

WALLY KING

KENGOON, FOUNDATION STUD.

A NAME INDELIBLY etched in Droughtmaster history is Kengoon that promoted the breed near and far during developmental and troubled times 1959 - 94.

Its founder and staunch Droughtmaster supporter WH (Wally) King took the breed to extended heights of acceptance because of his standing and respect by his peers within the beef cattle industry and his positive thinking and willingness to physically promote the breed at every opportunity.

Wally was born in Longreach but grew up at Walkege near Hughenden, from where he branched out into a successful pastoral career of his own when he acquired Pialah near Richmond in the 1930s. Kengoon the home property at Kalbar was bought in 1945. In 1949 he bought Torsdale, where he bred the renowned Torsdale Hereford bulls. It was about this time that King Ranch began selling imported stock at Risdon, Warwick, but neither Santa Gertrudis nor Brahman cattle interested Wally King. He instead bought the first Africander bulls made available from the CSIRO, Belmont Research Station in 1959 that were mated with Poll Shorthorn and Devon cows. Professor John Francis, Vet School stud, persuaded Mr King to nominate the progeny of the Africander mating for inclusion in the Droughtmaster Herd Book. This was the beginning of a new chapter in early breed history with the introduction of the Afro prefix to the Society membership (which was then changed to Kengoon in the 70s).

The name Kengoon enhanced the Droughtmaster image through during the Beef recession years of 1974 - 1978 and through the 1980s when the stud flew the flag continuously with large show and sale teams. The breed was promoted by Kengoon from the Sydney Royal Easter Show to Cairns in far north Queensland on a number of occasions and to all points west to Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin shows, returning for the Brisbane Royal and RNA Exhibition. This mammoth energetic outward approach to breed promotion under the guidance of studmaster Mary Lewis should never be forgotten.

Mr King was recognised by the Society for this dedication and influence in breeding and promoting Droughtmaster cattle. His career came to an end at age 90 in September 1991 but his name lives on with a trophy formerly known as the Kengoon Stud Trophy now recognised as the W.H. King Memorial Trophy awarded at the Brisbane Royal Show for the grand champion Droughtmaster bull, donated by the King family.



Grand Champion bull Brisbane Royal 1991, Mimosa Julius (P) c November 1989, s. Sunny View Julian, d. Mimosa 1409-junior and grand champion bull - being presented with the Kengoon Trophy by Mr W. H. (Wally) King, Kengoon stud, Kalbar with the judge Mary Lewis holding the sash. The Kengoon trophy is now the W. H. King Memorial trophy donated in his memory by his family.



Rob Atkinson (right) presenting trophies to W. H. (Wally) King (left) Kengoon stud - most successful exhibitor at Gympie Feature Show 1983 - with John Boydell (centre).

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