

# HYRTLLE AND MARIANNE POWLEY

ALLENSLEIGH DROUGHTMASTERS, FOUNDATION STUD.



HYRTLLE AND MARIANNE POWLEY first decided to go into Droughtmasters in the early 1960s. They lived at Allensleigh Station which is about 120km north of Charters Towers in the Basalt Country.

It was around 1962 when a group of cattleman decided to form the Droughtmaster Stud Breeders' Society. Although the breeding program for these cattle had been in progress for around 10 years. Renowned cattleman, Monty Atkinson and Mr Alex Neilson helped Hyrtle start to produce the cattle that they thought would improve the Northern Cattle herd. A suitable breed to cross over the Shorthorn base with a motor that was suitable for the harder conditions of the north. They also bought a bull from Ian Robinson, Albinia Downs, Springsure. As the breeders became more distinctive,

the Australian Droughtmaster Stud Breeders' Society was formed. Other people he often spoke about were Mr Bob Rea (Senior), Noel Perry and Mr Fred Drew to name a few.

Hyrtle was enthusiastic to get the breed going to help Northern Queensland cattleman, so he spent many years on the Board of the Droughtmaster Society as he was passionate about the breed. One of his goals in life was to improve the quality of cattle for northern Australia.

Hyrtle and Marianne's stud cows were quiet, red and polly, and that's what they believed the Droughtmaster should be - very functional cattle. He worked to advertise the breed by taking bulls to different places to sell them and judging at shows.

One of the big adventures was when they took bulls (in 1994?)

to Port Hedland to sell - they enjoyed the friendships made along the way and also seeing how the cattle were performing in other parts of Australia.

Hyrtle also helped to get a Droughtmaster Sponsored Bull Sale going in Charters Towers in the 1980s, which was very successful for many years.

He retired in 2000 and just kept a few cows that he later sold to Roger and Jenny Underwood, Eversleigh & Wallace Vale. He loved to tell stories of his cattle, his horses, his friends and entertain everyone that came to visit him.

Hyrtle passed away 11 January 2022, leaving behind Marianne and a family with connections to the cattle industry.

*Contributed by Hyrtle & Marianne's daughter, Lizette McCamley*