

THOMAS E. BOOTH

GLENRAY, FOUNDATION STUD.



ONE OF THE Droughtmaster society's most colourful eccentrics, Thomas E. Booth produced a remarkable strain within the breed that had a profound impact on success for many commercial cattle operations in the Gulf of Carpentaria beginning in the 1950's.

In 1960 Tom forecast that following the achievements by Droughtmaster cattle, it must be apparent to all thoughtful cattlemen that a new era had dawned for stud cattle breeding. Groups of cattlemen the world over would in future shape their cattle

to their particular environment as opposed to the idea of attempting to force cattle to like or otherwise lump environmental conditions totally unsuitable for them.

Tom was one of Australia's likeable rascals with boundless energy who would expound his theories on genetics without taking breath nor listen to any alternative argument, but his dream to evolve a breed to suit his conditions in the wet tropics at Daintree was an unusual achievement that provided an alternative means to an end for his line of Droughtmaster.

Tom was an inveterate advocate for line-breeding and his closed herd of Droughtmaster cattle was an ultimate feature of the Glenray stud. He claimed 25 percent of his bull calves were used as sires for one year and the stud made steady progress. (This was as far back as 1962).

Tom passed on in 1987 and unfortunately a chapter in the history of Droughtmaster closed when the stud breeding program was closed in 1988.

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