

# RAY AND MOYA HICKS

ALANRAY. FOUNDATION STUD.



Swan Sale: Ray and Moya Hicks at the annual Swan Droughtmaster 1979 with agents Dave Watkins and Alan Ferguson, and Darryl Dent, Gayview Stud

RAY, ALONG WITH his father and brothers, began his journey with the Droughtmaster breed at 'Alanray' Moura, QLD. In the 50's they began using Brahman cattle to cross over the Hereford/Shorthorns mainly to combat the ticks, heat and eye cancer that they lost cattle to way too often, being based in Central Queensland. When the Society was founded, Ray, his father Len, and his brothers started the Alanray Stud with the intention of maintaining more content in the cattle to adapt them to the climate. In 1954 Ray married Moya and in 1966 moved across the road to 'Billabong' with their 3 children, Shane, Madonna and John. Ray spent years travelling around to fellow Droughtmaster breeders' properties classifying females to assist in improving quality and streamlining colour and pigment in the early herds. In 1977 with family taking different directions, Ray and Moya, with their son John, registered their

own stud, Calaanah, which soon after became Billabong Stud. Ray served on the Board as a Central Zone Director from 1977 for several years enjoying his time helping to shape the breed. Ray, Moya with their son and daughter-in-law, John and Catherine, travelled across Queensland selling bulls at up to 10 sales a year before deciding to start their own on-property sale with the Childs family, Glenlands stud, selling 200 bulls a year. They went solo in 2001 and continued to have their own sale until 2013. In 2014 Ray and Moya retired to Moura leaving John and Catherine running the Billabong stud and commercial operation still based at 'Billabong' Moura. After 67 years of marriage Ray and Moya's family has grown with 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren and still enjoy inspecting the cattle and keeping up with the latest news in the breed.



Ray & Moya Hicks: Ray and Moya celebrating their 65th Wedding Anniversary in 2019