Editorial

Change is an integral part of business life. As individual members and as an association, we need to be agile and flexible enough to ride out the challenges while embracing opportunities to keep the Brahman breed at the forefront of the beef studstock and commercial industries.

We are currently navigating the challenging terrain of understanding and adopting new approaches to how Bovine Johnes Disease (BJD) is risk-assessed, managed and reported.

The new producer-driven and market-access approach focuses on managing on-farm bio-security risk rather than controlling the disease through regulation, is complex, as different states have different requirements.

We are endeavouring to get the most accurate and up to date information out to members about the new bio-security plan requirements, which come into effect from July 2017. Because requirements vary between jurisdictions, approaches still appear to be in a state of fluidity. I ask that members bear with us as we work through ongoing updates and receive clearer guidance, so we can provide the most accurate information regarding the BJD framework.

In March I attended the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association Annual Conference, where there was much talk about opportunities for live cattle exports to China. There is a lot of work being done behind the scenes by industry regulators to discuss bluetongue virus and HGP protocols, which currently prevent northern cattle producers from supplying this market.

It’s with great anticipation that we await data from the latest Brahman BIN Project kill in early-June. As well as collecting feedlot data such as net feed efficiency, we have been collaborating in the trial of a new carcase probe. This ultrasound technology will provide close to “real time” measures of tenderness and intramuscular fat and has the potential to level the playing field for Brahman beef. The meat science data will also be invaluable to BREEDPLAN, boosting producers’ bottom line by making it easier to select breeding animals with the best carcase and eating quality traits.

Technological advancements are also underpinning our core business as a breed association. The addition of genomic (DNA) information to Brahman BREEDPLAN will help us maintain the highest integrity of our records and supply an extra level of confidence to buyers. Looking ahead, any question marks about bloodlines should be able to be resolved through genetic testing.

Over the past few months I’ve enjoyed meeting many of our southern members at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, and closer to home at the highly successful Monto Brahman Feature Show. We already have our sights on next year’s big event, Beef Australia 2018, with a committee in place to come up with some fresh ideas for flying the Brahman flag at the expo.
President’s paragraph

As we reach the half way mark of the year it’s good to see that much of Queensland has enjoyed a break in the season and producers are still benefitting from competitive cattle prices.

Breed confidence in 2017 has remained high, with quality breeding females commanding strong demand and excellent prices in the sale ring.

The Jaffra Female Dispersal Sale, held at Gracemere in early May, presented a line of cattle that were a credit to the late Ion Jackson, his wife Vicki and daughter Anna.

Under normal circumstances these elite stud females, which represented decades of thoughtful breeding and displayed exceptional temperament, would never be offered for sale. It was pleasing to see the large attendance at the sale and the strong prices paid. The admiration of the Jaffra cattle, shown by the many stud and commercial cattlemen in attendance, was a true credit to Ion and the wonderful herd of breeders that he has moulded over the years. I am sure the purchasers will do extremely well with the matrons they selected.

I recently returned from the Elrose Reduction Sale and it was good to see that the season at Charters Towers has improved. Hopefully all in the district are enjoying a good body of feed and abundant water, following a long dry spell.

The sale was another great advertisement for quality Brahman cattle, with the genetically strong offering drawing buyers from Gympie to the Gulf. I congratulate the Jefferis family for presenting such a good line-up of cattle and achieving such a strong sale result.

The Monto Brahman Feature Show in April was also a great success, parading more than 100 head of excellent stud cattle. I congratulate the judges Brett Nobbs and Amy Harch on the wonderful job they did in selecting the winners, and also all the exhibitors for making the event a great spectacle for the large crowd in attendance. Special thanks go to Becky Wilson and Cynthia Stark and their helpers for running such a well organised feature show.

There seems to be some confusion over the recent rule changes to Bovine Johnes Disease (BJD) protocols for cattle entering Northern Territory. As producers we need to become familiar with the new approach to managing BJD, which comes into force from July 1 this year.

National BJD guidelines can be found at www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au and there is also Queensland-specific information available on the DAF website: www.daf.qld.gov.au

Looking ahead, I hope we all continue to enjoy a good seasonal outlook and I am positive that our markets will remain strong for stud and commercial Brahmans.

Matthew McCamley

27th, 28th & 29th June 2017
★ FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ★
ROCKHAMPTON SHOWGROUNDS

Australian Brahman Breeders’ Association
ph. 07 4927 7799 email. abba@brahman.com.au
In April 2017 Australian Brahman became the first beef breed in the world to adopt Single Step BREEDPLAN analysis across all breeding traits, an innovation that has the potential to fast track the productivity and profitability of northern beef herds.

The groundbreaking technology heralds a new age in BREEDPLAN genetic evaluation because it combines genomic (DNA) information with pedigree and performance records to calculate Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs).

This development will lead to the best possible prediction of an animal’s breeding value for growth, fertility, carcase and eating quality traits. It will also provide certainty in regards to genetic pedigree.

Australian Brahman Breeders Association CEO Robert Biddle said the ABBA had worked collaboratively over a long period with Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit (AGBU) and the Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI) to develop the software.

“You can’t tell the fertility of a bull just by looking at him, and while an animal may appear to be structurally correct, there’s a lot we can’t see,” Mr Biddle said.

“The move to Single Step analysis in BREEDPLAN combines significantly more data, providing greater reliability and accuracy so that stud breeders and commercial producers can confidently select cattle that will best suit their production systems.”

Breeders will be able to take a tail hair sample from an individual animal, send the sample for genotyping, and the genotype information will be included in the BREEDPLAN analysis to generate EBVs.

ABRI International Beef Recording Scheme manager Steve Skinner said more than 10,300 Brahman genotypes were currently on file and used to calculate EBVs.

“As the number of genomic records increases in size and in coverage of the Australian Brahman population, the accuracy from genotypes will also continue to grow,” Mr Skinner said.

Significantly, by using Single Step analysis EBVs can be generated for animals that do not have performance data or have not been measured for particular traits. This is especially important for calculating difficult to measure traits such as fertility or carcase.

“Breeders will potentially have access to results for animals at a much younger age than was previously possible, and the resulting EBVs will be more accurate,” Mr Skinner said.

The April Single Step BREEDPLAN analysis also saw the introduction of new trait data.

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The April Single Step BREEDPLAN analysis also saw the introduction of new trait data.

Dr Robert Banks, AGBU director, said data for Age at Puberty and Lactational Anoestrus had been added and this data contributed to greater accuracy of the Days to Calving EBV.

The introduction of a new male reproduction trait, Percent Normal Sperm (PNS) is another addition, with PNS measured as part of the bull breeding soundness evaluation at around two years of age. It is expected that sires with higher PNS EBVs will produce sons with higher PNS compared to sires with lower EBVs for this trait.

An EBV for Carcase Intra Muscular Fat (IMF) has also been added to Brahman BREEDPLAN, and bases its calculations on measurements derived from abattoir data, rather than IMF scans.

Mr Biddle said as well as predicting performance, Single Step analysis would allow unknown parents to be identified and unearth any discrepancies between paper pedigrees and genomic pedigrees.

“To ensure that our records are one hundred percent accurate, we may need to ask members to re-sample animals to ensure DNA integrity, and we will be correcting pedigrees if discrepancies are found,” Mr Biddle said.

For any questions about Single Step BREEDPLAN contact Paul Williams on 07 4927 6066 or Brahman BREEDPLAN on 02 6773 3555.
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- Dam: JDH MR LAWSON MANSO
- Dam: JDH MADISON DE MANSO +

**Animal: NCC DUTTON $24,000**

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- Sire: JDH SR LAWSON MANSO
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Sisters Penni Sloman and Kim Weller had their best day in the sun at the 2017 Sydney Royal Easter Show in April, parading the junior and grand champion bull and best Brahman exhibit, Blanco Ganado Mr President, as well as the junior champion female, Blanco Ganado Miss Prudence.

The pair started their small Blanco Ganado stud 16 years ago after being gifted a Brahman heifer, Yarra Warra Lucky Lady, by stud principal Les Walsh. That gift certainly provided fortuitous, with their Sydney best Brahman exhibit being a grandson of Lucky Lady.

Blanco Ganado Mr President is an October 2015-drop son of Glengarry Mr Tabasco 1529 and Blanco Ganado First Lady, and weighed in at 630kg with an eye muscle area of 104 sq cm. In what was his first major show outing, the grey bull placed first in the 16-20 months bull class before taking out the junior and grand bull championships and best exhibit title.

Ms Sloman said while they knew they had “a handy bull” they didn’t expect the grey to go so far in Sydney.

“We are very, very excited and very happy with the outcome,” she said.

Judge Lawson Camm, Cambil Brahman stud, Proserpine, said he was impressed by Mr President’s mobility, muscling, tidy sheath and sire appeal.

The stud plans to offer the Sydney champion at Rockhampton Brahman Week Sale in 2018, unless he sells sooner. The sisters run their small herd of 15 stud females on their parent’s property at Nabiac, single sire mating using mature sires. With Penni living in Glen Innes where she helps operate a family-owned sheep and beef property and Kim Weller living in Yanco, where she teaches at Yanco Agricultural High School, the property is a convenient half way point.

As well as showing in NSW, the stud will also fly the flag for the breed at this year’s Melbourne Royal Easter Show, with Yanco High School students tasked with preparing a purebred steer for the led steer competition.

While Blanco Ganado sells just a handful of bulls each year, Ms Sloman said the stud’s main aim was to foster their love of Brahmans and “to keep the dream alive in New South Wales” by showing the breed at Sydney.

The 2017 Royal Easter Show attracted a quality lineup of Brahmans, sharing the ribbons between eight local studs.

Mr Camm awarded the reserve junior bull championship to the 9-12 months class winner Banarra Oakley, shown by Ash and Shayne Gardiner, Banarra, Tipperary. The impressive young grey is by the Lancefield Signature son Warraka Seamus and is out of the homebred cow Banarra Silky.

In the senior bull classes, the championship went to Mogul Eucalypt, paraded by Dr George Jacobs’ Mogul stud, Yorklea. The red bull, who is a son of Walton Downs The Third Wish and Mogul Miss Wittlesea.
Rousing reception for Mr President in Sydney

2nd, followed up on his senior bull championship at the 2017 Tenterfield Show.

Mogul also paraded the reserve champion senior female Mogul Miss T Wittlesea 4th, who was the senior and grand champion cow in Tenterfield this year. She is by Token 312/1 and out of a homebred daughter of El Ja Data Axcess Manso.

Buckaroo Heroics, a polled red son of Langley Dale Luke and Langley Dale Saskia, was sashed the winner of the 30-36 months bull class before going on to claim the reserve senior bull championship. He was shown by Haley Ellis, Buckaroo stud, Ardghlen.

Mr Camm liked the look of the 24-30 months class winner, Palmvale Miss Pablo Lance, graduating the red cow all the way to the senior and grand female championship. The daughter of Samari Plains Lance and Palmvale Miss Pablo Walker bettered her debut Sydney showing in 2016, where she was sashed the reserve junior champion female. She was shown by Scott and Elaine Edwards, See Performance Brahmans, Wingen.

In the junior female classes, the championship went to Blanco Ganado Miss Prudence, who took the blue ribbon in the 16-20 months class. Like her outstanding stablemate Mr President, she is by Glengarry Mr Tabasco, and out of a homebred cow with Kabala breeding.

Ian Pickard, Vigour stud, Millers Forest, claimed the reserve junior female championship with Vigour Xcell, a polled dark red daughter of Abbotsford Reuben. She was the winner of the 12-16 months class.

In the group judging, Blanco Ganado took the blue ribbon in the Sire’s or Dam’s Progeny, with offspring of Glengarry Mr Tabasco, as well as winning the Breeder’s Group class. The Two Bulls Class, for bulls not over 24 months, was won by Mogul stud.
Welcome to a revamped Prime Objective column. After 25 years of reporting on prices for primes and stores through the saleyards, it’s time for a fresh new direction.

In each column I’ll be looking at beef industry opportunities and trends, and I welcome your input and feedback. If you can’t bear to part with those market quotes, or if there are specific beef industry topics you’d like to read about, please get in touch with me at wagtailmedia@bigpond.com to share your thoughts.

In this issue I’m shining a light on the northern Australia beef industry and opportunities for growth in the live export sector.

To date in 2017, live exports of feeder and slaughter cattle remain well below levels for the same period last year. This is due to a range of factors including availability of cattle, high prices and overseas market challenges.

In the first four months of this year, just 223,000 head had been shipped, down by 41 percent compared to the same period in 2016.

Our biggest buyer, Indonesia, accounted for 155,000 head in the first four months, back by 18 percent on year-ago volumes. Shipments to Vietnam in April were also down, with the 12 month (April 2016-17) tally of 138,313 equaling a drop of 59 percent, or 196,125 fewer cattle compared to the previous year.

However Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association president Tom Stockwell said despite the current situation northern cattlemen were having a “very good year” and the outlook was positive.

“The reduced turnoff has had a lot to do with seasonal conditions as it has been very wet and hard to get at cattle,” Mr Stockwell said.

“The market early in the year remains strong and is still good for feeder steers and heavier steers. There are predictions that the price may drop later in the year, but at the moment buyers are still looking for cattle and there are still plenty of good cattle on the market up here.”

Darwin has been the north’s most active port this year, shipping out 60,441 head of feeder and slaughter cattle in the first three months of 2017. In May, live feeder cattle delivered to Darwin were quoted as $3.30-$3.40/kg liveweight, with rates down by about 10 percent since January.

While the year’s exports may have started slowly, looking longer term the northern beef industry is uniquely placed to benefit from rapidly growing populations and rising affluence in Asia.

In delivering his keynote speech at the NTCA annual conference in May, trade advisor and former Federal Minister for Trade and Investment, Andrew Robb, said an “economic miracle” was unfolding, with 70 percent of world growth happening in the Asia region, and 40 percent in China alone.

He shared how Indonesia’s middle class had grown from 4 million people in 2000 to 50 million in 2016, adding that Indonesia would be the fourth largest economy in the world within 15 years.

Mr Robb said Australia needed to build closer trade relationships in the region and develop more joint venture partnerships to build mutual trust and understanding and capitalize on trade opportunities.

Mr Stockwell endorsed Mr Robb’s comments and said while there was huge potential for expanding live exports to Indonesia, he expected the journey would not be all smooth sailing.

“The relationship between the extensive grazing industry of northern Australia, where we can breed cattle cheaply, and the intensive industry of Indonesia where they have lots of agricultural byproducts and feedstuffs for lot feeding and a huge population demanding more beef, is a really strongly positive relationship based on first principles.”

However, although northern Australia beef producers were best placed to compete on “efficiency and comparative advantage”, other factors would come into play such as government regulation of food supplies, he said.

“The growth will be there, it’s positive, and will be volatile.”

Another opportunity for the Top End may come in the form of the opening up of live cattle exports to China. In May all eyes were on Hancock Pastoral CEO Gina Rinehart, following her announcement of plans to sell and ship as many as 800,000 live cattle a year to China.

Hancock Pastoral has partnered with China’s massive New Hope Group, which reportedly plans to invest $1 billion in Australia’s agriculture and agribusiness sectors by 2020. It’s been flagged that the cattle would be shipped from the ports of Broome, Darwin and Townsville to Zhejiang’s island port of Zhou Shan, south of Shanghai. New Hope plans to build a new feedlot, quarantine and meat-processing facilities at Zhou Shan, which is located in the specially approved Free Trade Zone for Australian agriculture and food exports to China.

It is estimated that, following last year’s acquisition of S. Kidman and Co in partnership with China’s Shanghai CRED private company, Hancock Pastoral now runs 300,000 cattle on stations in the Kimberly, NT and NSW.

Even so, supplying China at the reported rates would require a doubling of Australia’s current live export trade, during a period where producers are rebuilding cow herds which are at historic lows. Infrastructure, supply chain logistics and approvals will take some time to develop and negotiate. In particular, blue tongue disease protocols and China’s HGP-free requirements mean northern Australia beef producers are unlikely to benefit from these developments in the short term.

Mr Stockwell said did not have all the details about Hancock Pastoral’s plans to supply live cattle to China, but was cautiously optimistic for the future.

“If it does come off there will be big opportunities for people in the blue tongue free zone. If these arrangements change then northern beef producers may be able to take more advantage of it,” he said.

Another positive boost for Top End producers was the May signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a coordinated and informed beef plan for Northern Australia. The plan aims to leverage key initiatives to develop the northern beef industry, which already contributes more than $2.8 billion a year to the Australian economy and runs 45 percent (1.7 million head) of the national herd.

“We’re hoping the plan will be a blueprint so that government can fund infrastructure and resources across the three jurisdictions (Qld, NT and WA) and allow the whole of the north to grow. Regardless of what state we are in, we will have a planned and properly costed approach and can speak with one voice,” Mr Stockwell said.

The plan, which has a 12-month timeline for completion, is supported by the NTCA, Cattle Council of Australia, Ag Force Queensland and the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia.
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James Masson - “The Rock Angus NSW”

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Massive turnout at Monto Feature Show

The 2017 Monto Brahman Feature Show on 29 April attracted a strong lineup of 112 head from 30 studs, with top honours on the day shared by the Raglan and HH prefixes.

The quality field of reds and greys was judged by NCC stud principal Brett Nobbs, Duaringa, and Amy Harch, Danarla A, Wooroolin, who recently returned from the United States after receiving the Edgar Hudgins Memorial Scholarship.

For the tri-colour ribbons the pair selected Raglan Mr Mason 2280 as the senior and grand champion bull and HH Park Miss Charlotte as the junior and grand champion female.

Raglan Mr Mason is a 25-month-old son of Raglan Mr Mac 1321 and Raglan Miss 1175 and was shown by Andrew and Roxanne Olive, Raglan stud, Raglan.

Interestingly, every bull championship and reserve bull championship in Monto was awarded to cattle paraded by sisters Roxanne Olive, Kathryn Mortimer and Vicki Hayes, who are each daughters of Brahman breed stalwarts Ron and Daphne Kirk, Yenda, Gayndah.

The judges awarded the senior bull reserve championship to Token Highclass, who placed second to Mr Mason in the 24-30 months class. The homebred product of Token Dominator and Token Miss Fancy was paraded by Kathryn and Tony Mortimer, Token, Eidsvold.

Token also fared well in the junior bull classes, collecting the reserve championship with Token Image, who placed second in the large 15-17 months bull class, which presented 12 head. Image is a son of Larramee Grande Jumbo and is out of a homebred cow by JDH Sir Parker Manso (imp).

The junior bull championship went to the winner of that class, Yenda V Trueman, a Yenda V Jackman 84/3 son from Vicki and Scott Hayes’ Yenda V stud, Mundubbera.

The sisters’ winning spree was also evident in the bull calf events, with Yenda V and Token entries taking home both broad ribbons. The Lancefield S Herston son Yenda V Duke placed first in the 12-head 12-15 months class before taking out the bull calf championship. His class runner up, Token Illinois, claimed the reserve championship, and is an impressive son of Gracemere Longfellow.

The junior and grand champion female HH Park Miss Charlotte first caught the eye of the judges in the massive 18-head class for females aged 17-19 months. The daughter of FBC El Toro Manso and HH Park Joanne 471 was exhibited by delighted breeders Don and Julie Hurrell, HH Park, Gympie.

The other member of their two-head show team, HH Park Miss Jewel 882, also performed exceptionally well, claiming the female calf championship. She too is a daughter of El Toro, and is out of a Glengarry cow by Glengarry G Super Locke Manso.

The winner of the 15-17 months heifer class, Raglan Miss Joella 2651, claimed the junior female reserve championship. She is by Raglan Jubilee 1662 and out of a cow by Raglan Mr Alex 133.
Ken and Wendy Cole were successful in Monto with reds and greys, exhibiting the senior champion female Kenrol Lady Kayla 2760, and the reserve champion female calf, Kenrol Marina Del Rey 0505.

Lady Kayla, who placed first in the 24-30 months class, is a grey daughter of Elrose Barocca and Kenrol Lady Kayla 2406, and has collected a number of show wins this season. The Cole’s calf reserve champion, Marina Del Rey, is a stylish polled red heifer by Register of Renown sire Kenrol Mr HJ Ray 0366.

Raglan added to its ribbon tally by parading the 21-24 months female class winner and reserve champion senior female, Raglan Maddie 2494. Like their grand champion bull, Maddie is sired by Raglan Mr Mac 1321, and her dam is the former show champion Raglan Valencia 1727.

The Olives finished the Monto Feature Show on a high, claiming the blue ribbons in the Breeder’s Group, and in the Sire’s Progeny Group with offspring of Raglan Mr Mac.

The Dam’s Progeny Group was won by progeny of the polled red cow Riuna Elegance 504/3, exhibited by Bevan Glasgow, Riuna, Bundaberg.

The Monto Feature Show was organised by the South Queensland Branch of the ABBA and also featured a hotly contested interbreed Prime Cattle Show and Carcase Competition.

Local Brahman breeders Tex, Bronwyn, Lance and Janelle Burnham, Boogalgopal, Monto were absolutely delighted when their two tooth grey Brahman steer was awarded both the champion grassfed carcase and the grand champion carcase.

The Burnhams also exhibited the champion pen of steers, as well as taking out first and second place in the pen of steers class.

In the on the hoof judging, the Burnhams showed the blue ribbon pen of four tooth steers, took second place in the pen of two tooth steers class, and showed the winning pen of replacement heifers.

Tex Burnham said the wins were a great thrill for the family.

“The focus of our breeding program has always been to promote the commercial attributes of our grassfed Brahmans and to dispel the sometimes poor perception that the public holds over the quality of Brahman beef,” he said.

Awards for the carcase contest were handed out at a special presentation dinner held at Mungungo Hotel.
Massive turnout at Monto Feature Show

Junior bulls in the show ring at the Monto Feature Show.

Tex Burnham - Boogalgopal stud with Champion Carcase Pen of Three.

Tex and Bronwyn Burnham - Boogalgopal stud Monto Champion Carcase Overall Monto Show 2017.

Breeders Group in the show ring at the Monto Feature Show.
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555 ALINTA WEBSET (P) (AT 22MTHS)
DAM’S SIRE: LANES CREEK RETENTION (AI ET) (P)

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Importance of Good Quality Semen in Artificial Breeding Programs

It is extremely disappointing and frustrating to have embarked in an AI, ET or IVF program only to achieve poor results.

There are several factors that may contribute to the failure of such a program including seasonal conditions, drought, nutrition, technical problems and semen quality.

Research has established that the use of semen below certain minimum standards is more likely to result in an unsatisfactory outcome. This does not mean that a particular bull will not achieve satisfactory results with natural mating, however if the batch of semen being used in a program is of lower quality, results may be poor. This can be very disappointing and costly in terms of time, drugs for synchronisation, labour and personal stress.

Progressive motility is the most commonly used criteria for presale semen testing and is usually included in supplementary sheets (along with EBV, EMA, weight etc) given to buyers on sale day. Progressive Motility alone does not give a good enough indication of semen quality for use in Artificial Breeding Programs.

Semen is often rated using two numbers (eg 40/45). The first value given (40) represents the percentage of Post Thaw sperm that are alive and the second value (45) represents the percentage of those alive sperm that are swimming normally.

Our minimum for motility are 35/35 for domestic semen and 40/40 for export semen. We now have a CASA system (Computer Assisted Sperm Assessment) which provides a signal percentage for motility and eliminates the “Human Factor” on this assessment.

Concentration of semen is also important. We aim to provide 25 million sperm in each 1/4ml straw and of those we expect to have no fewer than 8 million live normal sperm available on insemination.

Motility rating does not take all of the abnormal sperm into account (eg sperm with proximal droplets and sperm with vacuoles will appear to swim normally but will not result in a successful pregnancy).

The higher the percentage of these defects, the lower the chance of a normal sperm reaching the egg and fertilising.

The detailed examination of semen to evaluate the percentage of abnormalities is known as Morphology. This should be done with a microscope capable of 1000 times magnification.

We are often asked to examine straws from batches which have produced poor results in an artificial breeding program, we frequently find defects in morphology which would not be obvious with just a Motility assessment or examination with a low powered microscope.

My recommendation is that, if the semen you are planning to use does not have a “Post Thaw” assessment available, you should have Morphology, Motility and Concentration done before you begin your program. We can do this for you.

Failures in AI, ET and IVF programs are preventable. There are enough other factors that may affect your success. semen quality does not have to be one of them!
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Polled red from Bungarribee stars in Rocky

The polled red heifer Bungarribee Jalilah 2275 was the top seller at the annual Rocky All Stars Elite Female Sale at CQLX Gracemere, going for $18,000.

Eleven vendors offered a total of 61 head at the 26 April event, which was rescheduled from 1 April due to Cyclone Debbie.

The CQLX Gracemere sale cleared 92% of the offering to record a $4870 average overall, with 22 grey females averaging $6034 and 34 reds averaging $4118.

The sale topper Bungarribee Jalilah 2275 is a daughter of Fairy Springs Calisto 2957 and Bungarribee Anetha 1782, who is by the popular sire Lancefield D Robinson. She was offered by Jim and Bonnie Besley, Bungarribee, Barmoya and was purchased by Scott Currant, Riverlea Grazing, Duaringa.

Bill and Kaye Geddes, Doonside, Milman, secured the top priced grey at $15,000, the unjoined polled heifer Avee 766. She is by the polled sire Lancefield A Cooper 3208 and out of the JDH Mr Elmo Manso daughter NCC Empress 1972, and features impressive BREEDPLAN EBVs. The heifer was one of six head sold for $7250 avg by Bill and Vicki Gabel, Avee stud, Wowan, with their four Lancefield A Cooper heifers selling best to average an impressive $9500.

The Geddes purchased six head at the sale, their selections including a second polled Lancefield A Cooper heifer, Avee 769, at $9000.

North Queensland vendor Peter Tuxworth collected $10,000 for his best seller, Halgenaes Jane. The polled red is a September 2015-drop daughter of JNH Lane and Halgenaes Tulip, and was snapped up by Joan Haniman, Reedybrook stud, Mt Garnet.

Glengarry heifers attracted solid demand, with Scott and Geoff Angel's stud averaging $5812 for eight head. Their offering included $9000 Glengarry Belle 2641, the first daughter of polled sire Condor Honeybear Manso 404 to be presented for sale. Her dam Glengarry Belle 2029 is from the stud's noted Belle cow line, which has produced a number of show champions. Glengarry Belle 2641 will join William and Helen Tucker's Garuda WG stud, Bouldercombe. The Tuckers also paid $6750 for Blue Water Hills TP 1 Manso, a PBF Eumundi Manso daughter from Emanuel and Josephine Pace's Blue Water Hills stud, Mackay.

Charters Towers studmasters Peter and Sue Hammer selected three Glengarry females for their Annakale prefix, their bids peaking at $9000 for Glengarry Miss Hannabal 2642, by Condor Honeybear Manso.

Another $9000 sale was Eureka Creek Malitha, from Becky Wilson's Eureka Creek stud, Monto. The 19-month-old daughter of import JDH Martin Manso was knocked down to Doonside stud.

Glen and Tanya Oppermann selected three new females for their Tango stud, near Gayndah. Their purchases included the $8000 polled grey Lancefield A Cooper heifer Avee 767.

Glengarry G Miss Lynette was the highest priced lot from Geoff and Gladys Angel's Glengarry G prefix, selling for $8000 to Blue Water Hills stud. She is by young sire
Newburra Grafton who has been doing a great job for the Kunwarara-based stud.

The Hills family, Theodore, was the successful bidder on $7500 Eureka Creek Mintie, a JDH Martin Manso (imp) heifer out of an E3 Sugar Sugar 231/3 cow.

Elmo Golde Moon shone brightly for vendors Alan and Leoni Trail, Baralaba, selling for $6500 to Doonside stud. The polled red heifer by Brolga Gully 2254/0 was offered with two straws of semen from polled bull Wallton Downs Barnaby.

A grey daughter of Toy Boy Brandon, Token Miss 641/6, led the three-head draft from Tony and Kathryn Mortimer’s Token stud, Eidsvold. She was snapped up for $7000 by Nev and Megan Hansen for their Oaklands stud, Kalapa.
Two Central Queensland families are attempting to establish a low value uniquely Brahman beef off-cut as a much loved delicacy, up there with the likes of the ever popular lamb shanks and pulled pork.

Marlborough’s Matthew and Fiona Noakes, who operate Solo F Brahman stud at Rock Wallaby, and friends and neighbours Gary, Sharon and Alison Polkinghorne, Copperville Brahman stud, Copperville, established ‘The Smokin’ Yak two years ago to reframe consumers’ negative perceptions of the eating quality of Brahman beef.

The Smokin’ Yak caters for events such as expos, weddings, shows and food festivals, serving up delicious meats slow cooked for up to 10 hours in a wood-fired Texas Barbecue.

The venture has come a long way since its first function, feeding hungry kids at the 2015 Rockhampton Junior Beef Show. Today it has a dedicated cold room and two portable barbecues capable of cooking 200kg of meat at a time.

Fiona Noakes said the unlikely star of their business has been the Brahman hump, which has a marbling score similar to elite Wagyu beef. Although being the second most popular meat cut in Argentina, the hump is little known here and is usually fed through the mincer and lowly priced as Chemical Lean trim.

To enhance its flavour, the hump is simply rubbed with salt and pepper before being cooked at 130 degrees over rosewood sourced from their property.

“After eight hours of cooking all the fat renders out and the connective tissues soften, leaving an incredibly juicy and tender product. We often have people come up to us and say they’ve never eaten meat this good before,” Mrs Noakes said.

The hump is so good in fact that The Smokin’ Yak sold 3 tonnes of it in 2016, including 600kg at the World Brahman Congress and 300kg at AgGrow Field Days in Emerald. Another huge event was feeding 400 delegates at the ICPA Dinner in Alpha last year, and The Smokin’ Yak has also been a crowd pleaser at the annual Capricorn Food and Wine Festival.

With the public’s interest in reality cooking shows at an all-time high, the provenance of the uniquely Brahman product has grabbed the attention of rural and townsfolk alike.

“The Smokin’ Yak’s Brahman humps cooked, sliced and ready to serve.

“People like to know the story behind their food and the hump is very gimmicky, as it literally has no competition. It has been a real talking point.”

The Smokin’ Yak is ideally placed to source the best humps available, with Mr Noakes working as a livestock buyer for Teys Australia in Rockhampton.

“Everything we buy is grassfed and HGP-free and we look for humps that are around two kilos. We did trial grainfed humps but found they were too fatty and did not have as much flavour as the grassfed ones,” Mrs Noakes said.

As well as serving up hump, the food stall offers Brahman beef ribs, pork ribs, pulled pork and sausages, along with an assortment of Texas-inspired sides including barbecue beans, corn and coleslaw.

Mrs Noakes said staffing was never an issue thanks to their four teenaged children being “roped in” to help on weekends, in addition to hands-on involvement from all partners.
INVITED BRAHMAN VENDORS: AKAMA, FBC and PIONEER PARK

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2AM Norton (P)
JDH Layton Manso
JDH Domino Manso

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The Smokin’ Yak’s all fired up for sizzling success

“We all work off-farm and have a good time running the business, although when we have lunchtime events it’s a bit harder as we have to get the cooking started at 2am.”

While any profits from The Smokin’ Yak are currently reinvested, and will help fund a research trip to Texas later this year, the partners have much bigger dreams for the venture. They plan to make barbecued hump a mainstream meat dish and are currently in preliminary discussions with Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) to gain advice on getting pre-cooked and packaged hump into the retail sector.

“Although it’s very early days, we think there’s big potential to sell cooked product that’s ready to eat after five minutes’ reheating in the microwave,” Mrs Noakes said.

The Smokin’ Yak recently tested this market by supplying 20 cooked humps to the Scone Grammar School Fete, as part of a breed promotion organised by Elaine Edwards, See Performance Brahmans, Wingen, NSW.

The event was a huge success, selling out 180 plates of hump.

“Everyone was so impressed with the tenderness and flavour of the hump that they came back for seconds. They were all saying it was not what they expected, and that it was absolutely beautiful,” Mrs Edwards said.

As well as winning the stomachs of consumers, The Smokin’ Yak principals ultimately hope that widespread sales of hump meat can flow through to create better returns for Brahman beef producers.

“It’s all about supply and demand. If more people ask for Brahman beef then meatworks will have to source more and put the rates up, all adding to the bottom line,” Mrs Noakes said.

Yenda V Truman on the rise

photo by Ann CLARKE

After taking out Champion Junior Bull at the Monto Feature Show in late April, Clayton Hayes with Yenda V Truman have been awarded supreme exhibit of the Mundubbera Show, pictured here with Hannah Allen - Miss Show Girl, Hannah Vicary - Miss Runner Up Show Girl, Justine Jenkin - Miss Personality, Lynton Hollitt - senior judge and Ali Hollitt junior judging.
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Raglan and Kenrol on top in Marlborough

Raglan and Kenrol shared the major spoils at the 2017 Marlborough Show, exhibiting the champion interbreed bull and female, respectively.

The April 22 Central Queensland event was judged by James Pisaturo and Aleisha Finger, with stud cattle competing in a Brahman section and Other Breeds section, before the awarding of interbreed championships.

The judges selected Raglan Mr Mason as the interbreed champion bull, as well as the senior and grand champion Brahman bull. He is a son of Raglan Mr Mac 1321 and Raglan Miss 1175 and was shown by Andrew and Roxanne Olive and family, Raglan stud, Raglan.

The Elrose Barocca daughter Kenrol Lady Kayla 2760 collected the interbreed female championship, following her progression through the Brahman ranks as senior and grand champion female. She was exhibited by Ken and Wendy Cole, Gracemere. The Kenrol prefix also presented the champion bull calf, Kenrol John Boy, a red son of US import MSP Sir Petty John 588.

It was a highly successful day out for Raglan stud, which also showed the reserve champion bull calf, Raglan Mr Carlston, who is by JDH Carson De Manso 834/7 (imp), and the reserve champion senior female Raglan Maddie, who is a daughter of Raglan Mr Mac. The Olives finished the day on a high by winning the Breeder’s Group, and the Sire’s Progeny Group with offspring of Raglan Mr Mac.

The reserve champion senior Brahman bull was Timbrel Mr B Olaf, an IVF product of Lancefield Burton Manso 3251 and Pioneer Park Lady Sunline Manso. He placed first in the 21-24 months class and was paraded by Terry and Susan Connor, Timbrel, Rockhampton.

In the junior classes, David Dunn, Somerton stud, St Lawrence was thrilled to snare two broad ribbons with his reds. He showed the junior champion bull Somerton Indian Outlaw, by NCC Rhapsody, and the reserve champion junior female Somerton Miss Robin, who is a daughter of Palmvale Hillibilly.

The judges presented the junior bull reserve championship to Apis Creek Henry, a Hamdenvale Kenton son from Tim and Lynnette Olive’s Apis Creek stud, Marlborough he polled red heifer Palmvale Princess took the blue ribbon in the 6-9 months class before being sashed the calf champion female. The Tarramba Might and Power daughter was paraded by Beth and Remy Streeter, Palmvale, Marlborough. They also claimed the blue ribbon in the Dam’s Progeny Stakes with progeny of Palmvale Miss Regal 1900.

Another polled red took out the reserve champion female calf title, which was awarded to The Rivers Matilda 186. The fully-homebred heifer by The Rivers Revolution was shown by Peter and Susan Gray, The Rivers stud, Marlborough.

The annual show also staged hotly-contested Junior Judges’ and Junior Paraders’ contests which were won by Julie Orr and Cassidy Watson overall.
Raglan and Kenrol on top in Marlborough

Brahman Male Grand Champion - Raglan Mr Mason. L to R - Amiee Olive (Raglan Brahms), Mr James Pisaturo (Inga Downs) and Tim Olive (Apis Creek).

Brahman Grand Champion Female - Kenrol Lady Kayla. L to R - Mr James Pisaturo, Beth Streeter and Kenrol Team.

Brahman Male Senior Champion - Raglan Mr Mason. L to R - Aimee Olive (Raglan Brahms) and Scott Angle (Glengarry Brahms).

Brahman Male Junior Champion - Somerton Indian Outlaw. L to R - Mr James Pisaturo (Inga Downs) and Henry Gray (The Rivers Brahms).

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Brahmans performed well in the interbreed judging at the 2017 The Caves Show, held on April 29.

The Rockhampton-district event was judged by Mark Howard, Ohio, Gogango and included classes for stud cattle, unled purebred bulls and heifers, and led steers.

Peter and Susan Gray, The Rivers stud, Marlborough, exhibited the champion female calf, The Rivers Abigail. She is a red daughter of homebred sire The Rivers Revolution.

The reserve championship was awarded to Jim and Bonnie Besley’s Bungarribee Khione, a polled red heifer by Garthowen Warrior. Bungarribee stud also exhibited the winning Sire’s Progeny Group.

Marlborough’s Tim and Lynette Olive paraded the junior champion bull, Apis Creek Henry, who is from the JDH Mr Deeds Manso cow Apis Creek Miss 3355/9 and by the IVF bull Hamdenvale Kenton.

Nev and Megan Hansen, Oaklands, Kalapa had huge success on the day with their Brangus cattle, as well as showing the reserve champion senior female NCC Empress 3305. She is a two-year-old grey daughter of Renco Law and Order De Manso.

The best pair of unled purebred heifers were Brahmans from Ron and Beryl Landsberg’s Pine Crest stud, based at Rocklea, Marlborough.

William and Helen Tucker, Bouldercombe, exhibited the winning led steer in the milk tooth 500kg and under class, weighing in at 488kg.

The show also hosted Junior Paraders’ and Junior Judges’ contests, judged by Anastasia Fanning, Rockhampton. The results are as follows:

**JUNIOR PARADERS**

Under 13 years: Jai Steere, 1; Bryce Voll, 2; Tim Connor, 3. Under 15: Toby Polzin, 1; Taylor Chapman, 2; Bailey Baker, 3. Under 16: Ta Steere, 1; Brandon Beck, 2; Danielle Rumpf, 3; 16-under 25: Grady Hansen, 1; Coby Mitchell, 2; Remy Streeter, 3.

**JUNIOR JUDGES**

Under 13 years: Jai Steere, 1; Emily Jones, 2; Tim Connor, 3. Under 16: Hayden Hansen, 1; Grace Clancy, 2; Ta Steere, 3. 16-under 25: Dana Walkington, 1; Grady Hansen, 2; Stephanie Roberts, 3.
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Hudgins Scholarship
an eye-opening adventure

When I found out I received the 2016 Edgar Hudgins Memorial Scholarship to travel to the United States I was honoured and overwhelmed with excitement for the adventure to come.

I spent three months travelling across Texas, Florida and Louisiana, learning from some of the most experienced cattle breeders in the world.

I visited Brahman ranches, commercial cattle operations, collection facilities and livestock shows. The trip provided me with a fresh perspective and several ideas I would like to implement back here in Australia.

My trip started in Hungerford, Texas, home to the world-renowned J.D. Hudgins Ranch. During my time at Hudgins I visited different divisions of the impressive family-owned operation. My time at Hudgins Ranch was educational and inspiring. It’s a place I will never forget.

I had the pleasure of spending time with the Locke Family and witnessing their impressive operation, including their cell grazing program and improved pastures. I also spent time with the families from the Hudgins and Goudeau Divisions, who welcomed me to the ranch and showed me around throughout my stay.

Lana Jo Stanley from the Forgason Division was quick to take me under her wing. Our road trip to the Fort Worth Livestock Show and Rodeo was absolutely eye opening. Brahman judging commenced at 8am and ended at 8pm, with a very large number of entrants.

In Hungerford I attended a meeting of The Brahman Foundation, a non-profit organisation founded by members of the American Brahman Breeders Association to support the involvement of youth in the industry. Since it was formed two years ago the foundation has raised an impressive $200,000. Some of this money has been donated to provide scholarships at youth shows. I think that this idea has potential in Australia and is a wonderful initiative to encourage youth involvement in the Brahman industry.

I visited the V8 Ranch several times throughout my stay. The quality of the V8 cattle and their very successful marketing strategies were extremely impressive.

The Vincek Family from East Bernard took me in after my first week in Hungerford and I am truly thankful for the kindness they showed me and the amazing home cooked meals we shared.

In Texas I took a day trip with a fellow Aussie to 44 Farms, an incredible Angus operation that privately sells 1000 Angus bulls each year. The ranch was beautifully kept and one of the prettiest places I have ever seen, a true credit to the managers.

The next stop on my trip was Florida, where I was met by the Land Family from L2 Ranch. We went to the Tampa State Fair and I was delighted to lead some of the L2 Brahman breeders in the show ring. I spent the next few days at the L2 Ranch learning about their Brahman and commercial breeding programs, pine straw business and watermelon farming.

I then had the pleasure of spending time with the Kempfer families at Kempfer Cattle Company, Deer Park. George Kempfer, president of the American Brahman Breeders Association, showed me their purebred Brahman and commercial cattle. I spent two weeks mustering on horseback through the palm trees and helping in the yards, processing more than 100 cows and calves daily. We also attended the Silver Spurs Rodeo, and the family
introduced me to hog hunting, quail hunting, fireflies, alligators and cracker horses.

In Florida I also stayed with the Booth Family at the Doc Partin Ranch. It was wonderful to see their Brahman herds, as well as trying quail and catfish for the first time.

One of the highlights of my travels was visiting the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, where close to 1000 Brahmans were shown across two days. Each ranch had a display and the amount of effort that went into the booths was amazing. It was extra special to see my dad at Houston, after a couple of months apart.

South Texas was next on the list, where Mike, Cricket and Benton England from England Cattle Company were kind enough to take me in for the week. Their Brahman herds were impressive to say the least, with a large focus on polled genetics. The Englands took me to the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show and Rodeo, where I was impressed by the involvement of youth through the 4H and Future Farmers of America organisations. We also saw some amazing projects made by high school students, who had built everything from a barbecue to a gooseneck trailer.

Throughout the week I helped the Englands with their show cattle and got to lead one of their bulls in the show ring. The week ended with the annual England party at the ranch, where fellow Brahman breeders met to celebrate with great food and a live band. I was also lucky enough to visit Mexico twice, where we ate the most amazing food.

Earlier in my trip I had met a very wise man, Carlos Guerra. In South Texas I visited his family’s ranch, La Muneca Cattle Company. They predominantly breed polled Brahmas and have been doing so for a very long time.

My final adventure was hosted by Stuart Watkins from Watkins Cattle Company, Louisiana, which breeds beautiful grey and red Brahmas. Highlights of my stay were getting to know the very kind Watkins family, who taught me about the crawfish industry and local wildlife, and fed me traditional Louisiana dishes, with crawfish etouffee being my absolute favourite. Stuart ensured that I saw as many places as possible and organised visits to ranches and collection centres, plus a trip to Austin to tour the Capitol Building and the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

My last stop was Bulls Eye Ranch with Barry and Charlotte Smith. The picturesque ranch is situated in the rolling hills of Texas and their grey Brahmas were a credit to the family.

I would like to thank all the kind people I met along my journey for making me feel so welcome and sharing their knowledge. All in all, my adventure was eye-opening, educational and thought provoking. I look forward to incorporating the things I learnt into our stud as well as the broader Australian Brahman community.

I would like to thank the J.D. Hudgins Ranch and the Australian Brahman Breeders Association for allowing me the opportunity to go on this once-in-a-lifetime trip. It was an absolute honour to represent our great association.
Over five decades of breeding went under the hammer at the Jaffra Stud Brahman Female Dispersal Sale, CQLX, Gracemere, in early May.

The disposal of the female genetic assets developed by the late Ion Jackson offered breeders a rare opportunity to acquire females with a high degree of outcross to mainstream bloodlines. The catalogue involved an array of blends of Indu Brazil, Australian and US genetics in varying configurations ending in an offering of functional, carefully selected, uniform, well-conformed, quiet females with purity, founded on a strong original foundation base.

In a clear vindication of the breeding policies, selection criteria and philosophies that the late Ion Jackson developed, a two state buying panel ensured a gross of nearly $1m was achieved.

Industry trends saw a significant proportion of the offering being of polled genetics. In all forty-five percent of the females on offer either polled or scurred in description while thirty-three percent of the calves at foot are of a similar phenotype.

A breakdown of the categories revealed seventy-eight cows and calf units averaged $6756 selling to $22,000 while fifty-one PTIC females peaked at $16,000 to set a $4441 medium while thirty-nine heifers sold to $9500 to set a $3282 average. All bar one female were sold at auction and that individual lot sold immediately after the sale to clear the entire catalogue, while the two sires averaged $31,250 and a pair of semen packages set a $1750 average ($175/straw) topping at $300/straw.

Top selling unit was the four-year-old, Jaffra Beauty 4853 (H) at $22,000. The four-year-old daughter of Jaffra Entry sold with a bull calf sired by NCC Marzipan at side and will join the nucleus at the NCC prefix owned by Brett Nobbs, Duaringa. Brett’s three selections averaged $12,000 that included the sale opener at $6500, a five-year-old Jaffra Grande daughter with a Marzipan bull calf and Jaffra Miss Dahlia 4348 PTIC 6-months to Jaffra Kodak for $7500.

Another to take the opportunity to add to their brood was Lawson and Sophie Joyce, Tropical Cattle Stud, Ingham secured seven for a $8071 average including the top selling heifer, the $9500 Jaffra 4983 (P) a two-year-old Grande/Entry configured female. Others in their haul included the $15,000, Jaffra Dahlia 4650 (P) (Jaffra Grande) with a heifer calf by Marzipan and a $10,000 Jaffra Entry daughter, Zeala 4665 also with a heifer calf by Marzipan.

Vindicating his original purchase of $15,000 and the obvious strength and consistency of his crop of calves, NCC Marzipan (IVF) (D) (JDH Mr Elmo Manso) (US) was the result of a quick auction battle selling for $32,500 to new owners, Warraka Stud, operated by Bill and Sue Blakeney, Coondoo. Under bidders were Simon and Kaylene Hullock, Yambungan Stud, Yambungan Station. They were also unsuccessful in trying to secure the other sire on offer, the four-year-old,
Kodak, who was eventually knocked down to a Dingo based partnership between David and Julie McCamley, Palmal Stud and Andrew and Anna McCamley, ZAM Stud. The Hullock family, Concurry took seven females to average $7214 topping at $10,000 for another of the Jaffra Grande (P) daughters. Both sires were offered in a three quarter share full possession arrangement.

The semen package in Jaffra Entry sold for $500 ($50/straw) to Warraka Stud, Gympie. In all there were 25 Entry daughters that set a $4900 average. The other package on offer was the aged sire, Jaffra Grande 4028 (P). Fetching $3000 ($300/straw) it sold to Andy and Margaret Olsen, Neslo Stud, Wandoan. Grande, the most prominent sire in the catalogue had 48 daughters (37 percent of the offering) and these included the top selling maiden at $9500 and set an average $5385. These two sires, Grande (P) and Entry accounted for 37 percent of the yarning.

Matt and Janelle McCamley, Lancefield M Stud, Dululu signed off on three greys for on average $9167 topping at $10,000 for an Entry daughter with a Marzipan bull at foot. Del and Narelle Chapman, Bardia Stud, Wowan purchased six for a $4083 average while Charters Towers prefix, Burdekin Stud operated by John and Di Brownson and family claimed 10 to average $5450 to a top of $8500 for a rising-ten-year-old Jaffra Suville daughter with a bull calf by Jaffra Kodak (P).

Brenton and Emma Sewell, Hardacre Stud, Mallawa Station, Clermont ended with 11 for on average $7909 topping at $17,000 for an eight-year-old Jaffra Preston daughter with a heifer calf (NCC Marzipan) along with $10,000 each for two daughters by Jaffra Grande (P). Roland and Sally Everingham, Oak Park, Einasleigh set a $4625 for their eight while John and Catherine Hicks and family, Billabong Stud, Moura ended with 10 for a $5950 topping at $10,000 for Jaffra Donna 4817 (P) with a heifer calf by Kodak. Geoff and Scott Angel, Glengarry Stud, Kunwarra purchased a trio to average them $6000. One of their selections was Jaffra Miss Viking 4044, the dam of the $30,000 sale sire, Jaffra Kodak (P).

Interstate buyers included Waratah Speckle Park, Guyra, New South Wales owned by Laiton, Kayla, Eric and Helen Turnham. Acting through AuctionsPlus, the Turnham family’s nine females averaged them $3500 topping at $7000 for another of the Jaffra Grande (P) daughters with a Kodak (P) heifer at side. These females will be utilised in their Brahckle bull breeding operation. Brian and Ali Wormwell, Monivae, Tara took with them eight to average $3000 topping at $4000 while Paul and Catherine McKenzie, Arizona Stud, Dingo selected a pair to average $9750 topping at $14,000 for an eight-year-old Jaffra Preston daughter with a poll heifer calf at side by Jaffra Pinnacle (P). BJ Thomas, Varossa Stud, Baralaba took with him three to average $2333.

Brian and Cindy Hughes, Lanes Creek Stud, Georgetown took with them a pair for a $7500 average including a four-year-old MCL Jack Frost daughter with a bull calf by Marzipan for $8000 and a red FBC Robson (NCC Rabbi (P)) daughter aged five-years with a Marzipan heifer at side for $7000. Jim and Jenny Bauer, Elanora Park, Gin Gin ended with four setting an average $5750 to top at $7000 for a poll four-year-old by Jaffra Explorer (P) PTIC to Jaffra Pinnacle (P).

Alistair and Pam Davidson, Viva Stud, Middlemount signed off on a ticket that saw three average $5167 topping at $6500 for the polled Jaffra Suville (AI) daughter, Jaffra Pearl 4418 (P) (eight years) with a red poll calf by Jaffra Kodak (P) at side.

Don and Julie Hurrell, HH Park Stud, Gympie selected a pair for on average $4000 topping at $5500 for a daughter of the legendary, Jaffra Index, Jaffra Madonna 4864 (AI) carrying a safe test to NCC Marzipan (IVF), Local nursery, Kenrol Stud, operated by Ken and Wendy Cole purchased a pair to average them $3500 topping at $5000 for a poll maiden, Jaffra CP 5045 (Jaffra Grande (P)).

Kiaora Investments, Coondoo took five at $2000 price tags while William McCamley, Palmalmal, Dingo took with him a trio to average $3667 topping at $4000. Marlborough breeders, Ken and Pam Roche, KP Stud selected a trio also to average $5500 topping at $6500 for eight-year-old Jaffra Preston daughter with a polled heifer calf by Jaffra Pinnacle (P) at side.

Included in the offering were seven red females that averaged $6357. This section topped at $8500 for Jaffra Dahlia 4997 (P), a two-year-old, unjoined daughter of Jaffra Turbo (S). She sold to Craig Polsens’, Turnbuckle Stud, Baralaba and was his only purchase. Another of the red entries fetched $7000. This was a six-year-old daughter of FBC Robson (P) with a bull calf by NCC Marzipan going to the Lanes Creek prefix, Georgetown. Other studs to invest in red matrons were the Rodlyn Stud, Bell ($5500), Glengarry ($6000) and the KP Stud for $5500.

Agents: Elders, Landmark and AuctionsPlus.
With the $30,000 Jaffra Kodak (P) are David and Julie McCamley, Palmal Stud, Dingo and Kate Promnitz, and Vicki Jackson, Jaffra Stud, Gracemere. Kodak sold to a partnership involving the Palmal Stud and Andrew and Anna McCamley’s, 2AM Stud, Dingo.

The Waratah Speckle Park, Guyra, New South Wales owned by the Turnham family purchased nine females to average $3500 through AuctionsPlus. The females will be utilised in their Brahckle bull breeding operation. Some of their selections are seen here with Jason Jeynes, Ray White Livestock Gracemere and Vicki Jackson, Jaffra Stud, Gracemere.

Widespread demand at Jaffra Dispersal

There were smiles all round at the inaugural NSW Stud Female and Commercial F1 Female Sale, held at Casino Selling Centre on 28 April.

Local studs Mogul, Mountana, Staben, Coliana, Misty Mountain, Lorinda and Jomanda offered 24 registered heifers, with 21 selling for an average of $2280.

In addition, 403 F1 commercial females went under the hammer, selling to a top of $2000.

ABBA NSW Branch chairman Grant Bulmer said he was extremely happy with the outcome of the first sale, and hoped to further build the event next year.

In the stud section, the top price of $5000 was paid for Lot 1, Mogul Miss G Indy Manso 2, offered by Dr George Jacobs’ Mogul stud, Yorklea. The daughter of Glengarry G Cassanova was purchased by Paul and Sheree Madill, Madill’s River Ranch, Wilberforce.

The Madills also paid $4000 for a five-month-old polled grey heifer from Grant and Jo Bulmer’s Mountana stud, Kyogle. Mountana’s lineup also included a 15-month-old daughter of Lancefield Brigalow, which sold for $3500.

The highest priced red female was $3500 Mogul Miss SP Wittlesea 3R, who is by Samari Plains Walton.

Stud buyers were drawn from NSW and as far away as South Australia.

In the commercial section, PTIC F1 heifers from Mountana stud topped the market at $2000. Leacrista stud, Coraki, sold the highest priced unjoined F1 heifers, for $1450, and weaner heifers from G. Macabe, Bonalbo, peaked at $1320.

Mr Bulmer said the 403 commercial females grossed $541,755 to average $1344.

“I would like to thank the committee members who all helped to get the sale up and running, the agents for their hard work, and all who attended and supported the sale to make it the success that it was,” he said.
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Huge support for ‘The Hump Express’

remember the saying... ‘ Charity begins at home’?

Well four great friends from diverse, yet similar backgrounds have joined forces to raise funds for the Variety Club Of Australia in the 2017 Variety Bash ‘Surf and Turf’ Rally.

Wendy Cole, Kenrol Stud, Gracemere and Lyn Coombe, Roxborough Stud, Moura set out a plan to raise awareness of the plight of disadvantaged children. With that in mind and with the help of two other good friends they are taking part in the 2017 Variety Bash. Helping and assisting the pair will be Lex Stolk and Terry Gregson. These four colourful characters have called themselves and will go by the name ‘Yak Attack Team’.

This years rally will commence in Caloundra and teams will travel a total of 3891kms over 10 days through the countryside and take in towns like Chinchilla, Nindigully, Charleville, Blackall, Longreach, Alpha, Moranbah, Bowen and end the rally in Airlie Beach.

Their mode of transport (a previous rally vehicle), a 1985 VL Commodore Station Wagon is called ‘The Hump Express’. The team have made sure their car will certainly not be missed with two Brahman bull statues (grey and red) on the hood and an impressive logo on the sides of the car.

Like the names suggest there is a certain ‘cringe factor’ involved and when all is considered there’s a great deal of clever thinking behind it with Wendy adding ‘It would be fair to say that we’ve all come under some scrutiny with regards our choice of names for the vehicle and our team name. However it’s an effective way and means to promote awareness to the cause, the rally and the Variety Club of Australia’. She went onto say ‘At the end of the day we’ve set out to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged children in Australia’.

The teams fundraising efforts have got off to a great start with the staging of an online semen auction staged through Elite Livestock Auctions (February 13th -15th) raising $58,815 with packages selling to $4000. “We couldn’t be happier, the initial response was beyond all expectations when we called for support and donations toward the auction and for that we’re really grateful.” “To say we were blown over by the result of the auction would be an understatement, our fellow breeders have really supported us as a team and the event”.

Local collection centres and storage facilities, Beef Breeding Services and Rocky Repro transferred the semen free of charge. Elite Livestock Auctions also donated their services and staged the auction free of charge. Paula Driscoll, Rural Design Studios and Kent Ward, KB Consulting, both Rockhampton based businesses designed the logo and supplied many of the pictures and The Australian Brahman Breeders also lent a hand and supported the event by producing the online catalogue free of charge.

Breeders and the interested public can still throw their support this worthy cause and be part of the fundraising programme. Panels are available for sponsorship space on the ‘The Hump Express’ whereby you may wish to place signage or stud logo.

Contact Wendy Cole on 0429 131 966 or wendy@kenrol.com.au. For further information and anyone who would like to make a donation toward this worthy cause, the 2017 Variety Bash ‘Surf and Turf’ Rally go to www.variety.org.au/bash/events/2017-surf-turf-variety-bash. You can also reach the group and follow their journey via their Facebook page ‘The Hump Express’. All monies raised by the ‘Yak Attack’ team goes directly toward the Variety Club while the car expenses, fuel etc are at a personal cost to the four members of the ‘Yak Attack’ team.

June 2017
While many Brahman stud breeders continue to look out for the latest and greatest genetics from overseas, that tide may be turning, with renewed interest in foundational Australian Zebu bloodlines.

At last year’s Rockhampton Brahman Week Sale many of the top priced bulls were by Australian-bred sires, with just 11 percent of the grey bulls and six percent of the red bulls on offer by imported sires.

Writing in his last editorial as ABBA general manager, John Croaker said: “This is a significant difference to the situation a few years ago. It is a pleasing sign that we are making our own way in the Brahman world.”

While the majority of Brahman Week bulls carry a pedigree that reflects a melting pot of Australian, United States and South African influences, there are a handful of studs out there that have maintained genetic purity and preserved bloodlines founded on the first Zebu importations of 1933.

These include Jesse Zischke, Balara/BOS Indicus Cattle Co, Gympie; the O’Brien family, Coodarde, Mataranka, Northern Territory; Mick and Desley Delroy, Wandarri, Thangool; and Jan Bauer, Tyagarah, Baralaba.

Each agree that the Australian Zebu genetics are unbeatable in terms of breed character, temperament, tick resistance, fertility, calving ease, udder soundness, overall structural correctness and hardiness.

The common denominator between each of the abovementioned studs is the prevalence of Cherokee bloodlines. Cherokee stud was founded by (the late) Lionel DeLandelles, who first purchased Zebu cattle in 1944 and is acknowledged as one of the nation’s most gifted livestock breeders. He registered the prefix in 1946 as stud No. 3 with the Australian Zebu Breeders Association, which evolved into the Australian Brahman Breeders Association in 1954. In 1990, according to the book Beef Australia, it was estimated that about 80 percent of Australian Brahman and Brahman-infused cattle carried Cherokee blood.

Following Mr DeLandelles’ death in 1994, the prefix was passed on to his daughter Elsie Nicholas, and is now overseen by Jesse Zischke, alongside his own stud, Balara, which trades as BOS Indicus Cattle Co.

“Overseeing the breeding program and direction of the Cherokee stud is a real honour,” Mr Zischke said.

“Although each stud has its own unique difference, the two complement each other. Harnessing the strengths of Cherokee and BOS is very exciting and it bodes well for ongoing longevity and future success.”

While many people thought the Cherokee prefix was no longer in operation, for the past few years Mr Zischke has been working on building the female herd, which is the cornerstone of planned expansion. An AI program has also been in place since 2016 and this year will use semen from three sons of noted foundational sire JDH Valentine De Manso 606/5.
Historic genetics finding new-found favour

“We have been amazingly fortunate that a number of studs have been willing to support us by providing semen from the older Cherokee bulls. It has been incredibly generous,” he said.

Balara was founded by Jesse’s parents Cedric and Diane Zischke in 1959 as stud No. 15, following the purchase of a bull calf, Cherokee Sioux, and Brahman cows from Waverley Station. In 1961, Cherokee Pablo, Waun and Waterloo were added to the sire battery and since that time the stud has concentrated on maintaining Cherokee genetics.

Today it runs 700 head at Gympie and in the Brisbane Valley, single sire mating in 10 herds, drafted into greys, reds and a unique line of black Brahman.

There is keen interest in the stud’s “old school” genetics, with a buyer recently paying $4000 for a five-month-old bull in the paddock. Older bulls have made higher prices, going to stud and commercial operations out west and into the Gulf.

Having taken over the reins six years ago to re-invigorate the family stud, Mr Zischke said he was excited to be offering 80 young sires next year, as well as preparing a small Cherokee and BOS team for Beef Australia 2018 and Rockhampton Brahman Week Sale.

He said that people who viewed the herd couldn’t believe this type of quality Zebu Brahman still existed in Australia.

BOS has also sold heifers across Queensland and into NSW. Brisbane Valley weaner producer Peter Zimmerman, who recently invested in 18 purebred commercial heifers, said he “could not fault them” and was particularly impressed by the temperament of the females.

“If I had more land and was 20 years younger I would buy a hell of a lot more off him. Their temperament is so placid, they’re easy to handle, and you can do anything with them,” Mr Zimmerman said.

Mr Zischke said he believed that females were the backbone of any stud and should perform on their own merit.

“We have no calving issues. Having cows out in the paddock with bad udders and teats just doesn’t make commercial sense. We focus on temperament, udder/teat size and overall classic Brahman characteristics such as longevity.

“If cows need help to calve or calves need help to suckle, then in my opinion they should be destined for a one-way ticket, regardless of the pedigree.”

Another enterprise with close ties to Cherokee is the NT’s Coodardie stud, operated by Mike and Clair O’Brien and daughter Moira Lanzarin.

In 1989, brothers Mike and Rory O’Brien purchased by private treaty 536 registered stud females from Cherokee at what was then a whopping $3000 each, as well as investing in 173 young bulls and 10 proven sires. At its peak Coodardie ran 2500 Brahman females, however two years ago downsized to “300 of the very best” on 2000 hectare Coodardie Station, Mataranka.

Coodardie has maintained bloodlines that are “true to type” and suit the harsh Top End conditions, displaying exceptional temperment, fertility and do-ability.

“Mr DeLandelles used to say ‘while it’s working for you, stick with it’, and that’s pretty much what we’ve done,” Ms Lanzarin said.

“Up here we need a middle of the road animal that is extremely hardy and can perform in real world commercial conditions, on spear grass. We’ve stuck with the old Zebu content animals and continue to select and breed the best of the best from them.

“We say to our buyers that ‘we stay pure so that you don’t have to’. What we’re finding is that because of the genetic purity, buyers are getting the effects of hybrid vigour even when using our bulls within Brahman herds.”

Ms Lanzarin said their females were hardy, with good mothering traits, high fertility and sound udders.

“And the bulls have high libido to get us results over a short two-month mating period.”

In August 2016 the O’Briens celebrated 40 years of Brahman breeding with an on-property Coodardie Brahman Sellobration Bull Sale. The event achieved 100 percent clearance, selling 49 bulls to a top price of $6100. Although most bidders came from the NT and Western Australia, eight head were knocked down to Queensland buyers.

Ms Lanzarin said some of the most influential bloodlines in their stud had been the foundation sire Cherokee War Chief, as well as Duke De Manso, Cherokee Totem Manso and Cherokee Honey Bee, which had left a good legacy of red and grey progeny including some strong polled lines.

“Having polled cattle, while great, is really just a bonus for us and is not the be all and end all. We have a rigorous selection regime that looks at the whole animal and is based on the Classic Livestock Management System and Bovine Engineering Linear Measuring,” she said.

Coodardie has stockpiled a large bank of Australian Zebu semen over the years, and plans to market some rare lines in coming months.

“AI programs are difficult in our conditions and now with the reduction in herd numbers we have more semen than we could possibly use ourselves. We work with nature, not against it, and we don’t create a false environment under which the cattle perform,” Ms Lazarin said.
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Another stickler for Australian Zebu genetics is Mick and Desley Delroy’s Wandarri stud, Thangool, which was established in 1969.

The prefix achieved huge success in the early 1990s with progeny of their three-times ABBA Sire of the Year Cherokee LC Silver 2/1, and his consistent genes live on in the stud.

“I kept about 20 sons by him and have got semen from a lot of them in the tank. While some bulls will breed about one or two outstanding bulls in a year, he was breeding eight or ten of them,” Mr Delroy said.

Not one for following fads, he has continued with the historic bloodlines because of “purity, temperament, skin, fertility and tick resistance”.

“Fashion means nothing to me. I breed what I want to breed and what I believe I should breed, and I don’t have trouble selling all of my bulls,” he said.

Because of dry conditions, the stud recently “doubled up” its 2017 bull offering and sold 272 young sire prospects - all going to repeat buyers on the strength of a phone call. Wandarri bulls are working in stud and commercial herds in Central and North Qld, and demand regularly outstrips supply.

At last year’s World Brahman Congress, Wandarri exhibited 29 head at its trade stand, achieving very favourable feedback, and hopes to have another display at Beef Australia 2018.

“The bulls I took up there I could have sold three times over,” Mr Delroy said.

Included in the display were three mature females that were still producing calves at 16, 19 and 21 years of age. Mr Delroy said calving difficulty in the old style cattle was virtually non-existent.

“I put more emphasis on breeding good females than I do bulls,” Mr Delroy said.

“It’s the females that you’re keeping,” says protege Michelle Delroy. Wandarri stud has stockpiled semen from more than 100 Australian Zebu sires, with bloodlines going as far back as 1952 to Hima Colorado Manso 766/6.

Mr Delroy rates Valentine de Manso 606/5, Duncan de Manso 594/5, Duke De Manso and their descendants Cherokee Echo Hawk and Cherokee Repucho as pivotal sires in Australia’s Brahman breeding history.

Tyagarah stud principal Jan Bauer is another long term breeder of Australian Zebu-blood Brahmans and said she was not a fan of modern cattle because they were “not tough enough”. Her late husband Ron Bauer founded Tyagarah stud at Baralaba in the early 1960s as stud No.56 and Jan remains passionate about overseeing the breeding program, with hands-on assistance from sons John and Andrew.

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“The industry needs to concentrate more on character and look more closely at the feet and legs, as bulls have to go out there and do a job,” Mrs Bauer said.

She prides herself on breeding hardy sires that are ready to work and said it was important to always be critical of your own cattle.

“It’s time to give up if you think you’ve got the ideal beast. You should never stop trying to improve your cattle, and it’s about breeding a whole line of them, not just one or two good ones.”

A key strategy in the Tyagarah breeding program over the years has been line breeding.

“If done properly it does strengthen your herd. But you’ve got to know what you are doing and know that your cattle have the strength and depth of breeding to carry that through.”

Mrs Bauer recently introduced new sires that go back to Tyagarah blood, purchasing bulls from Coodardie and Rosie Robertson’s RR stud. Last year she also bought bulls from BOS Indicus Cattle Co and said they were doing “a really good job” in the stud.

“Seeing those BOS cattle has restored my faith in Australian Brahmans. I was very impressed and could have bought any number of bulls home as they were all very correct,” she said.
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More than scones served at NSW fete

New South Wales stud breeders Scott and Elaine Edwards doing their bit to change perceptions of the Brahman breed in her home state.

Elaine and husband Scott operate See Performance Brahms at Wingen and have achieved a highly successful year to date with their show team, exhibiting the senior and grand champion female at the 2017 Sydney Royal Easter Show, Palmvale Miss Pablo Lance.

In May, the couple decided to promote the breed in an innovative way, parading their stud cattle and selling barbecued Brahman hump at the Scone Grammar School Fete, held as part of the well-attended Scone Horse Festival.

"We wanted to do more than just have some Brahman cattle on display so we spoke to Fiona Noakes from The Smokin’ Yak and arranged for 20 humps to be cooked and sent down to us frozen and cryovaced,” Mrs Edwards said.

The barbecued humps were reheated, sliced and served with smashed potatoes and garden salad, quickly selling out 180 plates. (See a separate story on The Smokin’ Yak in this issue.)

“Everyone was so impressed with the tenderness and flavour of the hump that they came back for seconds. They were saying it was not what they expected, and it was absolutely beautiful. Many have asked when we will be serving Brahman humps again.”

Visitors to the fete also enjoyed getting up close and personal with Brahmans, a rare opportunity in a region that predominantly breeds Angus cattle.

“Many of our local farmers came to the event and were very impressed by the bone and muscle of the Brahmans on display, as well as their quiet temperaments,” Mrs Edwards said.

All profits from the sale of the humps was donated to the school, and to help raise even more money some of the students led six-month-old show calf See Mr D Jed around the fete, for patting and photo opportunities.

“The public was so surprised on how quiet he was and that they could get up close and pat a Brahman. We are on our way to changing the perception of New South Wales’ farmers and the general public that Brahmans are wild, skinny cattle that jump fences.”

See Performance Brahms was founded in 2014 and uses AI breeding programs over foundation females from Palmvale, NCC, Jomanda and Tarramba studs.

Mrs Edwards said they planned to start an ET program with their Sydney grand champion Palmvale Miss Pablo Lance, and would flush the female after she calves in August. The cow is expecting a bull calf by Tartrus Redmount.

“We strive to produce bulls that will be an asset to any stud, to help improve bone, muscle, calving and fertility. We also focus on breeding quiet temperaments and low maintenance cattle,” she said.
Sophie Renae Passfield, arrived in a hurry at 3.38 am on Sunday 9th April, at the Moura hospital, weighing 2210 grams and almost 6 weeks early.

Sophie is the first child for Brad and Rachel Passfield (nee Bishop).

First grandchild for Shane and Sandra Bishop, Garglen Brahmans and first great grandchild for Ron and Daphne Kirk of Yenda Brahmans. First granddaughter for Geoff and Kerri Passfield, Woodenbong, NSW.

Uncle Matt and Uncle Josh are besotted with their niece, as are all her Brahman breeding Aunts, Uncles and cousins from the Olive, Hayes and Mortimer Families.

Brad and Rachel wish to thank Doctors and Staff at the Moura hospital, the Royal Brisbane Womens Hospital and the Rockhampton Mater hospital, and a very special thankyou to the RFDS for 2 flights with baby Sophie.

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In Remembrance of Dave Watkins

His was the distinctive, easy listening, melodious voice of an auctioneering chant that commanded the stud stock auction markets of Central Queensland and further afield, like no other, for a long period spanning the decades of the ‘50s, ‘60s, ‘70s, ‘80s and into the ’90’s. David (Dave) Lloyd Watkins passed away peacefully at Yeppoon on Tuesday 14th March aged 88 years. He was a loyal, one company Australia Estates Co. Ltd employee (though this company at times progressed through a succession of mergers and takeovers AML Estates, Elders AML Estates, Elders Pastoral, etc.) for all 42 years of his working life. Rising from junior office boy to Rockhampton branch and District Manager, whose auctioneering skills remained right at the pinnacle of industry leadership levels for all that time. His working life corresponded with a period of great development and progress for the Northern Australian beef cattle industry, and Dave rode the wave of Bos Indicus breed expansion that prevailed across the cattle herds of the Central and Northern Australian landscape.

I was fortunate to work closely alongside Dave for most of the 1980’s in Australian Estates, and prior to that time, in the ’70’s as a young agent, I had closely observed his career and industry impact. In the business of stud stock agency and auctioneering there was no better model!

He recognised early the enormous benefits the Bos Indicus breeds would bring to the Australian beef cattle industry, and, although he was adept at achieving the best of the market for any class or any breed of livestock, it was Brahmans and Santa Gertrudis where he shone.

Born and raised in Blackall of Welsh parentage, his father was the town’s pharmacist. Dave was educated at home and then as a boarder at “Churchie” in Brisbane. It appears that sport was his main focus as a track athlete and rugby player. He then went to Gatton College 1946-47 and obtained a Diploma in animal husbandry. Academic achievements aside, it’s obvious he left plenty of time for sport, athletics, boxing and rugby are those he excelled in.

He set a 100 yards hurdle record which stood for 25 years; he captained the College’s 1st XV Rugby team and was selected to play in the Darling Downs representative side against New South Wales.

The designation ‘team leader’ is now in everyday use in the business world in Australia, however Dave was a ‘natural’ team leader throughout his life. That was first evident at College. There, apart from his sporting leadership, he was also the Thynne House Captain and a College Prefect in 1947.

He joined Australian Estates Co. Ltd in 1948 at Roma and was transferred to Rockhampton in 1950. At that time he was the only auctioneer for the company north of Brisbane and he travelled widely, selling at feature store cattle sales at Eidsvold, Tara, Moura, Rolleston, etc. He auctioned his first stud bull, an Angus, in 1950, and in 1952 he was selected to sell at the Brisbane Royal Show stud bull sales. In those days, prior to the proliferation of individual stud On-Property bull sales, and the expansion of stud bull sales to regional saleyards, Brisbane Royal Show was The bull sale of the year for the beef industry.

His positioning in Central Queensland caused him to develop a strong interest in Brahman cattle and he took advice from Brahman breed pioneer Bob Beak of Apis Creek fame, among others. After many discussions between Bob and Dave, and considering also at the time there was significant industry resistance to Brahmans, Bob said to Dave, “why don’t you stop talking about it and put on a sale?” In 1959 Dave conducted the first Brahman Sale with Bob Beak and George Robertson as vendors, with around 30 bulls. It was a success in terms of selling bulls and Dave considered that inaugural sale for the Brahman breed, which attracted tremendous interest from a large crowd, broke down the barriers to some who had been previously biased against the breed. From that start, Brahman bull auction sales have developed to lead the industry in Australia today.
From early on in his stud auctioneering career, Dave built up a collection of scrapbooks with newspaper cuttings of sale reports, sale previews, new bloodlines or new breeder write-ups, major show results for individual breeds, etc. glued into old ledger books. They were reference material for all his sales year to year. He had volumes and volumes of the sale history of Brahman, Santas, Braffords, Quarter Horses, etc. all in their own dedicated books. It was pointed out recently those scrapbooks of Dave’s detailed, as comprehensively as any written record, an exciting period of significant change, increased productivity and progress in the Northern Australia beef industry.

Attracted by his dedication, personal promotion of the Bos Indicus breeds as the way of the future, and by his strong, professional and people friendly auctioneering style, Studmasters from all breeds sought him out to sell their bulls. He was the auctioneer of choice for high profile Santa Gertrudis sales such as Cumberland (around 30 years) and King Ranch (25 years), and headed the selling at Cherokee, Avondale and Tartrus Lancefield Brahman sales for a number of years. At Brahman Week, in the old grandstand at Gracemere, people shoulder to shoulder, standing room only, it was a sight to see Dave in full cry, with the old horn P.A. speakers, adding the bids up “20 to the dozen” on a run of Rockley Red bulls for instance. He’d throw a little joke in to keep everybody’s attention and to loosen up the audience a bit if required. Dave always made certain of proper acknowledgement of the purchaser of bulls, and underbidders too, if it was a pricey animal or a good bidding battle. His relationship with both sides of the auction ring, buyers or vendors, was as one – confidence and trust in Dave’s actions, which is conducive to the best business outcome.

He was popular with everyone – fellow agents, men, women and children, the yardmen loading the train after a bull sale, or the head of a major corporation. Everyone liked to be in his company.

Although his time preceded the really big money bulls at auction, there are hundreds of Studmasters and their families in the Brahman business, and other breeds for that matter, who have benefited from the extra dollars Dave Watkins put into their pockets through his unique auctioneering expertise.

He was the lead auctioneer at many feature bull sales on the Australian stud stock calendar including many ‘firsts’ of high profile events, which captured a lot of media attention and which became regular feature sales of the industry. How good for the profile of the Brahman breed in this country was the Cherokee Stud Sale of Brahmans on the stage of the Pibbleam Theatre to a ‘full house’. What about the famous Celebrity Classic Tartrus Lancefield night sales at Gracemere when the crowds numbered in the thousands and we had to bring in CCTV and remote big screens, so those who couldn’t get anywhere near the Sale ring could see the action. Dave revelled in those occasions, he’d pump himself up like he was running on in an NRL Grand Final and he was prepared to go the whole eighty minutes and into ‘extra time’ if required. King Ranch selected Dave to head the auctioneering when they dispersed their Australian Santa Gertrudis Stud operations in a major event in the late 1980’s.

One of my favourite photos I have hanging at home is of the selling team at the very first Magic Millions Thoroughbred Yearling Sale at the Gold Coast in 1986. The three Sale auctioneers were David Chester, David Pim (an Irish thoroughbred auctioneer) and me, however, it was Dave who was the ‘captain’ of the selling team on that occasion, organising bid taking from the auctioneer’s box for the whole sale.

I found Dave to be most supportive of innovation and open to change, and he backed every well thought out initiative that came his way for consideration, from his staff or clients. It was in his time that Australian Estates commenced the annual National Quarter Horse Sale from an inaugural sale of 30 horses, which grew to be recognised as Australia’s most successful premier horse sale event (excluding thoroughbreds) for many decades, with offerings up to around 500 horses. He was right behind me when AML Estates, Rockhampton inaugurated the very first Central Queensland Thoroughbred Yearling Sale in 1983 which became the Capricorn Yearling Sale and continued successfully producing Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3 winners all over Australia for many years.

He gave loyalty, and he got it back. Dave as a man, a boss, an auctioneer, an associate, a competitor, an agent, a friend, had no complexities. Any problems got sorted and then forgotten. You’d have to be right off the spectrum for him to have an argument with you. I don’t think I ever saw it in my time with him.

Dave married his childhood sweetheart Joyce Jones in 1954. They had a wonderful partnership in marriage and Joyce supported Dave ‘to the hilt’ in his career. After travelling and spending dozens and dozens of journeys with Dave, to and from bull sales, and many nights in motels sharing a room together, I can also say that Joyce was also the best ‘suitcase packer’ I have known. She would always pack Dave’s suitcase for his trips away and they were immaculate. He’d open his case and there was not so much as a handkerchief out of
In Remembrance of Dave Watkins

place, everything beautifully folded and presented. Typically that’s how long the tidiness and organisation would last, as inevitably by the second night away Dave’s ‘port’ was a mess – “I can’t find my socks, where’s my underdaks!”

Dave & Joyce could not have children of their own however they were both people that youngsters naturally gravitated to. You would always see Dave acknowledge, consider and engage all the children in his relationship building with clients. He enjoyed the perspective of the next generation. His values were strong and not for bending. Integrity was part of his DNA. Respect – his mind was forever open to get the best out of others. He was extremely courteous and respectful of women and always understood and recognised the importance and value of the female perspective. Humility – he had scores and scores of high level personal success because of his unique talents and yes he was very proud of those achievements, but Dave would always choose to deflect the plaudits to ‘the team’.

Dave Watkins was a huge presence, certainly in the stud stock agency industry in Australia; he was, on top of that, an auctioneer of extraordinary expertise and artistry who was, in his prime, in my view, on his specialty, the best of them all. Have no doubt, he played an important role in the exposure and promotion of the Brahman breed at a vital time for the Australian beef industry, that breeders of Brahman cattle today continue to benefit from. Those many who were his clients, or his staff, or his friends, or who worked in the industry when he did, know all of the above, however I trust this small tribute informs and records for the future, his association and services to the industry.

I am fortunate and extremely thankful to have spent many great years in his company.

Specialising in promotion and advertising solutions for Brahman breeders....

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- SHOW CARDS • PHOTO CLEAN UPS • BUSINESS CARDS • PROPERTY SIGNS
- TRUCK SIGNAGE • SALE CATALOGUES
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 in **landscape orientation**, not portrait. 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. For further photographing tips go to www.brahman.com.au/supplyingPhotos.html

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.

**DO NOT COLOUR CORRECT OR CROP YOUR PHOTOS** - supply original images.

When attaching **JPG** photos to emails please label them by their name or lot number and which sale they are for.

Send photo at **“ACTUAL SIZE”** via email (ie. not Skydrive).

If large photos send one at a time, rather than all at once.

If the photos are for use in the Brahman News or Brahman Graphics please email to: graphics@brahman.com.au

If the photos are for Online Sale Catalogues only please email to: jan@brahman.com.au
BOOK EARLY
DON’T MISS OUT!

Bookings for SEPTEMBER 2017

Brahman News close Friday, 28th July 2017.
Advertising material due Friday, 4th August 2017.

Call Graphics on 07 4921 2506
or email graphics@brahman.com.au Today!

2017
SALES & EVENTS

BIZZY & JOMANDA
BRAHMAN SALE
2 September at Grafton Saleyards
George Fuhrmann • Ray Donovan

ROCKHAMPTON
BRAHMAN WEEK SALE
2, 3 & 4 October at CQLX Gracemere
Elders • Landmark • GDL/SBB

HAMDENVALE
FEMALES OF THE FUTURE SALE
27 October at Mackay Showgrounds
Elders • Landmark

P B FENECH ANNUAL SALE
28 October at “The Chase” Sarina
McCaffrey’s • Elders

LANCFIELD INVITATIONAL
BRAHMAN SALE
30 October at CQLX Gracemere
McCaffrey’s • Landmark

NCC BRAHMAN SALE
31 October at Inverrio, Duaringa
McCaffrey’s • QLD Rural

GOLD CITY BRAHMAN SALE
3 November at Charters Towers
Elders • Landmark

BEEF COUNTRY
BRAHMAN BULL SALE
10 November at Nebo Undercover Arena
Elders • Landmark

WILANGI INVITATION SALE
23 & 24 November at Charters Towers
McCaffrey’s • QLD Rural

REEF TO RANGES INVITATIONAL
FOUR BREED BULL SALE
13 October at Bowen Showgrounds
SBB
Have you seen our great range of ABBA promotional products

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- **BRAHMAN USB FLASH DRIVE 8GB** (Double sided red and grey) $12.00
- **ABBA STUBBY COOLER** $5.00

- **BRAHMAN FINE BONE CHINA MUG** $10.00
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- **NEW KIDS POLO SHIRT** Ultraviolet Protection Factor 35. Available in Red & Navy (sizes 2 to 4) $25.00

- **NEW ADULTS POLO SHIRT** Back in stock $35.00
- **NEW ADULTS REVERSIBLE VEST** Available in Black (sizes XXS to 4XL) $45.00
- **LADIES POLO SHIRT** Available in Hot Pink & Jade (sizes 8 to 24) $30.00

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**SPECIALS AVAILABLE - PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS**

**PAYMENT OPTIONS:** (please ✔)

- [ ] CHEQUE - Enclosed (goods delivered upon clearance of cheque)
- [ ] CREDIT CARD
- [ ] Visa
- [ ] Mastercard

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Please complete and return to together with your preferred method payment:

**DELIVERY DETAILS**

Name: .......................................................................................................................................................
Member No: .............................................................
Address: ..................................................................................................................................................
Postcode: ..............................................................
Phone: ..................................................................................................
Mobile: .................................................................................
Fax: ...................................................................................

Total: + \$20.00 Post

Prices as of December 2015 - All prices are GST inclusive - Postage extra *Subject to weight of parcel - with large orders the postage will be calculated by weight.
## PROMOTIONAL MERCHANDISE

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## PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Members are reminded to use a Member Reference Number when making direct deposit payments. **Example: “Mem 1234”**

If we cannot identify who the payment has come from then the amount cannot be credited to your account.

Please contact the office if you require further information.
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Email: walbra@bigpond.com

DEGUARA FAMILY

Somerview
Red Brahmans

Brian & Glenda Kirkwood
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woodstockbrahmans@hotmail.com

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Keith & Annabelle Wilson & Family
Ph: 07 4626 5412
Mob: 0487 605 937
Email: sahambrahmans@bigpond.com

Kamir BRAHMANS

DUNN FAMILY

Thangool
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Ric 0409 282 515
Michele 0429 029 990
Matt 0427 110 785
Email: kamiro5@bigpond.com

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Vic Mobile: 0407 347 900
Phone: 07 4984 1047
Fax: 07 4984 1087

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