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Brahman News
MARCH 2015

Editorial

Your attendance at our BIN/Progeny Test Field Day on March 24, at the Banana Station Four Mile Yards is strongly recommended.

We will have the No 3 steers on display drafted into sire groups. They are booked to be slaughtered on April 15 and April 21 and are looking very good.

Also on display will be the No 2 cows and their second calves as well as the No 4 steers also drafted into sire groups.

We will be presenting data on the first and second joinings of the No 2 heifers, first joining of the No 3 heifers as well as growth, carcase scan and ovarian scan data on the No 4 heifers.

Carcase and meat science data on the No 2 steers slaughtered last year will also be presented. Growth and carcase scan data on the No 4 steers will also be presented.

The importance of the BIN data to our ability to capitalise on the benefits of genomics is becoming more evident as time goes on.

In the future I believe genomics will:

• Be cheaper
• Will explain more of the genetic variation in a trait than present
• Will be able to cover a wider range of traits
• Will have a higher accuracy

To do this however we will continue to need to collect high quality phenotypic data such as we are collecting in our BIN project and across all of the traits on which we want genomics to deliver Direct Genomic Values.

We are a long way ahead of our competitors at present and we will need to think about how we can stay there.
Well, 2015 is off to a good start with a much improved cattle market, and good falls of rain in most parts. Unfortunately there are still some areas that have missed out on the rainfall. Cyclone Marcia has put a lot of pressure on many people around Yeppoon and Rockhampton areas, but has delivered good rain for a lot of people in the Central Queensland, Burnett and South East Queensland areas.

The cattle market has hit record highs but not before time. Brahman cattle have certainly held their own in the market, and we look forward to continued market stability for some time yet.

The BIN project continues to roll on and the season and prices have really worked in the project’s favour. The number 3 steers, from all reports, are going very well. The great season at Banana Station has worked in our favour, and now we will apply pressure to our good friend Matthew Noakes to get us a premium price. Scanning of females and collection of carcass data continues. There is a field day scheduled for 24th March at Banana Station, to be held at the Four Mile yards. This will give those in attendance a chance to see more of this famous station.

The World Congress committees are in full swing, with pre-congress tours currently being organised, conferences planned and the prime and stud cattle show programs almost finalised. With our trip to Houston Livestock Show being a great opportunity to promote the Congress, we will certainly be taking plenty of promotional brochures and will do our best to sell the Congress to the many international visitors we are sure to meet there. With the large number of Aussies attending, I am sure we will all do a great job promoting our 2016 World Brahman Congress.

Sandra and I had the privilege of travelling to the Philippines to attend the Federation of Cattle Raisers Associations of the Philippines Congress, held in Bacolod City. I made a presentation on Tropical Herd Management. The majority of attendees at the Congress were “backyard cattle raisers”, who run a few head on a very small area. The Congress was held to teach these people the importance of good nutrition and genetics. It hit home, just how difficult life can be for these people, but we were amazed that they seemed mostly very happy people. Sandra has written an article on the trip printed in this journal.

The Big Country Sale in Charters Towers this year was a great success, considering the seasonal and market conditions. However, there was a break in the dry season for a lot of areas just prior to the sale, and a kick in the cattle market, which were certainly positive factors for the outcome of the sale. It was nice to see such confidence return and was a good result for our breed. Congratulations to Lanes Creek Brahman Stud for achieving top price for both red and grey bulls at the sale – a commendable effort. Also congratulations to Ken McCaffery and his team for a stellar effort once again, making Big Country Sale a highlight of the sale calendar year. It was unfortunate however, that the February sale was quite tough in places, but went well for some vendors, from all accounts. There are some very good female sales looming, and I wish the vendors good luck.

Our next major event for the year will be at Beef Expo, where ABBA will have the compound and tent. There will also be many individual stud displays. We have some great things planned for Expo and know that it will be a great meeting place for Brahman enthusiasts from around the world. I wish you all much success if you are competing in the sale or show ring, or displaying in the pens. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Shane Bishop
It has been a tumultuous start to the year, with Category 5 cyclone, Marcia, crossing the Central Queensland coast in February, and Category 4 Tropical Cyclone Lam hitting the north-east Arnhem Land region of the Northern Territory in the same week.

On the positive side, there was no loss of life and heavy rain was received across wide areas, bringing a welcome outlook for winter grazing in coastal regions of Queensland. Sadly, areas in the north west of the state and as far south as Longreach are still looking for decent falls.

Cyclone Marcia forced some delays in cattle processing, causing storm-induced disruptions to kills at Teyes Australia’s plants in Rockhampton and Biloela, and at the JBS plant in Rockhampton which suffered some damage.

In 2015 both prime and store prices have been at record levels due to a number of factors. These include the lower Australian dollar (around 78c at the time of writing), a shortage of cattle due to drought conditions, increased demand from the US because of climatic conditions and their falling beef herd, and higher Asian demand for our beef.

Prices for export cattle have also remained strong, making good rates in February. Slaughter steers destined for Indonesia ex-Townsville were selling for 240c/kg and feeder steers for 235c, while steers ex-Darwin were making 270c/kg, and feeder heifers 250c.

Exporter Fraser Macfarlane, Flinders International, said the potential for more live exports to Thailand was on the rise following the December 2014 signing of an export protocol on animal health certification requirements for live feeder and slaughter cattle.

Mr Macfarlane said discussions between the Australian and Thai governments had commenced close to 10 years ago, but had received a more concerted focus over the past three years due to demand issues.

He said rising beef consumption in Thailand, increased exports of Thai cattle to China, and a previous switch from ranching due to higher cropping prices had seen the Thai beef herd reduce in recent years.

He expects demand to rise slowly, as it will take time for small to medium sized operators in the supply chain to gain compliance with the agreed export standards for animal welfare.

“We had a load 1300 head leave Darwin today (27 February) and they were mainly feeder steers and heifers and a few slaughter bulls,” Mr Macfarlane said.

Another barrier to entry is the price of landing feeder cattle in Thailand on parity with local cattle which sell for 110 Baht/kg or around AUD $4.35 for slaughter steers.

“We need to show them that our cattle are better performing, which will make them more valuable, but this will take time and I expect progress will be steady.”

Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, said industry estimates forecast 30,000 head would go to Thailand this year.

“Now it is over to exporters to establish Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) arrangements to support appropriate animal welfare outcomes in this new market,” Mr Joyce said.

A roundup of saleyard prices follows and it’s good to see both bullocks and cows topping the $1000 a head mark at various centres throughout the state. If you have any news about high prices in your local area please email me at wagtallmedia@bigpond.com

NORTH QLD

SARINA

Selling in the North Queensland centre kicked off strongly in 2015. One highlight was $1010/hd for heavy Brahman steers from local vendor PB Grazing. The Connelly family, Koumala, offered 18-month-old Brahman steers which went for $710. Eight-month-old red Brahman steers from Keith Perry, Braeside, Nebo sold for $510. David Schatkowski, Sarina Range, also offered red Brahman steers, with his top pen making $540.

Twenty-month-old heifers from Owen Storey, Koumala realised $730, and 18-month-old grey heifers offered by Ray and Colleen Zammit, Mount Ossa, realised $700.

At the Hayes and Co store sale on 21 February the market was slightly easier on the previous week’s result. Tony Connelly, Hay Point received $700 for his 18-month-old Brahman heifers.

CHARTERS TOWERS

Charters Towers Combined Agents yarded a total of 1854 head of prime and store cattle on 11 February, with most selling to a firmer market.

Quality bullocks sold to just over 240c/kg and cows up to 220c/kg. Bullocks and heifers were quoted as being 20c/kg dearer and cows were 25-30c dearer than the last sale in 2014.

Topping the prime bullock market at 240.2c/kg was a Brahman bullock from All Souls School, Charters Towers. It weighed 550kg to return $1321.

A good line of No. 3 store steers from the Mt Garnet area met strong demand, going for up to 220c/kg.

CENTRAL QLD

GRACEMERE

Fenech Grazing, Craigleigh, Wowan offered aged EU-accredited cows at the 23 January prime sale. Their top pen sold for just over 237c/kg, weighing 588kg to return an excellent $1395/hd.

Stormy weather affected numbers at the 30 January sale, with 2550 head yarded, the majority being steers. The market for all meatworks cattle was strong across the board, as were prices for feeder cattle and quality stores.

A line of 140 No. 4 steers from Bar H at Ogmore sold extremely well. They averaged 303kg over the scales and were knocked down for 249c/kg to make $755/hd.

Kearin and Beth Streeter, Marlborough, received $1023/hd for their 3 red Brahman steers which went for 252c/kg and weighed in at 405kg.

Grey Brahman heifers from Gavin Ware, Calliope sold to a top of 232c/kg, weighing 433kg to return $1007/hd.

John Roche and Lisa Wallace, Wieta, Middemount marketed No. 3 steers and heifers. Their 414kg feeder steers returned $1031/hd (249c) and their 367kg heifers went for 237c/kg.

Large framed Brahman cows with calves at foot were snapped up for a healthy $1440 a unit. The good quality breeders were offered by the Pelling family, Theodore.
A well presented yarding of 4065 head went under the hammer on 6 February. Buyers competed well and rates remained strong, with only a slight easing of prices from the previous week’s sale.

Day Grazing, Marylands, St Lawrence offered 72 No. 2 grey Brahman steers, weighing 442kg. They went for 243c/kg to return $1075/hd. Joe and Rachael Olive Nullegai, Marlborough, presented a quality line of 250 No. 3 Brahman and Brahman-cross steers. They topped at 250c/kg, weighing 352kg to return $800/hd. The Olive’s 303kg No. 4 steers averaged $708/hd or 234c/kg.

Suttor Creek Pastoral marketed a line of 200 No. 3 Brahman and Brahman cross heifers, weighing 327kg. They peaked at 235c to return $656/hd.

No. 3 red Brahman steers from Max and Hillary Gunthorpe, Namoi Hills, Dingo sold extremely well. The 436kg steers made $1 132/hd at 260c/kg.

Fenech Grazing Co, Wowan, received 251c/kg or $1090/hd for their 434kg Brahman feeders steers.

Prices eased at the 13 February sale which presented 4440 head including 2000 heifers. Billy Gabel and family, Wowan, marketed 394kg No. 3 grey Brahman heifers which made $863/hd at 219c/kg.

BLACKALL

The 5 February Blackall Prime and Store Sale saw record prices due to intense competition from processors and the arrival of rain in the region. E. and J. Otto, Minnamoora, Jericho offered 594kg Brahman cows, which went for $1332 or 224c/kg. The O’Dell family, Toarbee, Jericho received $950/hd (205c) for their 463kg Brahman cows.

G. and J. Bambling, Glenavon, Aramac offered 586kg bullocks at the 12 February sale. They went for $1350/hd at 230c/kg, while the 521kg Glenavon cows sold for 192c/kg to realise a touch over $1000/hd.

CLERMONT

Michael Borg and family, Calveston offered 573kg cows at the late-February sale. They sold for $1140/hd at 199c/kg.

SOUTH QLD

ROMA

The 19 February prime sale yarded 968 head including 544kg Brahman cows from Hartley Grazing, Mitchell. They went for 198c/kg or $1078/hd. Brahman cows from the Bell family, Alcurah Creek, Roma sold for 195c/kg, weighing 553kg to return $1080.

That week’s store sale offered 6460 head, with Mildura Grazing Co, Mildura, Barcaldine trucking in a line of 236kg Brahman steers. They were knocked down for 250c/kg, returning $591/hd. Mildura’s 316kg heifers sold for $678/hd at 214c/kg.

GIN GIN

The February cattle show and sale attracted 780 head, with prices easing slightly for steers but rising for heifers. The champion pen was awarded to No. 3 Brahman steers from N. McEvoy, which sold for $970/hd. The reserve champion pen was Brahman weaner steers from M. and T. Dingle. They sold for $650/hd.

The Hunter family offered a pen of Brahman weaner steers, which sold well, going for $600/hd.

LAIDLEY

The Stariha Auctions cattle sale on 5 February was strong for all types. Colinton Pastoral received $930 for its four tooth Brahman heifers. At the 19 February sale Brahman cows offered by Milan Kujita, Summerholme, attracted $1040/hd.

MORETON

The Jackson family, Kalbar, offered 307kg yearling heifers at the Moreton sale on 10 February. They made $707/hd at 230c/kg.

Dennis and Yvonne Panzram, Peak Crossing offered 506kg steers at the 24 February sale. They were knocked down for 229c/kg, realising $1161/hd.

DALBY

Brahman breeders the Sorley family, Rockies, Bell sold vealer heifers for $558 (224c) at the mid-February sale.

MONTO

Monto Cattle and Country’s sale on 18 February assembled 1050 head of prime and store cattle. Simon Stanhope received 215c/kg or $1200/hd for his 557kg Brahman bullocks. Trade steers from P. and J. Gardiner went for 217c/kg, weighing $101kg to return $1106/hd.

Four tooth feeder steers, 416kg, went for 180c/kg or $750/hd. F. and C. Younger offered a quality run of No. 3 grey Brahman steers weighing 370-400kg. They averaged $790 and 206c/kg.

TOOWOOMBA

Thanks to George and Margaret Miller, Milldale, Mt Whitestone for letting me know about a sale highlight. Back in September 2014 they sold 635kg Brahman steers at the Landmark Toowoomba sale for the top price of 210c/kg or $1334/hd.
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John Joyce - Email: jonjoyce@bigpond.com
I must admit that it was with quite some reservation that I agreed to join Shane, when he asked if I would like to join him on a trip to the Philippines. He was going to represent ABBA and make a presentation at the 2015 Cattle Congress, being held in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. This function was being organised by the Federation of Cattle Raisers Associations of the Philippines (FCRAP), in co-operation with the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental, through the Provincial Veterinary Office. Shane was to make a presentation on Tropical Herd Management.

I had not travelled to an Asian country before, and was even more concerned when logging on to register with Smartraveller, when the warnings came up regarding potential kidnapping, and terrorist activity. However, our fears were put to rest by John Croaker, who assured us we would be well catered to, and safe with the locals, and he was very correct.

On landing at Manila airport, we picked up our luggage and moved on to Customs, which was 2 small desks, near the front door of the airport. We handed over our paperwork and waited for any further questions, only to be told to move on. It was the simplest customs check we had ever encountered. Then, we headed out of the airport to catch our ride to the motel. It was like all hell had broken loose. There were people everywhere, cars and buses whizzing past, and what seemed like absolute chaos. “You want Taxi, you want Taxi” was repeated over and over as we walked through the crowd. We started replying with a very polite “no thank you”, but after about the 37th time, our reply became a little shorter and sharper. If we thought the airport was chaotic, we were about to experience a whole new thrill – the Manila traffic. WOW. No marked lines, no traffic lights, no stop or give way signs. The only form of traffic control we saw, was a policeman standing very bravely at a busy intersection, with what looked like one of those inflatable hands, with the index finger up, that you see at the cricket here, but in flouro green, and the only rule seemed to be toot your horn and push in where possible. However, we made it safely past the armed guard, whose machine gun was almost bigger than him, and into our motel. After a restful night, we had time in the morning to go into the adjoining Casino and past the very expensive looking shopping mall, all part of the motel. I have never seen so many pokie machines in one place and was amazed at the number of people, mostly very young, gambling at the tables at 8.30 am. By the time we left at 9.00 am, there was quite a crowd starting to stream in.

Adrian Badilla and his cousin Ralph kindly picked us up at the motel and took us to the airport for our next flight to Bacolod. Adrian said they had to collect us quite early as Wednesday was a very big Church day, when many worshippers inundated the city, causing even more traffic problems. Going past a lot of construction work amazed us. There were men high on the scaffolding, wearing thongs and no hat of any kind. Workplace Health and Safety would be very busy in the Philippines. Adrian told us that the average wage for those men would equate to $12-$14/day.

Flying south towards Bacolod, the scenery from the plane was absolutely beautiful. Looking down, you could see the rice paddies, the fish farms, the amazing little islands surrounded by white sand and...
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beautiful teal green water, the rainforest mountains and the patchwork quilt type appearance of the flat open fields on the larger islands. There are 7000 islands that make up the Philippines, and we were later told, jokingly, that there are 8000 at low tide. On those 7000 islands, there are over 100,000,000 inhabitants, and growing. The Philippines government is now financially rewarding families that only have very small families, to try and reduce the growing population.

We were met at the Bacolod airport by Billy Badilla and Martin Gomez, directors on the board of FCRAP. Our trip in from the airport was great, seeing buffalo carts in the cane fields, carting the cane that had been cut by hand, to the trucks waiting on the side of the road, where the bundles of cane were loaded by hand as well. Each bundle was carried up a ladder to the tray of the truck and loaded individually. The way these trucks were loaded was a work of art.

We arrived at the motel to meet many more who were attending the Congress. Here, we were introduced to Randy Favis, who is the current secretary for FCRAP. Randy announced that he had a confession for Shane and nervously handed him the booklet that had been printed for the Congress. Inside, along with the program, advertising, and messages from Government officials, was a brief CV for each speaker at the Congress. Randy handed Shane the booklet, open at the page where his story was. There was a very quiet period, while Shane read his CV. There had been a misprint in the paragraph about Shane and he had been given the title of Doctor of Veterinary Medical Science Ph.D., from the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Sapporo, Japan. Shane looked up at Randy, who seemed fairly apprehensive about his reaction, and told him that he had been called many things in his life, but never Doctor, and he was very pleased with the promotion, and would now demand more respect when he returned home. There were hoots of laughter as the joke gained momentum. For the rest of our stay, Shane was referred to jokingly, as Doctor.

The following day, there was a local conference, so we had the morning free. Martin organised for a vehicle and driver to take us for a tour of the city. We asked if it would be safe to visit a wet market, so that was our first stop. What an experience. We pulled up in front of a very large roofed area, on what looked like a main street, and ventured in with Bon Bon as our guide. At first, we passed stalls selling terracotta pots, straw brooms and all sorts of bric-a-brac, then as we got further in, we came across the meat stalls. There were rows of tile top benches, where each merchant sold his produce. I have not seen so many sharp knives and meat cleavers in one place before, and was feeling a little daunted. “You Aussie?”, we were asked many times, and given a beaming smile when we replied. We stopped to look at some beef hanging above the bench and the owner of the stall came out to show us the cuts, which he was still working on. It was great listening to him explain each cut, however, disappointing for the owner when we could not buy the rib fillet he had just shown us for the last 10 minutes. When we explained we were staying at a motel, he was more than happy to pose for a photo with us. The people in here all greeted us with a smile and were more than willing to have a photo taken with us. There were all sorts of meat, including beef, pork, chicken and buffalo, and every piece of those animals was offered for sale. There is not one bit of the animal wasted, even down to the gut lining, which was hanging from a hook above our heads. It was explained to us, that each merchant would kill their beast the night before, then bring the carcass to the market, where they started cutting up.
Philippines Cattle Raisers Congress Report

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Usually they would work most of the night. Billy told us that the Filipino people love to touch and feel the meat, and like it to still be warm when they purchase it from the market. Each day, people come to the market and buy their fresh meat and vegetables for the day’s meals, as there is no refrigeration to keep it, at most dwellings. At many of the stalls, there were long thin plastic bags full of fluid, hanging from a beam above the counter. These were full of oils or flavoured vinegars mostly, to add flavour to the dishes. The flavoured vinegars were mostly used to pour over the rice that is served with every meal, or to dip the meat into.

From the meat market that was under cover, we went outside to see the stalls in a long alley way. The fruit and vegetables were amazing, and same as the meat, not a part of the plant is thrown away. One lady was shaving the trunk of the banana trees, which would be added to a dish. Also, the trays of beautiful large white eggs, where on occasion, you would see a tray of purple eggs. These apparently were salted eggs and a favourite of the people. Outside in this alley, we were able to get a photo in a stall where there were three women and a young toddler attending the stall. Four generations, who were a little camera shy at first, but were happy to let us into their stall and pose with us for a photo eventually. A bit further down, we stood and watched a young man butchering the head of a marlin, still being cut up. We were glad to get through there and back through the meat market, where as we left, most smiled and waved goodbye to us.

From here, we entered another section under roof, which was the fish market. The smell was overwhelming. There was every type of fish, from dried to fresh, from 1 inch long to the foot cross section of a blue marlin, still being cut up. We were glad to get through there and back through the meat market, where as we left, most smiled and waved goodbye to us.

The streets of Bacolod were lined with small stalls everywhere, selling their wares, usually some type of food. There are stalls that are filled with cooking pots, where you can purchase your “takeaways”, and at one point we passed a pig on a spit on the very side of the main road. Billy explained that once cooked, it would only last maybe 2 hours before it was all sold. In a country comprising 7000 islands, with over 100,000,000 people using 80 different dialects, where there is a large pork and chicken industry, which are the most eaten meats in the Philippines. Meals there, are served with a spoon and fork, as most meals are small cuts of beef and vegetables, cooked and served with a lot of sauce, which is where the beautiful flavours are. A rib fillet steak served with vegetables is a rarity reserved for the higher end restaurants. Still however, the average price of meat here is 475 PHP, equating to approximately $11/kg.

From our visit to the wet market, we went to the other end of the spectrum and visited a newly established shopping mall, built by the Chinese company SM. You could not believe the contrast. This mall was magnificent, with armed security at the entrance. Martin wanted us to visit the new supermarket here so we could really compare the differences. This supermarket would put our best to shame. The displays were magnificent and a lot of the fruit and vegetables were individually vacuum wrapped. We headed down to the meat section, only to have the first thing we see, a fridge with a big sign above, saying “Angus Beef”. Shane was devastated, but rallied well when we got around the other side of the fridge to see the sign on the opposite side, announcing “Aussie Beef”. The meat counter was similar to our supermarkets and all the cuts of pork, lamb, beef etc, were beautifully presented.

We were then to meet our hosts at a restaurant, where the Governor of the Province was joining us all for lunch, along with many other local dignitaries. Governor Alfredo Maranon is a great supporter of the developing meat industry. He is a man of the people, from our observations, and seemed very excited to have the Congress in his area. The basis for this meeting, was to assist the “backyard cattle raisers”, and to try and develop the livestock industry so it would be second only to the sugar industry in this area. The backyard farmers in this region are an average age of 65-70 years old, so members of FCRAP are hoping to encourage the younger generation into becoming more involved.

After lunch, we were taken on a tour of a large local dairy enterprise, that also had large cane fields, beef cattle, goats and fruit trees. This enterprise produced their own marketable products, mainly sweets made from the fruit and milk from the cows and goats. We visited the dairy, where the yards are mostly built from bamboo poles, as were most of the yards we saw. Martin believes that the breeding program here needs to be able to produce a dual purpose animal – dairy cross beef. This way, the owners of the animal can milk the animal, and then slaughter it when needed. However, he did explain that it is difficult to teach the Filipino people to drink milk, as they largely drink softdrink and coffee. If they could produce the milk, maybe there would be an offset industry from that to create employment and more wealth for the area. As we were leaving, we came across a young man who was ripping between the rows of young cane plants, using a crossbred buffalo pulling a single tine hand plough. Can you even imagine asking somebody to do that here?
FCRAP had organised a free conference for the backyard cattle raisers this day, for which, possibly 500 attended. It was to be an educational day for them, to help them understand the importance of improved nutrition and use of better genetics. FCRAP is the “go-between” body between the people and the Government, who are working on resolutions and outcomes for the benefit of the people, and to further the growth of the industry in the Negros Occidental Province, which is the leading area in the Philippines for production of dairy, pork and poultry.

The Congress, held the following day, would have a small fee applied, and would provide meals for the day. This would ensure that the most interested people would attend. The Governor, was once again, a special guest and made a small appearance. Edwin Sanchez, President of FCRAP welcomed everyone and stated that FCRAP wished to assist producers in becoming competitive and aid in increasing the breeder base. Shane was the first speaker and gave a 20 minute presentation concerning Tropical Herd Management, with a slide presentation. However, it is not until you actually get here, and visit the farms that you realise that technology here has a long way to go. This was discussed in the open forum after Shane’s speech. Billy answered many questions and explained that FCRAP was there to help the people, but they needed to try and help themselves as well. There was talk of an possible importation of Brahman cattle from Australia. Billy explained that some of these cattle would be divided between those who had registered with FCRAP as a member. It was their aim to support 100 of the poorest backyard farmers. He also explained that FCRAP had been a “sleeping giant” until 3 years ago, when it was revived to full capacity again, and that it will take a long time to develop the program they were discussing. It was the plan of the Association to help the backyard farmers (93% of the industry), as much as possible, as well as support the larger operations in the country. Billy spoke about the feedlotters in the Philippines, who were having great difficulty sourcing suitable animals and suggested that might be a market they could research. It had taken 10 years to develop a thriving pork industry in the Philippines, and the beef industry is only at ground roots level, so has a long way to go. Much emphasis was placed on the importance of genetics.
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After lunch, Patrick Shea Pineda made a presentation teaching how important nutrition is. Patrick is an expert in Silage Development. He works closely with the Department of Agriculture. We have not seen a man so passionate about his cause. Patrick is determined that he will teach these people how to make the most of the land holdings and insists that they must utilise the land with different enterprises. He is developing a plan to show that land owners that they can have 2 or 3 different crops, along with livestock, and use one to help produce the other. His demonstration of making silage in a large plastic barrel, was of great interest. Even though his whole presentation was in native language, we could tell he had the audience enthralled, and I think from his actions, there may have been a joke or two included.

Following Patrick, Dr. Andy Herring, Department of Animal Science, Texas A & M, gave a presentation about the importance of understanding genetics. His presentation gave an in depth study of crossbreeding and the results you should expect. This was followed by a presentation from Dr. Paul Limson, who holds many titles, including Overall Manager of Animal Genetic Infusion Projects and Systems Manager of Philippine Breedplan. Paul is also the head of Animal Health and Welfare Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry. This presentation was to show how to keep relevant records and the value of those records. He stated that performance records were adjusted according to relevant conditions in various parts of the Philippines. Paul is also advising Government on the impending live cattle importations.

The Congress seemed to be a great success. However, it is very apparent how far this industry has to go in this country. The Federation is the association this country needs to liaise between governing bodies and the backyard cattle raisers, to develop, assist and improve the beef industry in this country, and their desire to do so is very evident.

The evening of the congress, it was with great ceremony, that the Governor of the Province “threw a party”. We attended a hall that had been transformed with a Cowboy and Cowgirl theme. Here, we had a great meal consisting of many different dishes, and washed it down with that lovely light beer again. The entertainment included a local choir, who were magnificent, some cultural dances, and two young dance troupes, who were very entertaining. After that, the music and dancing started, which was great fun. The band that followed was very lively, and just too much for Martin, who could not resist the chance to join in, and entertained us with his singing.

The following day, we had until 1.30pm before our flight, and joined in with a group that would be visiting some “backyard cattle raisers”. We drove through the town, and out to some dwellings that joined onto a
cane field. Along the way, we saw many fields of rice spread out to dry, cane fields being harvested by hand and loaded onto trucks parked on the roadsides. For miles, there are roadside stalls, people walking or riding tuk tuks (motorbikes with side car type things), or riding in the converted Combi Vans that have had all the windows removed and seats placed along each side as well as having the back door removed, so you can quickly jump in to catch your ride. We arrived at a small community, where we walked down into the backyard, to find a small pen, possibly 3 metres square, with a 12 month old brahman cross heifer tied in there, by a rope through her nose. Outside the pen her mother was tied in the same fashion. This was a native or yellow cow, and was very prized, as her weaner was 12 months old and she was well in calf again. They were given cane tops to eat and the pen was very clean and there was constant access to water. Amongst our group was a young vet who was responsible to artificial insemination around the Province. He was achieving a 65% – 75% strike rate, and was very proud of the work he is doing. As we left, one of the ladies was pumping water from a community well pump and doing the days washing in a bucket. We visited another of these, where the cattle appeared to be in reasonably good condition, and well cared for.

Our last stop was to a place where we saw some lovely Brahman cows and calves and bull, in a “housed” situation. The pens were very clean and the cattle in excellent condition. As we arrived, they were being fed the “chop” they get daily. There were also Holstein Brahman cross bulls in the opposite pen and some yearling brahman bulls, all in excellent condition. However, I must say, the most interesting thing for us on the farm was the rooster breeding operation, for the cock fights, which is a huge industry in the Philippines. The birds were beautiful and were apparently worth between AUS $500 - $1000 each. There seemed to be hundreds of them, each with their own shelter and roost. Carlos also runs a large “hog” operation and feed milling plant.

We had seen and learnt a lot during our visit. It is difficult not to admire these people who live in what we would class as difficult conditions, to say the least. Most places have no running water, electricity, or sewerage, and everything revolves around manual labour. Our congratulations must go to the Federation of Cattle Raisers Association of the Philippines, for their dedication to the plight of the “backyard cattle raisers”. Thank you to Billy Badilla, Martin Gomez and Randy Favis, in particular for your outstanding hospitality. We look forward to seeing you all at Beef Expo.
Solid sale success for Wilangi

The 27th Annual Wilangi Invitation Brahman Sale held at Dalrymple Saleyards, Charters Towers at the end of November defied the extremely dry and drought conditions existing over much of their central, north and western Queensland target buying area to produce solid sale results, with good bidding competition from a sizable panel of registered buyers.

A total of 220 grey Brahman registered and herd bulls offered by the Wilangi, Wallace, Glengarry, Lanes Creek, Ragian and Viva studs sold to a top price of $21,000, for a Gross of $759,500, and average of $3,450. A 93% clearance rate was achieved.

Selling agents McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing of Rockhampton and Queensland Rural of Charters Towers said buyers who attended the sale purchased from an outstanding, top quality and highly beef performance credentialed yarding, without doubt the best grey Brahman sale of bulls ever offered at Charters Towers. “Buyers would be very happy that the Wilangi Sale vendors maintained their commitment and kept faith with northern cattle producers, and offered a superb line-up,” sale co-ordinator Ken McCaffrey said, “they backed the bulls in the yarding with all the information buyers would want, and met the market of buyers’ restricted budgets in this very tough year for cattle producers.”

Queensland Rural Manager Troy Trevor said it was a huge challenge to offer such a large offering in such a poor year seasonally, however cattle producers who could, showed their support for the endeavours of the group of leading grey Brahman studmaster vendors. “We actually sold 35 more bulls than last year’s sale and I believe a good percentage of that buying support is coming back to these quality Brahman seedstock because the live cattle export market and demand is very favourable into the future,” Troy Trevor said.
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Solid sale success for Wilangi

The $21,000 sale topper was Wallace Mr Mint, a 26 month old son of first sale season sire Wallace Mr Jones that showed outstanding carcass qualities. At 786kg, he also scanned an EMA of 136 sqcm and looked every part a sire that will instil superior beef performance credentials into his progeny. Mr Mint comes from a strong damline tracing back to a cow by the highly successful sire Wilangi Quiz. After a determined bidding battle he sold to Brett Nobbs, NCC Brahman Stud, Inverrio, Duaringa, greatly pleasing vendors Stewart and Kerry Wallace. The Wallaces were delighted with the sale ring acceptance of their impressive first crop of Mr Jones’ sons. Twelve of his sons offered at the sale averaged $6,625.

It was another Mr Jones son that recorded the $15,500 second top price. Wallace Mr McCoy, an outstanding 846kg, milk tooth, white grey sire prospect, a 7/8th’s brother-in-blood to the sale topper Mr Mint, caught the eye of AJ and Pam Davison, Viva Brahman, Middlemount and they were pleased to take him home. His weight and 135 sqcm EMA ranked him as the second heaviest, and second biggest EMA milk tooth bull of the sale.

Brett Kirk, Hazelton Brahman Stud, Middlemount was at the sale and secured a top quality sire prospect in the dark grey $14,000 Wilangi Alexander. This mature age, 1,022kg bull is a son of the highly successful and very consistent sire El Ja Buster Manso and a beautifully bred damline combining the imported Powerstroke and Boswick bloodlines. He shows excellent growth, correct conformation and lovely breed and sire character, and backs it with a 147 sqcm eye muscle area. Brett Kirk also selected another dark grey sire by JDH Denton De Manso from the Viva draft for $5,500.

Brian and Cindy Hughes, Lanes Creek Stud, Georgetown were first time vendors at the Wilangi Sale this year and their sale team topped at $9,000 for Lanes Creek Wentworth Manso, a superbly bred, white grey, strong muscled bull by JDH Wellington Manso. This masculine sire type was purchased by fellow sale vendors Stewart and Kerry Wallace, Wallace Brahman, Marlborough. Nine thousand dollars was also needed by John and Cheryl Randell, Crinum Brahman, Tieri to purchase Wilangi Allo Allo, a big, blue grey, 2 tooth sire scaling 850kg and displaying an abundance of sire quality and breed character.

John and Leanne Creedon, Leajon Park, Middlemount purchased well early in the sale, securing Wallace Mr Miller (by Wallace Mr Jones) for $8,500. He’s an 802kg, well balanced, milk tooth sire of great length and volume. Central Queensland Brahman enthusiasts the Luck family of Junee Pastoral Co., Dingo and the Day family, Day Grazing Co., St Lawrence, both regular buyers of high quality bulls at this sale, topped their sale purchases with $8,500 buys. Junee selected the 890kg Raglan Nemo, a son of PBF Gunmetal Manso with attractive easy doing beef qualities for that price, while Judy Day also purchased a Raglan sire, Napier, a long bodied, strong carcass type as her top purchase. Early in the sale Richard Luck secured a bargain, bidding $7,000 for Viva Diablo, an impressive 802kg, 140 sqcm EMA, white grey, stylish sire that topped the Viva Stud’s sale team.

Michael Clark, Ibis Creek, Mt Coolon and David Deguara, Hamdenvale Brahman, Mackay are regular attendees at the Wilangi Invitation Brahman Sale. Michael’s daughter Geena accompanied her father to the sale in late November.

Watching the bidding intently at the Wilangi Invitation Brahman Sale were L to R, Leanne Creedon, Leajon Park, Middlemount who purchased a bull for $8,500, David Deguara, Hamdenvale Brahman, Simla, and Brett Kirk, Hazelton Brahman, Middlemount who purchased 2 bulls including Wilangi Alexander at $14,000.
A long bodied sire of excellent muscle expression was, at $8,500, the topper of the draft of registered sires presented at the sale by first time vendors Scott, Geoff and Gladys Angel, Kunwarara. Glengarry Master Card shows excellent weight for age, 870kg at 26 months, and carries a strong pedigree. He was purchased by Steve and Mary Lund, Talki Pty Ltd of Clermont. Glengarry also recorded sales of two sires at $8,000. The first was Glengarry Count Locke Manso, bred from one of the stud’s top cowlines and now heading home to AJ and Pam Davison’s Viva Stud, while the other was the stylish sire type Glengarry Bartender, a 780kg, 23 month old, milk tooth bull sired by the 2013 ABBA Sire of the Year Glengarry Sub Zero that sold to Andrew Angel’s Mooramin Stud at Clermont. Richmond master cattleman Rob Flute purchased two excellent sires from Lanes Creek, both attractive in their breed and beef credentials. His top purchase at $8,000 was Lanes Creek Mandrake, a big, robust type with a lot of length and muscling. Also putting an outstanding selection of 3 bulls together was Mark and Kim Vaughan, Veenee Station, Charters Towers. They purchased two impressive sires from Glengarry and topped their team with the $7,500 purchase of the 840kg Raglan Nevan, a white grey with plenty of muscling and attractive finish. Long time supporters and investors in Wilangi bloodlines Graham and Joyce Bolton, Belmont, Thangool returned to the sale and outlaid $6,000 to secure the well bred Wilangi Acca Dacca, a strong carcass son of JDH Datapack Manso.

Over the 27 year history of the Wilangi Invitation Brahman Sale, volume bull buyers have been big winners in the quality and high standard consistency of the bulls they buy and the value pricing of their purchases. So it was again this year, as exactly half the bulls (110) sold to 5 volume buyers. Neil Arnold, Vanrook Station Pty Ltd, Normanton did a tremendous job selecting a very impressive line of 58 bulls averaging $2,345 for the Gulf property. He purchased Lot 3 of the sale and Lot 246, and astutely accumulated the Vanrook line right throughout the sale proceedings, selecting quality registered and herd bulls at great value and comfortably within his budget. Similarly, highly respected live cattle export industry identity Steve Ellison was on hand to purchase an excellent draft of 22 bulls for Willeroo Station, Northern Territory, averaging $2,295. Other volume buyers were Galloway Plains Pastoral Co. (12 bulls), Teitzel Grazing Trust (10 bulls) and Tom Sheahan & Co. (8 bulls).

The top selling herd bull at $5,000 was a Raglan bull purchased by Talawanta Station, Julia Creek.

Agents: Queensland Rural and McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing.
A significant enhancement was made to the Brahman GROUP BREEDPLAN analysis in November with the incorporation of Direct Genomic Values in the 200 Day Weight and Days to Calving EBVs.

A major focus within the Cooperative Research Centre for Beef Genetic Technologies (Beef CRC) was to use phenotypic records and SNP genotypes to develop prediction equations for a range of economically important traits. These equations have subsequently been validated by the Animal Genetics Breeding Unit (AGBU) to generate Direct Genomic Values (DGVs) on both the CRC animals and animals within the Brahman population. For Brahmans, a DGV for post-weaning weight (PWT) with an accuracy of 0.27 to predict 200 day weight and a Days to Calving DGV with an accuracy of 0.35, has been developed using phenotypes and genotypes from the Beef CRC northern reproduction project.

THE PROJECT
The AGBU analysis used 2068 Brahmans with imputed 770K SNP genotypes to estimate the genomic accuracies of the resulting DGVs. In the analyses the DGVs were coincided as a trait along with the target BREEDPLAN trait. For the PWT DGV this was analysed with the BREEDPLAN 200 Day Weight as the second trait. The reproductive DGVs for early female reproduction (age at puberty and post-partum anoestrus interval) were shown to not be independent and consequently combined into a single DGV for DTC using an estimate of the genetic correlation between the two DGVs and the correlation with the Days to Calving EBV.

The estimated genomic accuracies obtained were used to blend the DGV into the EBVs generated from a full Brahman BREEDPLAN evaluation. The EBVs and accuracies on the 2068 genotyped industry animals for 200 Day Weight and Days to Calving were compared with and without the blended DGVs.

DGVs BLENDED INTO THE BRAHMAN BREEDPLAN ANALYSIS

DAYS TO CALVING
The DGVs on each individual were blended into the existing Days to Calving EBV using the 0.35 genomic accuracy. The mean of the Days to Calving EBV pre and post blending on the 2068 animals was the same, however the change in EBV were dependent on the existing DTC accuracy. For example animals with high accuracy EBV changed little post blending, whereas animals with low accuracy EBVs changed considerably (change in EBV ranged from -14.9 days to +11.6 days) with the inclusion of the DGV information.

The blending of the DGVs increased the accuracy of the Days to Calving EBV on average by 10%. Figure 1 plots the existing DTC accuracy against the new DTC EBV accuracy after blending of the DGV for the 2068 animals. The effect is not the same for all animals and depends on the level of the existing accuracy. (Change in EBV accuracy ranged from 0 to 33%). For animals with low DTC EBV accuracies (<20%) the inclusion of the DGV lifted the accuracy considerably, whereas for the high accuracy animals the inclusion of DGV had little, or no effect on the DTC EBV accuracy.

200 DAY WEIGHT DGV
The PWT DGV was blended into the 200 Day Weight EBV of the 2068 animals. Due to the low genomic accuracy of 0.26 the change to the EBV and accuracy was very small. While there was no change in the average EBV, actual change in 200 Day Weight EBV ranged from -9.1 to +5.8. Accuracy overall only increased by 1% but ranged from 1 to 24%. The largest changes was associated with the lowest pre blending accuracy.
Don’t let your hard work go to waste.

SECURE YOUR LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.
Incorporation of Genomic Values into Brahman BREEDPLAN

THE VALUE OF DGV BLENDING

Though the genomic accuracies of both the PWT and DTC DGVs are low, the blending of the DTC DGV into the BREEDPLAN analysis has yielded significant improvement in the genetic evaluation of days to calving. While the accuracy increases for DTC are only modest, it would take several years to generate enough daughters to achieve a similar accuracy through performance recording. For example a young bull with low DTC accuracy could achieve a DTC EBV with blended DGVs information equivalent to having 8-9 daughters with a days to calving performance record. This presents the opportunity for a more rapid rate of genetic gain for days to calving through earlier and higher accuracy genetic selection based on DGV blended EBVs. The improvements in 200 day weight EBV are very small but will still enhance those animals with very low accuracy.

Further information is available from:
Paul Williams at TBTS in Rockhampton on Ph: (07) 4927 6066 or Email: paul@tbts.une.edu.au

Incorporation of Genomic Values into Brahman BREEDPLAN

Australian genetic exporters and genetic collection centres will benefit from improvements and streamlining of export processes for semen and embryo exports to major markets. Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, welcomed the reduction in red tape for exporters through the simplification of export certification requirements.

“Each year Australia exports genetic material that contributes to our economy and to the strength of global genetics for cattle, sheep, goats, horses and canines. For example, in 2013-14 bovine semen exports were valued at $1.8 million,” Minister Joyce said.

The process to export genetic material includes complying with all importing country requirements. Australian exporters also must seek an export permit and health certification from the Department of Agriculture before any animal reproductive material can be sent overseas.

“The Australian Government is here to ensure our exporters remain competitive, so we’ve developed user-friendly templates for our major markets to help streamline the export process,” Minister Joyce said.

The government established a specialised centre within the Department of Agriculture in July 2014 as part of reforms to the export of live animals and animal reproductive material just to handle these particular commodities.

There are five major markets for Australian genetics exporters of bovine semen and embryos, horse semen, sheep and goat semen and embryos, and dog semen: Canada, the EU, New Zealand, South Africa, and the USA. These markets account for 70 per cent of all genetic material exported from Australia. In the coming weeks, exporters seeking to supply genetic materials to these markets can use the new templates.

The new templates can be used by collection centre vets and embryo team vets applying for export certification. The templates help to address the importing country requirements of Australia’s major genetic export markets, providing greater clarity on export requirements and reducing processing time,” Minister Joyce said.

With the establishment of templates for the top five markets the department will continue to develop additional templates for other genetic export markets to help simplify certification processes, helping to further reduce costs for exporters.

The streamlining of genetic material templates is yet another example of reducing red tape, making it easier for genetic businesses to increase trade opportunities and further options for producers to see greater returns for their efforts.

Information sessions for exporters and veterinarians on the export certification process will be held in major export centres in the coming months.

For updates on session details or more about the export certification process for animal genetics visit the Department of Agriculture’s website: www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/export/live-animals/reproductive-material.

Less red tape for genetic exporters

MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP, Minister for Agriculture
A highly successful feature show was held at Tenterfield in the Northern New England Region of NSW. Organised by Colin Chevalley, a Brahman breeder for the past 40 years.

Judged by the highly respected Colin Brett from Waterloo Station, Northern Territory. Colin judged both the stud and prime cattle sections of the show and made the comments that he “Did not realise the Brahmans were so good down here.”

Successful in the Prime section were Colin & Helen Chevalley, winning the pen of three breeding females and taking out the overall champion pen award of the show. These heifers were Charolais sired out of pure Brahman, Coliana stud cows.

Ten Brahman studs competed which was a great effort especially in an area that has been synonymous with British breed cattle. Reflecting the increasing numbers of Brahman and Brahman cross cattle in Western fall regions. Exhibitors and spectators congratulated chief steward and feature show organizer Colin Chevalley for an excellent show.

The stud classes saw the following awards:

Junior Champion Bull: Ooline Manuel
Reserve Junior Champion Bull: Mogul Dodge
Senior Champion Bull: Crinum Demon
Reserve Senior Champion Bull: Mogul Casino
Grand Champion Bull: Crinum Demon
Junior Champion Female: Ooline Lady Annabelle
Reserve Junior Champion Female: Mogul Miss SP Maria
Senior Champion Female: Crinum Miss Red Ruby
Reserve Senior Champion Female: Mogul Miss DA Whittlesea
Grand Champion Female: Crinum Miss Red Ruby
Supreme Brahman Exhibit for the Bryan D’Este Memorial Trophy: Crinum Miss Red Ruby
Purebred Brahman Steer Class: Richmond Valley Brahman

Most Successful Feature Show Exhibitor: Mogul Brahman Stud
Interbreed Champion Bull: Crinum Demon

Sarah Retallack, a young Brahman breeder from Inverell, wins the Junior judging competition at the Tenterfield. Sarah was also successful in the Junior paraders as well.

Tenterfield Feature Show success
Happy cattle helps compliance

Debbie McBryde and her manager, Mervyn Mason, have proven that effective management, driven by animal welfare priorities, can deliver more than 90% MSA compliance year after year.

When Debbie McBryde returned to the family property after a long absence, she wasn’t even sure she would know how to live away from the city – much less run a cattle enterprise.

Debbie’s decision to stay was complemented by a stroke of good luck in meeting Mervyn Mason – a cattle man with extensive experience in the Top End – who is now her manager.

During the past five years they have forged an unorthodox, holistic style of management on ‘Oombabeer’, the property established by Debbie’s parents in 1967. They run it as a trading block turning off pure or high content Brahman steers specifically for the MSA market: ideally at 0–2 teeth and between 6–22mm of P8 fat and 180–340kg carcase weight.

MEETING THE MARKET

Oombabeer’s beef enterprise became MSA accredited in 2009 and, since then, its steers have consistently achieved high eating quality results. Last financial year, Debbie and Mervyn turned off 442 head and achieved 92% compliance to MSA minimum requirements (the Queensland average compliance was 92%).

The steers’ ossification scores were generally about 130 and consistently had MSA index values of 50–57 (putting them in the top 50% for eating quality). This score, ranging between 30 and 80, rates the potential eating quality of the carcase – the higher the score, the better the quality.

Mervyn said the secret to meeting the specifications lay in the type of animals bought in, as well as the on-farm management.

“'The weight and age of cattle we source varies depending on the season, but they need to be good quality, well conformed and deep in the body. Ideally, they are Brahman because we like their intelligence and doing ability,” he said.

Usually, Debbie and Mervyn prefer to buy animals direct from trusted producers, however, when drought has affected their usual suppliers, animals have been sourced from saleyards.

The property runs 600–700 steers with 400–500 sold between January and May/June each year, when they meet specifications. New cattle are purchased in October and March.

Trigger points for sale include being more than 600kg liveweight and a fat depth of 6–22mm, based on visual assessment.

PROXIMITY TRUMPS PRICE

It’s non-negotiable where the steers from Oombabeer are sold.

“I don’t sell to the highest bidder,” Debbie said.

“It’s a top priority for me that our animals suffer the least stress possible, so I sell to the nearest processor, 130km away. We bring the mob close to the yards and put them on quality feed the day before they are transported. We load out as late as possible to have them arrive before curfew.”
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RICHUGO 95 11 (IMP SA)

D: YOMAN 1666/9 (H)
CARINYA 2030 (H)
YOMAN 1338/5 (H)
YOMAN 588/8 (H)

CONTACT: A & M Olsen - Mob 0427 054 150; T & E Olsen - Mob 0427 767 591; R & S Olsen - Mob 0407 273 688; MB Olsen - Mob 0427 274 908
Email neslobrahmans@bigpond.com www.neslo.com.au
OOMBABEER STEERS ARE CONTENTED STEERS

Mervyn and Debbie’s unwavering concern for the animals’ welfare underpins their entire management strategy.

“We’re in the business of producing happy beef,” Debbie said.

Year round, mobs of 100–200 animals are grazed on two-week rotations around 20 paddocks. Conservative stocking rates ensure there is always ample feed available and stock are moved using four-wheel bikes and dogs.

“Cattle in their natural state like to roam and I think changing paddocks and being able to access a diverse range of vegetation is both nutritionally and psychologically beneficial,” Debbie said.

The mobs have a mobile lick system that travels with them, containing individual salt, sulphur, copper and other single trace element blocks, which they can access anytime.

Each mob of newly purchased cattle has a pair of ‘coaches’ put with them – older pet steers that teach them the ropes and help them settle quickly.

The steers become so settled and trusting that buffalo fly treatments are carried out in the paddock. A roll of hessian makes a yard against a fence and animals are sprayed as they walk past Mervyn, using a 20-litre hand pump.

Despite their success in consistently producing quality beef, Debbie and Mervyn are the first to admit that hitting company specifications and – in the early days – making sense of kill sheets to find why animals didn’t grade, was no walk in the park.

“It was hard until we got a handle on what the animal in front of us was, and how it would look on a kill sheet,” Debbie said.

“We spent a lot of time on the phone talking to meat buyers and working it all out.

“Sometimes dentition and ossification seemed contradictory, and this is more evident now that the new MSA Index is accessible online to registered producers at the myMSA website, which is well worth understanding and working with.”

Mervyn said the most common reasons ‘Oombabeer’ steers met MSA requirements but failed to meet processors’ specs were: too many teeth, not enough fat or too heavy.

“One of the biggest challenges to producers becoming more educated on how to meet both MSA and processor specs is the lack of communication between the two,” he said.

“No one talks about how their cattle performed or what they got for them, which gives producers little chance for comparison.

“If we could change that cultural mindset to one of knowledge sharing, I think we’d all progress much faster.”

MORE INFORMATION
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E: Debbie.mcBryde@gmail.com or Mervyn Mason // T: 0429 059 196
To register for MSA accreditation visit: www.mla.com.au/msa
To access your MSA Index values for MSA graded cattle visit: www.mymsa.com.au
For the complete MSA Tips and Tools Kit visit: www.mla.com.au/msabeef
To watch a video on an MSA carcase being graded visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpDsm-SLgNc
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Selling Agents Geaney’s and McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing recorded one of their most successful Big Country Brahman Sales of recent years at Charters Towers on February 2nd & 3rd and cemented the sale’s position as the leading seedstock auction conducted annually in northern Australia.

A 100% clearance of red and grey bulls, a million dollar plus sale gross, a $62,500 top price, a 47% increase in red bull averages, 24% increase in grey bull averages, an overall 33% increase in the average price of all bulls (compared to 2014) and buyer registrations from as far away as New South Wales and the Northern Territory, all contributed to a super sale result according to sale co-agent Jim Geaney of Geaney’s, Charters Towers.

“We have very happy vendors and our buyers were pleased to get the opportunity to select from such a strong diversity of breed leading bloodlines,” Jim Geaney said.

At $62,500, Lanes Creek Marocco Manso is the highest priced bull sold in northern Australia since 2007. The impeccably bred, strongly credentialed grey sire led the Big Country Sale draft of Brian & Cindy Hughes, Lanes Creek Brahman Stud, Georgetown and was purchased by a partnership of Bill & Sue Blakeney, Warraka Stud, Coondoo and Royce & Beryl Sommerfeld, Brahrock Stud, Maryborough.
Come and see Platinum calves at the Brahman Compound at Beef Week.

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Sale agents McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing and Geaney’s were also pleased that their sale advertising and marketing campaign drew a sizable crowd of cattle producers to the event, with bidcard registrations up 10% on 2014 sale figures.

With a large percentage of polls in the offering, the sale catered to growing demand from studmasters and commercial cattle producers for polled bloodlines.

Ken McCaffrey of McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing said cattle producers responded to the positive and confident sale message about quality Brahmans and the future of northern markets. “This sale has always been a leader, that’s why leading studmasters always want to sell here and discerning studmasters and steer breeders always want to source their bulls here,” he said, “it is not easy, but we are always trying to innovate to lift the standards of every part of the sale so that vendors and buyers alike all benefit.”

“The $62,500 sale top price is the highest recorded in northern Australia since 2007 and the achievement of Brian and Cindy Hughes of Lanes Creek Stud, Georgetown to sell both the red and grey top sellers at such a major feature bull sale is a very rare occurrence, a credit to their stud industry commitment, and reflects very positively on Brahman breeding in the north,” Ken McCaffrey said.

Bidding was generally free flowing and competitive through both days of the sale from a combination of stud sire and commercial cattle producer buyers. Eighteen bulls broke the $10,000 price line.

**RED SIRES SELL TO $30,000**

Polled bulls were extremely prominent among the top sellers in the red sire section of the Big Country Brahman Sale. Eight out of the top 10 selling bulls are polled and selling agents consider there was a premium of around 30–40% towards polled bulls in the reds. A big, long, strong sire character, mature age bull Lanes Creek Komrade, a poll, topped the section at $30,000. Sired by NCC Kakadu and bred out of a polled daughter of Tartrus Redmount, Komrade is a high growth EBV bull that suited the requirements of purchasers Joe and Felicity Streeter, Fairy Springs Brahmans, Taroom. He scaled 860kg and looked ready to go straight to work. Brian and Cindy Hughes of Lanes Creek Stud liked Komrade, their poll team leader, a lot and were pleased to see him sell to a stud with such a long time history of high level success in the industry.

The Lanes Creek poll red sale sires were in high demand with four of them selling into the five figure ($10,000 and over) bracket. Bevan Radel, Kandoona Brahmans, Injune was at the sale and outlaid $13,000 for Lanes Creek Woodford, a polled sire of great thickness, depth and volume, bred out of the stud’s leading damline. Brian Harriman, Reedybrook, Mt Garnet selected Lanes Creek Davenport, a 2yo poll out of the same cowline for $12,500, while Darren Pedracini, Lornevale Roseglen Partnership, Georgetown outlaid $11,000 for Lanes Creek Windham, another poll bull by Wandilla Zulu showing good natural easy doing beef qualities.

Early in the sale, Clayton Curley, Gipsy Plains, Cloncurry selected the 750kg, 28 month old Palmal Windsor for $15,000. A poll again, he topped the red draft of David and Julie McCamley’s Palmal Stud, Dingo. Bevan Radel of Kandoona Brahmans recognised extraordinary value in his $12,000 purchase of Ooline Maverick, a first sale son of NCC Sabre offered by the Kent family of Ooline Brahmans, Goovigen. He scaled 824kg at 25 months, recorded an eye muscle area of 138 sqcm and was considered by many good judges as a real sire in the making. Such was the influence of prices towards polls at the sale, Maverick’s value price indicates his overall potential was overlooked by buyers because of his horn status, according to Ken McCaffrey of McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing. Nevertheless Darren Kent and his family are delighted that the bull will get his chance in the Radel herd.
Similarly, Ooline was pleased when Brett Nobbs of NCC Brahmans purchased Ooline Legacy for $10,500. This son of NCC Springbok is a real beef sire. Long bodied, broad across the topline and well muscled, he scanned an EMA of 140 sqcm and weighed over 800kg on sale day. Peter Staal’s Narranda Stud of Banana returned to the Big Country Sale with a draft of 8 bulls including 7 polls. Dan and Sally Beauchamp, Allendale, Ingham purchased the top Narranda bull for $10,500.

Palmal sold two cherry red, high quality, strong pedigreed, polled sire prospects that also attracted plenty of buyer attention. Repeat Big Country buyer Allan Williams, Riverside Pastoral Company, Nebo claimed Palmal Jabaru, an 800kg son of Mt Callan Jed for $12,000, while Kelvin and Libby Harriman outlaid $11,000 for Palmal Norton, a double Redmount bred, strong boned, loose skinned bull, for G.I. Stud, Muttaburra.

The very last bull in the red section was a rising 2yo, good quality, strong bodied bull offered by Peter and Sue Gray of The Rivers Stud, Marlborough. His sire style and eye catching colour caused a few buyers to have him in their selections but it was Barry and Tanya Christensen’s $9,000 bid for Koon Kool Pastoral Company of Hughenden that landed The Rivers O’Keefe for them. Eugene Matthews, Blue Range, Charters Towers also selected 2 quality young bulls from The Rivers draft paying to a top price of $7,500 for The Rivers Theodore, a lengthy, brilliant red colour bull that carried a 136 sqcm EMA at 27 months.

Lanes Creek Mister K, an 826kg powerful beef type of excellent temperament, muscling, bone and breed style was the lead bull of Bon Wall’s draft. He was sold to noted buyer of very good bulls, Warwick Cox, Gainsford Station, Ayr.

The Core family, SP Grazing, Charters Towers purchased 3 attractive polled bulls from Lanes Creek and Narranda Studs to average $6,830 while John Lund of Clermont invested in 5 bulls from the red section. Geoff Carrick, Einsleah also put together an excellent line of 5 Red polled bulls from the sale.

**LANES CREEK TAKES TOP PRICE DOUBLE**

Brian and Cindy Hughes, Lanes Creek Brahmans, Georgetown achieved a very rare double at the Big Country Sale when, on the second day, their magnificent young grey sire, Lanes Creek Marocco Manso, topped the grey bull section at $62,500. Lanes Creek is a long time vendor at the sale, regularly topping prices in the reds and greys, however their achievement at this year’s event is one rarely recorded in the history of the Brahman breed and endorses the stud’s commitment to producing Brahman seedstock, in both reds and greys, of the highest level in the land.

Even under historically adverse seasonal and industry conditions at their Georgetown based stud in the last two years, it has been a period of great success for the young far northern studmasters. Within the last 12 months they also enjoyed championship success at Australia’s largest showing of Brahmans, the 50th Anniversary Brahman Feature Show at Sydney Royal.

Lanes Creek Marocco Manso is a grey Brahman sire built beautifully for the modern beef industry, auctioneer Ken McCaffrey said in his sale preamble. Backed by excellent, breed top 15% EBV’s for growth and carcass, and scaling 816kg at 24 months,
Big Country Sale maintains northern leadership

Marocco caught the eye of many leading Studmasters with his combination of superb breed quality, structural correctness and mobility, and exceptional pedigree, a son of a J.D. Hudgins 1990’s world renowned standout sire and a $24,000 sale topping Tartrus heifer. There were at least 6 interested parties keen to secure the bull and amazingly, when bidding reached the high levels of $50,000 plus, four different bidders recorded the last four bids on the quality sire prospect. The hammer fell at $62,500 to the bid of Ken Roche who handled the bidding for absentee buyers Bill & Sue Blakeney, Warraka Stud, Coondoo in partnership with Royce & Beryl Sommerfeld, Brahrock Stud, Maryborough. The Kents of Ooline Stud, Goovigen were the underbidders on Marocco.

Exactly four lots later, a young polled sire of great length, carcass and weight performance made $26,000 to record the grey’s second highest price. Clukan Reload was one of the eye catching draft of greys Steve and Theresa Taylor’s Clukan Stud of Jambin took to the sale. At 784kg and scanning an EMA of 142 sqcm, this milk tooth bull had the combination of valuable features many breeders are looking for in a polled sire. After a spirited bidding duel from two phone and four ringside bidders, Tony Hayne, Northern Veterinary Services, Northern Territory is the new owner of the bull.

Lawson Camm, Cambil Brahmans, Proserpine again offered a strong draft of grey bulls and was among the toppers with his $16,000 sale of Cambil Olympus to Pensini Grazing, Hughenden bidding through Shane Stafford Agencies. At 846kg and 133 sqm EMA, this milk tooth bull is backed by a strong diversity of JDH bloodlines and looks a robust type with a lot of sire character. Cambil Stud also sold 2 well bred sires at $7,500 each to Mac Farms of Tully who purchased a strong bodied, stylish, white grey Elrose Philistine son, and to Gavin Scott, Rosetta, Mt Coolon who selected the heavy muscled son of JDH Wellington Manso, Cambil Hussey.

The first grey sire into the ring on the second day, Maru Maguire Manso, was one of 5 impressive full brothers offered by Manuel & Tracey Mifsud’s Maru Stud of Sarina. Brett and Susan Kirk, Hazelton Brahmans, Middlemount purchased this long bodied, heavy muscled JDH Prophet Manso son for $11,000. The other four brothers were all purchased by Lincoln, Don and Rita Condon, Conjuboy Pastoral Company, Mt Garnet at an average of $6,750, as part of the exceptional draft of 12 high quality, strong beef performance, well bred grey bulls they put together through the offering. “My word, the Condons purchased a magnificent line of bulls, as good as you’d get at any sale in Australia,” Ken McCaffrey said, “they did their homework very well selecting high natural beef performance bulls backed by outstanding quality, proven genetics form the Maru, Clukan, Palmal, Hamdenvale and Lanes Creek Studs.”

Tony and Trish Brown, Pioneer Park Stud, Mackay sold their heavyweight sale team leader, Gleeson Manso, for $10,500 to Gavin Scott, Rosetta Pastoral Company, Collinsville and another son of JDH Mr Hooks Manso
We greatly appreciate the strong buying and bidding support of all Studmasters and leading commercial cattle producers. We are confident our bulls will breed well for you.

21 Stud and Herd Bulls at Big Country Brahman Sale - average $10,050

We greatly appreciate the strong buying and bidding support of all Studmasters and leading commercial cattle producers. We are confident our bulls will breed well for you.

Thank You to Bill & Sue Blakeney
Warraka Stud & Royce & Beryl Sommerfeld, Brahrock Stud

Thank You to
Joe & Felicity Streeter,
Fairy Springs Stud

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for $9,000 to Damien Parker of Aramac. Bill and Kelvin Jochheim, Hill Rise Pastoral Co., Proserpine also purchased a superbly bred Pioneer Park sire for $8,500. David and Joy Deguara presented a quality team of grey sires from their Hamdenvale Stud, Mackay. Their $10,500 top seller, Hamdenvale Monroe, is a son of the breed’s $300,000 all time top selling sire, Lancefield Burton Manso, and he went to Conjuboy Pastoral Company while Pip Knuth of Burdekin Downs, Charters Towers bid to $10,000 to secure Hamdenvale Sir Lincoln, a well bred, 790kg, 132 sqcm EMA son of PBF Lincoln Manso.

The Condons of Conjuboy may well have secured one of the bargains of the sale in their $9,000 purchase of Clukan Eddie. This is a quality bull of excellent pedigree, sire style, bone, natural softness and beef credentials. Robert and Margot Mifsud, Radella Brahmans, Sarina also achieved a $9,000 sale for their team leader Radella Liam Manso. A white grey sire by JDH Cutler de Manso, he shows a lot of style and was purchased by Tony Jones, Lou Lou Park, Jericho. Radella Reece Manso, another good quality Cutler son out of an Echo daughter, that scaled a mighty 885kg at 26 months of age was selected by Ross and Sally Clark of Charter Towers for $8,500.

Cherie Gilmore of Prairie bid $8,000 for Palmal Everton, a powerful pedigreed young sire of full NCC breeding that topped the greys of David and Julie McCamley’s draft.

“It is a great credit to the sale to see long time, loyal supporters such as Laurie and Frank Blacklock, Trevor & Gloria Davies, Rob Flute, Ralph & Lorna Bethel, Darren Pedricini, Bill and Clive Davies, Malcolm Searle, Alan Williams and many others among the bidders this year,” Ken McCaffrey said, “and we were delighted to welcome the Darcy family from the Northern Territory who took home 6 bulls.”

Among the volume bull buyers in the grey section were Jellinbah Pastoral Co., Parker family, Clermont, Glenell Grazing, Ravenswood, D & L Dennis, Maryvale, Charters Towers and R & L Bethel, Georgetown.

$7,500 TOPS HEIFERS

A PTIC grey heifer by Tartrus Aristotle Manso from the Pioneer Park Stud of Mackay topped the small offering of stud heifers at the Big Country Brahman Sale at $7,500. She was purchased by Rob Flute of Richmond along with Pioneer Park Chantal Manso, another quality grey heifer by NCC Jancourt for $4,000. Clermont studmaster Bon Wall of Walton Downs averaged $3,000 for his draft of three stylish, unjoined red heifers. His top heifer, a poll, sold to Matt Kirk of Mundubbera for $4,500.

**BIG COUNTRY LEADING VENDOR AVERAGES (3 OR MORE BULLS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>No. Sold</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palmal</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanes Creek</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ooline</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staal</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5,875</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walton Downs</td>
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**TOP 10 GREY BIG COUNTRY BULLS**

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<tr>
<th>Lot</th>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Purchaser</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Lanes Creek</td>
<td>Blakeney &amp; Sommerfeld</td>
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<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Clukan</td>
<td>Northern Vet Services</td>
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<td>125</td>
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<td>Maru</td>
<td>Hazelton Pastoral Co</td>
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<td>Gavin Scott</td>
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<td>152</td>
<td>Hamdenvale</td>
<td>Conjuboy Pastoral Co</td>
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<tr>
<td>139</td>
<td>Radella</td>
<td>T &amp; T Jones</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>Pioneer Park</td>
<td>D Parker</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
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FEMALES of the FUTURE sale
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At the Great Western Hotel, Rockhampton during the Beef Expo 2015

Hamdenvale Amity 923/95
S: JBN Busselton Manor 055 (IMP US) [Lot]

Hamdenvale Robina 976/2
S: Mt Winchester Magnum P99 (IMP US) [Lot]

Hamdenvale Kayley 911/51
S: Lakefield Burton Manor 3231 [Lot]

Hamdenvale Melinda 939
S: Mii Maddox Mya 934 (IMP US) [Lot]

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How fast for reproduction?
How fast for growth?
How many generations of solid data?
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What are the tools?
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JapOx $ EBV
LivEx $ EBV

The Future...
Truly adapted cattle
Low operational cost
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Catalyst for change.
During the late 50’s, and early 60’s, such was the impact of crossbreeding and upgrading conventional Bos Taurus herds with Brahman blood that it was a real revolution, along with highly emotive reactions from cattlemen who resisted change.

Realistically, the margins in beef cattle in Northern Australia have rarely been significant. Yet with attention to detail, cost management, and awareness of yield, the northern beef industry has developed steadily, expansive country that was most suited to grazing has supported over half of the nations herd.

The role of adaptation, resistance to parasites, and superior feed utilization as well as hybrid vigour was researched by CSIRO and Departments of Primary Industry, and adopted by curious and progressive cattlemen. It is hard to imagine now that some influential cattlemen and stud breeders fought hard to suppress these findings, and prevent distribution of the “new” genetics to the industry.

Albert Einstein...’We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them’.

It seems that uptake of confronting information has to navigate the maze of the human mind; there in itself perhaps, is the biggest challenge.

“Never underestimate the role of truly adapted cattle to make a profit”.

Then find out what is truly adapted.
At CBV the hunt for facts, and practical application to a working beef herd has been a lifelong pursuit. Being practical is sometimes very different to just reading the research outcomes.

The difference is the cost of production. Research farms and stud operations often have input levels that an average beef operation would choke on. When you interrogate why and how, the obvious weight gains or reproduction rates are only possible with a high cost per kilogram, or low stocking rates.

This is where practice meets theory, and, just like panning for gold, if you dig enough, and pan hard, you find the gold.

Quality equals ‘fitness for function’. Mr Tom Lasiter of Beefmaster fame impressed me as a child with his “no nonsense” approach that demurred a pregnancy and a good weaner for every cow retained. Lasiter made no excuses. I read every line of his ads and articles.

Mr Delandelles of Cherokee Brahman fame raised cattle on some of the poorest country around, and succeeded in developing very thrifty cattle. He was measuring net feed efficiency more than fifty years ago. The best of his cattle on good country had few equals in function and profit per hectare.

Dr Max Hammond did similar on poor country, and emphasized reproduction rates in a time that few people even discussed the subject. He succeeded too!

Dr Vercoe, Dr Frisch, Prof D’Occchio, Prof Kinder, Jack Allen at ABRI, and Prof Baruselli all have been inspiring to me, in that they mentored and encouraged us to keep searching, measure always, and interrogate the data.

Albert Einstein stated...‘Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better’.

The hunt for ‘True adaptation’ is unfolding.
Three EBV’s have evolved with close relationship to profit in northern Australia.
Days to Calving (DTC EBV) reports on all known relatives for reproduction speed. Reproduction speed influences profit more than all other traits combined.

Jap Ox $ EBV (JapOx$) incorporates growth and reproduction speed and later maturity patterns.

Live Export $ EBV (LivEx$) incorporates reproduction speed, rapid growth, and earlier turnover patterns.

The results have been amazing in the CBV herd.

In a recent search of the top 100 sires for DTC, 86 were CBV born plus 3 sired by CBV sires; how fortunate indeed, 89%. (Source - ABBA Group Breedplan - sires with progeny)

This is no Flash-in-the-Pan result.
We are in our 35th season of matings and analysis for genetic traits that truly make a difference to commercial returns. We have not always chosen the correct path, having an eternally curious mind. We do have the desire to interrogate our results and make rapid and sometimes severe corrections.

With Breedplan our data has always been open to scrutiny. Our genetics have been freely available to co-operator breeders.

We do not get involved in breed and pedigree fashions.

‘Remember, to manage we need to measure’. (Prof. Jan Bonsma)

To determine the truly effective genetics is not easy; it is expensive, time consuming and not always successful.

Our cows are drafted into five “Speed-bands”, based on the time of calving each year, and they become the mating groups for that summer.

We rotate a series of sires through the five “Speed-band” groups for three weeks in each mating, and last year utilized 57 sires. About half of these were multiple matings, with the ensuing cost of collecting tail-hair samples for DNA sire verification, and the cost of testing. By taking this approach we are trying to find the females most willing, and the bulls most able... a simple task indeed.

All cows must be pregnant in our window of operation, bring a weaner to the yards, and be rebred on time. To find the truly adapted “marathon class” genetics, we choose to start mating on October 1, regardless of the nutrition. Some cows always make it.

Naturally some fail to breed, some have calf mortality, and some lose their pregnancy. Each of these failures results in selling the non-breeding cow. A carcass is fair settlement. Each weaning cow is weighed and data entered in BREEDPLAN.

Yearling bulls are measured monthly for testicle diameters, and weighed in our search for puberty threshold. Ideally we
Letter to the Editor

want puberty expressed at low weight and young age. Again, a significant cost but we think illustrates extremely well their “Fitness for Function”. We would take around 10,000 individual measures each season. Yes, we are dedicated in our pursuit of excellence.

Our young cattle are never afforded easy living. In fact they exist on basic grazing, either at CEV or on agistment. The logistics are never simple, but necessary if we are to keep true to our goals:

1. Meaningful information
2. Accurate data
3. Commercially effective results
4. Genetic competence.

We have submitted 35 years of data to BREEPLAN, starting before Brahman BREEPLAN existed per favor Peter Speer and Dr Hans Graser’s Fleckvieh database. We had super assistance, guidance, and cooperation from a giant in the analysis game named Jack Allen at ABRI. We could never have achieved our gains without Jack Allen, with his technical ability, his patience, his vision, tenacity, extreme hard work and courage. He is worthy of an article of his own.

Dr Graser at AGBU continued to encourage us. Between us we have seen the growth and integrity of BREEPLAN forge ahead, regardless of impediments.

Still more to come with his DGV’s (Direct Genomic Values) in development. And surely we will see proving up of even more methods of analysis in the future.

The Major Leap Forward: DTC EBV.
Development of ‘Days to Calving’ (DTC) EBV’s has been a major leap forward in addressing the core issue in northern Australia of reproduction efficiency.

Coupled with that, the Dollar EBV’s developed by Steve Barwick for Jap Ox and also Live Export are really useful for ‘Quick-Sort’ of data. These two $ EBV’s are a combination of factors that control profitability. Reproduction has a major role in these EBV’s, as it has in the ‘real life’ cattle business.

For those who use financial spreadsheets, just tap in a few percent increase in the reproduction rates and watch the nett result soar in the bottom line.

Only one thing left to do then; apply some of the above experience, genetics and technology and enjoy the fruits of your labour.

This process is not new, even though it is not widely adopted or understood. Yet I believe this is very necessary and achievable. I have seen some remarkable results in practical application, with care and determination, growing and consolidating commercial cattle businesses.

These gains are available to all herds of cattle, simply with determination, analysis, management and time. There are no silver bullets.

In Brahman, as in architecture, ‘quality equals fitness for function’.

Margaret Mead... “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has”.

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Mobile: 0409 346 542
www.raglanbrahmans.com
Two Queensland Brahman breeders flew the flag for Australia at a major beef cattle show in Thailand last December.

Margaretta Morgan, Walubial stud, Condamine was invited to judge the show, which was organised by the Beef Cattle Association of Thailand.

The annual event, held at the Kasetsart University campus, attracted close to 160 Brahman entries, with about 70 percent of the lineup being grey Brahmans and the remainder red.

Exporter and Flinders Brahman stud principal Fraser Macfarlane, Harrisville, was also in attendance and has been visiting the show for 25 years.

“The cattle were of terrific quality and could easily hold their own in Australia,” Mr Macfarlane said.

“There were about ten or twelve breeders exhibiting and Margaretta did a terrific job with the judging.”

Most of the bloodlines featured popular US sires, with some Australian genetics also in the mix.

He said the show had previously been cancelled for several years due to Foot and Mouth Disease, but it kept going from strength to strength.

“There’s some new younger breeders coming through all the time and now that the price of cattle is high it will give more incentive to get stud bulls into commercial herds,” Mr Macfarlane said.

He said several of the breeders were keen to come to Rockhampton for Beef Australia 2015 in May, providing accommodation could be secured.
Are they REAL or is it NATUREWORKS?

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Lee and Gillian Collins achieved the equal top price of $10,000 on three occasions at the 2015 February Summer Brahman Sale.

Held at CQLX Gracemere on 17 February, the sale cleared 84 registered and herd bulls for $3779 average, five used Brahman sires for $4100 avg and 22 females for $2193 avg.

Alan and Jeanette Williams, Riverside Pastoral, Nebo secured two of the highest priced bulls, both herd sires from the Collins’ Wandilla stud, Marlborough. Their first purchase was $10,000 Wandilla Fiddler, a red December 2011-drop son of Kandoona Utai.

Not long afterwards the couple bid the same rate to secure Wandilla Fort Knox, a grey son of FBC Becker and Wandilla Empresse 513/8, who is a granddaughter of Kabala Alaska.

Also going for $10,000 was Wandilla Forceful, a red FBC Becker son purchased by Robert and Anna Hick, St Elmo Pastoral Group, Antrim, Julia Creek.

Wandilla herd bulls hit the high notes at Summer Brahman Sale

Colby Ede from Landmark, Toowoomba, bought Wandilla Fiddler on behalf of Allan and Janette Williams, Riverside, Nebo, for $10,000, and is pictured with vendors Gillian and Lee Collins, Wandilla, Marlborough.

Wandilla Forceful was offered by Lee and Gillian Collins, Wandilla, Marlborough, and was bought by Robert and Anna Hick from St Elmo Pastoral Group, Julia Creek, for $10,000.
Are you curious? We are!

Aimed at superior analysis/management rigour. CBV is not in the beauty comp, or the pedigree comp.

Just simply ask the questions.....

• How fast for reproduction?
• How fast for growth?
• How many generations of solid data?
• How diligent is the interrogation?
• What are the results?
• DTC  Days to Calving EBV.
• JapOx $ EBV
• LivEx $ EBV

How to find the most profitable cattle, at low cost.

Top 100 Sires  Days to Calving (DTC)

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cbv.com.au

• Inspired by nature • Driven by curiosity • Measured by hard work
• Analysed by competence • Fuelled by courage! Aren’t YOU curious!
Wandilla averaged $5567 for 15 herd bulls, their draft including the $6000 Kandoona Utai son, Wandilla Felix, and $6000 Wandilla Fitzgerald, by Yoman 1426/6. Both bulls were purchased by Rideout Grazing Co.

Clint and Robyn Whitaker, Whitaker stud, Mundubbera, outlaid $9000 to secure the top priced registered bull Carinya Fairmont. He is a son of $40,000 Tartrus Fremont Manso and is out of a JDH Sir Mitchell Manso (imp) cow.

Ken and Wendy Cole, Kenrol stud, Gracemere received $8500 for their polled red bull Kenrol Casper 0478. The son of the 2014 ABBA Sire of the Year, Kenrol Mr HJ Ray 0366, was secured by Denis Bourke, Burradoo stud, Meandarra.

Lakefield Lord Madison was the best seller from Curtis and Leanne Sutton’s Lakefield stud, Gympie. The registered son of JDH Madison De Manso (imp) was knocked down for $6500 to Arafura Cattle Pty Ltd.

Repeat vendor Lee Collins, Wandilla, Marlborough, sold Wandilla Fort Knox for $10,000 to Allan Williams, Riverside, Nebo.
ROCKY ALL STARS
21 MARCH CQLX 6 GREY HEIFERS LOTS 17-23

BEEF 2015
3 BULLS 1 HEIFER 1 LED STEER ON SHOW SITE NO. C242

BRAHMAN WEEK
1ST AUCTION SONS NCC DIPLOMAT

SALE SEASON
THANKS TO OUR 2014/2015 BRAHMAN WEEK, BIG COUNTRY & PRIVATE SALE SUPPORTERS
Wandilla herd bulls hit the high notes at Summer Brahman Sale

R and J Jacobsen paid $6000 for the Yoman 1426/6 son, Wandilla Feisal.

The highest priced used sire was Elrose Morrison, a 2009-drop son of Lancefield Moreton, offered by Mike Peters, Bremer Vale, Mt Walker. He sold for $6000 to Parraweena Cattle Co.

Ray and Leah Vella, Vella stud, Marlborough outlaid $6500 for the top priced heifer, Blue Water Hills Jewal Manso. She was offered by the Pace family, Blue Water Hills, Mackay and is by $50,000 sire PBF Eumundi Manso and out of $22,000 dam PBF Girlfriend.

Blue Water Hills averaged $3875 for four heifers, their draft including $4000 Blue Water Hills Angel Manso. The PBF Steamin Billy daughter was purchased by William and Helen Tucker, Garuda WG stud, Bouldercombe.

Clint and Robyn Whitaker, Whitaker Brahman, Mundubbera, bought this Carinya Park Brahman bull from the Kirk Family for $9000 and are pictured with Mitch Kirk who represented them.
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South Queensland Brahman breeder and founder of Danarla stud, Charles (Chas) Harch, will be sadly missed following his passing on 6 February, aged 78.

Chas was the eldest child of Carl (Bill) and Emilie Harch and grew up on a dairy farm at Widgee Creek, Gympie. The family later moved to Murrumba, on the banks of the Brisbane River near Esk. The go-getting family not only grew lucerne and grain but also ran a dairy, a piggery, a contract bailing and harvesting service and an interstate trucking business.

In 1962, aged 25, Chas married Helen O'Brien whom he'd met at the Toogoolawah Ball. The couple started their married life on Helen's parents' property Homeview, at Crossdale, and later moved back to Murrumba, eventually purchasing the property from Chas' parents.

They purchased their first Brahman bull in the 1970s to use over Jersey females at Murrumba. The quality white calves that were produced were the catalyst for Chas' long-term love of the breed. When the property was resumed by the government in the 1970s to construct the Wivenhoe Dam, the couple purchased a lucerne farm at Toogoolawah called Ennis Creek. They also bought a grazing block at Mt Beppo, running a red Brahman bull over Santa Gertrudis/AIS cross cows.

Chas and Helen raised three children at Ennis Creek, daughters Susan and Carla and son David who left school at 15 to work on the property. They formed Danarla Brahman Stud in the 1980s, building up the herd at Toogoolawah and expanding it further in 1991 following a move to Wondai.

David Harch said his father got great satisfaction from his membership of the Australian Brahman Breeders Association.

“He enjoyed going to bull sales, particularly watching our bulls sell at Rockhampton Brahman Week and attending the Tartrus Lancefield sale,” David said.

While Chas was disappointed to end up as losing bidder on $85,000 Elrose Kody Man at the 2005 Elrose bull sale in Cloncurry, he was delighted to purchase some quality genetics over the years including leading sire Carinya Jerome.

Chas was an active contributor to his local community, in his earlier days being involved in the Brisbane Valley Apex Club and a one-time president of the Lions Club at Toogoolawah.

David said his father was a clever, self-taught man who could build, fix or invent many handy devices to make things easier on the farm.

“Dad was blessed with a very kind and patient nature, always sharing his wide knowledge in various skills to his children and grandchildren. He also enjoyed going to the campdrafts and gymkhanas around the local area to watch Amy, Matthew and I compete,” he said.
Please **DO NOT** supply photos taken from mobile phones, iPads or tablet devices etc. as they are not of a high enough quality to be able to use.

Before taking your photo check that your camera is set on the **HIGHEST** resolution.

Make sure to take the photograph of the animal side on and standing as square as possible. Attract the animal’s attention so their head is slightly turned to camera and their ears are forward. Make sure to include all of animal, do not cut off feet or ears.

Try **NOT** to take photo in long grass and **AVOID** taking photo of animal in front of a cluttered background if possible. Ideally take the photo in full sun with the sun **BEHIND** the camera and avoid shadows across animal.

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Available in Red, Navy & Green (sizes 8 to 14) $19.00
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Gerhard & Maria Posselt, Geria Brahman Stud, Walkamin on their private purchase of Kenrol Nudge Ray (P) for $10,000, another son of Kenrol HJ Ray.

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