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2018 SEPTEMBER BRAHMAN NEWS DEADLINES
Bookings required by FRIDAY, 27TH JULY 2018
Artwork & photos required by FRIDAY, 3RD AUGUST 2018
Editorial

Congratulations to all members who participated in BEEF 2018.

What an outstanding display of the beef industry but such a wonderful promotion for the Brahman Breed. The Brahmans were very well represented in the Commercial Section with many good entries including Mark & Belinda Wilson’s, 10, 720kg, 2 Tooth Bullocks going on to win Champion Male Grain / Lot Fed Pen with their Red Brahmans. A very exciting win for them.

On Tuesday 153 Brahmans were judged in the Stud section by Rodger Jefferis from Elrose Brahmans, Cloncurry creating a wonderful spectacle in the main ring. The Grand Champion Bull, the Grand Champion Female and the Exhibitors Group were all in the Top 10 in the Interbreed Judging.

The Brahman Compound, as well as the separate trade sites and the show cattle in the sheds was a very productive opportunity for exhibitors. I was told by several exhibitors there were many sales and lots of interest.

Attached to the Compound was the Smokin’ Yak Restaurant. It was in high demand. The Smokin’ Yak cooked and served 3 tonne of meat during the week and turned out 4000 meals.

Once inside the restaurant the ABBA merchandise was available with a rolling video and corflutes of the sponsors of the Restaurant and also the suppliers of the meat. All from Brahman herds of course. Anyone that entered had no doubt they were in Brahman territory.

Brahman members visitored from nearly all states in Australia and many International visits inc Europe, the Pacific Islands and Asia. It was lovely to welcome them.

Prior to BEEF 2018 in Rockhampton much has been happening with the Sydney Royal Easter Show and two female sales. The Rocky All Stars Sale in Rockhampton and the recent sale at the end of April in Casino, New South Wales were both successful with stories included in this edition.

Looking forward, the Bundaberg Feature Show is the 1st of June with the Gympie Female Sale on the 2nd of June. The Ponderosa Brahman Invitation Sale is being held in Katherine, Northern Territory on the 1st of June and Junior Beef in Rockhampton is only a month away. There are also several field days coming up with great representation of the breed at Farmfest in Toowoomba and Primex in Casino. Drop in if you get the chance to see the enthusiastic members that are running these displays.

All the best to members in there preparation of sale bulls heading into the selling season.

Anastasia Fanning
Editor
It’s hard to believe that half the year has nearly gone, with Beef 2018 behind us and what a magnificent display of both Stud and Commercial Brahman Cattle for visitors to peruse and admire.

I would like to congratulate all the exhibitors on their efforts in particular the Wilson family of Banana Station on a well-rewarded display of Brahman cattle. It was great to see the Champion Male Grain Fed Pen coming from their stable of steers.

There were many outstanding pens of Brahman cattle on display and I was very proud to be part of such an enviable display.

The show ring did not disappoint either, with the Brahman ring commanding the attention of the majority of the crowds and I personally would like to thank all those involved for their hard work; exhibitors, stewards, office staff and in particular Rodger Jefferis for officiating for the day, well done Rodger.

The Brahman Restaurant was a huge hit with Matthew and Fiona Noakes and crew from the Smokin’ Yak being absolutely swamped, thanks guys for your endeavours in helping promote Brahman Beef.

I would also like to let the members know that the office is firing on all cylinders and Anastasia has filled the role extremely well and I also would like to personally thank John Croaker for his help and advice. It has been very welcomed.

I personally thank Anastasia and all the staff at the office for all their efforts and professionalism. It is a pleasure to be part of a good team.

On other matters I urge everyone to keep up the fight and make people aware of the ridiculous and unmanageable vegetation laws imposed on us by what seems to be a very ill-informed state government. The new laws very much hinder our viability in the coming years and their hard nose stand on the laws without any flexibility is very un-Australian. They forget that primary production was the backbone of the country and rural people are the salt of the earth. So all those involved in the lobbying keep up the good work.

I do hope that those in need, can receive some relief from drought conditions soon and hope that we can see a return to a very buoyant cattle market also.

Until Spring
Regards
Matthew McCamley
Yenda influence shone through at Beef Australia 2018

By Lindel Greggery - Photos Rod Green, Sarah Coulton, Kent Ward

The influence of the Yenda prefix, registered as ABBA stud number 44 by Ron and Daphne Kirk, continues to ripple throughout the industry, with Yenda bloodlines and Kirk descendants again front and centre at Beef Australia.

The Gayndah stud exhibited the grand champion Brahman bulls at Beef Australia in 2003 (Yenda Ambassador) and 1994 (Yenda Milton), and paraded the grand champion female, Yenda Celeste, in 2009.

At Beef Australia 2015 Ron and Daphne’s daughter Roxanne Olive and her husband Andrew paraded the grand champion Brahman bull and interbreed champion bull, Raglan Victory, who is by the 2002 World Brahman Congress champion Yenda Dynamic.

This year, it was double the excitement for the Kirks when their daughter Vicki Hayes and family, Yenda V, Mundubbera, paraded the senior and grand champion female, Bardia Madeline, Cadet Brahmans, Dalma.


Grand Champion Female, Bardia Madeline, Cadet Brahmans, Dalma.
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| JAFFRA FLIPPER 2683 (H) |
| Dam: JAFFRA DAHALIA 4013 (P) |
| JAFFRA SHOWMAN 2712 (H) |
| JAFFRA DAHLIA 3472 (P) |
| JAFFRA DAHLIA 2/342 (H) |

Animal: JAFFRA DAHALIA 1942 (H)

| Sire: JAFFRA GRANDE 4028 (P) |
| JAFFRA GUY 2697 (P) |
| JAFFRA FLIPPER 2683 (H) |
| Dam: JAFFRA DAHALIA 4013 (P) |
| JAFFRA SHOWMAN 2712 (H) |
| JAFFRA DAHLIA 3472 (P) |
| JAFFRA DAHLIA 2/342 (H) |

Animal: JAFFRA FLIPPER 4947 (P)

| Sire: JERSEY MR EL WISE GUY 1266 (AI) (ET) |
| JERSEY LADY 2/92 (H) |
| Dam: JAFFRA MISS FLIPPER 3808 (P) |
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Sire: JDH MR ELMO MANSO (IMP US) (H)
JDH ARMAND LANE MANSO 424/1
JDH LADY ELIS MANSO 1762 (IMP US) (H)
JDH LADY BUD MANSO

Animal: MR V8 NOBLE 458/7 (IMP US) (H)
MR V8 34/5
MR V8 736/5
MISS V8 55/5
Dam: MISS V8 100/7
MR V8 832/4
MISS V8 510/6
MISS V8 96/6

Animal: NCC JACKPOT (IVF) (D)
MR V8 773/4 (IMP US) (ET) +
FBC D MANDRAKE MANSO (ET) (H)
JDH LADY JO LIBERTY MANSO (IMP US) (H)
Dam: FBC D MS JEWEL MANSO (AI) (ET) (H)
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grand champion bull, Yenda V Duke 260, and their grandsons Darcy, Cameron and Cody Mortimer, Cadet stud, Dalma, exhibited the grand champion female, Bardia Madeline.

Vicki Hayes said although her octogenarian parents were not up to the trip to Beef Australia this year, they were at home following the judging action via computer link.

“It was a really good win for us and we were very happy because mum and dad and Roxanne have also won it a couple of times,” Mrs Hayes said.

She said Yenda V, which she heads with husband Scott, rarely shows cattle and would not have nominated for Beef Australia if it wasn’t for the interest shown by their children Sarah, 17 and Clayton, 15.

“I don’t think we’d be showing cattle except for the kids. They are both keen on it and are very good with the cattle.”

The children can also take credit to some extent for breeding the grand champion bull, who is an AI product of JDH Riddell Manso (imp) and Yenda V Miss Daisy 75/4.

“We really don’t do too much AI at all. But the kids broke in his mother as a heifer to go to Junior Beef and then we decided to AI her to Riddell, due to his type and temperament.” Mrs Hayes said.

Leading up to Beef Australia, Yenda V Duke secured championships at Bell and Gayndah Shows, and last year was the junior champion bull in Brisbane and the calf champion at Monto Brahman Feature Show. Duke will complete his show career at this year’s Bundaberg Brahman Feature Show and Brisbane Royal, before being retained as a stud sire.

The powerful grey won the 24 to under 30 months’ class at Beef Australia and came up against Whitaker Mr Cash, Raglan Martin, and
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his class runner-up Token Illinois for the senior bull championship.

Judge Rodger Jefferis said Duke was "a very correct bull with a very good underline, lots of length, very well coupled and long from hip to pin".

"He had a very good walking action. I was especially impressed by his free flowing front shoulder action – he walked out really well."

Mr Jefferis awarded the senior bull reserve championship to Token Illinois, exhibited by Vicki’s sister Kathryn Mortimer and her husband Tony, Token, Dalma.

Illinois is a grey son of their leading sire Gracemere Longfellow and his dam Token Miss 44/7 is a granddaughter of Yenda Impact.

"Illinois is a bull with excellent fat cover and good carcase characteristics," Mr Jefferis said.

Mrs Mortimer, who formerly bred cattle under the Yenda K prefix before rebranding as Token stud some years back, said this was Illinois’ first show for the year, and the bull would be offered at Rockhampton Brahman Week Sale in October.

In the junior bull classes, the championship went to Banana Station Manly 69, shown by Mark and Belinda Wilson and family, Banana Station, Banana. The polled red won the 19-under 21 months’ class and is an IVF son of Doonside Mr C Eagle and NCC Dienka 2102.

"I gave him such a good rap because he was a beautiful red colour, and polled, and just had a lot of really good character. He was very long and is a bull that could help a lot of people," Mr Jefferis said.

Mark Wilson said the young bull had only been lightly shown by their son Walter and prior to Beef Australia was the supreme exhibit at Baralaba Show.
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Yenda V also showed its strength in the junior bull classes, with Yenda V Gunner claiming the reserve championship. The fully homebred son of Yenda V Jackman 84/3 and Yenda V 49/9 placed first in the 15 to under 17 months’ class.

Vicki Hayes’ sisters shared the spoils in the male calf classes, with Raglan Mr Vinnie sashed champion and Token Joshua sashed reserve champion male calf.

Raglan Mr Vinnie, who took the blue ribbon in the 12 to under 15 months’ bull class, is a grandson of Yenda Impact, being a son of Raglan Victory 1735 and the FBC Bravo Manso cow, Raglan Miss Tahnee 2207. He was paraded by Roxanne and Andrew Olive, Raglan stud, Raglan.

The reserve champion male calf, 11-month-old Token Joshua, is by the JDH Mr Deeds Manso (imp) son, Gracemere Longfellow, and out of Token Miss 23/7.

There was even greater success for the Mortimer family in the female section, with Bardia Madeline selected as the senior and grand champion female. The grey cow was purchased by siblings Darcy, Cameron and Cody Mortimer at the 2016 World Brahman Congress Elite Female Sale. They paid $10,250 for the then 15-month-old daughter of Bardia Ambassador (by LMC LF Ambassador 700/7) and Bardia Mia Manso (by US sire Mr H Maddox Manso 684), who was bred by Del and Narelle Chapman.

Mr Jefferis said the champion female, paraded with a bull calf at foot by JDH Mr Elmo Manso (imp), was “a wonderful breeding cow”.

“She was excellent in the udder and underline, had a very feminine neat shoulder tied in there and she widened as she went back, with a great amount of volume in the hips. She was good all round and was a clear winner in the Brahmans,” he said.
P.B. Fenech
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Earlier in the year, Bardia Madeline picked up the female grand championship in Monto and the reserve senior female championship at Baralaba.

“We will take her to the Bundaberg Feature Show and Brisbane, then she will be retired and we will probably IVF her,” Mrs Mortimer said.

The cow was paraded in Rockhampton by 16-year-old Darcy Mortimer who is studying via the School of Distance Education while undertaking a school-based boilermaker apprenticeship. Along with brothers Cameron, 14, and Cody, 11, he hopes to one-day sell quality bulls from their Cadet stud at Brahman Week. The Cadet prefix currently has a dozen registered females, which are mated to Token bulls.

In claiming the senior female championship, Bardia Madeline came up against class winners Cambil Jewel Manso 5240, The Rivers Matilda, Cambil Miss Empress 4857, and her runner-up in the 36 to under 48 months’ class Elmo Lady Lucille 855.

Mr Jefferis awarded the senior female reserve championship to the 24 to under 30 months’ class winner The Rivers Matilda 156, shown by the Gray family, The Rivers stud, K-Allan, Marlborough. The fully homebred cow is a polled red daughter of The Rivers Revolution 225 and The Rivers Matilda 198.

A remarkable 10 head from the Camm family’s Cambil stud, Proserpine, secured ribbons in the stud Brahman judging. Most notable was their 17 to under 19 months’ female class winner Cambil Empress 5211, who also claimed the junior female championship. She is a daughter of NCC Jaguar, who the family purchased for $67,500 in 2014, and her dam Cambil Empress 3688 is by JDH Atlas Manso 328/3 (imp).
The judge described Empress as a “classic Brahman female” and “very, very classy.”

Whitaker Miss Maddie placed first in the heifer 15 to under 17 months’ class before being awarded the junior female reserve championship. The red daughter of NCC Muscat and the polled cow Inland Redrock 1155/10 was shown by Clint and Robyn Whitaker, Whitaker stud, Gayndah.

In the female calf classes, Token stud claimed yet another broad ribbon, showing the champion Token Miss Jillaroo. She is by Danarla Reward, who was purchased for $29,000 at Brahman Week in 2015.

“His progeny are looking really good and we will be selling bulls by him at Brahman Week,” Mrs Mortimer said.

The reserve champion female calf was Ken and Wendy Cole’s Kenrol Lady Elrae Manso 0524, who placed first in the 9 to under 12 months’ class. She is a light red polled daughter of JDH Mr Elmo Manso (imp) and Kenrol Lady Rae Lee 2718.

Token finished the day on a high when three of their broad ribbon winners combined to take out first place in the Exhibitor’s Group. The Sire’s Progeny Stakes was won by the team from Raglan, and Cambil stud exhibited the winning team in the Dam’s Progeny Stakes.
Broad appeal for Banana Station at Beef 2018

By Lindel Greggery

The Wilson family of Banana flew the flag for Brahms in a number of arenas at Beef Australia 2018, coming away with multiple awards for their stud and commercial cattle and restaurant beef dishes.

Mark and Belinda Wilson entered 70 head from Banana Station in the Ruralco Commercial Cattle Championship, cataloguing four pens of red Brahms and three pens of Brahman-cross cattle in both grain and grassfed classes.

The hotly contested event attracted 1874 head from 62 exhibitors, including 20 pens of Brahms from eight exhibitors.

The line-up was judged by Duane Woodham, Stanbroke, and Peter Healy from John Dee, who selected Banana Station’s red Brahman steers as the winners of Class 2, pen of grainfed steers 640-760 kg, in a strong field of 38 pens, and their Brahman-cross females took out fifth place in the 500-640kg class for 10 grainfed heifers.

The wins are not the first for the Wilson’s commercial cattle, with Banana Station named most successful exhibitor at Beef Australia 2009 and securing back to back championships for pasture fed heifers in 2009 and 2012.

The family runs 4000 commercial Brahman breeders on their Banana properties and use a mix of bulls to produce EU-accredited heavy export steers that dress out over 300kg from 2 ½ years of age.

“Our breeding herd are ideally high content Brahms for their adaptability, they are hardy, fertile and suited to this environment. Our breeders are run on forest country,” Mr Wilson said.

With 1500 steers in their 2016 drop to choose from, they selected 100 of the best Brahms for Beef 2018 along with 100 crossbreds, preparing them on grain for 130 days at the Hutchinson family’s Wannoah Feedlot, Moura. Although usually targeting grassfed markets, Mr Wilson said they sometimes used lot feeding as a finishing strategy during dry times.

Their champion grainfed steers gained more than 2kg/day on feed and weighed an average of 720kg when sold at auction to JBS Australia. They were knocked down for 314c/kg, returning $2260 a head.

As well as success with their commercial cattle, Banana Station also excelled in the stud arena at Beef 2018, parading the junior champion Brahman bull, Banana Station Manly As...
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THREE BULLS
well as success with their commercial cattle, Banana Station also excelled in the stud arena at Beef 2018, parading the junior champion Brahman bull, Banana Station Manly 69. The polled red is an IVF son of Doonside Mr C Eagle and NCC Dienka 2102, and his full flush sister Tarramba A Dienka 3452 won the 19-21 months' heifer class at the Rockhampton expo.

Mr Wilson said the prefix was the "project" of his 16-year-old son Walter, who has been showing cattle since the age of ten. Established just three years ago, the Banana Station stud was formed to produce bulls for their own use.

“We’ve been doing a fair bit of IVF over the past two years to get our stud numbers up, but we are looking to concentrate on natural breeding in the future because our animals have to be totally functional and commercially orientated. We’re looking for quality over quantity, breeding a solid herd of pedigree females that can produce predominantly red bulls to improve our commercial herd,” Mr Wilson said.

Following the favourable comments from Brahman judge Rodger Jefferis and feedback from Beef 2018 visitors, their junior champion has been sent to Rocky Repro for semen collection and limited semen packages from the exciting young sire will be offered.

Another feather in the cap for the Wilson family at “Beef Week” was The Waterline Restaurant’s swag of awards in the Beef 2018 Beef Excellence competition. The Yeppoon restaurant was built in 1996 by Banana Station founders Richard and Libbie Wilson and is operated by their daughter Kylie and her husband Matt Smith, who is the Executive Chef.

The beef at the Keppel Bay Marina venue comes from grassfed heifers supplied by the family’s group of properties.

The Waterline Restaurant was awarded the ‘a la carte restaurant Best Beef Signature Dish for the third consecutive time at Beef Australia. The Smiths also claimed the Best Low and Slow Beef Dish, and their Grassfed Beef Tenderloin was highly commended in the Best Steak category.

Matt Smith said he was most proud of the Best Beef Signature Dish award.

“Our Signature Banana Station Beef Tataki is always on the menu in some form, and it is a dish that is all about the flavour of the grassfed beef. The way we prepare it and the accompaniments are just enough to enhance the flavour and let the beef shine.”

After being named Queensland’s Best Tourism Restaurant late last year, The Waterline has recently returned from representing the State at the Australian Tourism Awards.

“Our Banana Station beef experience is a key part of our overall dining experience and what draws tourists to our restaurant,” Mrs Smith said.

The Wilson family’s involvement in Beef Australia goes back to the inaugural 1988 event when Libbie Wilson was the social coordinator and ran a beef promotion across 53 local restaurants.

“I am pleased to see the involvement of local restaurants in the Beef Australia event, this is what it should be all about,” Mrs Wilson said.

“We are the Beef Capital of Australia and our local restaurants should be setting the benchmark for the best beef dining experience in the country.”

Richard and Libbie’s other daughter, Annie, is also closely involved in the beef industry. Annie and husband Rob Donoghue operate Barranga Grazing, producing grassfed beef on a 47,700 hectare aggregation in the Bauhinia district.

Barranga Grazing and Banana Station were both heavily involved in the Brahman BIN project.
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<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
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<th>EXHIBITOR NAME</th>
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<tr>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Cambil Sherenne 5537</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Somerton Grazing Co</td>
<td>Somerton Gypsy</td>
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<td>Cederbrook Brahman Stud</td>
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## Stud Cattle Judging Results

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<td>Madeline</td>
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<td>Grand Champion Male</td>
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<td>Yenda V Brahmans</td>
<td>Yenda V Duke 260</td>
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Congratulations to all trade site exhibitors for all their efforts as well as exhibitors in the sheds and at the saleyards.
A successful promotion of the Brahman breed in both stud and commercial sections.
Success at Beef 2018 with a uniquely Brahman product was the dream hatched on a verandah at Marlborough by the team of The Smokin’ Yak close to three years ago. Nearly 3 tonnes of Brahman beef later, served through a vibrant, bustling and full restaurant at Beef 2018, the success of the venture was obvious and beyond the wildest dreams of owners the Noakes and Polkinghorne families.

Well over a tonne of Brahman Hump, a tonne of Beef Ribs, 500 kg of Beef Cheeks and over 400 kg of sausages had The Smokin’ Yak team serve over 4000 meals for the week, equating to approximately one meal every 28 seconds of service time.

As a Brahman beef promotion, it was an outstanding success. Every day people queued for the pleasure of eating Brahman Hump and the reviews were gracious and humbling from locals as well as an international audience. Chefs from Australia and around the world snuck around the back of the pityard to sample the barbecue that was creating a buzz and beautiful

Mathew Noakes with Chef Jess Pryles and Chef Adrian Richardson.

Thank you to our valuable partners and sponsors

Partners
The Smokin’ Yak extend their thanks to the sponsors who assisted ABBA with the restaurant ... Bungoona, Carinya, Elrose, Hazelton, Kandoona, Lancefield, Raglan, Roxborough, Kenrol and Fairy Springs.

Special mention also to those brahman breeders whose bullocks were used to source product. These included Sandy and Jamie McCartney, Bucca Station, Bundaberg; Craig and Tanya Wight, Jellinbah, Bluff; Peter and Toni O’Neill, Glenyarron, Springsure and Tim and Lynette Olive, Apis Creek, Marlborough.

As always, beef suppliers Teys Australia went above and beyond expectation to ensure the quality of the product.
Brahman breeder named Young Beef Ambassador

By Lindel Greggery - Photo - Kelly Butterworth

Dynamic Brahman breeder and 2018 Nuffield Scholar Stewart Borg has had his strong passion for the beef industry and its sustainable growth recognised with a second scholarship.

At Beef Australia in May, Mr Borg was named the 2018 Rabobank Young Beef Ambassador, receiving entry to Rabobank’s prestigious Farm Managers Program.

The week-long residential program covers the latest practices in business management, leadership, planning, finance and communication, and how these can be applied directly to participants’ farm businesses.

Stewart and wife Sarah operate Leichhardt Brahman stud and run 1400 commercial grey Brahman breeders on 2630 hectare Marklands, Sarina.

They also grow sugarcane and are busy establishing a 999-head capacity feedlot on the property, with completion expected late next year.

“We’re currently at standstill due to the wet but will resume earthworks within the next two to three weeks,” Mr Borg said.

Although they currently lot feed cattle in the paddock using homegrown silage and soybeans, the finished feedlot will provide greater capacity and certainty of turnoff.

“By including cropping and lot feeding into our livestock system we can mitigate the risks of seasonal events and have greater flexibility in our marketing. We’ve got three processors within 300 kilometres and we’re within 500 kilometres of Townsville for live export,” he said.

The Borgs plan to put their own Brahman and Brahman-cross cattle through the facility, believing the breed is the most economical to feed because of its excellent feed conversion efficiency.

Mr Borg was one of 10 Nuffield Scholars who recently took part in an eight-week global tour, looking at agricultural practices in The Netherlands, Ireland, Mexico and Brazil.

He plans to spend a further eight weeks investigating the tropical feedlot industry in Indonesia, Vietnam and South America, with hopes to link his travels to coincide with the World Brahman Congress in Colombia in November this year.

Through broadening his horizons, Mr Borg said he came back with a different opinion of the Australian primary production landscape.

“I think we still have the most potential out of any country. We are still the least developed, we’ve got the cheapest land in the world, plus we’ve got a clean, green status and market access for exports.”

Mr Borg said the key to expanding agriculture in Australia was government funding for water infrastructure.

“Heartbreaking is to see 5000 farmers sitting at a table and asking for help and then going home and getting no support, he said.

There are 2800 hydroelectricity schemes in Brazil and an irrigation scheme off each of those. Even though they have high rainfall, they have access to more irrigation water than they could ever need. I’ve got no doubt if we had government support we could run a herd of 50 to 70 million cattle if we had water access,” he said.

Also on the young beef producer’s radar is rebuilding the connection between farmers and consumers. He is working with AgForce to develop a program which aims to get every primary school child in Queensland onto a farm at least once or twice a year.

“After travelling overseas I saw how disconnected we are in Australia and how little support we receive from townspeople and politicians. If we want support from politicians we have to get the support from voters by keeping them in touch with what we go through and by helping them understand where food comes from,” he said.

Mr Borg said he was very grateful for the opportunities he had received to advocate for the beef industry and improve his business skills.

“I’d like to thank Rabobank for the award and MLA for supporting me through the Nuffield process. Also, I wouldn’t be able to embark on my travels without the support of my wife Sarah and my family.”
AWARDED & REWARDED

MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR ~ 6 HEAD ~ 5 ROSETTES

Reserve Calf Champion Male ~ Token Joshua, Token Brahman
Calf Champion Female ~ Token Miss Jillaroo, Token Brahman
Reserve Senior Champion Bull ~ Token Illinois, Token Brahman
Grand & Senior Champion Female ~ Bardia Madeline, Cadet Brahman
Exhibitors Group ~ Token Brahman

Selling 17 Bulls ~ Rockhampton Brahman Week Sale 2018

Token
BRAHMANS - HORSES
Sydney championship marks 50 years of showing for Mogul

By Anastasia Fanning - Photos Ben Apfelbaum and Ainsleigh Lancaster

The polled grey bull Mogul Frontier F256 showed his class at the 2018 Sydney Royal Easter Show in April, coming first in the 30 to under 36 months’ class before going on to be named senior and grand champion bull and best exhibit of the breed.

The Mogul team of Dr George Jacobs, wife Janice and stud manager Glen Pfeffer were also thrilled to be awarded Most Successful Exhibitor and Best Maintained Brahman Team, in the stud’s 50th year of showing in Sydney.

Dr Jacobs said he first showed Mogul Brahmans in Sydney as a 15-year-old and the stud had been operating since 1963. The 2018 Sydney Show was also Glen Pfeffer’s 34th year as Brahman Breed Captain, and the Australian Brahman Breeders Association took great pleasure in acknowledging these achievements at the event, presenting Dr Jacobs and Mr Pfeffer with a plaque each in recognition to their commitment to the breed.

The stud cattle were judged by respected Central Queensland cattleman Brett Kinnon, Bungoona Brahman stud, Alinya Station, Clermont. He travelled to Sydney for the big event with his wife Jane and daughter Ainsleigh, with the family also taking time out to discover the delights of Sydney for the first time.

Mr Kinnon said it was an honour and privilege to judge at such a prestigious event.

“The atmosphere of the arena made the job of assessing the cattle very enjoyable. The facilities for the stud cattle are a credit to the Show Society,” he said.

First up in the Brahman judging ring were the young females. Mr Kinnon awarded the junior championship to the 16-under 20 months’ class to Blanco Ganado Quartzy. The lovely, feminine grey heifer by Glengarry Mr Tabasco was exhibited by Penny Sloman and her sister Kim Weller, Blanco Ganado, Nabiac.

The reserve champion junior female, BT Charlie Dee, came from the same class. The polled red daughter of Langley Dale Diesel was exhibited by Col and Lin Tink, BT stud, Dubbo, who have been breeding Brahmans since 2011 and showing for the past five years.

With only one senior female class, the senior championship was soon decided when the lovely free-moving
female NCC Selinda 3424 walked into the ring with her beautiful 29-day-old heifer calf. The red IVF daughter of JDH Mr Elmo Manso (US) and NCC Selinda 1160 was exhibited by south-west Queensland first-time Brahman exhibitor Robyn Nixon, Bexa Pty Ltd, Drillham. The cow went on to be named grand champion female and the win was a big thrill for the Nixon family, in their first step into the Brahman world. The Nixons own and operate the world renowned Devoncourt Hereford stud, which has been established for close to 90 years.

Mr Kinnon said the champion cow displayed lots of breed character and was doing a good job on her calf.

“Even though she is a later maturing type, she still had the feminine traits that I was looking for. She had a good udder with a strong ligament and teat shape,” he said.

The quality of cattle was strong in the three junior bull classes. The junior championship went to the young red bull BT Royal, a polled son of Langley Dale Diesel who placed first in the 9 to 12 months’ class. The junior bull reserve championship was awarded to Mogul Grenadier, a red son of Kandoona 10278.

Buckaroo and Mogul studs presented bulls in the three senior classes. The senior and grand champion Mogul Frontier is by Garuda Mr V8 Lexus, out of a polled Mogul cow by El Ja Budwiser Manso. His stablemate Mogul Franklin, another polled grey by Garuda Mr M8 Lexus, took out the senior bull reserve championship.

Mr Kinnon said the grand champion carried a strong sire’s head with a big broad muzzle and hooded eye cover.

“He’s a bull that blended quality beef characteristics with strong breed character, which makes him a real paddock efficient bull. This was complemented with a very nice temperament.”

The Sire or Dam’s Progeny class was a strongly contested class. It was won by Blanco Ganado who presented an even line-up of calves by their leading sire Glengarry Mr Tabasco.

Mogul took the blue ribbon in the Breeder’s Group, their team including the grand champion bull and reserve champion senior bull. This group later placed in the top 10 in the Interbreed Breeder’s Group, judged by Gerald Spry, Sprys Shorthorns, Wagga Wagga.

Mr Spry said: “I would like to compliment the Brahman team. They are very good representatives of the breed and Bos indicus cattle, and their influence in northern areas of the country is to be dually recognised.”

The great day out at the Sydney Show wrapped up with a gathering in the cattle shed attended by the breeders, grooms and the judge.
Palmvale heifer stars at Rocky female sale

By Lindel Greggery - Photos Kelly Butterworth

The 2018 Rocky All Stars Elite Brahman Female Sale on 9 April was hailed a success, with a red heifer from Beth Streeter’s Palmvale stud topping the fixture at $10,500.

Held at CQLX Gracemere, the annual event sold 52 head to record an 88 percent clearance and average of $4317.

Taking sale honours was Palmvale Regal Lady 3635, the first progeny of Tarramba Might and Power to be sold. The sire was purchased by the Streeters at Beef Australia 2015 for $20,000 and has been doing a good job for the Marlborough-based stud. The January 2017-drop female was knocked down for $10,500 to Dillon Scott, Rosetta Station, Collinsville and helped secure the best sale average of $5428 for the Palmvale prefix.

Mr Scott invested in three head, also buying the highest priced grey female, 19-month-old Glengarry Jerra 2755, for $8000. Her sire, Lancefield S Watson, topped the 2012 Lancefield Brahman Sale at $28,000 and this was his first progeny to be offered by vendors Geoff and Scott Angel, Glengarry, Kunwarara.

The Scott family’s third purchase was $7500 Palmvale Patti 3626, a polled red daughter of Fairy Springs Duracell 3606. The heifers will be used to produce bulls for their large scale commercial beef operation.

Eugene and Jessica Mollenhagen and family paid $7000 for Token Miss 679/7 to join their Mountain Springs stud, Langley. The November 2016-drop daughter of Danarla Reward and Yenda K Miss 20/6 was offered by Tony and Kathryn Mortimer, whose Token stud averaged $4875 for four head.

Paul Ahern, Ahern stud, Gayndah was the successful bidder on $6500 Glengarry Miss Whitney 2742. She is by Lancefield S Watson and her dam Glengarry Miss Whitney 2340 was the reserve champion senior female at Beef Australia 2015.

Glengarry averaged $5333 for 12 females, with three of their draft selling for $6500. Sue Hammer, Annvalie stud, Charters Towers, invested in three head from the Angels, her purchases including the $6500 Glengarry Sir Locke 2288 heifer, Glengarry Victoria 2780, and $6000 Glengarry Christy 2741.
New South Wales buyer Alex Sullivan, AMS stud, Stratheden, invested $6500 in Glengarry Slightly 2771, the first progeny to be offered by the Glengarry Sub Zero son, Glengarry I’m A Gangster 2291.

The polled grey heifer Oak Lady M Maddox 292/7 was the best seller from the Kelly family’s Bulloak stud, Bowen. The daughter of Lancefield S Montego was knocked down for $6000 to Paul and Catherine MacKenzie, Arizona stud, Dingo. The MacKenzies took home three head including a $5500 Glengarry heifer.

David and Pearl Christensen, Berida Red stud, paid $6000 for the polled heifer Stockman Ava, who is by Mt Callan Oregon and out of a Roseborough L Red Monte cow. The cherry red heifer was offered by Christopher McCarthy, Stockman, Junction View.

The polled red heifer Halgenaes Melito was knocked down for $5500 to Flinders International. The NCC Deniro 781 daughter was offered by North Queensland vendor Peter Tuxworth, Halgenaes, Allingham.

Ian Berryman liked the look of Palmvale Joanne 3633, paying $5500 to secure the polled Jomanda Walker daughter for his Winddancer stud, Charters Towers.

Kyle and Laurie-Ann Ogle gave their Rusty stud a kick start with the purchase of $5500 Glengarry Joletta 2784, whose dam Glengarry Joletta 1671 was the 2014 ABBA Dam of the Year.

The sale finished strongly, with the final lot, the polled grey heifer Oak Lady M Bella 291/7, selling for $5500 to the Lund family, Talki Station, Clermont.

Central Grazing Co, Mackay, was the biggest buyer on the day, outlaying an average of $3500 for nine head. Their highest priced selection was $5000 Elmo Lucille 948/6, a polled red heifer from Alan and Leoni Trail’s Elmo stud, Baralaba.

Appetite for Brahman heifers in NSW

The new Casino Selling Centre was the venue for the second annual New South Wales Stud Female and Commercial F1 Sale on 28 April.

Chairman of the NSW Branch of the ABBA, Grant Bulmer, said he was convinced that southern breeders were “on the right track” in meeting the demands of the local market.

Many new faces were in attendance at the sale, and despite market conditions being less favourable than last year, 24 registered heifers sold for an average of $2250 to record an 89 percent clearance rate.

Paul and Sheree Madill, MRR stud, Madill’s River Ranch, Wilberforce, purchased the two equal top priced heifers at $4500, comprising a red and a grey female from Dr George Jacobs’ Mogul stud, Yorklea.

The Madills took home five heifers including the top lot from Grant and Jo Bulmer’s Mountana stud at $3750. The Cambell family, Shardar stud, Bexhill, invested in three head, including two Mountana heifers at $3000 each.

In the commercial section, F1 cattle met with strong demand, with two-and-a-half-year-old F1 heifers from Mountana topping at $2050.

Purebred commercial Brahman heifers, pregnancy tested in calf to a Hereford bull, sold for $1850 and joined heifers averaged $1652.

Unjoined heifers from Alan and Tanya Maloney sold for up to $1560, and weaner heifers offered by Mark Lamond peaked at $940 to average $870.

Mr Bulmer said the NSW Branch looked forward to hosting the sale again next year.

“The results show there is an obvious demand for pure and F1 Brahman females in the region,” he said.
Dr Jillella keeps his hand in

By Lindel Greggery - Photo Anastasia Fanning

Retired cattle embryo transfer (ET) pioneer Dr Daniel Jillella is still keeping his hand in the industry, literally.

In his long career Dr Jillella estimates he has brought 15,000 to 20,000 calves into the world via artificial breeding, as well as training more than 50 national and international veterinarians, animal science graduates and cattle producers in ET techniques.

“I'm still putting my hand in the cows - that’s amazing isn’t it,” he said.

Despite selling his Lockyer Valley artificial breeding centre, Embryo Transfer Services of Qld, two years ago to vet Kathleen Rebgetz, the esteemed ET and AI practitioner, teacher and researcher remains closely involved in the industry he loves.

He consults at the Lowood centre “about one day a week”, as well as assisting Bradley Frohloff, one of his former trainees, at his Yarraman artificial breeding centre. This involves helping out once or twice a year with reproductive training programs, as well as client work.

Dr Jillella was the first vet to specialise as an ET consultant in Australia’s stud beef industry, and while he has worked with most breeds, the bulk of his practice has been with Brahmans.

“Vic Deguara (Savannah Brahman stud) was the first to contact me, in 1983 or '84, and from then on we did ET in his stud cows. Royce Sommerfeld (Brahrock) started soon after, in about 1985, and it grew from there,” Dr Jillella said.

He said ET advances over the years, such as the development of more sophisticated drugs for follicle stimulation and synchronization of oestrous, combined with better embryo freezing techniques, had improved results for this technology.

“In the early days we had a success rate of about 50 percent, now it averages about 60 percent and can get up to 70 percent at times.

“When we first started, the freezing technique wasn’t well established and now it has been perfected. Now embryos are being frozen by ‘direct transfer’ method where you don’t need to wash the embryo when it comes out of the nitrogen tank. Instead, it can be transferred into the recipient cow just like AI, and I have trained quite a lot of stud breeders so they can do it on their own now.”

His career highlights include achieving 17 live calves from a single flush of a donor cow at Emmanuel and Tracey Mifsud’s Maru Brahman stud, Sarina, and getting 96 embryos from one flush from one of Paul Fenech’s cows.

Dr Jillella sees a bright future for artificial breeding in Australia’s stud cattle industry, saying there are “no downsides”.

“More people are going towards IVF and there are some, like Royce Sommerfeld, who are doing cloning. We are well placed to produce good stock here in Australia and my feeling is that artificial breeding will go ahead and have a bright future.”

Dr Jillella said his love for the Brahman breed came from his childhood in south-east India, where his family had a small herd of Brahman cattle. As part of the sale of Embryo Transfer Services of Qld, he brokered a deal to keep the few remaining head from his dispersed D&R Brahman stud at the Lowood property.

“I still have a few animals and recently sold a bull (D&R George) for $11,000 at the February All Breeds Sale. I also have lots of embryos in the tank, so will have to sort them out and put them up for sale.”

When not working with cattle, Dr Jillella is busy at his home in Brisbane, enjoying the company of his wife, daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren. Also on the agenda is plenty of travel, visiting his other two children and two grandchildren in the United States and his extended family in India.
SLICE OF HISTORY...

The Nobles Family – Eric, Chas, Roger and Stewart with their trophies for Grand Champion Pen BEEF 88 Prime Cattle Show.

Aerial view Gracemere Saleyards during BEEF 88 Prime Cattle Show & Sale.

Delandelles family - Elsie, Lionel and Ken.

Watching the judging of the led steer classes on the Rockhampton Mall are John Croaker – ABBA Executive Secretary & BEEF 88 Secretary with American President, Vice President and friends.

Decorating the Grand Champion Brahman Bull, Lancefield Indu Jester are Mrs Maureen Olive, Mrs Kay Clarke, Mr Bruce Clarke, judge of the record 331 head showing David McCamley and USA President and Vice President.

Grand Champion Female, Tartrus Miss Indu 1175, with C. Bodey, Ann McCamley, Marcus Shackelford & Wendell Schronk (USA) and Leanne Creedon.
The Prime Objective

By Lindel Greggery

Beef production is a business and, like most businesses, it must make a profit in order to remain operational. However, there are many cultural and environmental factors that set primary production apart from other business sectors.

The obvious difference between the beef industry and a bricks and mortar store is that live animals are involved and their welfare is paramount.

Secondly, producing beef in the world’s driest continent also has ramifications for the environment; and the realities of climate change adds additional challenges to viability that our ancestors did not face.

Thirdly, most rural operations are family farms, carrying with them the expectation of passing on to children a property that has in many cases been in the family for generations. This belief - which is not generally held by metropolitan businesses - can drive the need for farmers to hang on and pretend to be bullet proof, when all logic points to the fact that they are not coping and the operation is no longer viable. Sadly, the cost of this belief can be high, not only financially but emotionally and physically.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, at the end of 2016-17 there were 2,238,299 actively trading businesses in Australia. During this period, the number of businesses entering the market was 328,205 (an increase of 5.7% from 2015-16). The number of businesses exiting the market was 261,450, (an increase of 0.5% or 1,324 businesses), indicating that businesses of all types come and go each year, due to a range of factors.

However, how primary producers deal with this issue is concerning. Rising suicide rates in rural areas are a tragic reflection of the depth of shame and feelings of failure that may occur if the family farm cannot realise a bright financial future.

The Rural Suicide Prevention Position Paper, released by the Centre for Remote and Rural Mental Health last December, shows that rural suicide rates are more than 50 per cent higher than in the capital cities. The suicide rate for males is also three times higher than for females.

What readers may not know is that over the past years, as well as working in communications, I’ve been training techniques to help individuals and organisations maintain wellbeing and perform more effectively in the face of challenges.

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

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- TRUCK SIGNAGE • SALE CATALOGUES
If I could offer only one piece of advice for building personal resilience, it would be: "manage your mind". Our mind creates a lot of unnecessary suffering, especially if it is rigid and can only see one possibility for the way forward.

The fact is, we each experience painful events and emotions and there’s no avoiding them. However, the level of suffering we undergo on an ongoing basis is linked to how we respond to a difficult situation. Do we layer on more anguish by resisting what is happening, constantly rehashing things over and over in our mind, and spiralling into unhelpful emotions such as anger, injustice, anxiety, depression and hopelessness?

Or do we use the logic of Acceptance, which has been described as “the ability not to make bad things worse”, to take a step back and respond, rather than react. A mindset of Acceptance is different to one of Apathy. It means if there is something we can do to improve a situation, then do it. If there is nothing we can do, then perhaps it is time to drop the worry, loosen our grip on trying to control things that are out of our control, and Let Go.

This sounds simple but of course it is not. Firstly, we need to recognise and acknowledge what is going on in our mind and our body in times of stress. Secondly, we need to learn tools and techniques, such as evidence-based mindfulness practices, to get the “roos in the top paddock” under control. This mind training allows us to pay attention to thoughts that are helpful and life enhancing and turn down the volume on “radio doom and gloom”.

A little reframing, such as looking at a situation from a different viewpoint, can also help. For example, if someone from the city was given the opportunity to sell a piece of land and free up millions in assets – the only stipulation being that they had to retrain for a new career – they would no doubt jump at the chance and feel like they had won the lottery. Pose the same proposition to a primary producer and the feeling may be entirely different.

A few times in recent months, when myself and colleagues have been working on challenging projects, we’ve been able to ease the tension by reminding ourselves that “no one is going to die”! If we don’t meet a deadline or fulfil the client’s expectations.

No work should be a life or death proposition. This land existed a long time before we showed up and will be here for a long time after we are gone. Our identity is so much more than a job title, and there are many ways in this world to find meaningful work.

I like this quote from Jack Kornfield that says; “In the end, just three things matter: how well we have lived, how well we have loved, and how well we have learned to let go.”

If you or anyone you know is experiencing difficulties please seek out help from a trained professional, call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or visit their website: www.lifeline.org.au/get-help/topics/lifeline-services to access services.
Hudgins Scholarship ticks off a lifelong goal

By Isaac Kent

In the past year I achieved one of my lifelong goals of winning the Edgar Hudgins Memorial Scholarship. This is an opportunity I have been working towards and dreaming about for a long time, and that opportunity was all too real when I disembarked from Rockhampton in early February this year and landed in Houston 24 hours later. Over a three-month period I visited multiple studs across Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, as well as several livestock shows, commercial operations and collection facilities.

Upon landing in Houston, I travelled to JD Hudgins Inc with John Locke and spent two weeks at Hudgins where I visited all six divisions of the Hudgins Ranch, as well as attending the judging at the San Antonio Livestock Show. I also visited the VB Ranch prior to Houston as well, and during this time I spent the majority of my time with the Locke, Goudeau and Hudgins families. I would like to thank them for their care and hospitality during my time with them. The quality and the number of cattle at Hudgins were exceptional. Also, the pasture management system that John Locke has implemented in the Locke division was a perfect example of rotational grazing and land management.

I then travelled in to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo with the Hudgins show team, and I spent a week at Houston during the Brahman judging. This was quite an eye-opening experience - to see 900 led Brahman cattle on display at one location. It also gave me a guide to the places I visited throughout the rest of the trip. The Houston Livestock Show is a wonderful opportunity for anybody interested in Brahman cattle throughout the world and I would recommend it to anyone considering visiting the United States in the future.

From there I travelled back up to Hungerford, then visited the Smith family at Bulls Eye Ranch at Brenham. I was very grateful to stay with the Englands as they treated me like family during my stay. It was a pleasure to get to know Mike, Crickett and Benton England.

I would also like to thank Carlos Sr and Sister Guerra and family during my visit to south Texas. It was a pleasure to get to know the family and see the La Menuca herd. I also attend the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show while I was in the area. This was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with breeders I met at Houston, as well as some new breeders from south Texas and abroad.

From Hungerford I was fortunate enough to get in contact with last year’s exchange representative Alex Lovell. Alex kindly picked me up from Hungerford and we travelled to Louisiana where we visited multiple ranches across Louisiana.
and Mississippi. I would like to thank Alex and his family for looking after me during my stay in south Louisiana.

I would also like to thank Troy Thibodeaux and his family for my stay in Church Point, as well as the Watkins family in Welch. I thoroughly enjoyed my brief stay with both families and it was a privilege to see some outstanding red and grey Brahman cattle in those herds.

From Louisiana I travelled back to College Station where I visited ST Genetics, a major genetics company dealing in semen and embryos in multiple breeds. They have a patent on the reverse sorting machine, which is capable of sorting sexed embryos both ways for single sexed progeny. This is major technological advancement in reproductive technologies, particularly in America where the Brahman market is female driven at a stud and commercial level.

I then travelled back to Hungerford where I spent more time with the Locke, Hudgins, Goudeau and Forgason families.

Towards the end of the trip I was fortunate to borrow a car from John Locke and took the opportunity to visit several well-known ranches, including Dinah Weil at HK Cattle. I enjoyed visiting Dinah and seeing the HK herd, as it is one of the most recognised red Brahman herds in the world. I also visited Satterfield Ranch at Palestine, Texas, where I saw one of the most tremendous herds of cattle on my trip.

I also visited Jeremy Loewen at 4L Cattle near Waco, and Santa Elena Ranch at Madisonville. The quality of the cattle and the wonderful operation at Santa Elena was outstanding and is a testament to the Muskus family and their commitment to red Brahman.

I also visited Grant Vassberg at Kallion Farms. I was very impressed with the program implemented at Kallion Farms, which is similar to herds here in Australia. Grant implements a very strict culling program, selecting animals with good fertility, temperament, and tremendous carcase and growth rates.

I spent the last days of the trip at Hudgins, Heritage Cattle and VB Ranch. I thoroughly enjoyed the entire trip and the opportunity to meet so many people in the American Brahman community and beef industry.

I consider myself very lucky and privileged to embark on the scholarship trip and would like to thank the Australian Brahman Breeders Association and JD Hudgins Inc for the opportunity.

I’m honoured to have been chosen to represent the breed and association. This trip has given me many connections and friends and an opportunity to expand and grow the international Brahman community.

I encourage any young person in the breed considering the scholarship to apply. This is an opportunity well worthwhile and highly recommended.
The quiet passing of admired cattleman and industry leader John Underwood AM, has left heavy hearts but a significant legacy across the NT and northern cattle industry and community.

Aged 77, John Underwood went to rest in Darwin on Friday during the portentous quiet before Cyclone Marcus put an exclamation mark on a life lived with similar dynamism.

In acknowledging Mr Underwood’s immense legacy to industry, NTCA president Tom Stockwell recalled, “For more than 50 years John Underwood has been a central pillar of the Territory cattle industry, contributing at all levels from the development of Riveren Station in the VRD from scratch, through to representing the NT at the national level.”

John Underwood was born in Townsville, Queensland on November 2, 1940. His parents Pat and Peg with their then-three children, of whom John is the eldest, left Queensland in 1950 to manage Bedford Downs in the Kimberley for Pat’s brother-in-law Tom Quilty.

In 1956 the Underwood family purchased Inverway Station in the Northern Territory. Having completed his education at Gatton College by acquiring his Diploma in Animal Husbandry, John returned to Inverway in 1960.

In 1968 John married Sydney nurse Terry Augustus. They set up camp on the eastern end of Inverway on the headwaters of the historic Victoria River. Over the ensuing years the family and property development were inextricably linked. Their cattle station called Riveren became a separate lease in 1978. John and Terry have four children, Marie, Patrick, Michael and Rebecca.

In 1998 he was awarded in Queen’s Birthday Honours Member of Order of Australia in the General Division for service to primary industry, particularly the cattle industry, and to the community.

A founding and life member of the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association, John Underwood was the inaugural chair of the Katherine Branch and NTCA president from 1990-93. A stalwart of the introduction of Brahman genetics into NT herds, he represented the NT on the Australian Brahman Breeders Association.

Apart from industry related contributions, the Underwoods were pivotal to bringing the Katherine pastoral families together through their long time support of the Katherine School of the Air.

“John’s selfless contributions from the family property through to the national industry started with a 600km drive to Katherine. His commitment to family and community is a lesson and legacy for us all”, Mr Stockwell said.

The celebration of his life took place at St Mary’s Cathedral Darwin on Thursday, March 22.

Remembering

As president during the time John was on the council I found John a man of integrity and strength in decision and never minded going against opinions.

If he believed in something he would follow it through. I could always run any ideas past him and knew that I would get a straight forward answer. He was a very good councillor with his finger on the pulse of the industry.

I enjoyed John’s company very much and we had many fun times. He had a wonderful sense of humor.

Carolyn Briggs

I had the good fortune of serving on the Brahman Council with John in the late 90’s. He was always forthright and had great passion for the Territory, Brahman cattle and family.

I was lucky enough to enjoy his and Terry’s company on a trip through South Africa. A few highlights being Terry leaving a good jacket at the hair salon in Pretoria and sitting in a camp in Kruger National park watching the Wallabies come from behind to beat the Springboks.

There were 20 of us Aussies and about 200 South Africans crowded around one small TV. Our celebrations was as legendary as the come from behind win by the Wallabies.

Great Memories.

Brett Coombe
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Colin ‘CT’ Leather loved to talk about the old days. So in being true to the great man, you will notice his eulogy is filled with stories of days gone by….just the way he would’ve wanted it.

Colin Thomas Leather was born in Gin Gin on the 4th October 1930 to Arthur and Gladys Leather. He was the eldest of 5 children Colin, Norma, Brian and twins, John and Keith. His father worked in the council driving a Clydesdale drawn grader. The family lived at Gillen Siding at first, then moved to Moolboolamin where Colin’s jobs included filling the wood box and getting in the milkers for his mother to milk.

Colin grew up on his family dairy farm at Boolboonda which was about half way between Gin Gin and Mt Perry. If we’re honest, you could say his heart was always there until his final breath... he just loved that place. Even though he living at Boolboonda young Col hated getting up in the morning when there was frost all over the ground and having to get the cows in to milk before heading to school. He would usually ride his horse to school most days which he shared with his sister Norma.

Colin wasn’t that keen on school - he’d rather be working then studying. His father wanted him to help at the dairy but he hated milking cows so at the tender age of 13, he left school to work for Eric Campbell on Wonbah Station. He would muster, milk cows and feed bulls. He worked for Eric for 6 months earning 30 bob a week plus keep. He left Eric’s employment and went to work for Eric’s brother Tommy at Kaloonga Station for the same pay, mostly mustering Hereford cattle however, he got into strife for racing the old night horse, so he went back home to Boolboonda for a few weeks before starting work for Mick Bennett feeding racehorses and cows. During this time he bred his first racehorse called Lady Koon who won a lot of races around the Bundaberg district. The job only lasted 6 weeks because Col had a blue with Mick about splitting posts when his hands were raw. Col lived for horses both as a young fella and as an adult. He told of a taffy pony that threw him when he was 13 and how that was the last time he was thrown until he joined the railways at 18. He remembered one horse in particular called Bomber, who was the worst horse he had ever seen. You could not get into the yards to catch him and had to rope him with another horse and blindfold him. Col managed to tame him and ride him but nobody else could ride him and he eventually was sold.

Col worked at a few jobs which included being a ringer and ‘jack of all trades’. He also would cut trees and transport them to the saw mill with a bullock dray. At 18 he decided he would apply for a job at the railway and he started there cleaning steam engines. While he continued to work at the railways he moved to Brisbane to start an amateur career in boxing and continued to love watching boxing all of his life.

Col decided to move to Bowen still maintaining his job with the railway. It was here, while living at the pub in Bowen that he met Lorna, only a few days after arriving in the town. This was the start of a long life together. They were married in 1954. Christine and Doug were born the following year.

While continuing work in the railway, Colin bought his first farm where he grew Tomatoes. At one stage he owned and farmed small crops on several properties in the Delta area.
and Col and Lorna also owned the Merinda Hotel for a few years.

In 1971, Col bought Warden Bend from Bayden Teitzel where he continued farming. At this time, Doug developed an interest in cattle and established the Warden Bend Brahman Stud. Eventually Col also developed an interest with the Brahmans Doug was working with. In 1978, another property, Pennsfield at East Euri Creek, was purchased with Doug and Helen to enable the stud to carry more cattle. Warden Bend went on to be one of the leading studs in North Queensland with some top line Brahmans in Australia. In 1981, to improve quality of the herd, two bulls were imported from America, one of whom was Quinnie. In 1987, Col, Lorna, Doug & Helen purchased another property, White Kangaroo near Mt Aberdeen. They successfully ran this property for many years with much help from Col’s grandson Ben. When Ben passed in 1999, although it was a successful property, the family decided to sell White Kangaroo in 2003.

For many years, Col enjoyed attending & exhibiting at cattle shows with Doug. Being part of the Australian Brahman Breeders Association opened up a wonderful world of loyal & lifelong friendships. One of the most cherished being with the Harriman family from Reedybrook. Along with horses, fishing and camping, other interests of Col’s over the years included hunting & shooting, especially for those “myall vermin” as he used to say. His kids and grandkids laugh about some of his wild driving whilst they were out shooting...how they managed to survive unscathed, they aren’t quite sure. Col also loved cricket. He played for many teams over the years.

Col has never been afraid of hard work and he firmly believed that it was the only way to be successful in life. Progress has always been his aim in life, which is perhaps how he ended up running for council. This belief would continue throughout his time in the council where, after Harold Teitzel retired, he represented the people of Division 2 for 3 terms followed by 2 terms as the Shire Chairman, later known as Mayor after Peter Wyche retired. Col greatly respected Peter and tried very hard to continue the great work he had begun. His achievements whilst in the council are many and are well documented. The development of the Bowen Sporting Complex, now named after Col, is definitely one of his greatest achievements within the Bowen district.

Although he had an undeniably positive influence on the makeup of the Bowen district, it was his personal interactions and the impression he left on the people of the Bowen Shire that will perhaps be his greatest legacy. He had an exceptional ability to listen to people (often for hours on the phone), in order to help and serve them. People, young and old, from all walks of life have commented over the years and again in the days since his passing, about his generosity and how it was a privilege to have known him. If you were down on your luck and needed a hand, Col would be there holding his out, without having to be asked. Col and Lorna were patrons of the Bowen Show Society and the Bowen Polo crocse as well as many others. He certainly made a considerable contribution to the development of Bowen and will be remembered for his outstanding service to our community.

In his years after retiring from the council, he spent much of his time on his Mt Dangar property alongside Lorna. Along with his continued cattle work and an interest in dogs, turkeys & chooks, he enjoyed growing a small garden at his home....avocados, passionfruit, pawpaw, citrus fruits and an array of veggies. Col also loved going to the races, especially when one of the horses he or Doug owned was running. Watching the footy, especially the State of Origin, Broncos and later the Cowboys was also something Col enjoyed as well as attending rodeos.

Col never travelled much and didn’t have the desire to, unless it was back down to Boolboonda to visit his family. He loved going back and revisiting the old days down there but also seeing how the area had changed & grown over the years. He was particularly interested in seeing what his brother John and his family were achieving on their properties. His love and respect for his siblings was endless...you would often here him talking for hours at a time to them on the phone - catching up, reminiscing and sometimes solving the problems of the world. He really cherished their relationships.

In his last few years, he was mostly interested in what his grandkids and great-grandkids were up to. He loved them so much and took such pride in their achievements and the kind of people they were growing into. He enjoyed watching them grow and hearing all about their lives, their mischief and how they faced up to the challenges that life threw at them.

Col clearly made his mark on the world with his stories and antics fresh in the minds of those who loved and knew him. He had a great sense of humour and loved a laugh.

As many have said, it feels like the end of an era. He was salt of the earth and a true bushy. Hard but fair and he called a spade a spade. He always spoke his mind, sometimes offending people with his honesty where he wouldn’t sugar coat things or pretend. Col was always true to himself, his values and his beliefs. He wasn’t afraid to call people out when they did the wrong thing or have a tough conversation – a trait that inevitably made him an excellent leader in the council. He had unwavering pride in his town and exhibited a strong sense of duty to always strive for the best for Bowen. He was a true pioneer, and without his positive influence in this community, Bowen might be a different place from what it is today.

Col was fiercely proud of his family, his friends and his history and would stick up for them all to no end. Never one to forget a friend, or foe for that matter. Col had a no frills attitude, was old-fashioned and tough. There are just so many memories and people that we could speak of when talking about Col...clearly he lived a full life and was a memorable character that certainly won’t be forgotten any time soon.

Eulogy provided by Colin’s Grand-Daughter, Rebecca Bulloch (nee Leather)
How many times have donations been made to a charity and you never quite know where the money is going to?

Variety Club are very good at involving their fundraisers in the carry on donations made to the many recipients of their work. Just recently The Hump Express and our supporters have witnessed presentations made to those recipients. It is very rewarding and to witness the emotions of those people and families is heartfelt. Certainly tugs at the old heart strings that’s for sure.

In March the 2017 Hump Express team, who participated in the Surf & Turf Variety Bash, made a special presentation of a unique chair that enables children to go from sitting in a wheelchair to the standing position. The Rockhampton Special School were extremely grateful for the donation and said the chair would be a popular practical asset to the school.

A wonderful family from Bell, well known to our fellow brahman breeders, were the next to receive a three wheel bike for their daughter Mackenzie. That little girl did not stop smiling and the family said it enabled her to be mobile and to ride with her little brother. We had a great day visiting the area especially meeting some of our fantastic supporters who we finally got to meet in person.

While we were on the Bash we saw many similar donations made along the way but when you are able to see directly where your fundraising efforts are going it makes us all feel like we have contributed to something extremely worthwhile and so very much appreciated by the receivers. The children who benefit from Variety Club are generally those forgotten in a community and the most common reply from the families was that they were so emotional about the fact that ‘someone thought of them’!!

The Variety Club are always looking for families out in the regional areas who may benefit from their donations so if you know of a deserving family with a child or children who are in need then contact either Wendy or Lyn. It would be great to see our fundraising dollars going direct to a family out in a country area.

In August this year The Hump Express will again hit the road in the Variety Bash this time travelling from Gladstone inland to Townsville. Yep we will pass through lots of Brahman country and look forward to seeing many of you along the way!! Keep an eye on our FB page for more up to date news!!

Thank you

On behalf of myself and my family I want to sincerely thank everyone involved in the Variety Club Bash, Team Yak Attack and The Hump Express and all the very generous people who made donations. Your generosity is an encouraging reminder of how wonderful people can be. I have never been prouder or more humbled than the day Wendy Cole, Lyn Coombe and members of the Variety Club delivered Mackenzie’s beautiful pink bike to her. The day was made even more special with some of the generous people who donated money being able to share the day with us. You have all helped close the gap.

The bike is made specifically for special needs children and adults like Mackenzie. Mackenzie has both cognitive and physical challenges, and being able to ride a bike is a very valuable therapy that is disguised in a fun way. She is loving riding her bike, and we go riding together most days. It has already made a difference to her balance, and to the tone in her legs, and though these victories may sound small to the average person, we know that they are not.

Words do not really express how grateful we are. Thank you for making a positive difference in Mackenzie’s life as well as many other families lives. I hope that you have got as much joy out of knowing you have made a difference, as we have being the recipients of your generosity. We wish the Yak Attack Team all the best in their next Variety Club Bash.

Thank you

Jeanette Sorley and Family
Cows for Cambodia

By: Andrew Costello & Wallace Gunthorpe

An Australian charity making a difference in Cambodia

Cows for Cambodia has been in operation for nearly 6 years now, changing the lives of Cambodian families who have nothing. We loan a family a pregnant cow, whilst the charity retains ownership of the cow, the family owns the calf. This system encourages them to work to break the poverty cycle as opposed to a direct hand out. Since its inception, all funds have been used to purchase cows, buy property for farming land, pay Cambodian staff, buy medicines, vaccinations and hay. Our mission statement is quite simply this...

“We act as a cow bank for Cambodians that are willing to work their way out of the poverty cycle. We aim to help hundreds of families in the future and the health and wellbeing of our cows is as important as helping the families.”

We want to improve the conditions of communities in a sustainable way. We have already funded, and are in the midst of building a western standard farm with cattle yards and crush. We have also purchased 5 superior bulls that our cows will be mated with in the future. These currently reside in the NT, Australia and we plan to transport them to Cambodia in the next 12 months. We work with communities, not for the community. We provide them with the opportunity and it is amazing how they respond. We are already seeing the skills of the village increase greatly in livestock management. We are also helping to introduce modern farming practices that are improving the health and productivity of not just our cows, but of all the cows in the village.

One of the main criteria’s for a family to receive a cow is that most of the families have children. The children of the family that has the cows are then given the opportunity to go to a local school. We work with a local family who runs the school, and the charity has recently upgraded it, making it double in size and we are seeing great results from many children turning up every night. The charity has 4 Teachers on the payroll to support the upgrade in the school.

We also offer relief to families and the village when emergency situations arise. Generally, this will be in the form of an illness with one of the cows or something that requires a vet’s attention. We fund all of these expenses so the cow is never a burden to the family.

Wallace Gunthorpe, a Queensland cattleman has also been instrumental in turning our cattle charity into a charity that boasts world class facilities in a third world country. Wallace has been with us every step of the way overseeing the cattle shed design initially looking after the construction on the ground there. Wallace has a long history of work within the Beef industry in Australia and also has dealt extensively with beef production in Asia. We are very blessed to have crossed paths with Wallace and look forward to his help as the charity grows.

The charity Cows for Cambodia is doing amazing things for the people of Cambodia. My involvement has been challenging, but very rewarding. When you see families rising out of poverty and the children being educated it makes you want to do more.

We have established the best cattle facility in Cambodia with a cattle shed second to none, stock proof fencing and improved pastures.

We now need a 6 tonne truck so we can transport the cattle from the villages back to the farm shed for weaning, vaccinations, dipping and pregnancy testing.

We also need a 110HP tractor so we can work our pastures when needed. Photos of both below.

Those of you that know me, know I would not be involved in a charity that was not 100%. Any donated money goes to the front line and to where it is needed.

Remember all donations are tax deductible and every dollar will be gratefully received and appreciated by the wonderful people of Cambodia.

We would like to thank ABBA for their assistance.

We need your help and thankyou in anticipation. www.gdg.org.au/Truck

For further information our website is www.cowsforcambodia.com

JUNE 2018
Megan’s looking forward to Junior Beef

By Lindel Greggery

Aspiring studmaster Megan Green is looking forward to representing the New South Wales Branch of the Australian Brahman Breeders Association at the Rockhampton Junior Beef Show in July.

The 16-year-old is the sister of Jordan Green, who was the NSW representative in 2015, and together they are establishing Richmond Valley Brahman stud at Old Bonalbo, in the Northern Rivers region of the State.

Megan said she was excited to be coming to Junior Beef for the second time, and will camp on the grounds for a week with her father Robert Green.

The family turn off two-year-old grassfed steers from their 405ha property Richmond Valley, using Charolais, Angus and Brahman bulls over Brahman and F1 females.

Megan said Richmond Valley Brahman stud was originally founded by her grandmother Shirley Green and, although no longer operating, the prefix was handed down to her and her sister Jordan. The girls are breeding up from purebred commercial females, using AI and their stud bull Mogul Chevvy, with hopes to have their first calves eligible for registration next year.

The Woodenbong Central High School student said she was keen to promote the breed at every opportunity, including showing 500kg-plus led steers.

“We usually prepare a purebred Brahman led steer and a Charbray steer for Casino Beef Week, to show the differences. We like to put the Brahman breed out there and show what they can actually do,” she said.

“In our first year, in 2014, we got reserve champion carcase at Beef Week with a Brahman/Charbray cross. He was by our stud bull Mogul Chevvy and out of a commercial female.”

Megan has been actively involved in Junior Judging, not only judging cattle but meat sheep, thanks to the agricultural program at her school. This year she was the Northern Rivers representative at Sydney Royal Easter Show, judging meat sheep on the hoof, and said although she didn’t place it was a great experience.

“All last year I qualified for the Lismore North Coast National Show in Junior Judging. I didn’t get a placing but I still went very well and would highly recommend it to other people.”

The sisters also take part in the annual Casino Bos Indicus Youth Round Up each year and parade their own cattle and the school’s show team at Casino Beef Week and local shows.

Megan said she was very grateful to the ABBA for selecting her as the NSW Branch representative at Junior Beef and planned to “get the most out of it as I can”.

“I’m really looking forward to the experience and the fact that I can make new friends along the way and network with people to assist me in my future with beef cattle. I’m not sure what I want to do but, whatever career I choose, I would still like to stay on the land, have beef cattle, and run my own herd.”
DOMESTIC & EXPORT SEMEN PACKAGES AVAILABLE
FROM RAGLAN VICTORY & RAGLAN MR MASON 2280

SON OF VICTORY,
RAGLAN VINNIE
CALF CHAMPION BULL
BEEF 2018

VICTORY’S SIRE
PROGENY GROUP
WINNERS AT
BEEF 2018
Selenta™ Fixed Time AI embraced as a management tool at Kirkton Station, Ravenswood, QLD

By Boehringer Ingelheim

David and Di Hood, managers at Kirkton Station (Redcliffe Pastoral Company) recently jumped at the opportunity to trial the Selenta™ range of cattle fertility products, including the new DIB-H® 0.5 gram progesterone device in their commercial herd. Pleasantly surprised at how easy the Selenta™ range was to use - and how easy the colour-coded protocols were to follow - David explains: “Using FTAI in our commercial herd was easier than we first thought it would be, it all ran really smoothly. The cattle handled it well and at the final preg test you could tell the difference between the control group and the AI mob – the AI mob ran through smoother and easier due to their previous handling experience at joining”.

Planning was the key to successful protocol implementation. “We split the mob and got through 150 in each group comfortably in the designated time frame. We had a total of 4 people in the yards, including the vet doing the AI. It’s just about getting the basics right, then it’s easy to do.”

David and Di see one of the greatest benefits with Selenta™ and FTAI to be tightening the calf drop and improving their rebreed rates in first calvers. This has historically been much lower than in other groups of cattle, a common situation in northern beef herds. “Following the Selenta™ program, the calf drop has really tightened up, those heifers now have longer to recover before getting back in calf again, and that gives us some wriggle room if the rain comes late”.

David foresee the uptake of FTAI continuing to expand as producers recognise the obvious benefit of tightening the calving interval and improving pregnancy rates, along with the flow on benefits on resource management and reducing long-term grazing pressure. “Using something like FTAI to have more even drops of calves will help with paddock management and stock movement as well. Also, we can spend more money on obtaining a smaller number of better quality bulls instead of having a higher number of bulls with lesser genetic merit.”

David’s advice to those considering giving Selenta™ and FTAI a try: “As long as you have a decent set of yards and you are able to get the cattle in the right nutritional condition going into joining, it can definitely work. The fact that you can use synchronization not just for AI but also for natural joining management too will be useful on more extensive stations. At the end of the day, better management of those first calvers and the general benefits of controlled mating times will increase production, improve genetics and make managing mobs easier at weaning and marking”.

Selenta™ is the most comprehensive range of proven cattle fertility products available in Australia, and is fully supported by the technical services of the Boehringer Ingelheim cattle team. For more information, speak to your veterinarian or call Boehringer Ingelheim toll free on 1800 038 037.
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](http://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).

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Brahmans claim supreme awards at Marlborough

By Lindel Greggery - Photos Kelly Butterworth

Brahmans from Raglan and Cambil studs were awarded the supreme champion male and female interbreed exhibits at the 2018 Marlborough Show.

The April 21 event was judged by Bill Geddes, Doonside, Milman, who shared the ribbons between a strong field from 13 studs.

Raglan Mr Coglan 2874, shown by Andrew and Roxanne Olive and family, Raglan stud, Raglan, placed first in the 21-24 months’ stud Brahman class before claiming the titles of senior and grand champion Brahman bull and supreme champion interbreed male.

He is an IVF son of JDH Carson De Manso 834/7 (imp) and out of Hamdenvale Rocky 485/9.

The supreme female exhibit, Cambil Miss Empress 4857, is a September 2015-drop daughter of JDH Clanton De Manso 313/8 (imp), out of a homebred cow by Brahrock Ambitious.

She was paraded by the Camm family, Cambil stud, Proserpine and was sashed the senior and grand champion Brahman female after winning the over 30 months’ class.

Cambil also paraded the junior champion bull, Cambil Grey Goose 5200, who is a son of Mr VB 890/4 (imp); and the reserve champion senior female, Cambil Barbara 4950, who is a daughter of the Hudgins sire JDH Quency Manso 873/1.

Raglan also had success with progeny of Yenda Victory, parading the reserve champion junior bull, Raglan Mr Von, and the male calf champion Raglan Mr Vinnie.

The prefix also exhibited the reserve champion junior female Raglan Jordie, as well as the reserve champion female calf Raglan Miss Classic.

Runner up to the grand champion Brahman bull was Crinum Benny Manso, who placed first in the 24-30 months’ class before graduating to reserve champion senior male. The son of Blue Blood Charming and Crinum Serapak Manso 1432 was paraded by John Randell, Crinum, Tieri.

Mr Geddes selected The Rivers Courtney as the junior champion female. She is a polled red daughter of Palmvale Impact 3181 and was shown by local breeders Peter and Susan Gray, The Rivers stud, Marlborough.

Viva Bonnie claimed the champion female calf title for her exhibitors Alastair and Pam Davison, Viva stud, Lumeah, Middlemount. The 12-15 months’ class winner is by Brahrock Intercept 4307 and her dam, Viva 444, carries full Apis Creek breeding. Bill and Sue Blakeney were thrilled when their polled grey youngster Warraka Jackson 3053 collected the ribbon for reserve champion male calf. He is a son of NCC Montero 2046, out of their ET cow Warraka Anathen 2223.

In the group classes, Raglan won the Exhibitor’s Group and Sire’s Progeny Group, and the Dam’s Progeny Group blue ribbon went to Cambil for offspring of Cambil Barbara 3393.

The annual show attracted a massive turnout of Junior Paraders and Junior Judges. Sylvia Godwin was named champion Junior Parader after winning the 15-under 17 years’ section. The champion Junior Judge was Grady Hansen, who placed first in the 17-under 25 years’ class.
Two studs share honours at The Caves Show

By Lindel Greggery

The polled grey youngster Kenrol Meile Manso 0530 was sashed the calf champion bull and grand champion interbreed bull at the 2018 The Caves Show.

The interbreed stud cattle section of the April 28 event was judged by Simon Kinbacher, Rockhampton, who awarded broad ribbons to Brahman entries from Kenrol and Bungarribee studs.

His top pick, Kenrol Meile Manso, is an IVF son of JDH Mr Elmo Manso (imp) and El Ja Chloie Manso 5096. The June 2017-drop calf was paraded by Ken and Wendy Cole, Kenrol, Gracemere, whose team collected a swag of broad ribbons on the day.

The reserve champion bull calf was Jim and Bonnie Besley’s Bungarribee Lincoln 2367/8, a polled red son of Palmvale Hercules 2983 and Bungarribee Sally 1945.

In the female calf classes, the winning order was reversed, with Bungarribee Lucy 2497 sashed the champion and Kenrol Selena Rae 2911 taking the reserve champion calf female ribbon. Bungarribee Lucy is a daughter of the well performed sire Garthowen Warrior, while Kenrol Selena Rae is a red heifer by Register of Renown sire Kenrol Mr HJ Ray 0366.

It was a clean sweep for Kenrol in the junior female classes, thanks to two polled grey heifers by Willtony Stetson. Mr Kinbacher selected Kenrol Fascinator 0514 as the champion and Kenrol Lady Nan 0512 as the reserve.

Lady Nan 0512 is a daughter of the 2017 Dam of the Year Kenrol Lady Nan 0269.

Kenrol’s winning day continued when Kenrol Polly Rae 0497, a polled red daughter of Kenrol Mr HJ Ray, received the senior female reserve championship.

The Besleys collected the junior bull reserve championship for their polled red son of Muan A Orson 4247, Bungarribee Kool Kat 2364.

In the group classes, Kenrol presented the winning Exhibitor’s Group and Dam’s Progeny Group, and Bungarribee’s progeny of Palmvale Candyman took out the Sire’s Progeny class.

Local Brahman and Brangus breeders Bill and Kay Geddes, Doonside, exhibited both breeds in the unled classes. Their pair of purebred Brahman heifers was awarded the champion pen of unled bulls or heifers.

The Caves Show also featured classes for led steers, judged by David Hill, Clarke Creek. He selected George Tucker’s milk tooth steer over 500kg, Ned, as the grand champion.

The Rockhampton-district show attracted a huge number of entries in the Junior Paraders’ classes, judged by Wendy Cole and Simon Kinbacher. The age group champions were:


In the Junior Judges’ competition, Eve Clancy won the under 13 section; Heidi Davison won the under 16 class; and Kasey Davis won the 16-under 25 years’ class.

Emily Geddes, Amity Merritt and Dana Walkington all placed equally in the Junior Stewards’ event.
Above all else, a bull is bred and sold to produce calves.

The most common definition of a fertile bull, as distinct from one that is capable of producing a pregnancy, is that a fertile bull should be capable of getting 60% of normal cycling cows in calf in the first three weeks of mating and 90% within nine weeks (pregnant at 42 days).

To achieve this, the bull must be, broadly speaking, able to seek out the oestrus cow, capable of having an erection and causing intromission and finally ejaculating viable semen into the anterior vagina.

The sperm cells present in an ejaculate are produced in the testicles and this paper briefly discusses:

- The physiology of sperm production;
- The measurement of testicular function;
- The limitations of those measurements; and
- Some of the factors known to adversely affect sperm production.

Sperm production

Testicular tissue is primarily composed of millions of very small tubes called seminiferous tubules.

These tubules form loops that flow into the centre of the testis, emptying into the rete testis.

Thermoregulation

The temperature of the blood coming out of the body of a healthy bull heading towards the testicle in the testicular artery is 38.5°C. By coiling the vein that exits the testicle around the artery, the cooler venous blood cools the arterial blood temperature by 4°C. This complex arrangement between the artery and the vein, which is commonly called "the cord", is known as the pampiniform plexus (Figure 2), and is responsible for maintaining the testicular temperature at 4°C below normal body temperature.

The venous blood is cooled because the testicles are hung in the breeze (simple physics) and evaporative cooling lowers the temperature of the blood in the veins of the scrotal skin.
The subcutaneous dartos muscle and cremaster muscle that run between the testicle and the body wall combine to raise or lower the testicles depending on the ambient temperature (nearer the body and warmer, away from the body and cooler) (Figure 3).

**Sperm transport**

(loading the gun)

Once the sperm cells are produced in the testicles they are transported via the epididymis (head, body and tail) and vas deferens to the ampulla. The ampulla is effectively the storage area in the pelvis, accumulating sperm prior to ejaculation. As already noted sperm production in the testicles takes 60 days. See Figure 4.

The trip through the epididymis of some 120 feet takes 10 days and during this time sperm cell maturation is completed. Sperm cells leaving the testis are not capable of fertilisation.

It is important to note that the epididymis must have high levels of testosterone to function correctly.

It takes another two to three days for the sperm cells to get from the epididymis to the ampulla (via the vas deferens), where they are stored ready for ejaculation.

The testicular function in the majority of bulls, at least in younger bulls is good but some bulls for whatever reason are infertile. These bulls need to be identified and culled. Identifying these infertile animals requires that the functionality of testicles be measured.

**Measuring testicular function**

Currently there are three tests regularly used to measure testicular function:

1. Scrotal circumference;
2. Sperm motility (mass activity and percent progressively motile); and
3. Sperm morphology.

1. **Scrotal circumference**
   Scrotal circumference is measured (Figure 5) because it is:
   a. Highly correlated to testis weight, which is highly correlated to daily sperm production (about 10 million per gram, per day) and sperm quality;
   b. Moderately to highly heritable;
   c. A more accurate predictor of age of puberty than age or weight;
   d. Highly correlated to the age of puberty of his heifer progeny; and
   e. Easy to measure and repeatable.

2. **Sperm motility (crush side)**
   Sperm cells have to be motile. They have to do a lot of miles – cervix to egg is about 600mm, which does not seem a long way but for a sperm cell that is only 60um (1/15mm) long (from the top of his head to the tip of the tail) that is a long way. Admittedly, there is a little help from

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**FIGURE 3: CREMASTER MUSCLE & DARTOS MUSCLE**

*Image provided by Rocky Repro*

**FIGURE 4: sperm transport**

*Source: Pathways to Pregnancy and Parturition, Second Edition - P.L. Senger*

**FIGURE 5: measuring scrotal circumference**

*Image provided by Rocky Repro*
uterine contraction but the sperm cell needs to be motile.

There are two ways of assessing motility:

Mass activity; and

Progressive motility.

To assess the mass activity, a drop of semen is placed on a microscope slide and examined at 100x magnification.

The gross/ mass activity or swirl is subjectively graded on a scale of 1-5, where 1 has no swirl and 5 is extremely active.

The mass activity of a sample is determined by:

1. The concentration of the sperm cells;
2. The percentage of motile sperm cells; and
3. The speed at which they are swimming.

The score given for mass activity has to be interpreted with these variables in mind. A semen sample with a mass activity of 4 for example, will have to have a good concentration with a high percentage of motile sperm cells that are fast swimming. Whereas a dilute sample may also have a high percentage of motile sperm cells swimming fast, but because of a lower concentration (possibly due to operator error or prior ejaculation) the mass activity will be low.

The second way of assessing motility is to look at the percentage of progressive motile cells in the sample. Here a cover slip is placed over a drop of semen, creating a single layer of cells. These are then examined at 200 or 400x magnification and the percentage moving forward is subjectively assessed.

It should be emphasised that both of these assessments (mass activity and percentage motile) are subjective, and therefore subject to the inherent individual variations that are seen in all such tests. What one person sees as 80% motile, another might see as 70%. The Australian Cattle Veterinarians now accredit vets that have demonstrated they have the equipment and knowledge to perform these examinations. This is an attempt to reduce this variability, but human nature dictates that some variation will always be present.

3. MORPHOLOGY

Morphology looks at the anatomy of individual sperm cells. This is done by placing a couple of drops of semen into formalin to kill and preserve the sperm cells, allowing them to be examined at 1,000x magnification. This cannot be done “crush side” as it requires a very large and specialised microscope that cannot be safely transported. 100 cells are counted, noting normals and abnormals, and describing the abnormals. The results are reported as the percent of normal and the percent of each type of abnormality found.

These abnormalities can be broadly grouped into compensable and uncompensable defects (Figure 6).

In simple terms, sperm with compensable defects will never reach the egg and therefore will not interfere with fertilisation by a normal sperm. That is, these defects can be somewhat compensated for provided enough normal sperm are present. Uncompensable defects on the other hand are capable of getting to the egg and blocking access to it by normal sperm, however, are then not capable of producing a pregnancy.

Please note motility does NOT equal morphology.

There is a difference between motility and morphology. A normal sperm maybe dead and an abnormal sperm may well be swimming. This explains how it is possible to have 40% progressive motility and 90% normal (Figure 7) or 90% progressive motility and 40% normal (Figure 8).
SEmen Testing (Predicting Future Fertility)

In my opinion, the tests just described allow a reasonably good assessment of the fertilising ability of the ejaculate examined, but the goal of a “semen test” is, in reality, an attempt to predict the fertility of the bull for the next 12 months or more.

In the following comments, the parameters by which the bulls future fertility is assessed are listed along with some of the background research that was used to set these parameters.

It should be stressed, that the interpretation of this data and how it applies to an individual bull is my personal view only.

SCrotal Circumference

The acceptable size varies with age; however, all bulls in good order should be no less than 34cm at two years of age. Maybe a little less than this for a Bos Indicus bull because of their different shape.

The testicular size of the adult is determined by genetics and pre-weaning nutrition, but it should be remembered, that there is around 2-3 cm difference in the scrotal circumference of a bull measured when fat versus in working order.

MOtility

Progressive motility has to be at least 60% and most preferably 70% or better to allow semen to be successfully frozen.

Probably because of this, the current recommendations are that a bull should have above 60% progressive motility to be considered for use in a single sire situation. Or above 30% to be considered for multiple sire duties. BUT, having said that, the only evidence that I know of, suggests that 30% is satisfactory and that grading bulls whose motility is above this is not reflected in his fertility. This may just be a reflection of the natural variability seen between collections and the difficulty of preforming this “crush-side” examination in any repeatable way but that is the data.

Regardless of where the bar is set, (and for my two cents worth, I agree with the current settings) in my opinion there is way too much variability in the measurement to accurately discount a bull that has 10% or even 20% lower motility than another. That is, a bull with 75% motility is not necessarily worse than one with 85% motility, they are both acceptable.

MORPHOLOGY

This subject has now become the most hotly debated topic around the cattle yards, replacing banning live trade and climate change.

Proponents of morphology testing believe it is critical to the assessment of a bulls fertility and that it is positively correlated to the fertility of the herd in general. Opponents believe it to be of no value at all.

In my opinion, many of these claims are either exaggerated, not yet proven or flat out wrong, certainly under pre-sale testing conditions.

Let me state from the beginning that I absolutely believe the morphology versus fertility story OF an ejaculate. This is why Rocky Repro does a full morphology assessment on every ejaculate before freezing semen.

There has been much work done looking at the effects on fertility of different levels of all sorts of defects. These researchers have basically concluded that an ejaculate should ideally have greater than 70% normal sperm cells and certainly greater than 50% to have good fertility.

This depends a lot on the type of defect – compensable / uncompensable.

There is also some Australian evidence suggesting that similar parameters might be applicable in the field at least for Bos Indicus derived bulls (Bull Power, Fitzpatrick et al., 2002). Each bull was given a fertility score based on the number of calves he sired as compared to the average of the group.

The data showed that in the group of bulls that had 70% or greater normal morphology, 70% were above average fertility and 30% below average.

In the 50-70% normal morphology group, 25% of the bulls were above average fertility and 75% were below average.

And in those bulls that had less than 50% normal morphology there were 0% with above average fertility.

The conclusion being that if all the herd sires on the one property were tested and those with below 70% were culled there would be an increase in the herd fertility.

If you look at the individual bulls that make up this data set rather than the herd trends, I would contend that 25% of bulls in the 50-70% normal group were better than 30% of the 70+% normal group. Furthermore, those in the below 50% normal group were no worse than the 30% below average bulls in the 70% normal group.

I interpret this data more along the lines of “the probability” that a bull with between 50-70% normal having an above average fertility is not as good as one having 70% normal or better. That is a lot different to saying he will not have good fertility.

When predicting the future fertility of a bull, as distinct from the fertility of a single ejaculate, the line at 70% is really just a convenient line in the sand and should be open to interpretation based on such things, as the individuals performance within his contemporary group.
There are numerous examples of bulls that have had one lower than optimal morphology test result but have had normal fertility in the following year.

One reason for this is in the variability seen in the bull’s morphology samples overtime and even between ejaculations on the same day. The data in Figure 9 shows morphology results of a bull at Rocky Repro, from March to July 2015. The results reported on the same day, are sequential collections taken on that day.

For example, the first collection on the 2/6/15 had a Qualified Pass (QPass) at 68%, the second collection that day was a Pass at 76%, and the third collection a QPass at 68%.

In my opinion, morphology testing of bulls will eventually have to either rank them within contemporary groups, where a series of tests are conducted and the conditions are replicated (e.g. nutrition, handling, collector, morphologist). Or probably more accurately, rank sires based on the morphology result of their sons.

When this is done it may well be found that all the positive traits currently attributed to morphology testing by some are valid, but when doing a single pre-sale test I think the best that can be said is that at this time, for this ejaculate this bull was able or unable to produce a high percentage of normal sperm cells.

The major factors affecting sperm production are:
1. Inadequate thermoregulation;
2. Stress; and
3. Physical damage.

1. INADEQUATE THERMOREGULATION
   a. Scrotal fat;
   b. Fever;
   c. Environmental heat; and
   d. Anatomical.

   a. What better way to raise the temperature of something than to wrap it in a layer of fat. Works well for polar bears and seals.

   It is well known that having bulls fat does not do their semen any good and it is equally well known that if they are not fat they won’t sell. Furthermore in our part of the world getting bulls ready for sale means grain feeding. It will never be possible to have an animal fat without having a layer of fat in the scrotum, surrounding both testicles and the spermatid cord.

   Grain feeding in small pens means the bull will eat for a very short period of time and laydown most of the day. This inhibition of testicular cooling (no air flow) must, in my opinion, greatly exacerbate the fat testicle problem. In my opinion one thing we should be trying to do when feeding bulls is to arrange it so that they are forced to stand or walk for a good part of the day.

   On top of this, Bos indicus bulls are bred to handle heat therefore they don’t even seek shade when lying down. At least a British bred bull would get in the dam or under a tree in the heat. Not the Bos Indicus, he just lays there making testicular jerky.

   b. If the body is running a fever the blood pouring into the testicles will be a lot hotter than normal and the cooling mechanisms of the pampiniform plexus and scrotal muscles will be unable to cope. The detrimental effects of this depend on how much the temperature increases and the length of time it stays up.

   c. When the ambient temperature causes the animal heat stress, the testicular temperature will rise just like the rest of the body.

   d. Those bulls that have a short scrotum and are incapable of letting the testicles down, meaning those with a “wedge shaped” scrotum, struggle to get adequate thermoregulation. Think tight jocks.

FACTORS DETRIMENTAL TO SPERM PRODUCTION

No doubt there are both genetic and environmental components involved in sperm production. It is certainly known that scrotal circumference is heritable and we may well find in time that morphology is too but I will leave that story to the geneticists and discuss briefly some of the environmental factors that can affect sperm production.
2. STRESS

Regardless of its origin, stress lowers the testosterone levels. Remember that the epididymis relies on a very high level of testosterone to work well and that the final stages of sperm maturation occur here. So this is why a lot of DMR’s appear very soon (often within a week) after a stress.

Just as in humans, bulls are stressed by a long list of factors. Among these would be handling, dominance, trucking, nutrition and infection.

And just like humans, I feel (with no proof), that individual bulls handle these stresses differently. It is conceivable, therefore, that the same stress could not affect one bull at all, have a short term effect on another, and have a long lasting detrimental effect on another.

If you think about the detrimental effects listed, putting a bull through a sale will tick most of the boxes. In fact all bull sales including multi-vendor sales, private on property sales and out of the paddock sales will have a lot of these effects. So it would be surprising if the semen quality of a purchased bull did not decrease dramatically from his pre-sale tests if the bull is re-tested shortly after arriving home.

A lot of bulls coming from such sales to Rocky Repro for example, will give freezeable quality semen in the first week to maybe two after arriving and then deteriorate for some time before coming good again (hopefully).

This is not because they were not fertile before they left home but because of what they have been through since leaving home.

Figure 10 illustrates how the stress of a mild illness can affect semen quality. This bull was noticed just to be “off-feed” and a little “doughy” on the 18/5/15, ruminations were slow and dung was firm, there was a very mild increase in temperature (39.5°C), otherwise no clinical signs of note. He was treated with antibiotics “just in case” and came back on feed within five days. Had this bull been grazing in the paddock no one would have noticed a thing wrong with him.

His morphology was terrible for two months following this upset before coming back to normal.

This case also demonstrates very well the 60-70 days it takes for semen production to return to normal after the testicular healing has occurred. This is a classic example, but many bulls do not read the text book and take a lot longer.

3. PHYSICAL DAMAGE

This would include the following:

a. Self-inflicted;

b. Fighting; and

c. Accidental.

Most of these are self-explanatory, but a common case of self-inflicted damage is having a very long neck of the scrotum, whereby the testicles hang between the bulls hocks.

SUMMARY

1. Predicting a bulls life time fertility or even his fertility for the next 12 months based on a single test is always going to be very difficult given this is a biological system and fertility is a multi, multi-faceted and complex system.

2. There are infertile bulls out there that need to be identified.

3. Our current semen testing methods are good at telling the fertility of an ejaculate. AND,

4. Probably do a reasonable job of identifying the real losers. BUT,

5. Do a poor job of grading those that are acceptable. (are those that are OK versus good versus great any different – probably not).

6. Pre-sale semen testing results will almost always be better than the same tests run in the short term (one to two months) post sale.

7. The pre-sale tests simply say the bull was fertile at that time but his future fertility will vary depending on the degree of stress he incurs between the test and mating, and how the individual copes with that stress.
Sales and Events

**JULY 2018**

*3rd – 5th*

**ROCKHAMPTON JUNIOR BEEF SHOW**
Rockhampton Showgrounds

**AUGUST 2018**

*14th*

**NCC & OOLINE FEMALE SALE**
Inverrio Duaringa
McCaffrey’s • SBB

**9th – 19th**

*EKKA - ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW*
Brisbane Showgrounds

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

*1st*

**BIZZY AND JOMANDA SALE**
Grafton Sale Yards
Ray Donovan • George & Fuhrmann

**1st – 3rd**

*ROCKHAMPTON BRAHMAN WEEK SALE*
CQLX Gracemere
Elders • Landmark • SBB • GDL

**OCTOBER 2018**

*14th*

**MOURA ANNUAL BRAHMAN SALE**
Moura
Elders

**27th**

*PBF SPRING INVITATION SALE*
The Chase, Sarina QLD
McCaffrey’s • Elders

**29th**

*LANCEFIELD BRAHMANS INVITATIONAL SALE*
CQLX Gracemere
McCaffrey’s • Landmark

**NOVEMBER 2018**

*14th*

**NCC BRAHMAN SALE**
Inverrio Duaringa
McCaffrey’s • SBB

**2nd**

*GOLD CITY BRAHMAN SALE*
Charters Towers
Elders • Landmark

**30th**

*NEW COUNTRY BRAHMAN SALE*
Nebo
Elders • Landmark

**JANUARY 2019**

*19th*

*THE GREAT SOUTHERN BRAHMAN FEMALE SALE*
Silverdale Selling Complex
Elders • Hayes & Co

*4th – 5th*

*BIG COUNTRY BRAHMAN SALE*
Charters Towers
McCaffrey’s • Geaney’s

*12th – 13th*

*FEBRUARY ALL BREEDS SUMMER BRAHMAN SALE*
CQLX Gracemere
Elders • Landmark

**FEBRUARY 2019**

*16th*

*BEF COUNTRY BRAHMAN SALE*
Nebo
Elders • Landmark

*29-30th*

*WILANGI INVITATIONAL BRAHMAN SALE*
Charters Towers
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