

# ROBERT (BOB) REA

(1914 - 1994)

KIRKNIE, FOUNDATION STUD. Patron: 1986 - 1994



ONE OF NORTH Queensland's most respected cattlemen, Robert (Bob) Rea, founder of the

*Kirknie Droughtmaster herd near Home Hill, was without peer.*

*This quiet spoken practical figure set about his endeavour to produce a breed suitable for the environment at Kirknie on the southern bank of the lower Burdekin River in 1946, and he was without equal in knowledge of livestock genetics learnt the hard way.*

*Bob was a member of the Zebu-Cross Beef Cattle Breeders' Association from its inception in 1952 and served on various committees through the changes of name to the Australian Tropical Beef Breeders' Association in 1956, onto the Droughtmaster Stud Breeders' Society in 1962. He served in various capacities until 1975.*

*He took the Droughtmaster and Kirknie name to the Smithfield markets in London in 1959 with his champion K Wagon\* class carcasses where final judging took place on the hook. In 1962 Kirknie won the K Wagon class with an exceptional score. As early as 1964 Kirknie Droughtmasters had won five out*

*of seven K Wagon competitions run in conjunction with Townsville Show and sponsored by Queensland Meat Export Co. who processed the carcasses after the hoof judging at the show, then displayed them for public inspection before shipping them off to London for the final judging.*

*Following those early days Kirknie Droughtmasters dominated prime cattle and carcass competitions. In recognition of his contribution to the beef cattle industry of north Queensland the Beef Cattle Classic incorporated a Bob Rea Memorial Carcass Competition.*

*In 1986 he was appointed Patron of the Society following the passing of Monty Atkinson, a position he held until his own death in 1994. Throughout his involvement with the Droughtmaster breed he was supported by his wife Mrs Dorothy (Dos) Rea. Bob was made an Honorary Life Member of the Society in 1973.*

*\*The K Wagon class was for 18 prime cattle based on the well known rail wagon.*

Extract from Droughtmaster, Putting the 'D' in AAA by John Boydell, 2001.

