

JOHN GARDNER

SUNNYVALE, STUD NO. 111.



President (1998 - 2002)

**Western Zone Director
(1991 - 1997)**

Patron (2017 to current)

DURING A ROUND Australia trip with a mate in 1969 I cold-called into Pioneer Sugar Mills Brahman stud to look at their cattle. Paddy Archer kindly took the time to show us around and then said let me show you these Droughtmasters - one day they will be bigger than Brahmans. Well, we are still trying, although the breed has made great inroads.

Upon returning home I was keen to seek out Droughtmasters in WA only to find no one had even heard of them. I spoke of the breed often and a couple of years later a neighbor arrived with a local rural paper containing a very small advertisement for a Droughtmaster study tour of central Queensland.

My parents offered me a choice of a 21st birthday party or the trip to Queensland.

After the trip I purchased my first stock from Noel Perry, Strathfield Stud and Jack Swan, Swan Stud and so Sunnyvale became stud number 111 established in 1971 at Kojonup in the South West of WA, a predominately merino sheep and British breed cattle area.

The same year John Solomon started Yandee Stud at Toodyay near Perth founded on Richard Apel's Mimosa blood lines, John changed directions and I bought his stock to add to my stud.

It was a long hard road to get the breed accepted. We took them to the Royal Show for many years and Noel Perry and Richard Apel both travelled over to judge my small teams, offering me encouragement and assurances that the breed will be in demand very soon. I was not keen on showing cattle

but in the early days it was the only place I could sell bulls. Once clients came to the farm I stopped showing and over the years we sold bulls and females from the Nullarbor Plains to the Kimberley.

The Society staff and members have always been extremely helpful to me, without them I don't think I would have persevered.

My interest in the Society grew over time and I followed Richard Apel as Western Zone director joining the Board in 1997, acting Chairman 1999, followed by four two-year terms as President retiring in 2008.

I am now retired from breeding cattle but retain a strong interest in the breed and follow it closely.

Contributed by John Gardner