

# JOHN BOYDELL

Secretary/Executive Secretary 1974 - 1995



JOHN BOYDELL JOINED the fledgling Droughtmaster Society as Secretary in 1974 after considerable practical experience with rural pursuits including being brought up on the family farm in the Hunter Valley District of NSW. He then joined the Scottish Australia Co, and worked on properties in North West Queensland as well as the Burnett River area and NSW.



Just prior to John's retirement from the Droughtmaster Society in 1996, a bull sculpture was created by society life member and former president Richard Apel which became the centrepiece of the John S. Boydell Perpetual Trophy. John and Richard are pictured with former society president Bruce Campbell with the trophy.

Following these pursuits, he joined the Queensland Country Life as its North Queensland representative from 1964 - 1974 residing in Townsville, where he came in contact with several of the original pioneers of the Droughtmaster breed and watched its progress from the sidelines for 10 years.

Following a tour of Droughtmaster studs in the far north in 1969 organised by the Society Secretary, Mrs Grace Searl, in association with Monty Atkinson, he was invited to accompany the tour and report on it in QCL. He continued to watch the breed's success and acceptance within the beef industry.

On the resignation of the Society's Field Officer in 1973 John was invited to join as its Secretary but it wasn't until 1974 that he accepted the dual role as Secretary and Field Officer under the title of Secretary where he remained until 1995.

In the Forward to John Boydell's "Putting the 'D' into AAA", by Mr Richard Apel, President 1974 - 1798, remarked:

*His journalist ability made John Boydell a formidable secretary indeed. His connections in the world of journalism were many. He wrote all Society editorials (as well as for members), saw to advertising, negotiated the best rates, wrote and did most of the photography for the Society's Digest. He designed and produced excellent brochures. "Droughtmaster - The Efficient*

*Producer" is a masterpiece as is the Droughtmaster film (made before the days of video); its production instigated by the secretary.*

*Often, weekends (if he wasn't attending one of his beloved Rugby Union matches), found him at the office, working hours far in excess of expectations. John Boydell's greatest contribution to the Society was his dedication and work behind the scenes. He took far-sighted action and responsibility, action that averted many a crisis, action that no one knew about, action that needed to be taken on the spur of the moment. Like all great generals he accepted responsibility for denting the rules irrespective of the consequences, to ensure the advancement of the breed, Droughtmaster.*

In his time at the Society John served under seven presidents and three patrons, Monty Atkinson, Bob Rea and John Stewart-Moore. Secretary for 21 years, John travelled widely promoting the breed in PNG, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and China.

He was a prolific writer and wrote a number of books on the Droughtmaster breed; "Putting the 'D' in AAA - Droughtmaster. Australian for Australians by Australians", 2001 and "Tsunami in the Bulldust"

Mr John Boydell passed away 2017.