

DROUGHTMASTER



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### President's **Paragraph**

Unfortunately, 2019 looks to be a challenging year for cattle producers in many parts of Australia. Even traditionally "safe" areas like NSW are now experiencing extreme and prolonged drought conditions. This highlights the need for beef producers in southern Australia to consider using Droughtmaster genetics in their breeding programs.

With the support of the MLA Donor Company Scheme, our breed is continuing its involvement in the BIN Project which links performance to DNA. A large volume of data has to be collected to ensure producers can use DNA to accurately predict performance in the future. Our breed is continually looking at new technology to ensure Droughtmaster genetics are always at the leading edge.

As part of our looking to the future, it's exciting to see the establishment of our "NEXT GEN" Committee, which will help develop our future leaders and give them an opportunity to have a say in the direction of the breed in the future. A big thank you to Justin Bowman, Sharon Harms and Bronwyn Betts who have worked behind the scenes to get this committee started. Congratulations to all the committee members and a special thanks to those who have nominated for roles on the committee (see article in this edition). "NEXT GEN" are going to be actively involved in numerous events and Droughtmaster breeders can support our youth through a number of events which will raise money for the Youth Foundation. The first of these events is the Straws for a Cause semen auction being held during the National Female Sale on March 9. A special thanks to the vendors who have donated straws: Will and Ingrid Haviland, Sugerland Stud; Ken and Julie Thompson, True Blue Stud; the Pickering Family, RSVP Stud; Roger and Jenny Underwood (Eversleigh & Wallace Vale Studs; and Bronwyn Betts and Michael Hawkins, Nindethana Stud.

Make sure you get along to the Futurity Show on March 2, and don't forget to mark your calendar on April 5 and 6 for the Droughtmaster Feature Show at Wandoan. This is our only Feature show in 2019, so the nominations are sure to be big which will provide a great

**JEFF WILLIAMS** President

spectacle for our breed.

### **Looking Ahead**

As we go to print, the prospects for good general rain across northern Australia are not as strong as they were before Christmas. A couple of cyclones have generated heavy but patchy falls around the Gulf and North Queensland. There is however, still plenty of time for a good widespread break.

There was exciting news during December, when Grand Champion Droughtmaster Female at Beef 2018, Farogan Valley Aura was named Miss World in the Droughtmaster/Beefmaster judging competition. Aura will now compete against all the breed winners in the World Supreme Championships (in February 2019). Congratulations to Nick and Sarah Hughes, principals of Farogan Valley Stud.

The 2018 bull auction results were not as strong as 2017, which was not unexpected given the less than ideal seasons in most of the areas where Droughtmaster are the most popular in commercial herds. The overall average auction price was \$7135, with commercial bull buyers paying an average of about \$6200 for their sires. Paddock sales continued their popularity in 2018, particularly with bulk buyers.

With the season still in limbo in northern Australia, 2019 is a lottery for stud and commercial producers at this point in time, however stud breeders invest in new genetics each year and the progeny from these joinings hit the market each year irrespective of the season. The first of the annual sales is once again the National Female Sale at Gympie on March 9. Following the success of "live streaming" and "internet bidding" at the National Bull Sale the last couple of years, this concept is being introduced at the National Female Sale this year for the benefit of buyers who can't get to the sale. Elite Livestock Auctions will once again provide this service with links via the National Female Sale website and the Society website.

Following the resignation of office manager Samantha Horridge late last year, long term employee Leigh Eleison has been promoted to the role. Leigh has been with the Society for 13 years and during that time has filled the roles of registrar, accounts officer and administrative assistant so she has the skills and experience to handle

this challenging role.

**NEIL DONALDSON** CEO

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#### www.droughtmaster.com.au

Cover photo: After being judged Supreme Champion Female of Beef Australia 2018, Farogan Valley Aura

(pictured with her now 12 month old heifer Aria at foot) was named Miss World of both the Droughtmaster and Beefmaster breeds in December. Photo courtesy of Nick and Sarah Hughes.



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## My 2019 Resolution

# SU Droughtmasters!

- · Full fertility on dams and sires.
- · Control mated herd that calve and produce a weaver every year.
- · Genetic data on bulls (EBVS), full BBSE, semen motility and morphology tested.
- · Full DNA on parentage verification, poll/horn status and Pompes free.
- · Nil calving assistance and hoof trimming.
- · Bred on coastal country including access to lantana.
- · Bred under commercial conditions for the commercial producer backed by over 27 years of breeding seedstock.
- o Grown on grass and not overfed.
- · Genuinely quiet and mustered on horse, bike and dogs.

Domestic and Export

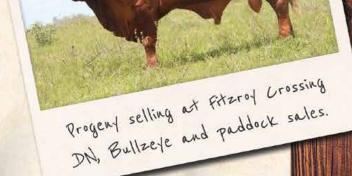
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Domestic and Export

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## Aura Named Miss World

The cow judged the Supreme Champion Droughtmaster Female of Beef Australia 2018, was named Miss World of both the Droughtmaster and Beefmaster breeds in December, marking the first time any Bos Indicus type animal or breed from Australia has achieved such a result.

Farogan Valley Aura, a four year old by Strathfield XXXX Gold and from a Pine Valley cow, was awarded the distinction in the joint Beefmaster/Droughtmaster Champion of the World judging in Fort Worth, Texas.

Aura was judged with the now 12 month old heifer Aria at foot.

She scored automatic entry into the competition by winning Grand Champion Droughtmaster Female in Australia's largest stud cattle show, Beef 2018, in May last year.

The judging was based on photo's supplied for each eligible animal.

Ecstatic owners Nick and Sarah Hughes, Farogan Valley Stud, Upper Kandanga, first heard the very welcome news at 4.15am on Wednesday, December 12.

CATLE

Farogan Valley Aura with her heifer calf Aria, was named Miss World at the joint Beefmaster/ Droughtmaster Champion of the World judging in Fort Worth, Texas, in December. Photo: Lucy Kinbacher.

"Sarah couldn't sleep, so she was monitoring the website," Nick said.

"She certainly stayed awake after she realised that Aura had won the Miss World competition," he said.

Three of the four judges, including Australia's Brett Nobbs, placed Aura in the winning position.

Aura scored nine points from the judging panel, well ahead of Beefmasters from Mexico and South Africa, which placed second and third respectively.

Aura is now in the running for the 16 breed, "All Breeds World Supreme" which will take place on www.Champion-of-the-World.net on February 11 - 15, with five international judges to evaluate the entrants.

Aura's genetics will be on show at the February All Breeds Sale in Rockhampton. Two bulls will be on offer: Farogan Valley Thunder, an ET/Al full brother to Aura, and Aura's first calf, Farogan Valley Ace, who is an Al calf by Talgai Chico. For further details see www.farogan.net

Aura is now part of an IVF program, with five embryos from Aura by Rocky View 714 recently transferred into recipients.

#### **NEWS**

## **Droughtmaster NEXT GEN Kicks into Gear**

The Droughtmaster NEXT GEN youth initiative has kicked into gear and is up and running with its inaugural committee now in place and keen to get started on some projects.

The committee at this stage is:

- Chairperson Emma Thompson (Auzdown Stud)
- Secretary Lawrence Shemish–Lahey (assistant at Nindethana Stud)
- Treasurer Michaela Gauci (MG Stud)

Committee members are:

- Kiara Hughes (Kihayla Stud)
- Chloe Davey (Lonemark CD Stud)
- Beyonce Cormack (Black Gully Stud)
- Haylee Hughes (Kihayla Stud)

The NEXT GEN youth initiative is about getting likeminded junior members and young people (whose families are members) of varying ages at the lower level up to roughly 25 years old, to work together as a group.

The organisation will help them develop and grow within the cattle industry and the Droughtmaster breed through training opportunities that may arise from time to time, working together and building lasting industry relationships and a network, while at the same time having fun enjoying what they are doing.

While the committee has been formed, NEXT GEN is still open to all young people who would like to get involved with helping organise events or putting forward ideas and applying for personal development opportunities.

NEXT GEN facilitator, Justin Bowman said the young people within the breed are the future of the breed.

"They're future board members and committee members, and as such will dictate the direction and development of the breed for the next generation of Droughtmaster members, " Justin said.

"So it makes sense as a breed society to invest in our young people to help them develop and form relationships, to ensure the Droughtmaster breed is in good hands in the long term," he said.

The committee is already busy organising some events for 2019, including the pre-BBQ function on the Friday afternoon at the Gatton Futurity Show and a charity auction at the "Drinks with Droughties" function on the evening before the National Bull Sale.

"So any Droughtmaster Junior Members or young folk whose family are members, we would love you to get involved.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know more young people with similar interests from within our breed."

NEXT GEN will have a Facebook page up and running soon and other communication options are being reviewed.

For more information or to join up, contact the Droughtmaster Society at office@droughtmaster.com.au.





Offering in 2019

10 Unjoined heifers -National Female Sale Gympie 9th March Pompes & Pesti Negative Horn/Poll Tested

Bulls Droughtmaster National Sale
17 - 18th September
BullZeye Sale Capella
18th October
Paddock Bulls Available

Drew & Kerri McKenzie Bluff Q 4702 0439 826 275



### **Record Nominations Expected for Futurity Show**

The 34th annual Droughtmaster Futurity Show at Gatton is gearing up to be another spectacular showing of stud cattle.

With the Droughtmaster Feature Show at Wandoan in early April, nominations for the Futurity in early March, are expected to be at record levels. With expected nominations in excess of 140 head it promises to be a great spectacle, not to be missed.

The event is traditionally attended by several hundred spectators, keen to see the sires and dams of the future, many of which will be appearing at the Wandoan Feature Show.

On the Friday evening before the Futurity, a BBQ will be held near the cattle sheds at the showgrounds.

This will be preceded by drinks and nibbles in the shade of the trees in the grassed area beside the judging ring. Droughtmasters breeders of all persuasions and their friends are invited to join the exhibitors for complimentary refreshments. The drinks

and nibbles are being organised by the Droughtmaster Society's NEXT GEN Committee.

So, mark your calendars for Saturday March 2, and get out to the Gatton

Showgrounds. Don't forget your hat and a chair. Refreshments and food are available for purchase during the day, thanks to the Gatton Show Society Junior Auxiliary Committee.



Melanie and Graham Brown, RSVP Droughtmaster Stud, Windera, with the Grand Champion Exhibit of the 2018 Droughtmaster Futurity Show RSVP Nevada (P).

## Outstanding Display of Droughtmaster Cattle Set for Feature Show at Wandoan

Mark your calendar for April 5 and 6 so you don't miss the Droughtmaster Feature Show at Wandoan. This is the only Droughtmaster Feature Show in 2019, so it's an event not to be missed.

With this Feature Show following closely on the heels of the annual Futurity Show at Gatton and after the record number of nominations at Beef 2018 and at other regional shows throughout Queensland in 2018, nominations are expected to be extremely high, for what will be an outstanding display of quality Droughtmaster cattle.

Situated in the Dawson River Valley, Wandoan and the surrounding area is renowned for producing magnificent grass finished bullocks for the Japanese market. It's also a grain producing area, which has prompted the construction of a number of feedlots which turnoff a significant number of grainfed cattle for the Japanese market and for the supermarket trade.

While the township is small, the surrounding areas are home to a significant number of beef producers who are very passionate about their industry and their region. Wandoan is centrally located for people from southern, central and western Oueensland.

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 one hours drive (south and north respectively) of Wandoan.

If you cant get to the Feature Show, but would like to support it, there are several trophy sponsorship opportunities available. Contact the Droughtmaster Society on (07) 3281 0056 or office@droughtmaster.com.au.

Below: Nominations for the Droughtmaster Feature Show at Wandoan are expected to be extremely high, for what will be an outstanding display of quality Droughtmaster cattle.







(Mt Callan Nimrod)

(Mt Callan Nímrod)



(NCC Cococabana)

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### **Ongoing Droughtie Success at Gaylong**

- By Matt Sherrington

While Central Queensland commercial producers David and Linda Pitt, Gaylong Station, had experimented with using Droughmasters within their commercial cattle operation close to two decades ago, it's been in the last 12 years that they've focussed on producing a pure Droughtmaster article, with increasing success.

Gaylong, which is situated 35km from Capella on the Cotherstone Road was purchased by the Pitt family in 1984, with David and Linda continuing to work the cattle there to this day, along with their youngest son Russell.

David said the 4047ha property lies on black soil, semi-open mountain Coolibah country with the Peak Range running right through the middle of their property.

"The property is watered through dams and bores. We've also attempted to set up a tank and trough every 2000m or so, connected by polypipe to help spread out our herd and promote even grazing pressure," he said.

"We've had a bit of luck with the rain recently. Towards the end of November and early December last year we had a lot of little falls that added up to around 75mm, and in mid-January, we received 40mm in two falls which we're very happy about."

David said they're currently running close to 650 Droughtmaster breeders in the commercial grazing operation at Gaylong, including 260 maiden heifers which have just been mated, and 170 weaner heifers. There are also about 150 weaner steers plus bulls on-hand.

"As a hobby, I also have a small herd of stud cows which I've been improving for the last six years. They're joined with our home-bred sires with the bulls produced used within the commercial herd."

David said they dabbled with many breeds before moving forward with Droughtmasters.

"Years ago, we had to sell some cattle, and I had an agent come and inspect them.

"He said it was hard to determine the value in what I was offering as they were, in his words, 'all-sorts'.

"I was a little bit taken aback by the statement as I thought a cattleman should be able to work out value regardless of breed and colour.

"So I learned two things that day, it looked like we'd need to create a uniform herd, and that we'd no longer pay commissions."

David said the Droughtmaster suits their country well and likes the fact that they aren't large framed animals, but are very productive.

He said their first trials with Droughtmasters came about 20 years ago, when they bought two Medway bulls from Bob Donaldson, though at that time they were still buying the odd Brahman, along with bulls of other breeds.

"I later bought a Droughtie Billabong bull from John Hicks at Moura, and he was a real asset to our herd.

"The appeal of the breed continued to grow for us when I went to the Glenlands Sale when the Childs family were still holding it at the Gracemere Saleyards.

"I bought a couple there about 15 years ago, and attended every one of their sales' since, so we have a lot of Glenlands bloodlines running through our herd to this day."

It was a couple of years after we purchased those Glenlands bulls that we fully focussed on producing Droughtmaster cattle, and we've been striving to improve the article produced ever since."

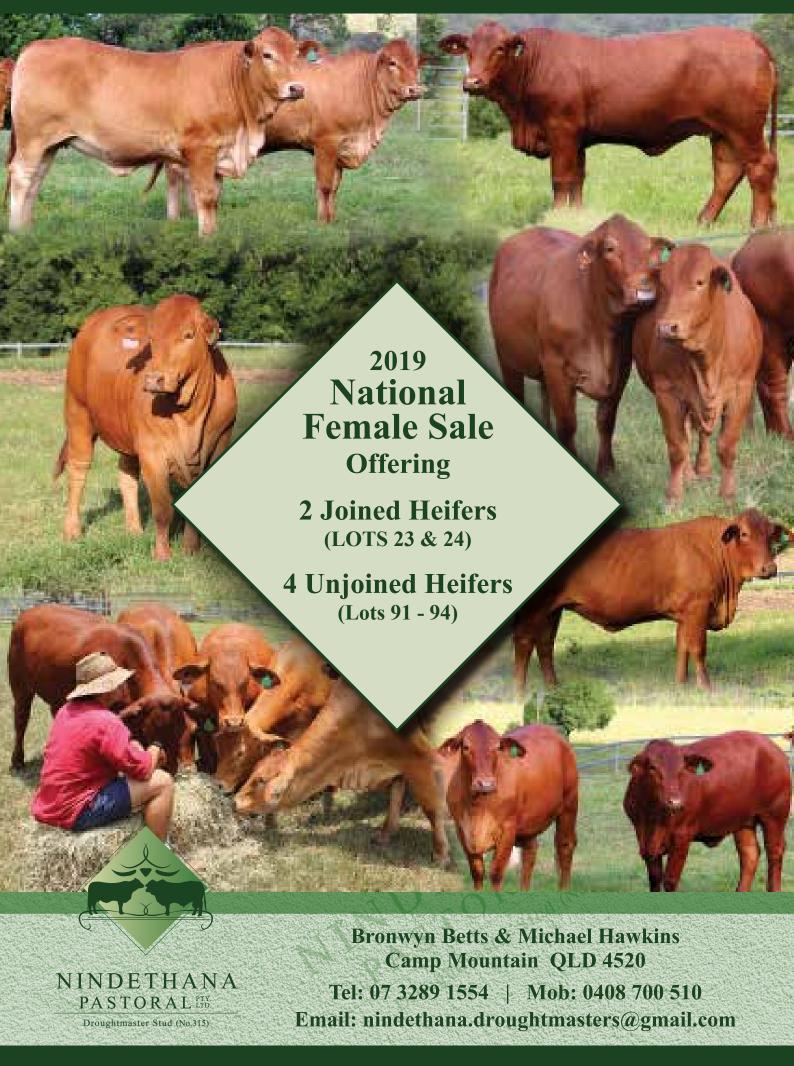
David said their bulls are usually put in with the breeders on January 1 and are generally taken out of the paddock at the end of March, though the exit time varies depending on seasonal conditions.



The Pitts are currently running close to 650 Droughtmaster breeders in their commercial grazing operation at Gaylong.



David and Linda at home at Gaylong Station, situated 35km from Capella, with their youngest son Russell.



www.nindethanadroughtmasters.com.au



David Pitt said the Droughtmaster suits their country well and he likes the fact that they aren't large framed animals, but are very productive.

"We like using this window for our joining period as it means our calves are born around the middle or end of September, which is about the closest we can get before the season breaks.

"This year that worked perfectly, as we had a lot of little calves on the ground, and got rain and green feed which the cows really appreciated."

"Our cows are preg tested at weaning time, and last year, out of all our cows, we had 70 empties that didn't go back to the paddock and were sold.

"Additionally, all bulls are soundness checked and motility and morphology tested so that we know that they'll be able to do the job.

"By introducing these practices about six years ago we've managed to increase our weaning rate from about 60% to 80%. It has made a big difference.

Most of the Gaylong cattle are sent to the meatworks, normally by train to JBS at Dinmore.

"We try to sell steers as two-year-olds off oats in October/November to achieve 300+kg bodies and we also send the cull cows and bulls there.

"If we can't finish the steers due to lack of feed, we'll try and get them into the JBS Beef City Feedlot near Toowoomba."

He said this year they took a different path entirely, as the steers weren't going to make body weight.

"We got offered a good price, nearly 50c/kg more than the meatworks could offer at the time, so they were put on a boat and sent to Korea.

"We'd never sold to into the live export market before as the money had never been good enough.

"We pick the market which is going to provide the best return for us."

David said they're pretty happy with their breeding program, and are tweaking as they go by becoming more severe with selecting for weight gain and conformation, and even talked about starting to DNA test, to fast track the selection process.

"We're increasing our female numbers as much as we can, as we're trying to get set up to buy another property in the future for Russell to manage.

"In a small operation like ours, you've got to have all the plusses on your side."

David said he finds one of the hardest things in the world is buying bulls.

"You've got to take so many things into account. They've got to have eye appeal, conformation, weight for age, and maturity.

"We also look for a bull with good feet, heavy boned legs, muscle rounded right to the hock, good length of rib and width.

"For us underline is also very important as we can't use bulls with too much skin as we have speargrass; we also don't like pendulous pizzles."

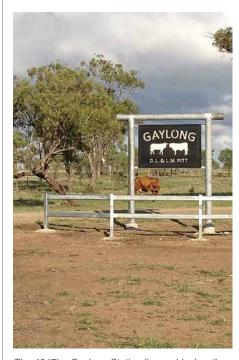
To get a better indication of the quality of cattle they're producing, the Pitts entered a pen of steers into the feedlot trial at Beef 2018.

"We didn't win anything, but our Droughties stood up well next to the other cattle assembled. "We actually had the highest weight gain average of any cattle in the Duaringa feedlot.

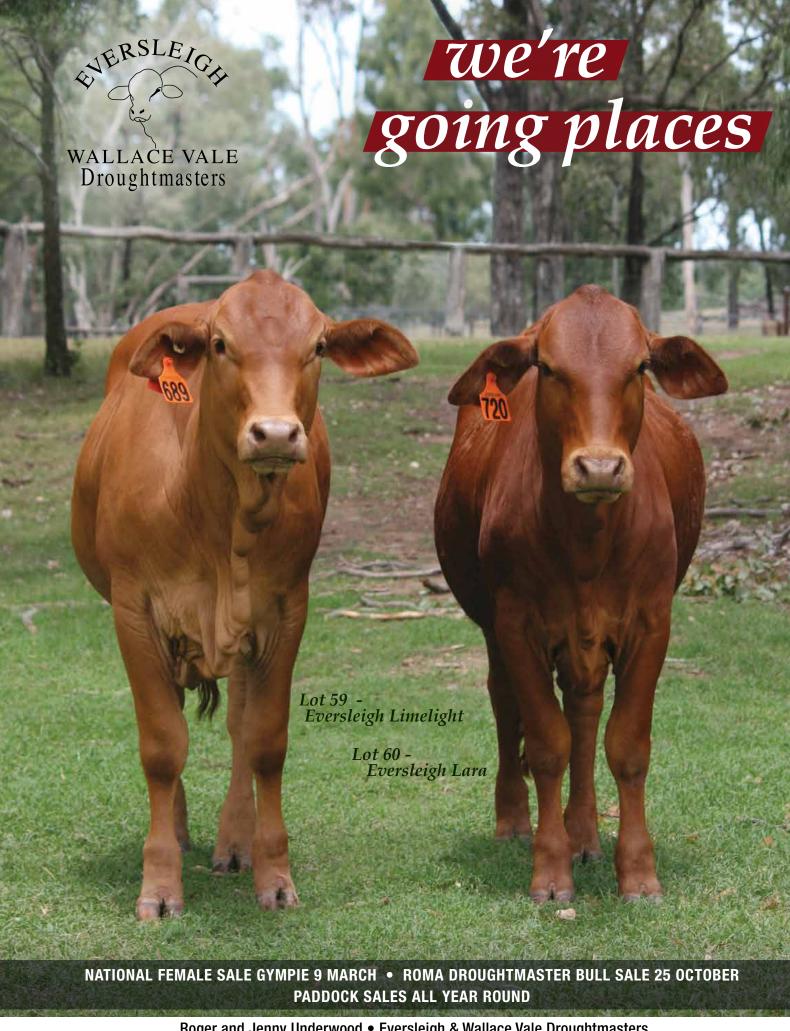
"They averaged 2.16kg per day, while the combined average across all breeds was 1.85kg/day.

"If we get the chance I'd be interested in entering cattle again. It also gave us a good excuse to get to some of the functions and catch up with the other breeders involved."

"I just wish I was 25 years younger, and we had the cattle we do today."



The 4047ha Gaylong Station lies on black soil, semi-open mountain Coolibah country with the Peak Range running right through the middle of property.



Roger and Jenny Underwood • Eversleigh & Wallace Vale Droughtmasters, 'Pine Hills' Wallumbilla | Ph 0488 417 385 or 0428 417 120 | •



Selling at the National Female Sale Gympie, offering 5 joined females and at the Droughtmaster National Sale Rockhampton







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'Wajatryn'
Gayndah
0427 61 1279

Drew & Jade Garside 'Wetheron' Capella 0402 171 267



## Numbers and Quality Up for Female National Sale



- By Matt Sherrington

A total of 30 highly regarded Droughtmaster stud breeders scattered between the southern Queensland border, west to Chinchilla, Moura, Emerald, and Rockhampton have selected 169 females for the 2019 National Female Sale.

The sale will again be held at the Gympie Saleyards on Saturday, March 9, from 9am, with the sale catalogue to comprise 11 cows and calves, 21 joined heifers and 137 unjoined heifers.

Sale coordinator Brian Heck said the sale will include a diverse range of genetics featuring some of the latest bloodlines available from around Australia.

"The National Female Sale provides a great place to source genetics, whether you're starting off with Droughtmasters or an established operator wanting to upgrade and diversify your stud breeding herd," Brian said.

"It's also a great sale for the commercial buyer wanting to upgrade their herd," he said. "Each year the quality of the draft keeps improving and I believe you'll find a female or two there to meet your budget and requirements."

Brian said all sale attendees are invited to come to the traditional barbecue the night before the sale to enjoy Nolan's famous steaks, catch-up with the vendors, prospective buyers and agents, and view the females for sale.

"The sale lots will be available for inspection from 3pm, Friday, March 8, which will lead into the barbecue which will begin at 6.30pm."

Brian said Gympie Saleyards is now a clearing dip, so buyers from Clean country can have their purchases scratched and dipped to clear straight after the sale.

Strong demand for quality females pushed the year-on-year sale average upwards at the 2018 sale.

Overall 130 females averaged \$3238 while selling to a top price of \$11,000 twice while achieving a clearance rate of 98%.

In the breakdown a pair of cows and calves averaged \$3250, 19 joined heifers

averaged \$3868 and 109 unjoined heifers averaged \$3128.

Post-sale, Droughtmaster Society CEO Neil Donaldson said it was a well-deserved result for the sale vendors whose offering of outstanding quality Droughtmaster females met with enthusiastic bidding by buyers from all points of the compass.

"The sale result once again demonstrated the popularity of the Droughtmaster breed," Neil said at the time.

Following the success of "live streaming" and "internet bidding" at the National Bull Sale the last couple of years, this concept is being introduced at the 2019 National Female Sale.

Elite Livestock Auctions will provide this service with links via the National Female Sale website and the Droughtmaster Society website.

Catalogues for the 2019 National Female Sale will be available by mid-February. Please contact the Droughtmaster Office for your copy on (07) 3281 0056 or office@droughtmaster.com.au.



Vendor Kerri McKenzie, Hamadra Stud, buyer Chris Heness and Landmark's Mark Scholes with the \$11,000 equal top-priced heifer of the 2018 sale, Hamadra Hazel (P).

#### **BRYVONLEA**

Bryvonlea Droughtmasters commenced in 1998 with the purchase of two joined females at the National Female Sale, and Bryvonlea females have now been sold there for 18 years.

The stud, operated by Brian and Yvonne Heck, is situated 20km west of Gympie in the Upper Glastonbury Valley, where they run a herd of 180 registered females, in which fertility, temperament, tick resistance and performance are highly valued traits.

Brian said this year's sale offering showcases the depth of their breeding.

"Four sires are represented in the 10 unjoined heifers catalogued including, Skye Wilfred (two daughters), the sire of the second top priced bull of the 2018 National Bull Sale, who has also had 17 sons sell at auction to average \$12,617.

"Vale View Ripper (five), still holds the National Female Sale record of \$18,000 set in 2013, while the first sons of Medway Urie (two), sold to a top of \$13,000 in 2018.

"We'll also offer the first daughter of the \$19,000 sire Glenlands Ultimatum."

Brian said while all in the draft are quality heifers, lot 73, Bryvonlea Tressa (P) a beautiful bodied, daughter of Ripper is sure to impress.

#### **EVERSLEIGH & WALLACE VALE**

Roger and Jenny Underwood, Eversleigh & Wallace Vale Droughtmasters, Pine Hills, Wallumbilla, are first-time vendors at the National Female Sale this year.

Jenny said they sourced their original stud females from the sale when they formed the stud in 2004, originally based at Eversleigh, Hughenden, with progeny from the original females still in their stud herd today.

The Underwoods will be presenting two polled unjoined heifers at the 2019 sale.

"Eversleigh Lara was sired by Clonlara 06101, a bull which has had a huge impact on our herd. He was retired in 2017 at 11 years of age so Lara is one of the last of his calves. His sons have sold to \$30,000.

"Our other heifer, Eversleigh Limelight, has impressive bloodlines on both sides including Valley-View, Minlacowie, Alma and Angle Zed. She's a perfect example of the female that we strive to breed.

Jenny said temperament and femininity are paramount in their female selection.

"The dams of the two heifers in our draft have good udders and excellent mothering traits. Both heifers have good clean coats and underlines, and have tested negative for pestivirus and Pompes."

#### **HAMADRA**

Andrew and Kerri McKenzie said their Hamadra Sud is celebrating an important milestone in 2019.

Kerri said this year marks their 25th year breeding Droughtmasters.

"We still strive to improve our herd every year. We love the challenges associated with breeding a quality stud and commercial herd of Droughtmaster cattle," she said.

"In our breeding program we place particular emphasis on fertility, and producing easy care, early maturing cattle that, through their inherited genetics, have clean underlines, good udders with plenty of beef, muscle, bone, and softness."

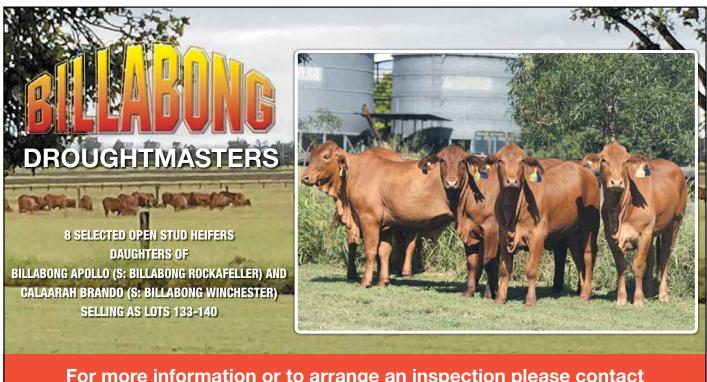
Kerri said they'll be offering 10 of their bestbred heifers at the 2019 National Female Sale.

"We feel this is the strongest line of heifers we've offered yet.

"They're daughters from six of our most proven sires and the collective dam side speaks for itself through proven performance.

She said all dam and sire information can be viewed at www.hamadra.com and that onproperty inspections are welcome.

For further details please call Andrew, 0439826275 or Kerri, 0439826276.



For more information or to arrange an inspection please contact **JOHN & CATHERINE HICKS** 

billabongbulls@bigpond.com.au | 0428 971 212 | 🚮



#### **HAZELWOOD**

Good quality heifers and diverse genetics for stud and commercial buyers is what Hazel Woods, Hazelwood Stud, Obi Obi Valley, thinks is the key to the ongoing appeal of the National Female Sale.

The Woods family run four single sire paddocks with Hamadra, Locarno and Yaralla sires currently being used.

"We aim to provide adaptable cattle that are soft and fleshy, with bone, good skin and a docile temperament," Hazel said.

She said the 2019 sale draft from Hazelwood will be comprised of six females (five polled and one scurred).

"These are the first heifers offered by Yaralla Rochester and Hamadra Cruzer whose 16 National Bull Sale bulls have averaged \$7,000 and sold to a top of \$27,000 to Locarno stud.

"The females selected are all excellent quality future breeders from the best bloodlines we can offer."

Hazel said Hazelwood Pansy (Rochester) out of Garthowen Pansy, is the maternal sister to Hazelwood Pedro who sold to By-Mingo Stud for \$20,000, while Hazelwood Aura (Rochester) is an outstanding heifer, and a granddaughter of the \$20,000 Glenlands Likeness.

#### **NINDETHANA**

Despite being relatively new vendors at the National Female Sale, Bronwyn Betts and Michael Hawkins, Nindethana Stud, Camp Mountain, association with the event spans decades. Bronwyn's late parents, Jack and Thelma Betts, sourced their first females from

the sale after registering the stud in 1980. When the couple reignited the stud in 2007, they too purchased their first females from the sale.

The Nindethana sale team for 2019 will include six heifers (two joined and four unjoined). The joined females are daughters of RSVP Jackpot and are both well in-calf, with one Al'ed to Talgai Chico, and the other to Bryvonlea Malachi.

"Malachi has been a truly consistent sire, and has delivered us some wonderful females, many of whom have gone on to produce quality progeny," Bronwyn said.

The four unjoined heifers include a Bryvonlea Malachi daughter and the stud's first offering of females sired by the \$38,000 sire, Karragarra Miles, who was purchased by Bronwyn and Michael at the 2016 National Bull Sale.

The Nindethana draft has been tested as Pompes negative and Pesti free and the stud has a J-BAS 7 (WA) rating.

#### **OAKMORE**

Greg and Sharon Harms, Oakmore Stud, Greenmount, began selling at the National Female Sale close to a decade ago and will return in 2019, after a brief hiatus.

Sharon said the appeal of selling at Gympie lies with the broad diversity of buyers.

"The sale is a vessel to offer and purchase elite female genetics," she said.

She said their 2019 National Female Sale draft are out of our consistent feminine females and by two exceptional sires who produce progeny with smooth tropical coats, scale, bone, muscle, femininity, and great temperament.

Chris Heness paid \$11,000 equal top money in 2018 for Sugerland Jingle (P) from Will Haviland, Sugerland Stud.

"Due to the extremely dry conditions on the Southern Downs, for the first time, we're offering two No.6 cows by Oakmore Kadir (PP) with their first calves at foot both of which are heifers sired by Araketa James (PP).

"These two exceptional females were to be retained in the stud, but we've decided to offer them and their heifer calves at the sale."

She said they'll also offer five unjoined heifers, three sired by Kadir and two by James.

"The dams of these females are from Billabong, Minlacowie, Toronella, Vale View and our own breeding lines."

#### **RSVP & SYLVAN SPRINGS**

The South Burnett-situated RSVP & Sylvan Springs Studs, owned by the Pickering family first sold at the National Female Sale in 2007.

The Pickerings Operations Manager Graham Brown said they've enjoyed great success at the sale in selling females for up to \$14,000 there.

"We run 300 stud breeders in single sire herds in which we aim to breed fertile, functional cattle that continue to move our operation forward under commercial conditions," Graham said.

He said this year they'll be offering 17 females (7 joined and 10 unjoined) from tried and tested bloodlines.

"We're offering a number of daughters of Billabong Armstrong and lanbrae Wanted, two sires who need no introduction. Our entire draft of joined heifers have been running with Talgai Chico who had a son sell for \$20,000 at the 2018 National Bull Sale.

"We're impressed with our draft (which are all Pompes tested negative, and are J-BAS7 WA eligible) from start to finish and highly recommend an inspection if you are serious about adding some quality to your female herd.

#### **SUGERLAND**

After making a successful debut as National Female Sale vendors last year, Will and Ingrid Haviland, Sugerland Stud, Seawood, Coowonga, will return to the Gympie sale this year with five quiet, first-rate females (two joined and three unjoined).

In 2018, Sugerland Jingle achieved the equal top price of \$11,000 at the sale, selling to Chris and Hailey Heness, Ridgie Didge stud, Goomeri.

#### **SALE PREVIEW** (continued)

Will said the sale provides them with a good outlet to promote their females.

"We strive to produce consistent Droughtmasters that suit Queensland's markets and environment," Will said.

"We keep fertility, temperament, growth, structure and red meat central to our breeding objectives," he said.

Will said new bloodlines on offer in the 2019 sale team include Sugerland Jellybean (Locarno Indulge) and the co-owned Glenlands D Unoccupied (Medway).

"The females we're offering are from our replacement group and aren't dressed up culls.

"Also, Sugerland Jacki O is well in calf to Yaralla Lester a Locarno sire who's calves' averaged \$16,200 at the 2018 National Bull Sale."

#### **TRUVALLE**

Truvalle Stud principal, Margaret Wilson said the primary focus within their operation has always been the production of easy to handle, quiet, fertile females and bulls, suitable for most environments and markets.

Margaret said their breeding program suits the varied environment and often

challenging seasons on-property at The Valley, situated near Blackbutt.

"Our style and type of animal hasn't changed since the stud (Stud No. 22) was registered in 1962," she said.

Margaret said Truvalle are offering seven stylish unjoined heifers this year.

"Two are by Talgai Apache (their main stud sire for 15 years); three by Lorandale Halo (a sire with strong poll characteristics); and two are by Oakmore Olivier (who gives a good coat type and an ideal quiet temperament).

"Six of the Truvalle dams have produced females that we've retained in the herd and the other heifer is the first calf out of her dam."

She said the most impressive traits of the 2019 National Female Sale team are their quiet temperaments, good tropical coats, and that all but one are polled (the other is scurred).

#### **VALEVIEW**

Veteran National Female Sale vendors Dave and Colleen Smith will offer a draft of six striking heifers at the 2019 sale, while their son, Mac Smith, Vale View M will make his sale debut with his own pair of lovely ladies. Colleen said the Vale View draft will include one of the last offerings from Vale View Uripper (now deceased) and the last offering of Vale View heifers from Glenlands Substitute.

"The sale team consists of an even line of heifers that feature a diversity of breeding by five proven sires out of our consistent female lines which provide the evenness of type evident within our draft," she said.

Colleen said Vale View Bonnie 2 is the standout heifer in the draft.

"She's a full sister to Vale View Armageddon 2 which sold for \$14,000 at the 2018 National Sale and a maternal sister of Vale View Yani which sold for \$3,500 to Topline Stud at the 2017 National Sale."

She said in Mac's draft, all proceeds from the sale of Vale View M Giggles (lot 102), will be donated to the McGrath Foundation (see story page 22).



### **Breffni Heifer Proceeds Going to RFDS**

- By Matt Sherrington

Dave and Robyn McCabe, Breffni Stud, Chinchilla, will be offering a lovely dark honey-coloured heifer for charity amongst the nine-lot draft (four joined and five unjoined) they'll be presenting at the National Female Sale.

The 20-month-old Breffni Karol (P) D5 will go under the hammer in lot 103.

All proceeds from the sale of this daughter of Truvalle Blue Chip (P) D5, out of homegrown dam Breffni Gwenda (P) D5, will go to a most worthy cause in the form of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

"I understand the cost required to operate this amazing service having worked at the Charleville RFDS base for two years in my younger days," Dave said

"My admiration for the RFDS staff who provide this crucial service has only increased over my time living and working on properties throughout western Queensland," he said.

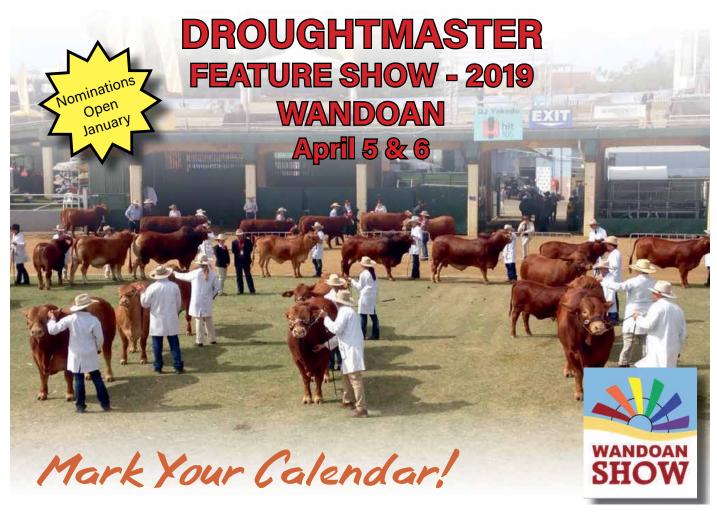
He said the sale of Breffni Karol (P) D5 is his small way of recognising and assisting the

RFDS for the wonderful work they carry out.

"It's an organisation that my family has always had a strong passion for supporting, as my parents used to fundraise for the RFDS as well." Dave said they'll have a banner on the pen at Gympie where Breffni Karol (P) D5 is situated and he's hoping a representative from the RFDS will be able to attend the sale to watch her go through the ring.



The 20-month-old Breffni Karol (P) D5 will go under the hammer as lot 103 with all proceeds going to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.





## Will Present 10 Females at the Gympie Droughtmaster National Female Sale Saturday March 9







9 cows and 10 calves Lots 1-9 and running with Glenlands Lucas, PTIC to be confirmed 1 unjoined heifer Lot 46

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### **Show your Support for Straws for a Cause**

- By Bronwyn Betts

The Droughtmaster Society, is committed to investing in young people through education and industry development opportunities.

To that end, the Society established the Droughtmaster Research and Education Foundation Inc. (the Foundation) as a vehicle through which funds could be raised and apportioned exclusively for this purpose.

The objectives of the Foundation are to advance the education of young people in the beef cattle industry, particularly those associated with the Droughtmaster breed; to promote research by young people into a diverse range of fields related to the beef cattle industry; and to provide grants and scholarships to young people pursuing studies or scientific research in this area.

In 2018, the Straws for a Cause campaign was initiated to raise much-needed funds for the Foundation. A package of 30 straws of semen donated from ten leading Droughtmaster sires (three straws each) was auctioned at the Beef Genetic Focus Sale at the Beef Australia Expo, raising \$6000 for this wonderful cause.

The campaign will continue in 2019, with two smaller packages of semen being offered at the National Female Sale in March, prior to the auctioneering of the heifers included in the unjoined section of the catalogue. Each package will include 10 straws comprising two straws each of the following stud sires: Swan 609; Billabong Armstrong; Jembrae Fenton; Alma Tawny; and Bryvonlea Malachi. Each straw comes with a single registration.

The Straws for a Cause organisers would like to thank agents, Landmark and Elders for conducting the sale; Just Genes, Rocky Repro and Cattle Breeding Services for their support and assistance with the handling, movement and storage of the semen; and

of course, the Droughtmaster studs that have generously donated semen for this great cause, which include:

- Sugerland Droughtmasters (Swan 609)
- RSVP Droughtmasters (Billabong Armstrong)
- True Blue (Jembrae Fenton)
- Eversleigh & Wallace ValeDroughtmasters (Alma Tawny)
- Nindethana Droughtmasters (Bryvonlea Malachi)



Stonebridge Droughtmaster Stud's Paige Hodkinson and Alex Gibbon, with Straws for a Cause sale coordinator Bronwyn Betts, at the Beef Genetic Focus Sale held during the Beef Australia 2018 Expo in Rockhampton, where the first Straws for a Cause package sold for \$6000.

#### **SALE PREVIEW**

# Mac Smith to 'Give Back' in Gympie

- By Matt Sherrington



Mac Smith, Vale View M Droughtmasters, Manumbar, with his heifer Vale View M Giggles, which will be offered at the 2019 National Female in lot 102. All proceeds from the sale of Giggles will go to the McGrath Foundation.

During the National Female Sale young studmaster Mac Smith, Vale View M Stud, Manumbar, will be offering two heifers with all proceeds raised from the sale of one of these lovely ladies, Vale View M Giggles, to go to the McGrath Foundation.

The McGrath Foundation funds breast care nurses who support individuals and their families experiencing breast cancer. Their nurses provide physical, psychological and emotional support from the time of diagnosis, throughout treatment, and their support is free.

Mac's parents Dave and Colleen Smith, Vale View Stud, said they think it'll be an important life lesson for their son to give back, especially with two heifers purchased for his stud operation, having ties back to charity organisations.

Colleen said the first heifer purchased for Mac in 2011, was Lamont Keepsake, the proceeds of which were also donated to the McGrath Foundation by Mac and Gayle Shann, Lamont Stud, Cantaur Park, Clermont.

"We purchased that heifer for Mac's stud sight unseen for \$4750," Colleen said.

"Dave and I felt it was an important and memorable purchase as both of Mac's grandmothers died of breast cancer in their early 50s, so he never got to meet them," she said.

Colleen said Mac's purchase of Farogan Valley Hope at the 2017 National Female Sale deepened the charity links in the Vale View M herd.

"Her proceeds were kindly donated to the Jake Garrett Foundation by Nick and Sarah Hughes, Farogan Valley Stud, Upper Kandanga.

"Giggles (lot 102) is a heifer calf out of Farogan Valley Hope, so we felt she'd be a great choice to keep the charity line going, which is why we're offering her in such a way at the sale this year.

"We know Mac will look back and feel proud that he's given something to help a foundation that could have helped his grandmothers if it was around at the time."

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GLENLANDS TOPSHELF (P)
GLENLANDS PACIFIC (P) (ET)
GLENLANDS MAMBO (P)
GLENLANDS INSTINCTIVE (P)



## JGH PEDIGREE

TER GENERATION AFTER GENERATION



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## First-rate Stud and Commercial Bulls Highlight Highlands Sale Offering

- By Matt Sherrington

Quiet cost effective, productive Droughtmaster cattle that perform well in the field are a consistent staple of the Highlands Droughtmaster Bull Sale which will be held on Friday, March 22, at the Clermont Saleyards this year.

A total of 12 vendors have selected a combined draft of 86 bulls for the 28th annual sale, with the catalogue to include 56 registered sires and 30 herd bulls.

Sale committee secretary Alex Donaldson said the sale has becoming known for "producing good beefy bullock bulls as well as high profile stud sires".

"This year the sale will be supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service, with \$50 from each bull sold over the entire catalogue going to the charity," Alex said.

She said there will be a pre-inspection backyard bull walk at the saleyards on the afternoon of Thursday, March 21, and a breakfast will be provided on the morning of the sale, from 8am by the sale's major sponsor Phoenix Powersports.

"Also on the Thursday night, the sale vendors will be hosting a meet and greet

at the Commercial Hotel, Clermont from 6.30pm, with all sale attendees welcome," she said.

In all, 79 bulls were offered in the catalogue at the 2018 sale, with 86% of the draft selling to average \$7705.

"A complete package" is how purchaser Colleen Smith, Vale View Stud, Manumbar, described the \$24,000 top-priced bull at last year's sale Oasis A Mr Mint, from vendors, the Geddes family, Oasis Stud, Emerald.

All bulls for the 2019 sale will be EMA scanned, vet checked and pre-treated for ticks, and all bulls have been semen tested and soundness evaluated.

There is also a bulk buyer rebate and some great buyer incentives in place for the sale.

"A special thank you to our other major sale sponsors Feedpro and Achmea Insurance."

For more information , get on and like the facebook page, or visit the website www. highlandsdroughtmastersale.com.au. You can also contact the selling agents Elders and Landmark for sale catalogues and enquiries.



The top-priced \$24,000, bull at the 2018 Highlands Droughtmaster sale, Oasis A Mr Mint, with vendor Adam Geddes, Oasis Stud, Emerald, and purchaser, Colleen Smith, Vale View Stud, Manumbar.



Vendor, Brian Heck with buyer Dan Sommer and the top priced female Bryvonlea Princess Beatrice (P) who sold for \$6750.

#### SALE REPORT

## Cream of the Crop Rises to \$6750

- By Helen Walker

A total of 41 stud Droughtmaster females sold to a top price of \$6750, to average \$2715, at the Cream of the Crop Droughtmaster female sale held at the Coolabunia Sales Complex, near Kingaroy in November.

In a further breakdown of the offering one joined female sold to average \$5000, and 28 unjoined females sold to average \$2857.

Included in the catalogue was a herd reduction offered by Dave McCabe, Breffini Stud, Chinchilla, which resulted in nine cows and calves averaging \$2278, while three unjoined heifers averaged \$1933.

Topping the sale at \$6750 was the unjoined heifer Byrvonlea Princess Beatrice (P), a daughter of Skye Wilfred from a Bryvonlea Princess female family, offered by the Heck family, Glastonbury and sold to Dan Sommer, Sommer Stud, Maleny.

Mr Sommer founded his Droughtmaster Stud about four years ago, and now runs 100 stud breeders.

A repeat buyer of the Byrvonlea genetics, he selected Princess Beatrice as he was impressed with her pedigree and liked her conformation.

A joined 26 month-old Nindethana Ivana (P) sold for \$5000. She was 33 weeks incalf and is a daughter of Bryvonlea Malachi (S) from a Nindethana female family

She was offered by Bronwyn Betts, Nindethana Stud, Camp Mountain, and was bought over the telephone by the Closeburn Partnership, Grenfell, NSW.

Volume buyer was Ken Steven, Banana, who finished with seven unjoined heifers to average \$2678.

Sale committee president Graham Brown said the prices achieved at the 2018 sale were in line with previous sales, although the clearance of 79% was slightly back on previous results.











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## MAGS Defies the Dry with Record \$7720 Average

- By Jessica Johnston

Confidence in the cattle market was on display with the annual MAGS bull sale in November at Charters Towers deemed a success despite the ongoing dry conditions.

Bidding was strong with buyers from across Queensland, with 98 bulls sold to gross \$756,500 to reach a record average of \$7720 with an 89% clearance rate.

Lamont Quicksilver 761 (P) from vendors Mac and Gayle Shann, Lamont Stud, Cantaur Park, Clermont, attracted attention as soon as he entered the ring.

He topped the sale at \$35,000 with Eric and Lyn Slack-Smith, of Gladevale Station between Julia Creek and Richmond the winning bidders.

The 26-month-old son of Lamont Influx (S) entered the ring weighing 868kg, had an eye muscle area of 146cm<sup>2</sup> and a scrotal circumference of 43cm.

Mr Slack-Smith said Quicksilver caught his eye for his structure and temperament.

"Structurally he's very correct, very good on top, very good underline, his temperament was excellent. There really was very little wrong with him," Mr Slack-Smith said.

"I use them to put over some high-grade red Brahman cows, soften them up a bit.

"This bull's not huge but the cows are pretty big, so they'll complement one another."

Mr Shann said he was very happy with the result.

"We're very happy with the top price bull. I thought that was about what he was

"We sold some bulls in Rocky earlier in the year, a brother to him for \$32,000 so it's great to get that similar money up here.

"Gayle and I are really trying to breed a really good beef animal for the northern and central area. We try to pride ourselves on breeding quality."

In all, the 54 registered Droughtmaster sires grossed \$457,500 to average \$8470.

The second top selling bull, Lamont Quest 720 (P), also offered by Mac and Gayle Shann, sold for \$28,000 to Lawrence and Pat Hack, Rocklea, Alpha.

The third highest price was \$26,000 for Lamont Qualify 737 (P) purchased by Berry Shann, Suttor Grazing Company, Myall Springs, Collinsville. They purchased nine bulls in total to average \$13,890.

Other volume buyers included Rob Durkin, Kalarah Cattle Company, Beenboona Station, Charters Towers who bought six to average \$7300. Repeat buyer Alan Williams of Riverside Pastoral Company, Nebo, bought five to average \$11,000.

Barrett Grazing, Southern Cross Station, Charters Towers also bought five, to average \$4600.

A total of 32 herd Droughtmaster bulls grossed \$217,000, to average \$6780, with a top price of \$18,000. In total, 86 Droughtmasters grossed \$674,500 to average \$7845. Nine Charolais cross Droughtmaster bulls grossed \$70,000 to average \$7780 with a top of \$12,000. Three Brahman cross Droughtmaster bulls grossed \$12,000 to average \$4000, with a top of \$4000.

The bulls were sold on behalf of four vendors: Mac and Gayle Shann, Lamont Stud, Cantaur Park, Clermont: Hugh and Sherri Philp, Valley Stud, Wyena, Clermont; Kylie Graham and Mat Durkin, Mungalla Stud, Farnham, Taroom and Alison Atkinson, Durack Stud, Frenchville, Rockhampton.

Below: Lamont Quicksilver sold to Eric Slack-Smith, of Gladevale Station, Richmond, who's pictured with Sonia Chalk, PVW Partners Executive.



## Milton Station Weaner Steers a Hot Commodity at CQLX

- By Matt Sherrington

Peter and Desieree Hindmarsh, Milton Station, Boynedale, near Gladstone, have built up an impressive reputation for the quiet Droughtmaster weaner steers they offer at the Gracemere Saleyards (CQLX).

The country at the 2297ha Milton Station, situated near Boynedale, which Peter said they will have owned for eight years in March, has the Boyne River running through it which provides them with close to 1500ha of alluvial river flats running back into steeper breeder country.

In April last year, they also leased 2832ha of Gladstone Area Water Board country for a four year period.

Peter said they are currently running 1260 breeders across both properties, however with the lease country added to the equation they will be trying to work their numbers closer to 1600 head.

"At Milton Station, we also have close to 80ha of cultivation (32ha irrigated) on which we grow hay for the weaners and cereal crops commercially as a secondary source of income," he said.

Peter said while their primary breeding focus is on producing a pure Droughtmaster article, when they purchased the property, close to 250 grey Brahman breeders were included in the sale which have been kept on to be crossbred with their Droughtmaster bulls.

"We decided to chiefly use Droughtmasters in our operation for their temperament and fertility.



Peter Hindmarsh mustering a portion of their 1260 breeder cattle.



#### **COMMERCIAL** (continued)

"Another big advantage of using the breed here is that we don't have to dip them for ticks, we just spray them for Buffalo Fly, whereas if we'd used European cattle, they would have been eaten to bits."

Peter said their bulls are joined with the maiden heifers in August, while the other breeders are put in the paddock in October, with the bulls taken out just before the end of February.

"For the first three years we got a calving rate of around 65%, which we were told was a good figure for the region, but it wasn't good enough for us.

"We began preg testing at weaning time, with breeders that are in-calf getting a shot of Pestigard.

"This practice has really bolstered our calving rates, last year we got a 94% rate for our top paddock and 87% for our worst."

He said their weaner steers are sold through the Gracemere Saleyards in the second week of June at 240kg to 250kg.

"We've developed a good reputation for the weaner steers we offer at the saleyards, with buyers often commenting on their ideal temperament.

"We spend a lot of time with them in the yard and it shows at the sale where we've topped the proceedings on a number of occasions, last year we received \$4.16/kg and in 2017 we were really spoiled and got \$4.36/kg."

He said their cull cows are sold to the meatworks, usually JBS Rockhampton, at close to 600kg liveweight, with the culls determined by age and if they haven't produced a calf in the last year.

Peter said at present they're happy with how their breeding program is running.

"Unless we start constantly producing twins I don't think we can do much better than what we're currently doing," he said with a laugh.

Peter and Desieree ventured to Gracemere for the National Bull Sale for the first time last year where they purchased 14 bulls to diversify the bloodlines within their operation.

"Due to the dry conditions at the time the prices were back a bit from where they probably should have been so we took advantage of that and purchased a few more bulls than we were initially looking at.

"We normally buy bulls from the Hicks family's Billabong Stud at Moura, as we've had great success with them within our operation.

"We like them for their temperament and their higher Bos Indicus content."

Peter said when they're not working their cattle, they enjoy playing lawn bowls, and travelling.

"We have a caravan so when we get to our slow period between June and August we like to get away and explore."



Desieree and Peter Hindmarsh at the annual Monto Cattle and Country Sale Weaner Sale where they won best pen of weaner steers.



The Hindmarsh's sell their weaner steers through the Gracemere Saleyards in the second week of June at 240kg to 250kg.



**△ BRYVONLEA TRESSA LOT 73** 

## NATIONAL FEMALE

**10 Unjoined Heifers BRYVONLEA BHD** Lots 72 to 78 **BRYVONLEA JBH** Lots 119 to 121

Age: 16 to 20 mths

Sires:

**Glenlands Ultimatum Vale View Ripper Medway Urie Skye Wilfred** 



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## Emmaus College and Lake Moogerah Droughtmasters' Partnership Success

Emmaus College is a young school which is relatively new to the show scene but Emmaus agriculture teacher Will Goss said, with keen students, committed teachers and a supply of quality Droughtmaster cattle they're making a name for themselves in their local area.

Emmaus College is a P-12 school in Jimboomba. The cohort of the students vary from kids from in town, and small acreages and properties from the nearby Beaudesert farming region.

Mr Goss said agriculture, which is taught from Year 7 onwards, is showcased across the school with everybody encouraged to join in and experience what it has to offer.

"Students are exposed to the importance of agriculture and have access to learn skills in plant and animal production," he said.

"Highlights of the activities the students are involved in include chicken

production, raising of dairy calves, native bee production, aquaponics, vegetable production and also the making each year of Emmaus wine."

He said at the heart of the agriculture program is a mutually beneficial partnership between Emmaus and Lake Moogerah Droughtmasters.

"The partnership has only been running for two years but they've definitely been very successful years."

Mr Goss said the partnership sees a selection of Lake Moogerah heifers and bull calves go to the college each year for the students to train, prepare and show.

"Emmaus have shown cattle on behalf of Phil and Sue Gutzke (of Lake Moogerah Droughtmasters) at the Boonah, Canungra and Beaudesert shows."

Being a relatively young agricultural school, Mr Goss and fellow agriculture teacher Jenn Bradley said "beneficial industry partnerships like ours with Lake Moogerah Droughtmasters are what makes teaching agriculture worthwhile and fulfilling".

"It provides so many opportunities for our students," Mr Goss said.

The Gutzkes also had great things to say about the partnership.

"We're very supportive of each other. By showing our cattle they help to promote our business and we can help provide the students with the opportunity to experience part of the cattle industry," Mr Gutzke said.

"It's wonderful to be able to help promote future participants and leaders in the primary industries."

Mr Goss said the Droughtmaster cattle are the ideal breed for the program to run as it does. "Their versatility as a combination of Bos Taurus and Bos Indicus is a great



Lake Moogerah Demi and Lake Moogerah Dolly were awarded Champion and reserve Champion Junior females at 2018 Canungra show. Pictured with handlers Andrew Howard and Isaiah Hutchinson.



The Emmaus College show team at 2018 Boonah show. Pictured are Madison McQuinlan, Madison Potts, Jordyn Flaxman, Isaiah Hutchinson, Jarrad Hume, Olivia Christoffel, Jessie Vaak, Andrew Howard.



The Emmaus College show team at 2018 Canungra show. Pictured are Kaysi Lewis, Isaiah Hutchinson, Travis Norman, Jordyn Flaxman, Madison McQuinlan, Madison Potts, Olivia Christoffel, Jarrad Hume, and Andrew Howard

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#### **NEXT GENERATION** (continued)

discussion point in classes and it allows for easier show preparation with their shorter coats.

"They also possess some great structural traits that allows the students to compare animals." He said the opportunity of having the cattle at school a point of difference for the college's curriculum, it also provides the chance for students to express their animal handling skills on the college's show team.

"The show team this year included students from Year 7 to Year 10, each with an eager attitude, a willingness to learn and a drive to do well."

Some of the students have never handled cattle before but the Gutzkes are full of praise for the care and dedication the students show towards their cattle.

"We couldn't be happier with the care and handling that the staff and students have with our cattle," Mr Gutzke said.

We select the young cattle and they do all the hard work – all the training, grooming

Lake Moogerah Delta with handler Jessie Vaak competing at the 2018 Boonah Show.

and preparing is up to them."

It's safe to say that the Gutzkes are very proud to be associated with Emmaus' show team. "We look forward to attending each show and enjoy watching how the cattle mature and change over the season, but the greatest joy is watching the students - how they mature in confidence and self-esteem, how they encourage each other in the ring and how they have some fun in what they are doing as a team."

When asked about how successful the partnership is Ms Bradley simply said "extremely successful".

"2018 was a great year for our little team of six cattle and 13 students," she said.

"We competed in three country shows and achieved some very pleasing results.

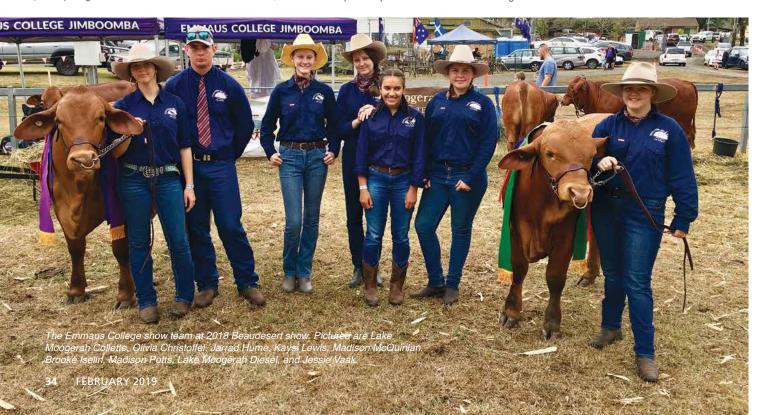
"The cattle stood up against some of the best Droughtmasters in the region and the students competed against handlers who've been working with cattle since they were in nappies."

Ms Bradley said standout cattle this year were Lake Moogerah Colette and Lake Moogerah Diesel, which both collected broad ribbons at various shows.

"By also placing well in exhibitor's group and sire's progeny classes it shows that cattle coming out of Lake Moogerah really do possess traits that allow for successful cattle production."



Sue, Phil and Erin Gutzke, Lake Moogerah Droughtmasters, with Lake Moogerah Collette who was Grand Champion Tropical Cow at the 2018 Canungra show.



### Continuing a Proud Family Tradition at Lisgar

- By Matt Sherrington

Lisgar Station, situated between Bowen and the Burdekin, was purchased by the Rea family in 1961.

Since that time Lisgar has been successfully owned and managed by, originally, Edward and Dorothy Rea, and now by Robert and Donna Rea and their son Robert Jnr who started working full-time on the property in 2013.

The property runs from the Bruce Highway through to the Pacific Ocean with 10 kilometres of beach frontage. The country on Lisgar's 11,000ha has a variety of coastal soil types from coastal marine plains to self-mulching black soils and softer loam flats supporting improved pasture including buffel, urochloa, verano and seca stylos, sirato, large areas of ponded pasture and native couches.

Robert Jnr said Lisgar is the site of the once well-known Bobawaba Races which have drifted into folklore.

"The races are now remembered in song that recognises the importance of our rural

inheritance," he said.

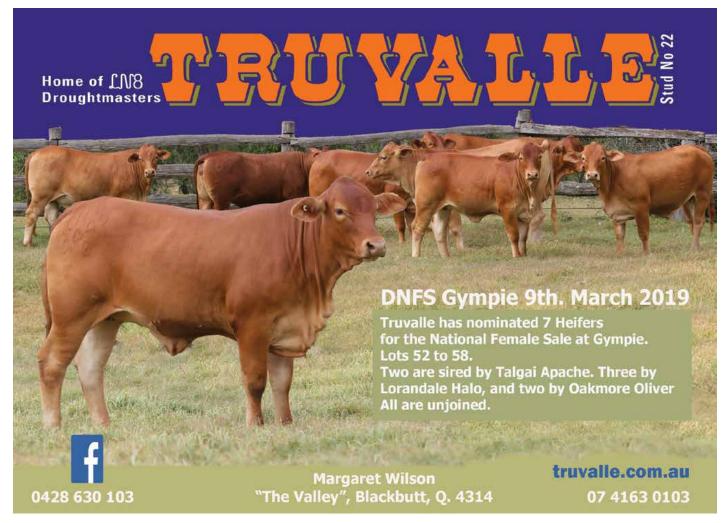
The family are currently running 2400 head of Droughtmaster cattle at Lisgar. Robert Jnr said Droughtmasters have been a part of their core operation since his great grandfather Bob Rea was one of the

two original cattlemen who pioneered the breed, producing the first of the breed type in 1946, and giving it the name Droughtmaster.

"His fundamental process continued with more improvements being gained using



Robert Jnr runs his own Droughtmaster herd at Lisgar in conjunction with his parents, Robert and Donna Rea.



#### **NEXT GENERATION** (continued)

objective measurement, feed conversion ratios, targeting fertility, quicker calving intervals and shorter turn-off times (predating Breedplan) all while producing better performing cattle.

"This acumen and ability was recognised by Bob being issued with the very first Herd Book Certificate No 1 for the then "new" breed in 1957."

Robert Jnr said at present, Lisgar is a breeding and fattening operation using high quality Breedplan recorded Droughtmaster cattle.

"All progeny are being fully performance recorded including parent verification by the 35K SNP technology irrespective of end market, ensuring traceable inheritance for full evaluation.

"The performance recorded bulls are predominantly paddock sales, which are mainly sold by database search or word of mouth which confirms the high value of objective measurement used in our herds."

Robert Jnr runs his own Droughtmaster herd at Lisgar in conjunction with his parents.

"Together we produce Jap Ox bullocks aged 30 months to 36 months which average close to 340kg dressed weight, Jap heifers, which average close to 280kg dressed weight.

"To offset the dry season high quality molasses based supplementation is used to maintain peak efficiency of all herds."

Robert Jnr said examples of the herd's proven performance can be seen in recent beef and carcase competitions in which Lisgar has had a long history of success.

"Lisgar cattle competed in the Northern Beef Producers Day at Charters Towers in mid-2018 gaining first place in the Pen of Five Bullocks (averaged 714kg at twotooth), first in Single Bullock class, first in Pen of Five trade steers in addition to numerous other placings.

"We've also been successful exhibitors at the Mackay Carcase Competition and the Central Queensland Carcase Classic competition in Rockhampton."

Robert Jnr recently travelled to the USA and particularly Texas where he was able to closely observe US production systems and compare them with those at Lisgar.

"This trip in addition to knowledge gained from past and current beef production experiments (Lisgar has a history of scientific co-operation reflecting the generations of the Rea families affinity with progressive management) have all served to enhance my skills and enthusiasm for breeding Droughtmasters, the cattle engineered for our country.

"I take pleasure in hearing and reading the feedback we receive from our repeat bull buyers who, using our bulls, state that they're gaining increases in liveweight, improved fertility and docility, and are generally achieving better fiscal returns."

Robert Jnr said in the future he's looking forward to growing his own business as an adjunct to Lisgar and to be able to continue the family heritage of Droughtmaster production on the property.

"I'm also proud that I am operating as R.Rea and Co, with my own cattle enterprise, in the same way as my great grandfather whose trading name it originally was.

"It also helps that on my rare days off, our proximity to the coast satisfies my keen hobby of fishing and crabbing.



Pictured is the very first Herd Book Certificate No 1 for the then "new" Droughtmaster breed Robert Rea Jnr's great grandfather, and breed pioneer Bob Rea, was issued in 1957, surrounded by a raft of ribbons Lisgar cattle have won over the years.



Robert Rea Jnr said he's looking forward to growing his own cattle business as an adjunct to Lisgar and to be able to continue the family heritage of Droughtmaster production on the property.



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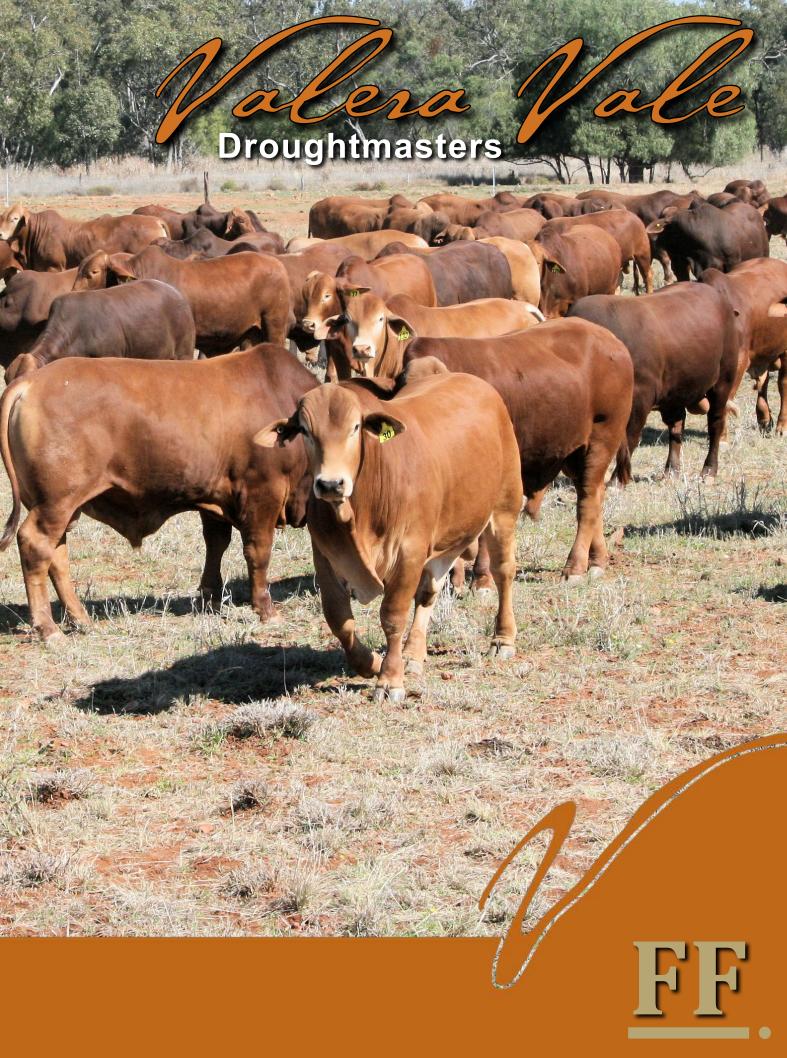








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# **Moving Towards SNP Parentage Verification**

- By Catriona Millen, Southern Beef Technology Services

DNA parentage verification offers beef producers a tool to accurately determine animal parentage and reduce pedigree errors which may otherwise occur.

This article will explore how parentage verification works, the DNA markers that are used for parentage verification, and examine the best way for beef producers to manage the transition from microsatellite to SNP parentage verification.

# HOW DOES PARENTAGE VERIFICATION WORK?

DNA parentage verification works by analysing a series of DNA markers in the progeny and in potential parents.

For each DNA marker, one of the two variants observed in the progeny must have come from the dam and the other from the sire.

Therefore, potential parents can be ruled out if their DNA markers do not match those observed in the progeny. In the example shown in Figure 1, the calf and dam have been genotyped, as have five candidate sires.

For simplicity, five different markers (Markers A, B, C, D and E) are being used.

When we examine Marker A, we can see that the calf has the genotype 'Aa', and the dam has the genotype 'aa'. In this instance, the dam must have passed on 'a' to her calf. Therefore, the 'A' must have come from the sire. Sires 1, 2, 3 and 5 could have passed on an 'A' to the calf, so are

Animal	Marker A	Marker B	Marker C	Marker D	Marker E
Calf	Aa	BB	CC	dd	Ee
Dam	aa	Bb	CC	Dd	EE
Sire 1	AA 🗸	Bb ✓	Cc ✓	dd ✓	EE
Sire 2	Aa 🗸	bb	CC 🗸	DD	ee 🗸
Sire 3	Aa 🗸	BB 🗸	CC 🗸	Dd 🗸	Ee 🗸
Sire 4	aa	Bb ✓	сс	DD	ee 🗸
Sire 5	AA 🗸	Bb ✓	Cc ✓	dd ✓	EE

Figure 1. Parentage verification compares the genotype of a calf against the genotype of its dam and candidate sires. Here, five markers are used to eliminate four of the five sire candidates as the potential sire of the calf.



### **TECHNICAL** (continued)

potential sires of the calf. Sire 4, having the genotype 'aa', could not have passed on an 'A' to the calf, so can be ruled out as a potential sire.

We can then repeat this process for Markers B, C, D and E. For Marker B, the calf has the genotype 'BB', so one 'B' allele must have come from the dam and the other from the sire. Of the five sires, Sires 1, 3, 4 and 5 have a 'B' which they could have passed on to the calf. Sire 2 can be ruled out.

For Marker C, the sire of the calf must have passed on 'C' – once again this rules out Sire 4. Sires 2 and 4 are ruled out yet again at Marker D, where the sire of the calf must have passed on 'd'.

At the end of this process, the only sire left as a potential sire candidate is Sire 3. Note that this process does not "prove" that Sire 3 is the sire of the calf; rather, it does not eliminate him as the sire. In this simple example, five markers were enough to eliminate four of the five sire candidates from contention. In real life situations, many more markers are used to for parentage verification.

For Marker E, the sire of the calf must have passed on 'e', which rules out Sires 1 and 5 as possible sires.

# DNA MARKERS USED FOR PARENTAGE VERIFICATION

The two types of DNA markers that have been used for DNA parentage verification in cattle are microsatellites and Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs).

A microsatellite is a repeat of a particular base pair sequence at a specific location in an animal's DNA. The number of base pair repeats can differ between animals.

Figure 2 shows a CA microsatellite, where animal 1 has three repeats and animal 2 has five. SNPs occur where there is a difference in a single base pair.

This is highlighted in Figure 2 where A is

### Microsatellite

Animal 1: ATGCCACACAATGC

Animal 2: ATGCCACACACACAATGC

### **SNP**

Animal 1: ATGCCACCATGCCAT

Animal 2: ATGCCTCCATGCCAT

Figure 2. There are two types of DNA markers; microsatellites (shown here as a CA repeat) and SNP (shown here as an A/T SNP).



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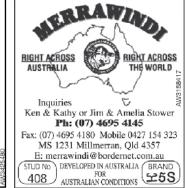
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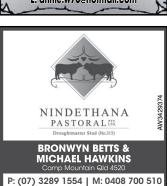
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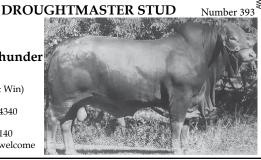
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### **TECHNICAL** (continued)

substituted for T between the animals. Historically, microsatellites were the DNA marker used for parentage verification.

However, SNPs are replacing microsatellites as the genetic marker of choice because of their greater abundance and stability.

The greater abundance of markers means more markers can be included in tests, allowing them to be more powerful and accurate, while the greater stability means the test will remain accurate over many generations.

# TRANSITIONING FROM MICROSATELLITE TO SNP PARENTAGE VERIFICATION

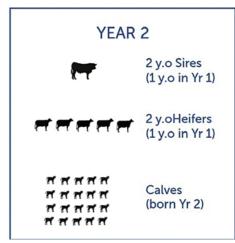
While many beef cattle societies are moving away from microsatellite parentage verification tests to the newer SNP parentage verification test, one limitation to this upgrade is that microsatellites and SNPs are incompatible.

Unfortunately, microsatellite profiles cannot be converted to a SNP profile equivalent. Therefore, animals which require parent verification via DNA need to have the same type of DNA profile as their parents.

In situations where the calf is to be parent verified using a SNP profile, and the parents only have a microsatellite profile, then the parents would need to be re-genotyped to have a SNP profile.

Let us consider the best way to manage the upgrade from microsatellite to SNP parentage verification when full parentage verification is required (both sire and dam), as outlined in Figure 3. In Year 1, all sires

# YEAR 1 All Sires (all ages) All All Sires (all ages) Calves (born Yr 1)



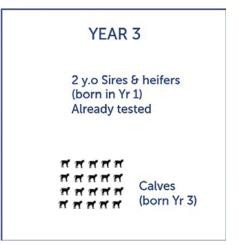
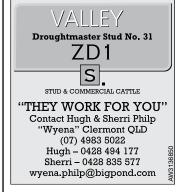
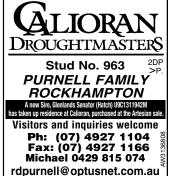


Figure 3. The upgrade from microsatellite to SNP parentage verification can be managed to reduce the number of animals that already have a microsatellite profile and will require retesting to get a SNP profile.

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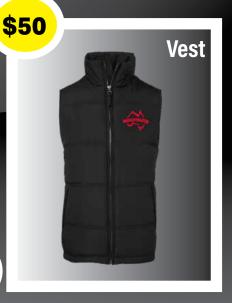
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### **TECHNICAL** (continued)

and dams that have calves born in the Year 1 calving drop should be retested using SNP, as their microsatellite profile will not be compatible with a SNP profile. Their calves could then be parent verified using SNP.

In Year 2, the only parents requiring a SNP profile are the new sires and dams coming into the herd (in this case, 2 year old bulls and 2 year old replacement heifers).

The calves born in Year 2 can then be parent verified using SNP, as their parents would either have a SNP profile on file from Year 1 or have been tested in Year 2.

In Year 3, the 2 year old sires and replacement heifers coming into the herd were born in Year 1, and so already have a SNP profile from when they were parent verified as calves. Therefore, in Year 3 and

beyond, only the new calves would need to have a SNP profile done.

Of course, not all breed societies require full parentage verification. Where only sire verification is required, a similar strategy should be employed.

The only difference would be that the dams would not need to have a SNP profile taken (i.e. only sires and calves would require a SNP profile).

### **SUMMARY**

The process of parentage verification, where a series of DNA markers are analysed in the progeny and potential parents, allows breeders to identify the most likely sire and/or dam of the animal being tested.

While traditionally microsatellite markers have been used for parentage verification,

the newer SNP parentage verification method provides improved accuracy and stability.

In the upgrade from microsatellite to SNP parentage verification, some animals that have previously been tested via a microsatellite profile will need to be retested using a SNP profile.

However, this can be managed effectively to reduce the number of animals that already have a microsatellite profile and require retesting to get a SNP profile.

Should you have any questions on parentage verification, or wish to discuss transitioning from microsatellite to SNP parentage verification, please contact Droughtmaster Society Technical Officers, Paul Williams (0427 018 982) or Tim Emery (0408 707 155).



While traditionally microsatellite markers have been used for parentage verification, the newer SNP parentage verification method provides improved accuracy and stability.

# 2019 Calendar of Events

# **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**

- 07 Bunya Bull Sale, Coolabunia
- 09 Central Reds Sale, Emerald
- 10 The CAP Sale, Rockhamton
- 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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