

# VAL AND NEIL EVANS

BALCARA STUD NO. 86.



Receiving Droughtmaster Society Life Membership, Val and Neil Evans, Balcara, Ma Ma Creek, with Mrs Carli McConnel, past Society Vice-President, 2006

NEIL AND HIS brother Douglas (both now deceased) were dairy farmers selling cream to the Grantham Butter Factory when it was announced that the factory was going to close as the upgrade to sell milk would be far too expensive. So, they bought a Hereford bull and sold weaners and vealers to the local butchers, but ticks were a big problem with hairy coated cattle.

Neil had been reading about Droughtmaster cattle and was very impressed with all that he had heard, so they decided that they would become Stud Breeders and Balcara Stud No. 86 was registered in 1969. They went to the Charraboon dispersal and bought 1 bull, 1 cow in calf and

2 heifers - Vet School, Mimosa and Akeringa cattle later.

Neil and I were married 12/4/75. I grew up on a dairy farm and I soon learnt a lot about Droughtmasters - Neil was a good teacher. Besides reading books and newspaper clippings we went to shows. Neil and I showed cattle for many years, winning many Champions. Doug didn't want the Stud after Neil's passing in 2007 so I now have it and the property always will be known as Balcara.

After the Droughtmaster Shed was built at the Farmfest site, Neil and I started taking cattle to Farmfest. I always enjoyed showing the different stud cattle of other

studs in the shed to visitors, plus making cuppas for them as well as baking biscuits, slices and cake.

The Droughtmaster Futurity started in 1986. Since that time 36 Futurity shows have been held at the Gatton Showgrounds, which has provided a good learning experience for many young members. We were awarded Life Membership in 2006 at the Futurity - we were very honoured and proud.

I think Droughtmaster cattle are wonderful and I enjoy going to the Bull and Female Sales - and buying a bull when I have to replace an older one.

*Contributed by Mrs Val Evans*