmasters*

*Mc Callan Nimrod
(6 sons averaged \$19,340) Paddock Bulls always available*

www.spanndroughtmasters.com.au

By Heck What a Year!



*Bryvonlea Rolex
Sire:
Skye Wilfred*



♦ Bryvonlea Rolex: Top price Day 2 February All Breeds Bull Sale sold to Piggot Pastoral for \$19000.

♦ Droughtmaster National Female Sale - 10 joined and

unjoined females average \$4833. Top unjoined female sold to Ridgie Didge stud for \$8000. Thank you also to D Summer, Maleny High, D&A Torrisi, N. Herbst, L&F Howard, B McLean Kiverton DM and Bos Tarus DM

♦ Beef 2018 - Droughtmaster Cow

♦ Gympie Show - Junior Champion Droughtmaster female and Junior Champion Interbreed Female.

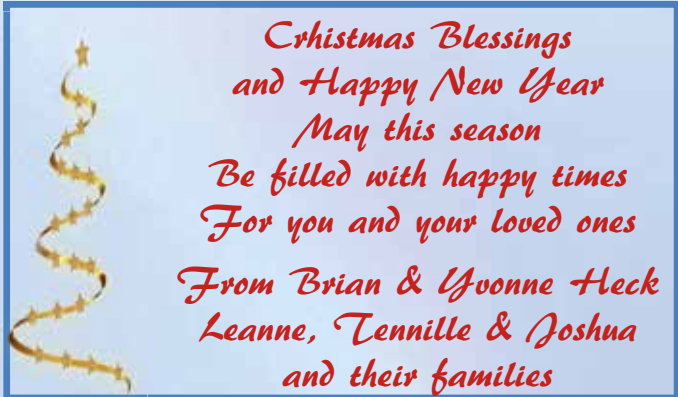


*Bryvonlea Edian
Sire:
Skye Wilfred*



*Bryvonlea Philippa
Sire:
Skye Wilfred*





We thank all who invested in Bryvonlea Genetics and wish you the very best results in your breeding programmes.

- ◆ Bunya Bull Sale - 4 bulls sold for an average of \$6375 topping at \$11,000 for Bryvonlea Ripper selling to Stonebridge Droughtmasters. Thank you to Stonebridge Droughtmasters, Anger & Hockmuth, Turriff Grazing and B Kennedy.
- ◆ DN. Bull Sale - 7 Skye Wilfred sons sold for an average of \$17,785 topping at \$52,500 for Bryvonlea Rolleston sold to Huntly Droughtmasters. A total of 13 sold for an average of \$14,230. Thank you to Huntly Droughtmasters, High Country Droughtmasters, J & B Farms, Lake Lofty, Yackatoon Grazing, P & M Francis, Jembrae Droughtmasters, Valera Vale Droughtmasters, Dart Pastoral, R & S Anderson, Wales Grazing, Kaniel Droughtmasters and B & T King.
- ◆ Thank you to all bidders, underbidders, agents and committees. We greatly appreciate your support. Thank you to those who have purchased bulls and females in the paddock.
- ◆ 2019 Sale - Bryvonlea will not attend the February All Breeds Bull Sale but we will have females for sale at the March National Female Sale. Bulls will be offered at the Bunya Bull Sale and the Droughtmaster National Bull Sales in September and Females at the Cream of the Crop in November.



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Size Doesn't Matter in the Stud Game

- By Matt Sherrington

The stud cattle industry in Australia is so often characterised by headline-grabbing record auction prices which usually feature the larger better known studs and affluent buyers. People outside the industry could quite naturally assume that the cattle producer with the "biggest wallet" would have all the best bulls and females and breed all the best cattle which would win all the blue ribbons in the stud judging ring.

However, because genetics is so variable, studs with smaller budgets can compete quite well with bigger operations in the auction and judging rings.

If breeding good cattle was simply based on the size of the beef producers bank balance, there certainly wouldn't be as many stud operations in Australia.

This situation is applicable to all breeds including the Droughtmasters, which has its fair share of smaller studs. The Droughtmaster Society supports and encourages all stud operations irrespective of their size or bank balance.

A prime example of a smaller stud operation doing well in the judging ring despite its size, is Farogan Valley.

Stud principals Nick and Sarah Hughes hard work and dedication to the Droughtmaster breed paid off in spades earlier this year, when Farogan Valley Aura was judged Grand Champion Droughtmaster Female and placed in the top 10 for the Interbreed Female section at Beef Australia 2018 in Rockhampton.

Sarah said when Aura was announced as the Grand Champion they were initially quite shocked.

"We were just excited to be out in the ring with the likes of big studs like Glenlands and Rondel, it was a humbling experience, and we hoped just to be competitive," she said.

"It took our breath away when Aura won the class and then she went on to win Grand Champion Droughtmaster Female which was just amazing.

"She was the only animal we took to Beef, and to have such an incredible result was like winning the lotto!"

Sarah said Aura got her name, as from a calf, they felt she had an 'aura' about her.

"She is a beautiful girl, with such an easy going nature, and she has the bone and structure that we like to have in our cattle. She has a great udder, is fully polled, and overall is a great package."

It was the second trip to Beef for Nick and Sarah after they exhibited Aura there in 2015 in the "baby class" in which she finished sixth in her section.

Sarah said Aura has earned her retirement after compiling a plethora of ribbons for the stud at a myriad of shows pre-Beef 2018. Aura is now out in the paddock "being a cow" on the Hughes' 820ha combined freehold and state forest leased property at Upper Kandanga.

"She had a string of wins to her name, so we thought it fitting that she wind down her show career after Beef.

"She is now a part of our IVF and AI program, we've just weaned her second calf Aria, by AI-Oasis Mufasa, and we're about to AI her again."

Sarah said Aura has also been entered into the Miss World competition taking place in the first week of December at

Fort Worth Texas (run by the Beefmaster Breeders United group in the USA) as an automatic qualifier after winning at Beef.

The Hughes purchased Farogan Valley in 2005 and established the stud in 2007 with one registered female.

"Our decision to become a stud cattle operation came after our realisation that our property was too small to support a commercial breeding herd.

"11 years later, we have 55 Registered cows, a selection of stud bulls which are being prepped for sale, FV Chief being used in herd, weaners to 12 month-old stud bulls, and replacement and sale heifers."

Sarah said they initially leased a stud bull to help build the herd, and in 2011 they were able to buy a used bull from Vale View Droughtmasters, which turned out to be "a good buy".

That bull was Strathfield XXXX Gold, which Sarah said, has left his mark on the Farogan Valley herd as he's the sire of Aura, her well ribboned full brother Chief, (inc Supreme Droughtmaster Exhibit at the 2017 Gympie Feature Show) and another full brother in Thunder (who'll be up for sale at the February All Breeds Sale in 2019, along with Aura's first calf by Talgai Chico), all out of a Pine Valley Dam.

She said the Droughtmaster was the breed chosen for stud use due to their "size, mothering ability, travelling ability, doability, temperament and looks".

"We're aiming to produce a small number of very high quality polled or scurred animals for sale that have excellent temperaments and are easy to manage in all conditions.

"We also aim to produce a larger framed animal with good bone and structure, excellent muscle definition, a tidy underline, and a solid back end."

Sarah said they're now getting the next generation of show cattle ready for 2019 and that Les and Leanne Lee at Leegra Fitting have been a major part of the journey with Aura and Chief.

"They do an awesome job, we both work (Sarah as a teacher, Nick in IT) to support the farm and therefore don't have the time to fully prepare our show cattle and we've always appreciated their efforts on our behalf."

"Looking forward, we want to breed and sell good quality cattle, show our own cattle one day, and be able to run the farm on a full time basis."



Beef Australia 2018 Grand Champion Droughtmaster Female, Farogan Valley Aura with her 12-week-old heifer calf Aria at foot, with Nick and Sarah Hughes, Leanne Lee holding the calf, handler Les Lee, judge Rob Sinnamon, and trophy sponsor Emma Allen, Koota Park Droughtmasters, Rockhampton.

Droughties to Take Centrestage at Wandoan

Mark your calendar!

The sole Droughtmaster Feature Show for 2019 will be taking place in Wandoan, on Friday April 5 and Saturday April 6.

After the record number of nominations at Beef Australia 2018 and at other regional shows throughout Queensland in 2018, there promises to be big numbers of high quality Droughtmasters on display for the Wandoan Feature Show.

Situated in the Dawson Valley, Wandoan and the surrounding area "is renowned for producing magnificent grass finished bullocks for the Japanese market" Droughtmaster Society CEO Neil Donaldson said.

He said many years ago, the Wandoan saleyards hosted weekly prime cattle sales which attracted large numbers, as it was a "clearing" dip for cattle from the ticky areas of Queensland and it was also the railhead.

"When the tick line moved north to Taroom and rail transport of cattle became less popular, the weekly sales of grass fattened bullocks came to an end."

He said while the township maybe only small, "the surrounding areas are home to a significant number of beef producers who're very passionate about their industry and their region".

Wandoan is centrally located for people from southern, central and western Queensland. Make sure you book accommodation in advance, but if you can't get accommodation in Wandoan, the towns of Miles and Taroom are both within an hours drive (south and north respectively) of Wandoan.



After the record number of nominations at Beef Australia 2018 and at other regional shows throughout Queensland in 2018, there promises to be big numbers of high quality Droughtmasters on display for the feature show at Wandoan in April 2019.

Thank You to all buyers, underbidders, agents and friends for a great 2018 Sale Season.
The 2018 Bull Sales have seen us reach a top of \$15,000 to average \$6187.50.



*We wish you all a relaxing,
joyous and rainy Christmas
& a prosperous 2019.*

OAKMORE PARK

Stud # 1107 Brand 4DI

Droughtmaster Stud

*Selling 3 Droughtmaster Bulls
February All Breeds Sale 2019*



DG & SM Harms & Sons Lot 8, 4 Hodgson St. Greenmount Qld 4359 07 4697 1007 www.oakmoreparkdroughtmasters.com.au

Depth of Droughtmaster Breeding on Show

- By Mark Phelps

THE Droughtmaster ring delivered plenty of highlights at this year's Royal Queensland Show with the breed's many enthusiasts treated to an excellent line-up of 80 cattle across all of the classes.

Glenlands J Velocity proved to be the stand-out winner in the ring when he named both senior and grand champion bull.

Exhibited by Jason Childs, Glenlands, Theodore, Velocity was by Glenlands Kipper and from Glenlands 6995. The extremely well constructed 1192kg bull with a 141cm² EMA, had an impressive 1.13kg average daily weight gain.

Judge Tammie Robinson, Glenhart, Toogoolawah, described Velocity as the clear winner.

"He moves freely and he is functional," she said.

"He has the growth, the meat and muscle, a clean reproductive system and is masculine.

"I just can't go past him because of what he can do for the beef industry. He is just the clear winner of this competition."

Glenlands also exhibited the junior champion bull, reflecting the depth of the family's stud breeding operation.

Glenlands J Weapon (P) won the 18-20 month class.

The very well grown 808kg bull had a

132cm² EMA and a 1.32kg average daily weight gain.

Reserve junior bull went to the very structurally appealing Yellowwood Nitro by Minlacowie Smokin' Jo Horn. The attractive 8-12 month class winner was exhibited by John Williamson, Pimpama. Weighing 443kg, the youngster already had a 102cm² EMA.

Reserve senior champion was the well developed Carnudge Gorgeous George, exhibited by Greg and Linda Nugent, Carnudge Droughtmasters, Samford.

The aptly named Gorgeous George entered the ring at 936kg and a 126cm² EMA to initially place first in the 24-27 months class.

High Country Game On by Glen Fosslyn Idol took the blue ribbon in the 20-22 months class. Shown by Paul and Lisa Laycock, the impressive sire weighed 866kg with a 126cm² EMA.

Bronwyn Betts, Nindethana Pastoral, Samford, also enjoyed success in the 22-24 months class with Nindethana Impact, who topped the class at 824kg. Bred by RSVP Jackpot, he had a 1.13kg average daily weight gain.

The Pickering family, Winderah, had the winner of the 24-27 month class. Sylvan Springs Mustang 964 was sired by Ianbrae Wanted and came into the ring weighing 1014kg with a 133cm² EMA.

Bull winners from the junior classes included Seymour Jethro from the 12-14

months division. The 550kg poll had a 116cm² EMA backed by a 1.41kg average daily weight gain. Jethro was exhibited by Kirsty and Rob Orphant, Seymour Droughtmasters, Gunalda.

One of the highlights of the Droughtmaster showing was the three head exhibited by the Toogoolawah State High School. A team of three students accompanied the cattle for the duration of the Ekka. However, they were assisted on the judging day by the rest of Toogoolawah High's agriculture team. The stud was founded from cattle from the McConnel family's Mt Brisbane stud.

Glenlands also exhibited the winning breeding group, ahead of the Pickering family and Nindethana Pastoral. Nindethana had the winning progeny stakes group. Nudgee College had the winning pair of bulls.



One of the highlights of the Droughtmaster showing was the three head exhibited by Toogoolawah State High School students Zach Charnock, Luke Williams, Jack Williamson, Sarah Kleis, Chelsea Harvey and Riley Harvey.

Below: The grand champion Droughtmaster bull, Glenlands J Velocity, handled by Jason Childs, Glenlands, Theodore, with Michael Hawkins, Samford, presenting the Betty Baker memorial trophy, Robert Murray, Elders, associate judge Chloe Davey, Emerald, and judge Tammie Robinson, Toogoolawah.



88 Bulls offered



Here's Value!

TOP 10 BULLS SOLD TO AVERAGE **\$10,250**
REGISTERED BULLS AVERAGED **\$5,833**
HERD BULLS AVERAGED **\$5,250**

724 kgs • 11rump fat • Average 23mths • 7 rib fat • 130 EMA

SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10			13	14
15	16				20	21
22	23				27	28
29	30					



TOP PRICE \$24,00
SOLD TO BILL & KAY GEDDES,
DOONSIDE
LOT 9
GLENAVON
UE

*Thank you to
all the bidders and
under bidders at the
2018 Cap Sale.
We wish you all the best
with your purchases,
a Merry Christmas
and Happy
New Year.*

Vogue Proves all the Rage

- By Mark Phelps

GLENLANDS scored the double in the Droughtmaster female classes at this year's Royal Queensland Show, exhibiting both the junior and senior champions.

The senior champion, Glenlands D Vogue, went on to be named grand champion female by judge Tammie Robinson, Toogoolawah. Vogue, an ET product of Glenlands Pacific, was earlier judged the winner of the 30-48 months class.

The stylish junior champion, Glenlands D

Agnes, won the 12-14 months class. Bred from the poll Glenlands D Usain, the heifer drew plenty of praise from the judge for her structural correctness and obvious potential as a future stud dam.

However, it was the proven cow with a bull calf at foot who scored the broad ribbon.

Ms Robinson said Vogue's overall shape, depth of body and feminine front made her the winner.

"She is the clear cut winner because of her conformation, backed by the proven

performance of having an exceptional calf at foot," she said.

Reserve senior champion heifer was the very attractive Sylvan Spring Midori (Ianbrae Wanted), exhibited by the Pickering family from Windera.

Reserve junior champion heifer was a Kenview Droughtmasters and RSVP Droughtmasters joint entry, RSVP Neeve. The poll female won the 8-12 months class, which attracted 13 entries. Second place in the class was Paul and Lisa Laycock's High Country Hallie (P) by Bundy Eldorado.

Glenlands did particularly well in the heifer competition also winning the 16-18 months class with Glenlands J Wishful (P) by Glenlands Paterson (P).

Yellowwood Mollie shown by John Williamson, Yellowwood Droughtmasters, Pimpama, scored the blue ribbon in the 18-20 months class. Nindethana Pastoral, Samford, had the winner of the 22-24 months class with Nindethana Innika (RSVP Jackpot).

Toogoolawah State High School had a taste of success with a second place with Mt Brisbane Heidi (P) in the class that produced the grand champion female.



Helen and Darren Childs, Glenlands, Theodore, and the senior and grand champion Droughtmaster female Glenlands D Vogue with her bull calf at foot.

NEWS

Our "Pearls" Feature in Beef Industry Book

- By Sally Cripps

Cattlemen in Pearls captures and celebrates women in the beef industry and is a wonderful collection of stories about 28 women in the Australian beef industry.

It was launched in August by ABC Landline presenter Pip Courtney at the Ekka High Tea Charity Fundraiser before a crowd of 850 guests at the International Convention Centre.

Well known Droughtmaster personalities, Alison Atkinson and Jenny Underwood were 2 of the 28 women featured in the book which was commissioned and funded by Ian and Anne Galloway, from Roma.

Cattlemen in Pearls chronicles the journeys of remarkable Australian women, spanning three generations, whose love for the land and livestock is ingrained in their genetic profile.

These powerful, surprising and moving mini-biographies recount tales of gritty

determination, direst tragedy and glorious courage. Readers are given rare insight into how and what it's like to start a cattle business from scratch; to run a successful stud enterprise; to manage a vast cattle station; to head a pastoral industry group and corporation.

The tough physical and emotional terrain of the bush, and strong family ties, play a role in each of these diverse, down-to-earth and sometimes heartbreaking stories. There are droughts, floods, emergencies, times of despair and loss, as well as hilarious antics, joyous gatherings and extraordinary stories of success.

For each of these thoroughly capable, warm-hearted women there is simply no other lifestyle choice. Cattlemen in Pearls is a compelling tribute to women in agriculture, specifically Australia's beef industry.

The ABC's Landline ran a story in October which featured Alison and Jenny as the

main subjects – the segment can be replayed via a link on the ABC's website.



Ian Galloway, Cootharaba, Roma, with Alison Atkinson, Rockhampton, and Jenny Underwood, Wallumbilla, two of 28 women who feature in the book Cattlemen in Pearls, which was launched at Ekka this year.



Merry Christmas!

As the sun sets on another year...



www.scdroughtmasters.com.au

Steve - 0428 347 555

Claire - 0407 169 937

scgrazing@gmail.com

Melinda Downs' Droughtie Focus Paying Off

- By Matt Sherrington

Since Danny Locke took on the role of manager at large-scale commercial beef enterprise Melinda Downs Pty Ltd 12 years ago, for owner Peter Hickson, production has gradually shifted towards emphasising the use of the Droughtmaster.

Situated 140km north of Cloncurry, the 32,124 acre property currently runs close to 900 predominantly Droughtmaster breeders and their progeny with 35 stud and herd Droughtmaster bulls on black soil and Gidgee ridges, with ample mitchell, flinders and buffel grasses available for grazing.

Droughtmasters were introduced to Melinda Downs before Danny arrived, where they were being used alongside several other breeds.

"We decided to focus on the Droughties so we can produce good even lines of cattle, which has made things easier when we're trying to sell.

"We chose the Droughties for their durability, high fertility and good quiet temperament, they're soft enough yet they can still handle the tough conditions we face here at times.

"We're currently getting fertility rates close to 75% but we're trying to improve that by putting more pressure on the breeders."

Danny said they aim to produce weaners which are held back until they reach close to 300kg and then sold into the southern backgrounding market and/or the live export market.

He said they had a slow start to the wet season this year at Melinda Downs with only minor showers arriving until March

"Hopefully we'll fare better at the end of the year, although, despite the dry, the cattle have been holding up well."

He said the climatic conditions have altered the way the cattle are sold.

"Before the dry hit we were selling the weaners directly off their mothers, but we noticed that they were losing a bit of weight that way which is why we now put them in the paddock to grow up before we sell."

Danny said they're currently also trialling Charbray bulls for use within the operation.

"We're crossing the Charbrays with the Droughtmaster cows to see if there is any difference in the weight gains for the weaners, but we'll see how they stack up against the pure Droughtmaster figures before we decide how we proceed with that.

"We'll have a better idea of how they're working out for us next year."

He said Peter is based in Brisbane and has been using the Roma Droughtmaster Sale (formerly the Roma Tropical Breeds Sale) for more than a decade as one of the primary bull buying sources for Melinda Downs.

"It's an easy sale for him to attend and it's fairly easy for us as well. A good variety of studs are always selling there with cattle to suit all types of budgets and operations.

"We generally go home with the bulls

we want. We select bulls in the 24 to 30 month range with good bone, a tidy sheath, balanced EBV figures and most importantly a quiet temperament.

"This year we brought home five bulls from four studs, which will help further diversify the genetics in the herd."

"We usually find that during their first year here the newly purchased bulls need a bit of a helping hand, but after that they generally adapt to our conditions well."

Danny said he manages the operation with the assistance of his wife Tara, and their children Matthew, Emma and Jessica who help in the yards.

"It's for this reason that temperament is crucial when we buy bulls, as I need to be sure that my family are going to be safe around the cattle while they work."

When not working the cattle on-property, Danny said the family like to exhibit in the grass-fed competition at the Cloncurry show each year.

"We didn't bring home any prizes this year, but they were good cattle, and we got some positive feedback about them."

He said they also like taking part in the various campdrafts held around the region.

Emma is just starting to get into showjumping by attending a couple of schools, she hasn't competed yet, but she's really enjoying it."

Danny said he's looking forward to making the trek to Roma for the Droughtmaster Bull Sale in 2019, where he's hoping to select more quality bulls for Melinda Downs with Peter, and have a yarn and drink with the many mates he's made through the sale over the years.

Below: Weaners from Melinda Downs are sold into the southern backgrounding and/or live export markets.



Oasis



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Bushwacker \$40,000 Cairo Droughtmasters



Iron Jack \$46,000 Fernie Cattle Co.



Son of a Gun \$20,000 Munda Reds WA



White Gold \$20,000 Karragarra Droughtmasters



Mr Mint \$24,000 Vale View Droughtmasters

Hayes' Knack for Judging Shines at Beef 2018



Steve Hayes's ability to identify suitable genetics for breeding purposes at The Garden via Alice Springs, culminated with him being named the associate judge for the Droughtmaster stud cattle section at Beef Australia earlier this year.

- By Bronwyn Betts

Born into the beef industry, 23 year old Steve Hayes grew up on the family's cattle station, The Garden, located 130km north-east of Alice Springs in the East MacDonnell Ranges.

At age 10, Steve recalls participating in junior parader classes and young judges' competitions at their local Alice Springs Show. The focus of these competitions, according to Steve, had little to do with the animals that were being exhibited, and everything to do with encouraging participation of local youth.

Steve enjoyed these experiences and clearly demonstrated an affinity for preparing and parading beef cattle, and judging their finer features. His skill and enthusiasm for the competition resulted in him winning two Rabobank sponsored scholarships, the first of which enabled him to attend the 2006 Armidale Heifer Expo and the second, the 2010 Adelaide Heifer Show.

Steve never dreamed that his early involvement in the cattle competitions held at the Alice Springs Show would help shape his future and one day, see him appointed as the associate judge in the Droughtmaster ring at Australia's largest and most prestigious cattle show, the Beef Australia expo.

The younger of two children, Steve obtained his primary school education through School of the Air located in Alice

Springs, and his secondary education at St Peter's College in Adelaide where he attended as a boarder. Steve always knew that he would return home following his schooling and that he would carve out a future in the cattle industry, becoming the sixth generation of his family to do so.

After graduating, Steve worked on a cattle station on the Oodnadatta Track in northern SA, before returning home to The Garden where he now works full time alongside his parents, Andy and Jane, in the family's beef cattle operation.

The Hayes family have been breeding poll Herefords in the NT for almost a century. It was not until 1996 with the purchase of The Garden, that Steve's parents began to look at red cattle and ultimately, selected Droughtmasters as the breed of choice. According to Steve, The Garden had been largely destocked prior to purchase, save for a small herd of Shorthorn cattle, which were then run with the family's Poll Herefords. Over time, Droughtmasters were introduced and in 2017, the Poll Hereford herd was sold, paving the way for a predominately Droughtmaster herd.

Steve describes The Garden as a 'lucky pocket of country' for a number of reasons. In the first instance, it is relatively free from disease and parasites and as such, there's no requirement to vaccinate, dip, feed or supplement the cattle. The only cattle that are offered feed are the ones yarded prior to transport.

The second reason relates to its ideal geographical location, which enables the family to chase a number of different markets into which they can sell their cattle. Presently, they sell their commercial steers into the live export market to the north, and meatworks located in SA and Qld.

In addition to the commercial operation at The Garden, Steve has been operating a small 'stud paddock' in which he is running a selection of approximately 50 'better females' and mating them with stud sires. The purpose of the stud paddock is to breed quality bulls that can then be used in their own operation. Steve has full responsibility for the management of the stud paddock, including mating decisions and ultimately, the determination of which bull calves will be retained and ultimately used in their operation.

Steve clearly has an eye for judging quality cattle that was first identified as a youngster competing in the competitions at the Alice Spring Show. It is a skill that saw Steve judge alongside Rob Sinnamon at the Beef Australia 2018 expo, in what was the largest showing of Droughtmaster stud cattle since the inception of the breed. It's also a skill that has enabled Steve to identify suitable genetics for breeding purposes at The Garden, and to then select bulls that will be retained and later used over the family's 5,000 strong head of cattle at The Garden.

What is next for this inspiring young cattle producer?

Steve is certainly passionate about working with cattle and has a very clear vision of his future in the industry. It's his intention to remain at The Garden and ultimately take over the reins of the family business, and the legacy that has been nurtured by five generations of his family that have preceded him.



Steve in the ring on a misty morning at Beef 2018, consulting with Droughtmaster judge Rob Sinnamon.


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A National Success Story

- By Sally Cripps and Martin Bunyard

At the conclusion of the Droughtmaster National Bull Sale at CQLX Gracemere, on Wednesday, September 12, a total of 438 bulls or 89 per cent of the catalogue had been cleared, for an overall sale average of \$8387.

The sale action started strongly. Two bulls sold for over \$50,000 on the first day of the sale, which was a highlight that bucked a year long trend in terms of clearance rates and averages, providing a satisfying result for vendors operating in difficult and dry seasonal conditions.

Warren and Carolyn Kenny, Wajatrryn Stud, Gayndah, bought the top priced bull, Minlacowie Vinnie 8817, a 23-month horned bull, for \$55,000.

Vinnie's EMA was 134cm², while the impressive sire entered the sale ring at a weight of 926kg and also recorded a scrotal circumference of 43cm. The bull also displayed great fat cover with 10mm of fat on the rump and 7mm of fat on the rib area.

The Kenny family said sires such as Minlacowie Vinnie didn't come along every day, and they were keen to take up the opportunity to buy the beef, bone and skin type he had.

"We're looking to breed bulls so you've got to buy bulls with sire appeal," Wajatrryn Droughtmaster Stud's Warren Kenny said.

Mr Kenny said he also ticked the boxes for their paddock bull buyers from the NT and the top end of WA, in offering extra bone and soft skin while being able to handle tougher conditions. "We're a bit excited about what he might produce and the introduction of new bloodlines to our Droughtmaster stud cattle herd."

The sales' second top price honours went to polled bull Bryvonlea Rolleston, sold by Brian and Yvonne Heck to Sam and Jane Barton, Huntly Droughtmaster Stud, Clermont, for \$52,500.

At 29 months, Rolleston weighed 912kg, had a scrotal circumference of 42cm, and an EMA of 137cm². The bull also recorded 12mm of fat on the rump and 9mm of fat on the rib area.

Mr Barton said the Bryvonlea Rolleston sire was everything they were looking for in terms of having a big top line for a poll bull, being well balanced with great bone, as well as being very functional and growthy.

Mr Barton had bought Bryvonlea bulls before and found they'd worked well with his cows.

"It's a good marriage between the two bloodlines and delivers us some great results at both the stud stock and commercial levels of our beef cattle operation," he said.

Rolleston's sire, Skye Wilfred, was purchased by Brian and Yvonne Heck for \$50,000 at the 2014 Droughtmaster National sale and they said he'd done just what they wanted him to do, in putting width and muscle in their cattle, along with a strong poll gene and tropical skin.

Wilfred's genetics were important to Mr Barton, who said Wilfred had done a wonderful job through the whole Bryvonlea sale draft.

"I could have bought any one of them for the same effect. I'd like to think he's one of the better bulls we've bought."

Bryvonlea's average was \$15,363 for 11 head, an exciting outcome for the Hecks, along with their 100% clearance.

Studs represented a good percentage of those buyers, including High Country, Huntly, Yackatoo, Jembrae, and Valera Vale.

Other good averages on the first day of were recorded by Waringle, Maleny, with \$18,000 for four head, Heitiki at Delungra, NSW, selling two head for an average \$18,250, including a \$28,000 purchase by Glenlands, and Locarno, Dingo, finishing with an average of \$12,500 for 12 head.

On the other side of the coin, Fossil Downs, Fitzroy Crossing, was the volume buyer on the day, purchasing 24 head, followed by Peter and Desieree Hindmarsh, Milton Station, Ubobo with 10 head.

While day two of the Droughtmaster National 2018 bull sale in Gracemere was more of a buyer's market than the first day, Droughtmaster Society CEO, Neil Donaldson, said it was to be expected.

"Wednesday was more in line with what we expected overall – it was a buyers' market but the good bulls still attracted a lot of interest" he said.

The Kinbacher family of Biggenden and the Geddes family of Emerald each received \$46,000 for one of their bulls offered.

The Kinbachers sold their 25-month-old polled sire Garthowen Yeoman 2, weighing



Droughtmaster National Bull Sale buyers, Lawson and Warren Kenny, Wajatrryn Droughtmaster Stud, Gayndah with vendor Jason Spann, Minlacowie Droughtmaster Stud, Goovigen and the \$55,000 top price bull of the sale Minlacowie Vinnie 8817 (H).



Brian Heck, Bryvonlea Droughtmaster Stud, Glastonbury Creek, and buyer Sam Barton, Huntly Droughtmaster Stud, Clermont with the \$52,500 sale second top price bull Bryvonlea Rolleston (P).

880kg with an EMA of 131cm², to Kimberley Bred, WA.

"The bull we sold was by Jembrae Fenton who we bought from the Droughtmaster National Sale in 2012 for \$31,000," Garthowen Droughtmaster Stud's Simon Kinbacher said.

"We have sold 16 of his sons at the Droughtmaster National to average \$22,187 for a top of \$78,000 at the 2017 sale."

Noel and Robyn Geddes sold Oasis A Iron Jack (P) for \$46,000, aged 22 months, weighing 812kg with an EMA of 138cm², to Col and Matt Fernie, Fernie Cattle Co, Yarrawonga, Blackwater.

The Geddes topped the equivalent sale last year when they sold Oasis Dundee for \$135,000 to Mac and Gayle Shann, Lamont Droughtmasters, Clermont.

Oasis A Iron Jack will now go to work in the Fernie family's extended commercial cattle operation to continue the tradition of producing high quality paddock bulls.

Buyer numbers were boosted somewhat by the presence of 40 online bidders registered with Elite Livestock Services.

Chris Norris said there had been over 300 viewers over the two days and 10 bulls were purchased by buyers from Richmond,

Bundaberg, the Brisbane Valley, Comet, Biloela, Kaimkillenbun, and the Fassifern Valley.

Mr Donaldson, said the two days of the 2018 sale "demonstrated that buyers are willing to put their hands in their pockets and dig deep for outstanding bulls".

"It was a clear demonstration of confidence in the Droughtmaster breed."



Adam Geddes sold Oasis A Iron Jack (P) bull to Col and Matt Fernie, Fernie Cattle Co, Yarrawonga, Blackwater for \$46,000.



Simon Kinbacher, Garthowen Droughtmaster Stud, Biggenden and buyer John Henwood, Mt Pleasant, Gin Gin, Western Australia with the \$46,000 Garthowen Yeoman 2 bull.



Would like to wish everyone
a very Merry Christmas & Safe New Year.
Best of Luck for 2019.



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to our buyers, under bidders and agents for
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The Lloyd family is very appreciative of
Paul and Paula Russell, Locarno stud,
Dingo on the purchase of
Heitiki Kidman (P) for \$30,000.

We would like to thank
The Childs family,
Glenlands on the purchase of
Heitiki Merlin (P) for \$28,000

Also thanks to John Atkinson,
Cashmere stud on buying
Heitiki Linderman (P) for \$10,000.

We would also like to thank
Christmas Creek Cattle Co on the purchase of
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Heitiki has a number of quality vet inspected herd and stud bulls available in the paddock

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AW963252

Bull Buyers' Dig Deep for Charity

- By Martin Bunyard

The 'Fair Crack for our Farmers' charity raised more than \$30,000 during this year's Droughtmaster National Bull Sale.

The charity's efforts culminated in a bull semen auction, held in Rockhampton on the night of Tuesday, September 11, with vendors and buyers from the Droughtmaster cattle breed bidding up big to support other farmers in need.

Famous Sun Palms pub was packed to full capacity with plenty of bids flying to purchase some of the Droughtmaster breed's top genetics.

Showing both their compassion and commitment to the Droughtmaster breed was top price bull semen buyer Tim Lloyd, Heitiki Droughtmaster Stud, Delungra near Inverell, NSW.

The Lloyd family paid \$6500 for a 10 straw package from Oasis A Thurston, kindly donated by Munda Reds Droughtmasters in WA.

"We've been breeding Droughtmaster bulls for 40 years and it's great to both support a very good cause and secure some top sire semen for our AI program with our stud females," Mr Lloyd said.

"We're having a dry season as well but those farmer south of us near Tamworth and Gunnedah in NSW, and in some parts of Qld, are in the grip of a tough drought."

Also supporting the charity event and digging deep to help drought impacted farmers was Ken McKenzie, Yaralla Droughtmasters, Blackwater who spent

\$5000 for a 10 straw package from Medway Queenslander, donated by the Medway Droughtmasters.

Tipping in \$4000 to support the event was High Country Droughtmaster's Paul and Lisa Laycock who purchased Oasis A Hudson sire semen.

Duncan and Karen Geddes, Telemon, Springsure bought several packages including Glenlands Tradition and donated a total of \$3100.

Gus McCormack, Clonlara Droughtmasters, Glenmorgan snapped up a Yaralla Maxwell sire semen package and tipped in \$1500.

Also, donating and buying sire packages were Capricorn Rangelands, Strathfield Droughtmasters and Sally Perry.

Terry Piggot, Aldinga Piggot Droughtmasters, Rolleston, donated \$2100 for a signed Cowboys NRL football jersey, and Morty Wilson spent \$500 to buy a framed Maroons jersey. Bull semen packages were also kindly donated by Bowman Park Droughtmasters, RSVP Droughtmasters, Ingrams Droughtmasters, Tomawill Droughtmasters and Minlacowie Droughtmasters.

Elders Stud Stock and Savage Barker & Backhouse (SBB) livestock agents also donated sale commissions on several bull lots sold during the Droughtmaster National Sale to the charity.

Below: 'Fair Crack for our Farmers' Jillaroo Jess with vendors who kindly donated to the charity's semen auction event fundraiser during the Droughtmaster National 2018 bull sale.



Junior UBER: Not sure if Mac Smith, Vale View M Droughtmasters, Manumbar, was charging his passengers for the Uber/Taxi service at the DN. Sale, but they were having a ton of fun anyway.

CHARITY AUCTION

Heifer Proceeds go to Black Dog Ride

The Charity Heifer auction conducted during the pre-sale function at the Droughtmaster National Bull Sale was an outstanding success thanks to the efforts of numerous people and companies who all volunteered their time and expertise to help the Black Dog Ride Charity, which raises awareness of depression, mental health and suicide prevention.

The heifer which was generously donated by Graham and Robyn Bishop, and Glen and Jodie Hoskins of Deep Valley Stud, WA, was originally registered as Deep Valley Crystal, however at the request of the charity she was renamed Clementine 2.

There was a large crowd in attendance for the auction at CQLX with numerous people bidding face to face with SBB auctioneer Josh Heck (who donated his time and expertise and commission) and a number of others made their bids online through Elite Livestock Auctions, under the capable control of Chris Norris (who also donated his time, expertise and charges), while Clementine 2 was blissfully grazing totally unaware, in a paddock in WA.

After strong bidding Clementine 2 was knocked down to Vern Williamson, Daybreak Stud, WA, for \$7750.

Despite being from WA, Vern was in attendance and did his bidding face to face - ironically, underbidders Mark Pagett and Ruth Campbell, Rangeview Stud, Cooroy, did their bidding via the internet.

Peter Milton from Black Dog Ride Charity attended the auction and spoke about the charity and also about depression, mental health, suicide prevention and highlighted the charity's message to men in the bush - "it's OK to say you're not OK".

If you or anyone you know needs help, contact Lifeline on 131 114.





Farogan Valley Droughtmasters



We sincerely thank all of our bidders and supporters throughout 2018.

**We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and
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Longreach Leads the way at Artesian Sale



Regional Landmark owner, Boyd Curran, top priced purchasers, Jim and Becky Farquhar, Calco Stud, Rolleston, and vendors, Julie and Dean Allen, Western Red Stud.

- By Sally Cripps

For the first time in its 10-year existence, Longreach's Dean and Julie Allen topped the Artesian Droughtmaster bull sale at Blackall.

In what may have been a naming omen, their 25-month-old sire, Western Red Longreach (P) sold to Jim and Becky Farquhar's Calco Droughtmaster Stud, Rolleston, for \$15,500.

Dean, the chairman of the sale committee, said while it had been a great feeling to have a sale topper, the 100% sale clearance was

just as pleasing, along with the \$5941 overall average.

"I think it shows the strong demand there is for Droughtmasters in central and western Qld," he said.

He described their sale topper as having overall appeal, combining a strong poll head with frame.

His sire, Glenlands Overseer has been in the Western Red stud for eight years and has bred more than 50 sale bulls for the Allens.

"He's a sire who has bred on, and I think this one will too."

Western Red Longreach entered the ring at 860kg and had a scrotal circumference of 40cm.

His EMA is 133cm² while his P8 and rib fat measurements were 10mm and 7mm respectively.

His new owners will be putting him with select cows in both the Calco stud and their son Larry's Eljay stud.

Becky Farquhar said they were impressed with the structural correctness of the bull

and they knew his dam, Currajong Biscuit, was breeding a good, known cross from her eight calves to date.

"We've had a few Glenlands bulls and we're happy with the progeny," she said.

Just behind the Allens were the Childs family of Bouldercombe, who sold Glenlands D Waterloo (P), aged 20 months, for \$15,000, to Eddie and Sharon Maxwell, Rockvale Station, Julia Creek.

Waterloo weighed in at 795kg and had an EMA of 138cm².

Glenlands recorded the highest average on the day, selling five head for an average of \$8000.

They were followed by the McCormack family's Clonlara stud at Glenmorgan, who cleared all six of their bulls for \$6416.

Volume buyers came from around the state, including Craig and Emma Scholes, Braemar Investments, Lighthouse, Blackall; Benn Brown, Bogunda Station, Prairie; and Arcturus Downs, Springsure, who each selected six bulls.

Munda Reds Bull Tops Fitzroy Xing

- By Jodie Rintoul

The Fitzroy Crossing Invitation Bos Indicus Bull Sale held on August 24, may have been dominated by Queensland-bred bulls but it was a WA-based Droughtmaster stud which shone the brightest in both the top price and average stakes.

Buying support from throughout the Kimberley, down through the Pilbara and even further south pushed prices to a sale high \$13,000 in the Droughtmaster run for a Munda Reds sire.

All up 212 bulls representing five breeds were offered and sold by Landmark in the marathon sale for an average of \$4193.

This year the sale top priced bull came from first-time sale vendor and WA breeder Mike Thompson, Munda Reds stud, Gingin and Port Hedland.

After some quick-fire bidding between a number of parties, Munda Bind, in lot 210, was knocked down to Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation, Karratha Station, Karratha.

The 22-month-old polled, Bind, is sired by homozygous polled bull, Garthowen Velocity, which was purchased by the Munda Reds stud for the third top price at the 2015 National Droughtmaster Sale and out of Comanche 4461.

Not only did Mr Thompson sell the top-priced bull, he also recorded the best stud average in the sale at \$9028 for his team of nine bulls offered and sold.

Mr Thompson thanked everyone for their support and commended the Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation, Karratha station board, management and staff on sourcing top genetics for future breeding and their long term outlook as pastoralists.

Not only did the sale's top-priced bull come from the Droughtmaster section, it also had the second largest offering of bulls.

Six vendors this year offered 55 Droughtmaster bulls and by the end of the run all had found new homes at an average of \$4973, which was back only \$2 on last year's result.

The Sevenell and Lynsey Park stud, Bell, offered and sold 10 bulls to a top of \$6750 (twice) to average \$5000, while Rodlyn Stud, Bunya Mountains, Queensland, also offered and sold 10 Droughtmasters and finished with an average of \$4050 across its team which topped at \$6000.

Last year's top-priced vendor SC Droughtmasters, Yaamba, Queensland, offered and sold eight bulls to a top of \$6500 and an average of \$4531, the third best average in the breed.

The largest vendor in the Droughtmaster section was the Valera Vale stud, Charleville, Queensland, which offered and sold 11 bulls to a top of \$4750 and an average of \$3932.

Wynwood and Windy Gully stud, Bell, returned this year to offer and sell seven Droughtmasters. It averaged \$3179 across its team of seven which topped at \$3500, twice.



Landmark auctioneer Tiny Holly (left), Munda Reds principal Mike Thompson, Gingin and Port Hedland, Olivia Dewar, Munda Reds, Gingin, buyers Leigh Black and Andrew Cabassi, Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation, Karratha station, Karratha, Ben Wright, Munda Reds, Gingin and Landmark Rockhampton stud stock auctioneer Mark Scholes with the \$13,000 top-priced Munda Reds Droughtmaster bull at Fitzroy.

Sale Result Hits the Bullzeye

- By Sheree Kershaw

High quality, even lines of stud cattle were offered at the annual Bullzeye Droughtmaster bull sale held on October 12 in Capella, where an impressive lineup of 85 out of 106 bulls sold for a 80% clearance, to average \$5900

Vendor Kerri McKenzie, Hamadra Droughtmasters, Bluff, said this year's sale was a little bit tougher than in previous years.

"We were somewhat expecting the sale to be affected by the current weather

conditions that producers are facing but the quality of the bulls offered continues to be strong," she said.

Top price honours went to lot 29, Hamadra Harley (P) SD717200M D5, who sold for \$18,000 to Noel and Adam Geddes, Oasis Droughtmasters, Rockhampton and Dingo.

Harley had the figures to backup his high price with the supplementary information presented recording a weight of 764kg, an EMA of 132cm² and a scrotal circumference of 41cm.

Sired by Hamadra Bodacious (S) D5 SD711100M, the 20-month-old bull was a show calf from the stud's show cow, Hamadra Elegance (S) D5 SD7147F, who won supreme female at the Marlborough Show this year.

Mrs McKenzie said the family has a soft spot for the young bull as he exhibits a beautiful nature, and is well put together with a good sheath and a nice polly head.

The McKenzies sold a total of 17 bulls to average \$6441.

The second top priced bull was lot 36, Medway Attica (P) TMC17473M D5, who sold for \$12,000 to Dean and Julie Allen, Western Reds Droughtmasters, Longreach.

Medway Attica is a 23-month-old bull sired by Medway Shake Hands (P) D5 TMC11189M out of Medway Terralyn (P) TMC12383F, who entered the ring weighing 754kg with an impressive EMA of 140cm² and a 43cm scrotal circumference.

Volume buyers Arcturus Downs, Springsure, secured 11 bulls to average \$5000, while Pioneer Grazing Co, Clermont, took home six head for an average of \$3500.



Top priced bull Hamadra Harley (P) with vendor Kerri McKenzie, Hamadra Droughtmasters, Bluff, and buyer Adam Geddes, Oasis Droughtmasters, Rockhampton.

Falcon Soars to \$19,000

- By Jane Lowe

A total of 53 bulls sold from 58 offered with an average of \$5566 and top of \$19,000 at the 5th annual High Country on-property sale at Eskdale near Toogoolawah on August 25.

Strong support for the heifers both in the ring and online saw a 100% clearance of the 19 heifers offered and an average of \$2960 and top of \$5750.

The sale topper was Payola Falcon 209, a homozygous polled bull, sired by ValeView XXXX (P) (ET) (AI), a 23-month-old who weighed 872kg with a 132cm² EMA and was purchased by Darren Fisher and Colin Codd, Lockyer Pastoral Holdings.

Michael and Tracey Flynn, Valera Vale, Augathella, paid \$18,000 for the second top price bull High Country Google (P) sired by Glenlands Quarry (P), a 20-month-old bull weighing 753kg with an EMA of 130cm².

High Country Galilee (P) sired by Oasis Wallace (P) was the top priced unjoined

heifer, selling to Allen and Michelle Burton, Yimin Droughtmasters, Sunshine Coast.

The Burton family were the highest volume buyers on the day in securing seven heifers to average \$4100 and one bull.

The Burtons run 30 registered Droughtmaster females and 30 commercial females near the Sunshine Coast and Mr Burton said he was looking to purchase the older heifers so he could join them straight away, and also pick up a couple of younger ones to grow out a little more.

"The females were a very good line that are deep wedge heifers with good length and loose skin, and they fit into the bloodlines I'm developing," Mr Burton said.

The Burtons also purchased the \$11,000 High Country Gambler (P), a 23-month-old sire who weighed 832kg with an EMA of 125cm².

Mr Burton said he had "outstanding temperament, a long and well muscled body and structural soundness" and was their pick of the sale.

"The bloodline goes back to most of our herd so he will fit in very well with what we're trying to achieve."

Another strong supporter of the sale was the duo of Tim Collins and Dave Thallon



High Country sale topper Payola Falcon 209 with Stephanie Laycock High Country Droughtmasters and auctioneer Jack Fogg, Shepherdson and Boyd.

who purchased seven bulls to average \$5500 on behalf of Sword Holdings at Harlin.

Shepherdson and Boyd sale agent, Jack Fogg said in a tough season it was a great result to clear 91% of the sales' stud cattle to a gallery of repeat and first-time buyers.

"We missed the bulk buyers from the west and north districts due to the dry conditions," Mr Fogg said.

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Alcatraz Snapped up for \$16,000

- By Jane Lowe

The 5th annual Bunya Droughtmaster bull sale reached a top of \$16,000 and average \$5659 with a 76% clearance.

Strong support from local buyers saw a draft of 91 bulls from 28 vendors sold during the sale held on September 1.

Dave and Colleen Smith, Vale View Droughtmasters, sold six bulls to average \$11,166 and topped the sale at \$16,000 with Vale View Alcatraz 2 (S) a 22 month-old who weighed 841kg with a 136cm² EMA.

The son of Vale View X-Man (P), was purchased by Bob and Lachie Nicholls, Kilkenny Droughtmasters, Commissioners Flat near Woodford.

Vale View went on to sell the second top priced bull Vale View Altivo 2 (P), a 23 month-old who weighed 758kg, sired by Vale View M Ballistic (P) (ET) (AI), for \$14,500 and Vale View Ziggy (S) for \$12,000 to Kevin and Leesa Woolcock, Mostyndale Stud, Springsure.

Bob Nicholls said he was chasing a good,

beefy Droughtmaster bull that ticked all the boxes with great weight for age and softness.

Mr Nicholls attended the Southern Beef Week open days and liked what he saw and then went back to Vale View for a better look and picked out Vale View Alcatraz 2 (S) to purchase at the sale.

Don and Robyn Robertson, By-Mingo Droughtmasters, Coalstoun Lakes near Biggenden sold four bulls to average \$6750 and topped at \$9500 for By-Mingo Quarry (P), a 23-month-old bull weighing 810kg



Bob and Lachie Nicholls, Kilkenny Droughtmasters with Colleen Smith, Vale View Droughtmasters and the top priced bull, Vale View Alcatraz 2 (S).

with a 134cm² EMA, which sold to repeat buyers Jeff and Sue Trott, Trott Family Grazing, Gayndah.

Brian and Yvonne Heck, Bryvonlea Droughtmasters via Gympie sold four bulls to average \$6375 with Bryvonlea Ripper (P), a 27-month-old weighing 892kg selling to Alex Gibbon and Paige Hodgkinson, Stonebridge Droughtmasters, Mallanganee, NSW, for \$11,000.

Jason Barnard, Caldys Droughtmasters, Monto sold the first lot of the day, Caldys Elliott (P), an 808kg bull sired by Locarno Joker (P) for \$10,000 to Midge Thompson, Thompson Bros, Nanango.

Volume buyer and repeat clients the McConnel family, Mt Brisbane Pastoral Co, Esk purchased a total of ten bulls to average \$3600.

Sale chairman Graham Brown was pleased with yet another solid performance from the Bunya Bull Sale. Under ever tightening seasonal conditions the sale saw a small increase in the overall average price by \$129/bull to \$5659.

Strong Support Shown for Clonlara Bulls

- By Peter Lowe

Long-standing clients demonstrated their confidence in the McCormack family's Clonlara breeding direction after paying a \$7054 average for Droughtmaster bulls at their annual sale, held at Dilga, Glenmorgan, on September 19.

Selling agent Elders with guest auctioneer Wayne York cleared 55 Droughtmaster



Clonlara Droughtmasters co-principal Gus McCormack and buyer of the \$40,000 Clonlara 17210, David Smith, Vale View Droughtmasters, Goomeri.

bulls at \$7054 for a top price of \$40,000, and 10 red composite bulls for a \$6600 average to a top of \$10,000.

Overall the sale saw 65 bulls average \$6984 for a 94% clearance rate.

David and Colleen Smith, Vale View Droughtmasters, Goomeri, made the winning bid on the \$40,000 top price bull Clonlara 17210, a superbly put together, 23-month-old son of Redskin Gator (P) with excellent raw data and Breedplan figures.

Mr Smith said Clonlara 17210 was hard to fault, clean coated and tidy underneath with plenty of bone and scale.

"We inspected him a few days prior to the sale and he was a standout and I'm delighted he'll be joining our sire battery," Mr Smith said.

The last bull into the ring, Clonlara Composite 17406 (P), a high growth son of Kimberley FB170 with excellent fertility aspects attracted the top red composite price of \$10,000 from Rick Ford, who manages Fossil Downs Station, Fitzroy Crossing, WA for WNM Macdonald.

Mr Ford was a first-time buyer at Clonlara and wanted poll genetics with statistics on semen motility and morphology testing, combined with structural soundness.

He was also buying for their Liveringa Station Beef P/L at Derby which accounted for a pair of red composites for a \$7250 average.

WNM Macdonald accounted for another seven Droughtmaster bulls for a \$6928 average.

The biggest order of the day was supplied by Marcus and Shelley Curr, Coolreagh Pastoral, Mount Isa, who selected 16 quality, replacement bulls for a \$4843 average and paid up to \$7000 for Droughtmaster and red composite bulls for their substantial commercial operation at Yelvortoft Station, Camooweal.

Regular buyers in attendance included Jon Warby, DOCE P/L, Roma, who purchased four exceptional, commercially relevant bulls for a \$6375 average which included \$12,500 for Clonlara 1743 (P), a 23-month-old son of Hamadra Energiser (P) with plenty of softness and high carcase EBV data.

Lindsay Sharpe, Kapalee stud, Biloela, bid \$16,000 for another Hamadra Energiser son in Clonlara 1741.

This year's fixture marked the McCormack family's 30th annual on-property sale.



Michael and Tracey Flynn, Valera Vale Droughtmasters, Milbong and Augathella, with Browyn Betts, Nindethana Droughtmasters, Camp Mountain, and the \$25,000 top priced bull Nindethana Jean Valjean.

SALE REPORT

PP Desirability Shines at Scenic Rim Sale

- By Mark Phelps

The industry trend toward homozygous polled cattle continued at the Scenic Rim Droughtmaster sale in Boonah on October 13, with bulls selling to a top of \$25,000.

Michael and Tracey Flynn, Valera Vale Droughtmasters, Milbong and Augathella, paid the top money for the 21-month-old Nindethana Jean Valjean. He entered the sale ring at 716kg, with a 123cm² EMA, and a 38cm scrotal circumference.

Mr Flynn said he was attracted to the bull as a PP animal, its high morphology, temperament, and muscle pattern.

Jody Brown, Latrobe, Longreach, paid the second top of \$12,750 for Nindethana Jurabull, a 21-month-old also by Calaanah Abraham. That 704kg poll bull had a 122cm² EMA.

JK and A Rose, Amavale Cattle Company, Barambah, took home Yellowwood Maui, a 20-month-old by Minlacowie Ivory Princes, for \$6750.

Yackatoon Grazing, Wandoan, bought Jackoben Vortex for \$6500. The 27-month-old poll from Glenn and Kathy Honor's Jackoben Droughtmasters, Yandina, was by Bindanoon Captain (S) out of Vitwood Nicki (P).

The top priced heifer at \$4750 was Nindethana June also offered by Bronwyn Betts. The unjoined poll heifer was sold to Beenleigh State High School.

The sale was conducted as a Helmsman auction in wet and muddy conditions at the Boonah Showgrounds. Droughtmaster bulls topped \$25,000 to average \$4750. Registered females topped \$4750 to average \$1883.

A total of 12 parties also registered to bid online through Outcross.com.au

SALE REPORT

Central Reds Break Through \$10,000 Barrier Twice

- By Martin Bunyard

Despite a challenging selling season with plain weather conditions across the region, livestock producers during the Central Reds Droughtmaster bull sale held at Emerald on September 4 were willing to open their wallets for quality bulls.

Overall, 45 bulls sold out of the 64 bulls offered by the six stud vendors at the sale to average \$4988, for a 70% clearance rate.

Jenny and Lance Muller, Orchid Vale, Rolleston, held out until lot 20 to buy the main bull they had their eye on with Mostyndale 784 (P) reaching \$10,000 before the sale hammer was lowered.

The equal top priced bull, Mostyndale 784 (P), went into the Muller family's commercial breeding cattle herd to produce progeny for bullock and prime heavy heifer beef markets.

The 22-month-old polled bull was offered for sale by Kevin and Leesa Woolcock, Mostyndale Droughtmaster Stud, Springsure and recorded a weight of 695kg with 11mm of fat on the rump and 8mm of fat on the rib area. The bull also had an EMA of 125cm² and a scrotal measurement of 41cm.

"The Mostyndale bull we purchased has good intramuscular fat percentage (5.4%) and that's very important I believe, when producing beef cattle for the bullock market," Mr Muller said.

"We run predominately Braford cattle and use the Droughtmaster bulls to crossbreed

new bloodlines into our commercial beef cattle herd," Mr Muller said.

The equal top priced bull at \$10,000 was Mostyndale 781 (P) who sold to WNM Macdonald, Fossil Downs, Fitzroy Crossing, WA.

The polled bull weighed in at 705kg and recorded 13mm of fat on the rump, 9mm of fat on the rib area, a 38cm scrotal measurement and 122cm² EMA.

The third top priced bull was Mostyndale 792 (P) which was purchased by repeat buyer WNM Macdonald for \$9500.

The 21-month-old polled bull recorded a weight of 630kg, a scrotal measurement of 34mm, 10mm of fat on the rump and 6mm of fat on the rib area, and an EMA of 115cm².

The fourth topped priced bull of the sale was Kenlogan Urana (P) NJ216895M D5 who sold to Talagai Grazing Co, Capella for \$9000.

The 22-month-old scurred bull weighed 795kg, had an EMA of 127cm² with 13mm of fat on the rump and 8mm of fat on the rib area, and a scrotal measurement of 41cm.

Mostyndale stud principal Leesa Woolcock said the bull sale was a "reflection of the plain seasonal conditions" across the region with producers displaying a conservative approach to stud stock buying.

Below: Jenny and Lance Muller, Orchid Vale, Rolleston, with vendors Leesa and Kevin Woolcock and equal top priced bull Mostyndale 784 (P).



Total Clearance Achieved at Valera Vale Sale



Lucy McGuire, Jessi Flynn, Valera Vale Droughtmasters, with Stephanie Laycock, High Country Droughtmasters, and Landmark sale agent Trent McKinlay.

- By Sally Cripps

At the fall of the last hammer at the Valera Vale on-property bull sale held on September 7, stud principals Michael and Tracy Flynn were happy vendors.

Not only had all 74 of their catalogue of stud bulls been snapped up as quickly as the wind was whipping dust particles through the air, but their average price was \$1000 higher than the best they'd achieved in the past.

The top price of \$14,000 was paid by High Country Droughtmasters for Valera Vale 177223, who had been sired by Valera Vale Factor, himself a sire at the High Country stud now.

The 22-month-old bull had a scrotal circumference of 40cm, 80% motility, weighed 824kg and had an EMA of 130cm².

High Country's Paul Laycock also snapped up the first lot to enter the ring, Valera Vale 177064, by Lynsey Park Vernon out of a Valera Vale matron, for \$9000.

"I like their specifications, both their good morphology and great temperament," Paul said. "We run our own on-property bull sale – I'm looking forward to showcasing their progeny."

Paying the second top price of the sale, \$10,000, was Barlyne Pastoral, Gayndah, for double poll bull, Valera Vale 177139, who had one of the highest weight gain statistics in the catalogue.

Sired by Amavale Bradman, the 23-month-old bull had a scrotal circumference of 39cm and weighed 740kg.

Showing the versatility of the bulls, buyers were from around Qld, including new clients, Tom Marland of Bundaberg, Darren Ward of Harrisville, and Julia Creek's Ken Brockhurst.

Also buying were WA regulars, WNM MacDonald, Fossil Downs, who secured six sires for an average of \$6583, and Warrawagine Cattle Co, Port Hedland, who took home four bulls for a \$4500 average.

Solid Result for Droughties at Monto All Breeds

The Monto All Breeds bull sale, held on September 8, saw a total of 62 bulls sold for an average of \$4774 and a clearance rate of 78%.

In the Droughtmaster section of the catalogue nine of the 13 bulls offered from five vendors sold to average \$4389. Jason and Geraldine Barnard, Caldy Droughtmasters, Monto, topped the section selling to a top of \$5500 to average \$4500

for a 100% clearance for their 6 bulls.

Brad McNally, Monto Cattle and Co agent said he was pleased with the overall clearance and average price plus, and said they received positive comments on the quality and temperament of the bulls that were on offer.

Both repeat buyers and some new buyers attended the sale with 70 bid cards handed out on the day.

Capricorn Sale Average Increases

- By Sheree Kershaw

THE Capricorn Droughtmaster Sale held in Gracemere on September 3, saw CQ based studs Glenavon and Telemon offer what was described as their best ever draft of 88 bulls at CQLX.

John Atkinson, Glenavon, Yaamba alongside Karen and Duncan Geddes, Telemon, Springsure sold 55 bulls for an increased average of \$5382 and a 64% clearance.

A strong increase from the 2017 sale saw Glenavon UE (P)(D5) top the sale at \$24,000, selling to Bill and Kay Geddes, Doonside, Jardine.

Glenavon UE was sired by Garthowen Velocity (P) D5, out of Glenavon 2656 (P) D5.

He's a 21-month-old, 740kg milk-tooth bull with double poll genes, and boasts a 39cm scrotal circumference and an eye muscle area of 135cm².

Glenavon UE is owned in partnership with Michael Thompson, Munda Reds, Munda Station, WA and is a half brother to the sale topper of the 2018 Fitzroy Crossing Invitational Sale.

The second top price was reached for the day when Glenavon Undercliff (H) (D5), sired by Yaralla Mint (H)(D5), sold for \$14,000 to repeat buyers Bill and Kay Geddes.

John Atkinson recognised the tough seasonal conditions facing this year's sale and mentioned he was very pleased by the support shown by many return buyers.

Mr Atkinson went on to say "the draft of bulls presented at the sale were offered in good working order" and is confident they will perform for the buyers.

Return and bulk buyers of the day were the Cragg family, Mourindilla, Dingo who took home an impressive lineup of 14 bulls to average \$4035.

Below: Capricorn Droughtmaster Sale topper, Glenavon UE (P) D5 bull, was purchased by Bill and Kay Geddes, Doonside, Jardine, for \$24,000.



Thank You...

for another successful year!



15 DN bulls avg \$11,267 top of \$20,000 with VV Apollo 2 selling to Needmor Stud.



6 Bunya bulls avg \$11,166 top of \$16,000 with VV Alcatraz 2 selling to Kilkenney Stud.



10 unjoined heifers sold to avg \$4,850 top of \$6,500 with VV Alyssa 2 selling to Dawsonvale Stud.

2019 BULLS SELLING

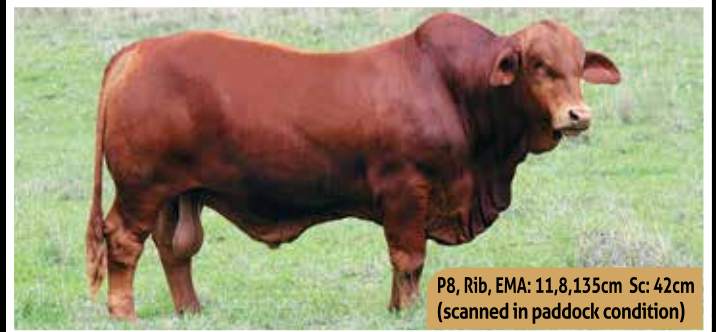


WELCOME NEW SIRES



P8, Rib, EMA: 8,6,127 Sc: 38cm

Oasis A Mr Mint - \$24,000



P8, Rib, EMA: 11,8,135cm Sc: 42cm
(scanned in paddock condition)

Retained sire – Vale View Avenger 2



P8, Rib, EMA: 12, 8, 134cm Sc: 42cm

Clonlara 17210 - \$40,000

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Sale Milestone Celebrated in Roma

The Droughtmaster breed celebrated 30 consecutive years of selling Droughtmaster bulls at the Roma Saleyards on October 19 during the Roma Droughtmaster Bull Sale, formerly known as the Roma Tropical Bull Sale.

The inaugural sale in 1988 was instigated by a small group of breeders, with support from the Droughtmaster Society.

Fifteen vendors sold 61 bulls that year to average \$2521, with a top of \$5600.

The Roma Droughtmaster sale committee organised a special birthday cake to mark this milestone and a number of the

vendors who were there in 1988, or their descendants were invited to participate in the cutting of the cake.

Those involved included Ray and Teresa White, Marylands, Jim and Cathy Tanner, formerly Marylands, Brett, Leanne and Emma Warne, formerly Cedardale, Terry, Catherine and Haley Piggott, formerly Fairhaven, and Rob Rea, the son of former Droughtmaster Society president, Eddie Rea, who attended the 1988 sale.

Jim Tanner who was invited to judge the Pair of Bulls this year, was asked to provide his recollections of the 1988 sale, and posters featuring the 1988 sale report

in the Queensland Country Life were on display for people to read all about the inaugural sale.



A special birthday cake to mark 30 years of Droughtmaster bull selling at the Roma Saleyards was cut by a number of the vendors, or their descendants, who sold at the inaugural sale in 1988.

SALE REPORT

Roma Sale Result Defies the Dry

- By Sally Cripps

The widespread dry conditions had an impact at the Roma Droughtmaster Bull Sale held on October 19, but buyers were still willing to pay for top-quality sires, pushing the sale to a high of \$30,000.

Of the 139 bulls on offer, 104 sold for a 75% clearance rate and an average of \$5861.

Paul and Paula Russell, Locarno Droughtmasters, Dingo, paid the top money, taking home Heitiki Kidman from the Lloyd family, Heitiki Droughtmasters, Delungra.

By Heitiki Arist-O-Crat, the three-year-old polled bull tipped the scales at 884kg and measured 42cm in scrotal circumference, with an EMA of 136cm², intramuscular fat of 4.4mm, and P8 and rib fat depths of 16mm and 10mm respectively.

Paul Russell said he was originally drawn to the bull when it was shown at Beef Australia 2018, and was excited to see him offered at Roma.

"I didn't know he was going to Roma until a month ago and I thought I'd come and have a look," he said.

"He still appealed to me as much as he did at Beef, and I didn't want to pay that much money of course, but other people liked him too and that's what happens."

"It's nice to breed something that people appreciate, and words are easy, but bidding with your hard earned cash is something pretty special,"

- Heitiki stud principal Tim Lloyd.

Tim Lloyd of Heitiki Droughtmasters, Delungra, with the \$30,000 top price bull of the sale Heitiki Kidman, buyer Paul Russell, Locarno Droughtmasters, Dingo and auctioneer Colby Ede, Landmark.



Purchased to replace another sire that had been a key part of the Locarno operation for several years, Mr Russell said he liked everything about Heitiki Kidman.

"I loved his smoothness, his muscle pattern, he had a really good head on him, and everything was just sort of culminated into one," he said.

Heitiki stud principal Tim Lloyd said he was overwhelmed by the result.

"It's nice to breed something that people appreciate, and words are easy, but bidding with your hard earned cash is something pretty special," he said.

Beth Streeter, Palmvale Droughtmasters, Marlborough, Queensland, paid a second top price of \$19,000 for Riverland Mocatta 1538/7, offered by the Little family, Riverland Droughtmasters, Wycarbah.



LOT 43: CLONLARA 17210 SOLD TO DAVE AND COLLEEN SMITH, VALE VIEW DROUGHTMASTERS.

2018 CLONLARA SPRING SALE SUMMARY:

Hearteningly positive:

94

PERCENT
CLEARANCE

40,000

SALE
TOP

7,054

AVERAGE. FOR 55
DROUGHTMASTER BULLS

6,600

AVERAGE FOR 10
RED COMPOSITE BULLS

Positively heart-felt:

“ Thank you. ”

**Our sincere thanks to all buyers and under-bidders for
your support and continuing trust in the Clonlara brand.**

—Gus and Jen McCormack.





Welcome new sire

MINLACOWIE VINNIE 8817 D2
\$55,000 TOP PRICED BULL 2018 DN SALE

It is rare to have the opportunity to purchase a bull as good as this. At 23 months of age, 926kg. Tremendous bone, width and scale. Beautiful temperament, good skin, moves well, structurally correct.

We are very excited to add him to our Sire Battery here at Wajatryn. He is a D2 Droughty bull Sired by a classified Brahman bull. He oozes Sire appeal and the New Genetics were just what we were chasing in 2018. A real bonus to our bull Breeding enterprise.



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Piggotts Bulls Sell Well at Annual Sale

- By Martin Bunyard

The Piggott family's Aldinga Droughtmaster bull sale attracted a crowd of repeat and new buyers at Springsure on September 5.

Bull buyers in search of good quality stud stock genetics carefully selected their sires during the sale with 62 bulls out of the 73 offered selling for an 85% clearance rate and a sale average of \$5741.

A top bull sale price of \$14,000 was reached twice during the sale with lot 9, Aldinga Imposing (PP), bought by repeat buyers Michael and Tracey Flynn, Valera Vale Droughtmaster, Augathella.

The scurred 22-month-old Aldinga Imposing sire entered the sale ring at 760kg with an EMA of 127cm², a scrotal measurement of 44cm, with 13mm of fat on the rump and 8mm of fat on the rib area. The bull also recorded one of the highest daily average weight gains in the sale draft at 1.43kg/day.

The second bull to reach the top price of \$14,000 occurred shortly after with lot 13, Aldinga Immoral (PH), snapped up by Rob Pollock, Carlton Droughtmasters, Roma.

At the time of the sale Mr Pollock said Immoral go to work in his stud cow herd north of Roma, which was established 15 years ago.

"Immoral is the complete package with a very tidy sheath being one important trait I was chasing in a sire during the sale," Mr Pollock said.

"I find the Piggotts cattle do very well on my country near Roma because they're bred on forest country near Rolleston."

Mr Pollock added the impressive sire appeal of Immoral combined with the "great doing ability" of the Piggotts bull progeny is why he purchases their stud beef cattle.



Equal top priced \$14,000 bull, Aldinga Immoral with Hayley Piggott and buyer Rob Pollock, Carlton Droughtmaster Stud, Roma.

The scurred 22-month-old sire entered the sale ring at 724kg, with an EMA of 128cm², 10mm of fat on the rump and 7mm of fat on the rib area, plus a 42cm scrotal circumference and daily average weight gain of 1.1kg/day.

In all, bulls sold into operation spanning from Springsure to as far away as Fitzroy Crossing in WA with the volume buyer of the sale being the Gina Rinehart owned WNM Macdonald, Fossil Downs Station, Western Australia, which purchased 16 bulls to a top price of \$13,000 for Aldinga Inappropriate (PP).



Ed Wood, Belyando Livestock, Emerald purchased one of the top priced bulls on behalf of Michael and Tracey Flynn, Valera Vale Droughtmaster, Augathella and is pictured with Hayley Piggott, Aldinga Droughtmaster Stud, Rolleston.

\$10,000 Tops Beef Genetic Focus Sale



Equal top selling heifer at \$10,000 was Glenlands Wisteria (P). With her entry is Val Childs, Glenlands Stud, Bouldercombe, buyer, Linda Nugent, Carnudge Stud, Dayboro and Corinna Winslade, Glenlands Stud.

- By Kent Ward

A flurry of spirited bidding by those assembled at the Beef 2018 Ruralco marquee on the evening of May 8, led to great end result for the second Beef Genetic Focus Sale.

The eight-month-old, Glenlands D Agnes (P) (Glenlands D Usain (P)) sold for \$10,000 to Paul and Lisa Laycock, High Country Stud, Toogoolawah. Offered by Darren and Helen Childs, Glenlands Stud.

The other heifer to make the same amount was joined heifer, Glenlands Wisteria (P). The 18-month-old by Comanche Go-Master

offered by Glenlands was sold to Greg and Linda Nugent, Carnudge Stud, Dayboro and carried a joining to Glenlands Invincible.

At \$9500 Rondel Ugg Boots (P) (21-months) offered by the Carrington family, Rondel Stud, Winton changed hands after selling to the Donaldson family, Medway Stud, Bogantungan. Billabong Gracie 8276 (P) offered by the Hicks family, Billabong Stud, Moura made \$7000 selling to John Doyle, Warwick.

Vale View M Fee (P) (18-months) offered by Mac Smith, Vale View M Stud, Manumbar made \$5500 selling to Chris and Hailey Heness, Ridgie Didge Stud, Goomeri.

In a breed first a sexed embryo sold for \$4500. Offered by Glenlands the zygote was a mating between Glenlands Pacific and Glenlands D 2453. Choosing the zygote was Wayne and Lana Barnes, Waylanbar Stud, Emerald.

The top seller in the semen package market at \$1000 per straw was the first release in the young sire, Rondel Preston (P) (Glenlands D Nationality (P)). Offered by the Carrington family, Rondel Stud, Winton the package sold to George and Lorraine Bartolo, Carrinyah Park, Nebo.

A buyer choice of one of three packages (five straws) in either, Glenlands Pacific, Glenlands Quartermaster or Glenlands D Rambo made \$700/straw going to Kelly Pickersgill, Theodore.

Parting with \$700 per straw in the \$135,000 Oasis Dundee offered by Mac and Gayle Shann, Lamont Stud, Clermont was Paul Lever, Leverdale Stud, Euramo. Darren and Helen Childs, Glenlands D, Theodore invested \$600/straw in the package in the \$50,000 sire, Skye Wilfred (P) offered by the Brian and Yvonne Heck and family, Bryvonlea Stud, Glastonbury.

Allan and Nardia Gillies, Gillmara Stud, Monduran outlaid \$400 per straw in securing the five straw package in Billabong Winchester (P) offered by John and Catherine Hicks, Billabong Stud, Moura.

The other semen package sold for \$6000 and consisted of 30 straws in 10 bulls donated by 10 individual breeders with the proceeds going to the Droughtmaster Foundation Picking up the parcel was the Stonebridge Stud, Mallanganee, NSW, operated by Alex Gibbon and Paige Hodkinson.

Breed Record \$11,035 Average set at Glenlands

- By Kent Ward

Breed average values hit breed record highs amid strong, consistent and sustained demand at the annual Glenlands Droughtmaster Sale, Bouldercombe.

Culminating in a \$1.7M gross, with another complete clearance the sale witnessed a breed record average of \$11,035 for vendors, the Childs family, Glenlands Stud, Bouldercombe.

Sale openers, 16 led bulls averaged \$23,531, topping at \$80,000, 122 unled registered bulls averaged \$9942 topping at \$47,500, and 17 purebreds sold to \$10,500 to average \$7118. Seamark Pty Ltd., operated by Jim Gorman, Cliffdale, Theodore and Seloh Nolem, Nebo returned taking 46 head (30% of the offering) to average an economical \$7000.

Sale topper at \$80,000 was the 25-month-old, Winchester (P) (25-months) (866kg) (143EMA) (Glenlands Pacific) selling to Ken, Shelley and Ben Mutton and family, Fieldhouse Stud, Wickiepin, WA. Winchester joins the \$11,000 Wade (23-months) on the journey west. The top seller was offered in a three quarter share full possession arrangement. Paul and Lisa Laycock, High Country Stud, Toogoolawah took the \$47,500 Whynot (P) (22-months) (914kg) (Glenlands D Rambo) along with a \$15,000 Resolution son. Both were offered

in a three quarter share full possession arrangements.

Also at \$47,500 was the 22-month, Warlord (P) (820kg) (Glenlands Topshelf) which sold to Alan and Jonathon Foot and family, Karin Downs, Clermont. Karin Downs.

Jim and Rebecca Farquhar, Calco and Eljay Studs, Rolleston parted with \$35,000 for Volleys (P) (29-months) (1028 kg) (141EMA) (Glenlands Paterson). Dan and Holly Dzundza, Penjobe, Springsure took the \$32,000 Waterhouse (P) (21-months). John and Bec Atkinson, Cashmere Stud, Taroom outlaid \$30,000 for the 23-month-old, Watchman (P) (Rondel Remington).



The \$47,500 Glenlands D Whynot (P) is pictured with Helen Childs, Glenlands Stud, Bouldercombe and purchasers, Lisa and Stephanie Laycock, High Country Stud, Toogoolawah. Photo by Kent Ward.



Glenlands D Winchester (P) topped proceedings at \$80,000, he's pictured with purchaser, Ken Mutton, Fieldhouse Stud, Wickiepin, WA and Helen Childs, Glenlands Stud, Bouldercombe. Photo by Kent Ward.



The \$47,500 Glenlands J Warlord (P), pictured with Jason Childs, Glenlands Stud, Bouldercombe, was purchased by the Foot family, Karin Downs, Clermont. Photo by Kent Ward.

WEDDINGS BELLS



Recently, 75 guests were invited to help Shannon Lynes, Cebella Droughtmaster Stud, celebrate her "races themed" 30th birthday.

Little did the guests know that they were actually there to witness Shannon marry John Williamson, Yellowwood Droughtmasters.

Nobody in attendance had any inkling of what was planned as the couple had also kept their three-month long engagement a secret!

Shannon and John were married on August 25 in the garden of their home property at Pimpama, where they also held the reception.

The couple have merged their two studs now, so it was appropriate that their beloved Droughties featured in some of their glorious wedding photos.



James Pisaturo originally from Mendooran, NSW and Aleisha Finger originally from Dysart, QLD were married on September 29 at the Botanic Gardens in Rockhampton.

They will reside at Inga Downs, Dingo, QLD where they will run their stud and commercial operations. James and Aleisha are the stud principals of Almafai Droughtmasters and Veejay Downs Charolais, running 150 stud cows.

Photo courtesy of Thalep.

Grand Droughtie Plan at Etloe West

- By Matt Sherrington

Gavin and Lisa Kleidon and their young children Ashlee and Tyler, are focused on producing a first-rate Droughtmaster article at Etloe West, Gilgulgul, south of Wandoan.

The country on Etloe West consists of open brigalow, belah, kurrajong and box soils, with the Great Dividing Range on one edge of the property and the loamy Juandah creek flats on another.

Native and improved pastures ranging from blue grass and buffel to bambatsi and Rhodes grass, as well as other native grasses cover the property along with some introduced legumes such as stylos, desmanthis and Lucerne.

Gavin purchased the 572 hectare property in 2000, at the ripe old age of 19, where the family currently run a pure Droughtmaster herd which includes 90 breeders and replacement heifers.

"At this stage, with just the one property, we are solely striving to create a good

quality Droughtie breeder base," Gavin said.

"We like the breed for the adaptability and versatility for a broad range of markets," he said.

"They're soft and fleshy, yet their ability to withstand tough conditions and bounce right back when the seasons improve is outstanding.

"We find that they're also easy going and a pleasure to work with.

Prior to 2011 the Kleidons ran a backgrounding operation.

"We purchased our first Droughtmaster heifers in 2011 from the Kaydee Dispersal Sale, and also from Chippahill Stud at Biloela.

"We only purchase registered sires and they're put in the paddock with the commercial females in the first week of September and pulled out in December.

"We're getting really good replacement heifers, which are joined as 12 to 15-month

olds, and good performing steers.

"We've also started keeping a couple of homebred bulls if they meet our strict grade."

In the last 12 months the Kleidons have branched out and purchased stud heifers as well.

"Most of these heifers have been joined now, but all will be going through an AI program next year to increase our stud numbers."

"Some of the stud heifers came from the Cream of the Crop Sale held in Kingaroy, while the remainder were bought out of the paddock from Wirrigai Stud at Pittsworth.

"We've also recently sourced commercial heifers from the Eversleigh and Wallace Vale stud at Wallumbilla.

Gavin said they usually sell steers as six to nine-month old weaners at an average weight of 280 to 300kgs, depending on the season of course. Though this year they were a bit heavier, weighing in at an

The Kleidons like using the Droughtmaster breed due to their adaptability and versatility for a broad range of markets.



average of 316kgs, while their cull heifers are traded depending on the seasons and prices.

"We sell the steers privately to a repeat buyer who puts them on oats and grass until they reach heavy feeder weight.

"They're then sold onto Lloyds feedlot near Chinchilla on a 100-day program, and are then sent to either the Oakey or Kilcoy abattoir as milk tooth two-year-olds."

He said the feedback they've received from Lloyds about their cattle and how they perform has been "quite humbling, and enough to keep us striving for more".

"We've just recently been to the feedlot to inspect the finished steers ready for slaughter."

Gavin said prices have been reasonable recently considering the seasons.

"It would be good to see values stabilise at a viable rate where everyone can make a bit."

When the Kleidons first started with Droughtmasters they bought bulls out of the paddock from Breffni at Chinchilla, from which they're still using a sire, and Boiling Springs stud at Meandarra.

"The past few years we have been buying bulls from the Glen Fosslyn sale at Roma, The DN. Sale and the Roma Droughtie Sale.

Gavin said at sale time they look for fleshy good growth bulls with low birth weights, if birth weight stats are known.

"We also go for lower Brahman-content bulls with a broad muzzle, a good strong polled head, leading onto a strong backline.

"Tidy underlines and temperament are also high on our list, and it's always an added bonus when they have excellent scrotal statistics

"We also study supplementary sheet data to find bulls with good EMAs, even fat coverage and high weight for age."

Gavin said in the future if they're fortunate enough to be able to expand, they'll start using Euro-bulls over some of the Droughties to expand their market options and increase the hybrid vigour within the herd.

"We might also look into running a stud here, and relocating the commercial operation to another property, if we are able to expand in the future."

"At present we just want to breed top quality cattle, as we believe they will always sell, no matter how the markets change."

Lisa said as Gavin works off-farm most of the time, when he's home they're busy trying to catch up on their own property work.

"When we have the rare chance to enjoy some downtime with the kids, we like water skiing, wakeboarding, fishing and camping, Gav enjoys dirt bike riding, and I enjoy dabbling in photography."

Lisa, Ashlee, Tyler and Gavin Kleidon with a selection of their pure Droughtmaster herd which includes 90 breeders and replacement heifers.



Gavin Kleidon and his children Ashlee and Tyler inspect the herd on-property at Etloe West.



Canterbury College Students Thrilled with Ekka Droughtie Experience

Canterbury College, a coeducational kindergarten to Year 12 school situated in Waterford, Queensland, is now offering its students exciting new Agricultural Science learning opportunities.

Under the direction of Agricultural Science teacher and stud principal of Cebella and Yellowwood Droughtmasters, Shannon Williamson, the college's Year 10 Certificate of Rural Operations students completed some of their practical components at this years Ekka.

The students got up very early to attend the show for a full day of washing, grooming, gear maintenance and care of the Cebella and Yellowwood cattle.

This was the first experience the students have had with show cattle and according to Mrs Williamson, the students excelled.

"The eagerness the students displayed was

tremendous, and they have benefitted both personally and in their studies from this unique experience," she said.

The students were in very capable hands, with the Cebella and Yellowwood studs winning many ribbons at the Ekka, including Reserve Junior Champion Bull for Yellowwood Nitro.

Mrs Williamson said this foray to the Ekka is only the start of the plans the college has in this area.

"The college has recently purchased a neighbouring 6 acre property, with planning underway to build a modern farm and educational facility."

In 2019, Canterbury will commence a Cattle Show Team, exhibiting Droughtmaster cattle at the West Moreton and Brisbane Valley shows, culminating with attendance at the Ekka.

She said the college will also introduce a Year 9 elective subject next year called 'Principles of Animal Production', that aims to expose students to the production systems within the agricultural industry.

"Initial interest in the subject from families at the recent Subject Selection Evening has been very positive."

Head of college, Donna Anderson, said the staff at the school "pride ourselves on the range of vocational, academic and extracurricular opportunities we offer our students, leading to diverse career pathways".

"The farm is a great asset for the college and goes hand in hand with offering more subject choices, certificate courses and extracurricular activities in the agricultural area," she said.



Cebella and Yellowwood Droughtmasters stud principals John and Shannon Williamson, with Ekka Reserve Junior Champion Bull Yellowwood Nitro, and handler Elsie Wright, from Canterbury College.



Year 10 student Sophie Carnarvon taking care of Cebella Arwen at Ekka.



Canterbury College Year 10 Certificate of Rural Operations students completed some of their practical components at this years Ekka.



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The Repronomics Project in Focus

- By Paul Williams, technical officer, Tropical Beef Technology Services

Reproduction is a key profit driver in northern Australia, with the Beef CRC Northern Reproduction project having shown that genetics has a clear role to play in improving commercial weaning rates.

Two of the traits identified as important for genetic improvement in fertility are heifer age at puberty and first-lactation anoestrus interval.

The emerging technology of genomics also has the potential to add significantly to our ability to make genetic progress in reproduction.

To maximise the rate of genetic improvement in reproduction traits, there is a need for considerably more reproductive phenotypes and genotypes to build the size of the genomic reference populations within the northern beef breeds.

The Repronomics project, headed by Dr. David Johnston from the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit (ABGU) in Armidale and funded by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), aims to address this need.

The Repronomics project is generating significant numbers of calves and recording large numbers of females for age at puberty, lactation anoestrus interval, calving and weaning rates, along with many other traits in three major northern beef breeds.

SNP genotypes are also being collected on all project animals, as well as key industry animals. When combined with the phenotype records described above, this dataset will drive new genomics enhanced Breedplan evaluations.

LOCATIONS AND BREEDS

The Repronomics project involves three breeds, Droughtmaster, Brahman and Santa Gertrudis.

The project is being conducted on two Qld Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) research facilities, Brian Pastures near Gayndah and Spyglass near Charters Towers, as well as the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries' Douglas Daly Research Farm, Daly River (Figure 1).

The project is also utilizing industry

seedstock herds located throughout Qld.

The Brian Pastures and Spyglass herds consist of pedigree and performance recorded females, and include a proportion of ex-Beef CRC cows used as base females that are fully Breedplan recorded.

At Brian Pastures, all three breeds are present, whereas at Spyglass there are Brahman and Droughtmasters.

At each location, the breeds are managed and recorded together and are only separated into individual breeds during a 12 week mating period. This is providing unique data for the future development of across-breed EBVs.

SIRES USED

Both AI sires and naturally-mated backup bulls have been used to generate progeny for the Repronomics project.

The sires selected for the project have been chosen as they are currently influential in each of the breeds (i.e. widely used sires with a large number of progeny generated in the last five years). In addition, some emerging young sires



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have been used in each breed.

Particular emphasis has been placed on selecting sires which have no or limited numbers of daughters recorded for reproduction traits in Breedplan.

The aim is to generate 15-20 daughters from each sire and intensively record them for early reproduction. For Droughtmasters, a selection of older sires has also been used to allow estimation of breed genetic parameters, particularly for female reproduction traits. To-date, the project has generated progeny on over 300 sires.

FEMALES GENERATED AND KEY TRAIT RECORDING

Currently the project has generated approximately 5,500 calves from six year drops. Breeding is by natural mating for maidens and first-lactation cows.

The majority of older cows have been used for AI (two rounds fixed-time program) to generate progeny on the key industry sires, and although the project has experienced below average seasonal conditions in the first two years, the resultant calving rates to AI have been very good, averaging 50%.

Real-time ultrasound is performed on a regular basis on all females to accurately determine the follicle development, and importantly, the presence of a corpus luteum (CL).

Every year the cohort of maiden heifers are regularly scanned to determine age at observed CL which is used as a measure of age at puberty for each heifer.

All first-lactation cows are also regularly scanned during the mating season to determine their time to return to cycling post-calving.

Post-weaning all non-cycling females continue to be scanned until a CL is observed.

To-date the project has recorded more than 2,500 heifers on the research station herds for age at puberty and about 1,500 first-lactation cows for their anoestrus interval.

Figure 2 highlights the difference between sires when their daughters recycle after they have had their first calf.

All females are regularly recorded for body weight, hip height, body condition score, subcutaneous fat depth, and eye muscle area.

At calving, each cow is scored for calving ease, teat and udder score, maternal behavior and body condition.

All performance data is sent to ABRI and uploaded on to the northern multi-breed research database.

The aim is to include the Repronomics data in the individual breed Breedplanevaluations; this is currently underway and it is expected that this data will be available in the individual breed Breedplan evaluations in the near future.

DNA GENOTYPING

To enable the development of genomic selection, all females have been DNA parent verified and genotyped with a 25K SNP chip, while all project sires are genotyped with an 80K Bos indicus SNP chip.

Large numbers of seedstock animals have also been genotyped, including sires in co-operator industry herds and other sires in Brahman and Santa Gertrudis with high accuracy Breedplan Day to Calving EBVs.

MALE PROGENY

The Douglas Daly male calves remain entire, whereas the Brian Pastures and Spyglass bull calves are castrated at branding. After weaning, these steers are sold to the Northern BIN project.

The steers are grown-out and recorded for post-weaning performance and subsequent full abattoir carcase and meat quality assessments.

The steer recording complements the female recording at the research stations, and completes the suite of key profit driver traits for northern beef production systems.

ENABLING GENOMIC SELECTION

The existing Breedplan analysis allows differences in phenotypic performance to be used in the known relative's analysis, whereas the single-step evaluation will allow genetic differences between individuals to be influenced through their



Figure 1. Properties involved in the Repronomics Project and breeds involved at each property.

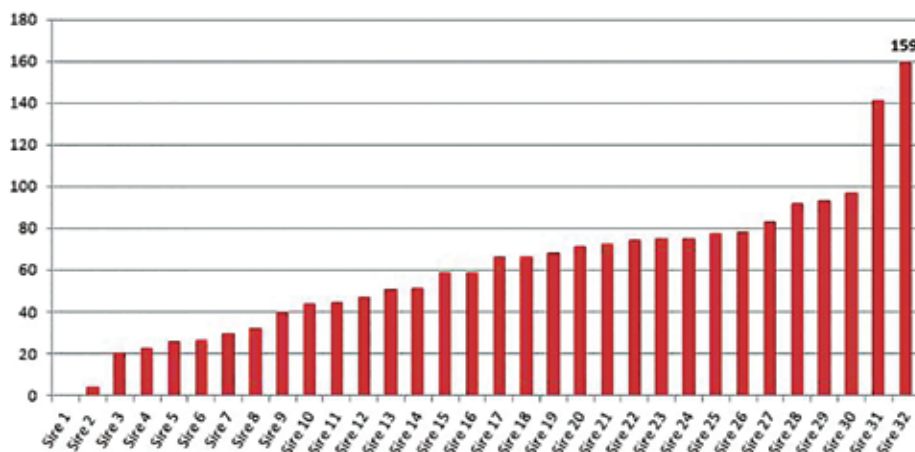


Figure 2. Adjusted sire means showing how long first calf daughters take to recycle from the shortest to longest. Sire 32 daughters on average take an extra 159 days to cycle than Sire 1.

TECHNICAL UPDATE (continued)

degree of genomic relationship. Therefore animals with large amounts of phenotypic information when genotyped will influence the EBVs and accuracies of any animal that is genomically related.

As the genetic evaluations of the tropical breeds move towards Single-Step Breedplan methodology, the data and research outcomes from the Repronomics project will be pivotal in driving forward the new genetic evaluation.

The project is also generating phenotypes and genotypes on current industry-relevant genetics and this provides the northern breeding industry with the unique opportunity to implement genomic selection, increasing the accuracy of selection of young bulls, particularly for important female reproduction traits.

CONCLUSION

Levels of recording of the project-generated females are increasing and the data is feeding into new Breedplan evaluations that will enable tropical breeds to make genetic change in improving female reproduction rates.

The project has uniquely recorded herds that will allow genetics to be compared across environments, and will be a

powerful resource enabling industry herds to be benchmarked for reproduction traits, as well as many other traits including overall genetic merit.

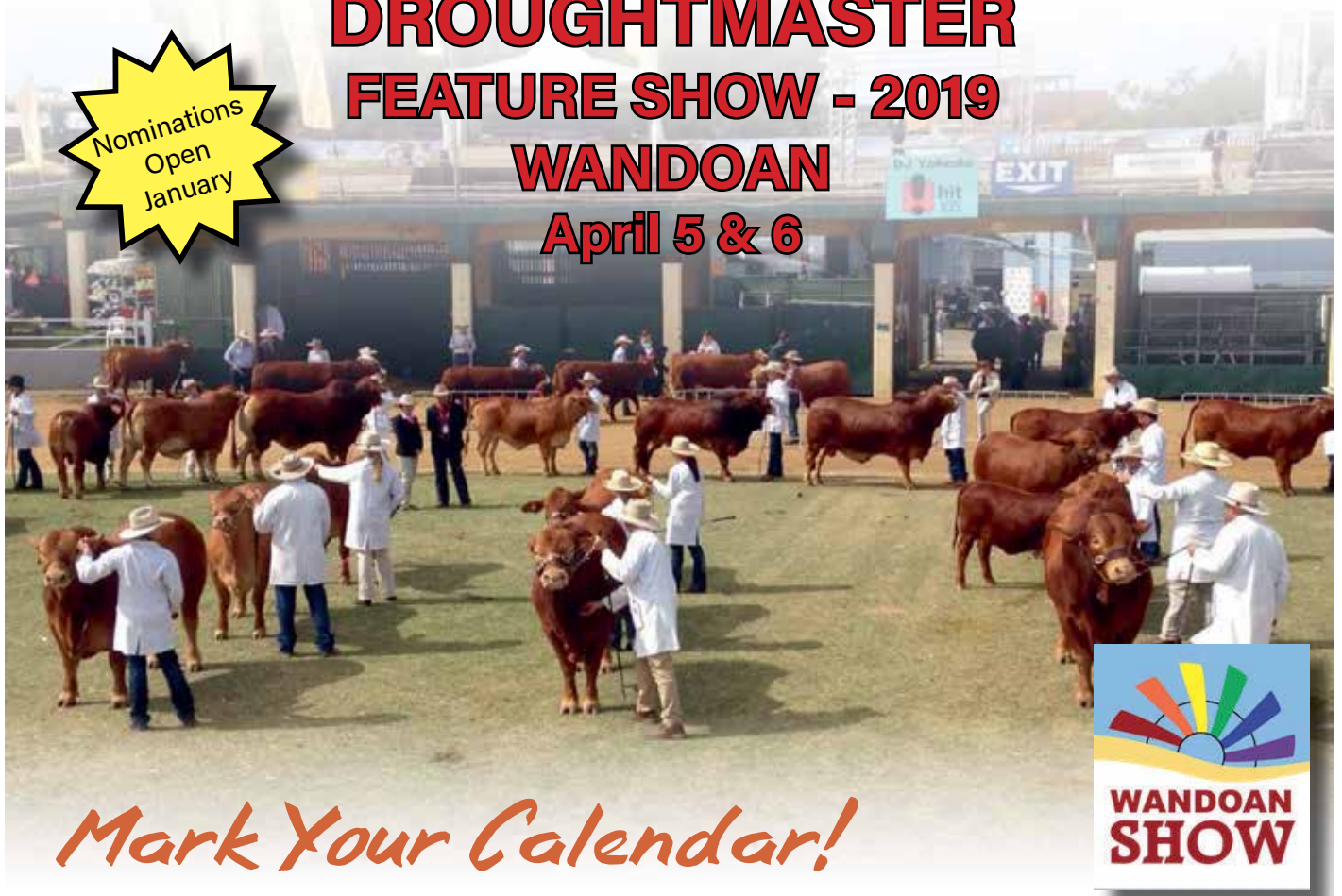
Finally, the head-to-head management of breeds will provide the necessary data to generate across-breed genomic EBVs for large numbers of traits.



Collecting ovarian and carcass scanning data at Brian Pastures.

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Farewell to a Champion of the Northern Cattle Industry



Vale: Dr Brian Burns, May 5, 1955 - July 27, 2018.

- By Peter Johnston, DAF

Dr Brian Burns passed away on Friday 27 July 2018 in Rockhampton, after a six-year battle with prostate cancer, he was 63.

Brian was a principal research scientist with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), specialising in beef cattle husbandry and genetics research, development and extension.

After completing his Veterinary Science degree at the University of Queensland (UQ) in 1977, Brian began working for the Queensland Department of Primary Industries as a meat inspector in 1978 with the national Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign.

He then spent several years in private veterinary practice in Merriwa, NSW and Longreach and Mt Isa in western Qld.

He returned to DAF in a beef cattle husbandry research role in May 1983 based at the Brigalow Research Station near Theodore. He also held positions at Swan's Lagoon Research Station at Millaroo, and in Richmond and Rockhampton.

While employed by DAF, he completed his Masters at James Cook University (JCU) in 1990 and his PhD at Texas A&M University in the US in 1995.

From 2010 to 2015 he was a Senior Research Fellow at UQ before returning to DAF in late 2015.

He also lectured in the School of Veterinary

Science at UQ and JCU, and supervised several Masters and PhD students.

Brian was a passionate veterinary scientist with a lifelong focus on improving beef cattle production across northern Australia. He was well connected, with extensive producer networks that have proved invaluable in fostering industry collaboration, vital for effective research projects.

Brian's rapport and reputation with beef cattle producers and the tropical breed societies was also valuable in implementing Breedplan across northern Australia. Breedplan is the most advanced system of genetic evaluation in the world.

In 1999 Brian was awarded a Churchill Fellowship and travelled overseas to examine genetic improvement and optimisation of breeding programs to meet target market specifications.

In 2016 his service to the beef industry was recognised with the North Australia Beef Research Council Medal for outstanding scientist.

Throughout his career, Brian was consistently supportive of his colleagues within DAF, and in other research organisations, he recognised the value of collaboration and the need to pool skills and resources for practical, industry-relevant research.

He published extensively in scientific literature with over 100 publications, 43 of them as senior author. He also wrote many

articles for beef cattle producers, extension officers and consultants.

Throughout his illness, Brian remained in close contact with producers and colleagues, and was determined to return to the work, the industry, and the people he loved.

A recent highlight was his role in the field tour to Steve and Claire Farmer's Mt Elsa property north of Rockhampton during Beef Australia 2018 in May.

Even in his final days, he was active in discussing ideas on how to advance the cattle industry in northern Australia.

Most phone calls or conversations with Brian would be peppered with him saying "and just one more thing..."

We can all take strength from the positive way Brian approached his challenge with cancer, and the long journey it became for him and his family.

Brian's funeral service, held at St Joseph's Cathedral in Rockhampton on Wednesday, August 1, was well attended by family, friends, beef producers, research colleagues, and many current and past DAF staff.

While Brian will be sadly missed, his research results live on in his published work, and the the genetic evaluation tools in use today.

He will be remembered for his ethos and passion for hard work, collaboration, and never giving up.



Brian at Brigalow Research Station, with trial cattle being used to examine the epigenetic influences affecting the productivity of Bos indicus-Bos taurus crossbred beef cattle.


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Pat Flynn's Legacy will Live On

- By Emma Thompson, Auzdown Droughtmasters

Patrick Michael Flynn was born on March 18, 1948, and was the first child born to parents Denis and Alice Flynn, Tenterfield, and brother to Neville and Jeffery.

Raised on the family property, Pat gained a passion for the land and livestock through cherished moments working with black cattle, horses, and his father Denis,

He attended St Joseph primary school and later transferred to the State High School, where he met life-long friend Jeff Crout, affectionately known as 'Crouty', and later Bob Schiffmann. If the stories told by Pat are anything to go by, this trio certainly lived life to the fullest and shared many exciting experiences.

Midway through secondary school, after many incidents where a ruler found Pat's knuckles, he decided school was not his thing. With this decision made, during one detention, Pat climbed out of the school window and rode his horse home to start paid employment the next day.

Pat tried his hand as a butcher and meat worker, however, his ability and interest for the land found Pat working for Midkin Station in 1962.

Shortly after gaining station work, well-known competitive show jumper, John Kelly noticed Pat's capability with horses, offering Pat employment as a strapper - later leading to his involvement as a strapper for the New Zealand show jumping team when they toured Australia.

On the June 30, 1973, Pat married the mother of his children Gloria Flynn nee Bulmer. Over many years Pat and Gloria shared precious memories and cherished moments with the company of their three sons - Jason, Darren and Tim.

In later years, Pat and Gloria welcomed the arrival of three beautiful grandchildren Toby, Hannah and McKenzie, children to Darren and Melissa.

Although no longer married, Pat and Gloria will forever have a special connection through their family ties.

Soon after marrying, Pat and Gloria moved



Vale: Patrick Michael Flynn, March 18, 1948 - September 29, 2018. Droughtmaster Society director, Sharon Harms presented the Life Membership award to Pat on behalf of the Society during his 70th birthday in mid-March, 2018.

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Droughtmaster Digest for February

For display ads and Breeders Bulletin

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Thursday 13th December - booking deadline,

Friday 4th January - ad copy to be built and

Thursday 10th January - for complete/camera ready material.

All bookings to:

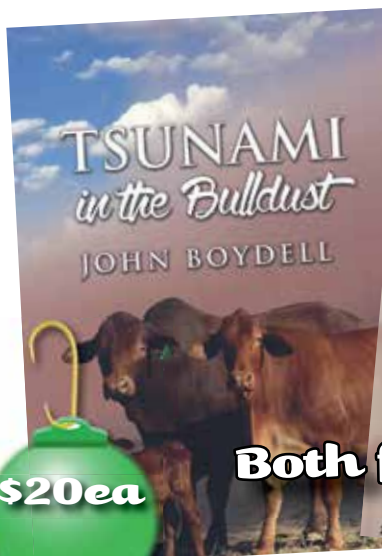
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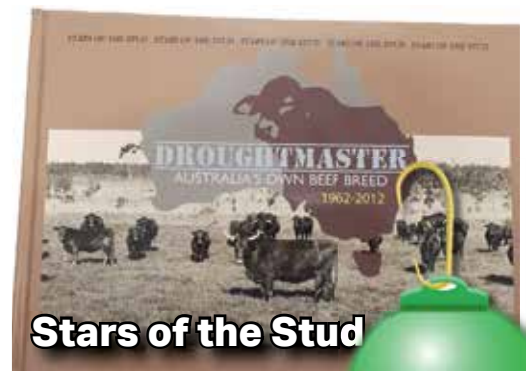


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to Kentucky Station situated south of Grafton with their first-born, Jason. During this time, Pat and Gloria welcomed the birth of their second son Darren.

Other employment highlights included working for Humberg Stud, Tabulam, owned by Ralf Grosby (founder of Grosby shoes) and with Mrs Headley of Coolabah Thoroughbred Stud, Beaudesert, during which time Pat's third son Tim was born.

In 1982 Pat was employed by BoysTown as a farm hand, a venture which contributed to his four-decade commitment with the Droughtmaster Society, through the assistance of a commercial operation and later a Droughtmaster stud herd.

During employment with BoysTown, Pat was approached by respected and cherished friend and then employer, Brother Phillip, to prepare cattle for shows.

Pat travelled many miles with the boys of BoysTown attending agriculture shows and sales. Pat was confident a Droughtmaster Stud would instil responsibility and accountability in the boys of BoysTown by creating a rewarding hobby that would generate life-changing opportunities for them.

BoysTown cattle became highly sought after, and celebrated a remarkable list of successes. For Pat, two of his personal highlights with the BoysTown stud are during one Brisbane Royal Show, when he was asked to lead BoysTown Andrew into the Tivoli Theatre for an MLA conference. The stud also topped the last ever Ekka Bull Sale with BoysTown Caesar.

When Pat was asked why he wanted to work with BoysTown and the Droughtmaster Stud, he said his passion was using the Droughtmaster breed to change the lives of disadvantaged and disengaged children.

"Droughtmaster cattle provided many kids with a sense of accomplishment and improved their attitude and outlook on life.

"When we were at a show with other Droughtmaster Breeders, the boys had a supportive family for the first time in their life."

Pat's involvement with BoysTown ended in 1992 when the home was shut down, after which he gained employment with Talgai Droughtmaster Stud and continued to show Droughtmaster cattle at shows.

In 1998, Pat married Dorothy Flynn nee Hill, affectionately known as 'Dot'.

Pat and Dorothy shared many years together, building a loyal marriage and strong connection. Pat sadly lost Dorothy to illness in 2014.

Pat continued his association with the Droughtmaster breed and work with

youth when he gained employment with the Warwick State High School as an agriculture assistant.

Pat believed the only breed docile enough to be around students was the Droughtmaster Breed.

After thought and planning, Pat approached the Rowe Family during Beef Week at Rockhampton in 2009, to ask if they would consider sending cattle to Warwick SHS for the students to show, which marked the start of the Warwick SHS Droughtmaster stud.

The Warwick SHS students were well known and regarded around the show circuit, and Pat was also highly respected by his teaching peers who recognised and admired his tireless dedication to the breed through passing on his love of Droughtmaster cattle to the students.

A fellow agricultural teacher told him that his efforts were opening up opportunities for young people to enter into the cattle industry and more specifically to eventually develop Droughtmaster studs of their own.

Sadly, in 2016, Pat was diagnosed with cancer and he was advised to retire from

full-time employment. This was a hard reality for Pat, as he was devastated to think his passion of working with cattle and students was coming to an end.

During this time, Pat and Emma Thompson strengthened their friendship by maintaining a loving home and a stud, Auzdown Droughtmasters, together. Through the establishment of Auzdown, Pat was able to continue his passion of working with young people in the agriculture industry.

Although very sick, Pat set and achieved a goal of showing his own Droughtmaster cattle at Ekka 2017 and Beef Week 2018.

Due to his dedication to the Droughtmaster Society and his ability to assist and teach youth, Pat was awarded the honour of Life Membership from the Society during his 70th birthday celebrations this year.

Pat's passing is a significant loss to the agricultural industry; however, his legacy will be survived by the youth he mentored over many years.



The smile says it all - Pat doing what he loved best during Beef 2018.

2019 Calendar of Events

January

26 Malanda Female Sale, NQ

February

13 All Breeds Sale, Rockhampton

March

02 Futurity Show, Gatton

09 National Female Sale, Gympie

22 Highlands Sale, Clermont

April

05 X-Factor Sale, WA

05 Feature Show, Wandoan

06 Feature Show, Wandoan

10 Narngulu Bull Sale, WA

August

08 RNA Stud Cattle Judging, EKKA

08 Droughtmaster AGM, EKKA

23 Fitzroy Crossing Sale, WA

24 High Country Sale, Eskdale

September

02 The CAP Sale, Rockhampton

03 Central Reds Sale, Emerald

07 Bunya Bull Sale, Coolabunia

11 Piggott Sale, Springsure

13 Valera Vale Sale, Augathella

17 National Bull Sale, Rockhampton

18 National Bull Sale, Rockhampton

25 Clonlara Sale, Glenmorgan

27 Glenlands Sale, Bouldercombe

28 Scenic Rim Sale, Boonah

October

11 Diamantina Sale, Winton

14 Artesian Sale, Blackall

18 Bullzeye Bull Sale, Capella

25 Roma Bull Sale, Roma

November

08 MAGS, Charters Towers

30 Cream of the Crop, Coolabunia

All Markets



All Seasons

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