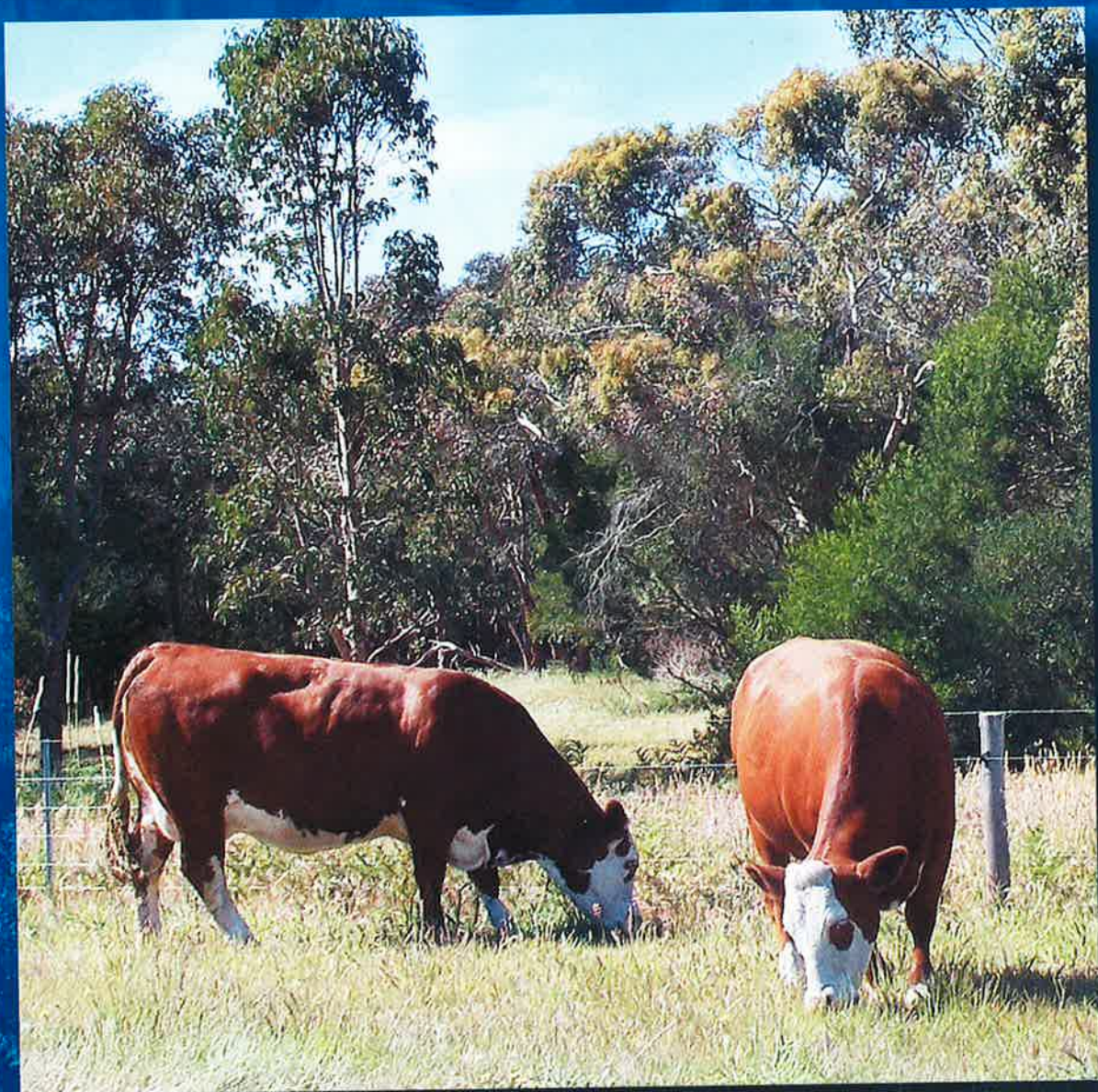


SIMMENTAL

ANNUAL December 2006



- **World Congress Report**
- **Full 2006 Sale Summary**
- **Breedplan reporting changes**



"Woonallee - For the Commercial Edge"

Your chance to "Share in the Success"

*** 7th December, 2006 - Naracoorte, SA**

Sim/Angus & Sim/Poll Hereford commercial heifers

*** 6th February, 2007 - On Property**

Woonallee Beef Field Day for pre sale inspection

*** 9th February 2007 - On Property**

3rd Woonallee/Waterfront Premier Simmental Genetic Sale



Offering at Premier Genetic Sale: Approx 20 bulls including 8 full South African blood bulls, some Simmental/Angus bulls, select females & PTIC recipients

Sires represented include: BHR Three Sixes * BHR Zulu

*** Grimich Park Primus * Waterfront Xerus * Kwantum Profeet**

*** Germandia Aricanus (P) * Kykso Kaino * Dorsim Massie**



Tom Baker - PMB 52, Millicent, SA 5280 Ph: (08) 8734 3031

Mob 0428 475 066 Email: tbaker@bakergroup.com.au

For more information on the sale cattle visit the new and updated website:

www.bakergroup.com.au

Corinda Downs

5th On Property Sale
March 9, 2007
Mount Gambier, South Australia

Offering a quality line up of
predominately polled bulls from
one of Australia's largest
Simmental Herds
Enquiries always welcome



Mark & Julie Peucker

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Fax: (08) 8739 8270

Mobile: 0411 242 575

Email: corindadowns@bigpond.com



SIMMENTAL

ANNUAL

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Willandra



CAS Cowcher & Son 19th Annual On-Property Bull Sale Tuesday 13th February, 2007



Willandra Awesome AJYPA083



Willandra Assassin AJYPA068



Willandra Anaconda AJYPA069



Willandra Anzac AJYPA070



Willandra Alaska AJYPA087

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President's Report

By BILL ALMOND
President
Simmental Australia

WELCOME to the 2006 Simbeef Annual magazine. Special thanks and appreciation to the new publishers, Rural Press, the management team and journalists who have done a wonderful job in sourcing and developing the many interesting articles for the benefit of members. We are grateful for the wonderful support from the advertisers which has enabled the production of such a great magazine.

While drought conditions still prevail in many areas, Simmental cattle have proved just how hardy and versatile they can be under some adverse situations.

We are fortunate to have developed some tremendous cattle for our unique Australian conditions. These cattle are certainly making their presence felt in herds across the country.

This is also evident by the increased demand by a number of countries looking to Australia for registered Simmental genetics.

The federal council has been extremely active during the past year promoting Australian Simmentals to overseas customers. It is anticipated within the next few months export orders will start, however, breeders must be export ready, as cattle are required to be registered and, in most cases, Breedplan recorded.

During the year promotion and media coverage has been increased to a level not seen in many years. This has included great leading articles and excellent commercial sale prices regularly reported in the rural press, which together has provided great exposure to the beef cattle industry.

The new website has commenced and it has been rewarding to receive a great deal of positive feedback from members and especially from non-members logging onto the site. Special thanks are extended to Gary Gillett for his wonderful and dedicated assistance in the development of the website.



Sales of Simmental cattle during the year have been very positive with some excellent results at vendor, multi-vendor and private sales.

Commercial sales continue to be exceptional. Cows and calves in good condition top most store sales with steers and heifers usually selling at a premium price that is above the saleyard average.

The domestic demand for beef continues to expand and with the current trend of pay on yield, Simmental cattle should be in an excellent position to capitalise on the traits our cattle excel in.

Marketing of our cattle remains a challenge. Breeders must continue to be vigilant and provide quality assurance with their product.

Steer and fat stock shows and competitions have been well-attended during the year with some outstanding achievements. Congratulations to all members who have worked hard to attain well deserved results.

A special thanks is extended to members who have supported the Youth program by donating steers to various schools and colleges and assisting with other activities.

The Trans Tasman alliance continues to gain momentum with two New Zealand sires selected for Australian use and also two Australian sires used in NZ. Please see the advertisement in this issue for further details.

The NZ South Island Simmental tour will take place in May 2007. It will coincide with the New Zealand National Sale held in Palmerston North, which will conclude the tour.

The recent Southern Technical Breedplan workshops were wonderfully presented and well attended. The workshops provided extremely useful information and, as most countries require Breedplan data, attendance at a workshop will provide members with the opportunity to gain more knowledge. I recommend members attend one of the 2007 workshops.

As we look forward to a brighter year in 2007 we can also look back on 2006 with the satisfaction of knowing much has been achieved, placing Simmental cattle in an excellent position to gain a further market share in the future.

Best wishes to all for a joyous Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

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Southern Simmental Sale

THE Southern Simmental Sale will be held at the Wodonga Stud Selling Centre on May 1, 2007. It replaces the former National Sale.

A Youth program of judging, parading and demonstrations will take place on Monday, April 30, following inspections of sale cattle.

The usual dinner will be held on the evening of April 30.

Sale cattle will be judged on the morning of Tuesday, May 1, followed by the sale, which starts at 1pm.

Entry forms will be available in a few weeks with entries closing on February 1.

The sale agents will be Elders and Landmark.

State Reports

NSW – Peter Liddy

WHILE the rural picture remains grim and 2006 draws to a close, Simmental breeders can only pray for change in the current weather conditions and a better 2007.

While the forced sell-off of stock in recent times has been heartbreaking, we must look forward to the opportunity that will arise when conditions support restocking.

There have been some glimmers of hope, particularly for the Simmental breed. Reports in *The Land* and other rural papers have given high praise to Simmental cross-breeding programs, with a number reporting on our breed's superior milking capability and tremendous muscling, resulting in top dollar earnings in vealer production.

In order to meet the expected renewed and growing interest in the Simmental breed's proven cross-breeding capability, the NSW State Council has responded to the recent well-supported member survey by taking the lead in the revamping of the former National Simmental Sale.

This redevelopment is being undertaken in conjunction with both Victorian and South Australian breeders.

The Southern Simmental Sale will replace the National Sale at the Wodonga Sale Complex in May 2007. The sale

promises to develop new interest for both the buyer and seller, with particular attention paid to our junior members.

In keeping with this approach, the NSW branch and the sale's committee will expand the event to include the sale of Simmental-infused stock. The sale will also include led and unled cattle, and offer a new approach with technical and information presentations, as well as a return to a show and judging of the cattle.

Sponsorship for this concept and a revamped sale has been quick, with the Sale Committee already securing strong support, from a number of rural industry providers.

Your State council and the Southern Simmental Sale Committee urge all Simmental breeders to support the new sale and together, we intend to position the breed at the forefront of the industry, to take the best advantage of any break.

Victoria – Barb Sutton

IN APRIL this year new Victorian council members were elected. They are: president, Barb Sutton; vice president, Peter Wenn; secretary/treasurer, Gary Gillett, and committee members, Sue Vaun Hout, Heather DuVallon, Michael Sullivan, Peter Schembri and Ken Batt.

The three regions continue with each conducting an important event for the year. The eastern region has Lardner field days in March, northern region has

Whittlesea sale in November and western region has the Colac sale in March.

It has been sad to see our National Sale come to an end, but we must face the fact it had finally run its race.

Maybe in the future when times improve weather-wise and cattle prices increase, we will be able to have our National Sale again.

Meanwhile in Victoria we have all been working to make Whittlesea a success.

Melbourne Show 2006 had a good showing of top quality cattle. The judge, Richard Anderson, from Queensland, spoke very highly of Simmentals and felt the breed was headed in the right direction.

I have just arrived home from Tara, Dave and Judy Brewer's sale at Wodonga. The 96 lots sold were all quality and the majority went to Queensland buyers.

Queensland – Ted Donnelly

THE Queensland Branch started the year off with our annual general meeting in late February at Laidley.

Queensland Councillors for 2006 are Ted Donnelly, Elisabeth Skene, Rob Laycock, Jill Matthews, Robbie Shaw, Gary Rahley, Terry Spann and Russell Nowland.

Our first major event for 2006 was Beef Week in Rockhampton where Dugal McDougall, Warwick, judged.

■ Continued page 8

Wendouree Simmentals

Since 1988



**Alan & Marj
Anderson**
Dawsons Creek
Road,
Crookwell
NSW 2583

Ph:
(02) 4655 3098

or

Mobile:
0418 253 249



TL1571836



The Simmental Australia Federal Council. Front Row: Tom Baker (Sen Vice President), Bill Almond (President), Peter Wenn. Back Row: Peter Speers (CEO), Alan Anderson, Garry Gillett, Rob Laycock, Charles Cowcher, Michael Frankcombe (Junior Vice President).

■ From page 7

Simmentals were well represented with the White family's Vintage Centaur awarded grand champion bull. The Pocock family was awarded the grand champion female with their entry, Ellendale Sweet Karamel (P).

The RNA in August was judged by Reid Radel who awarded grand championships to M. Rowlands and L. Allison's Brewers Pascoe Z528 (P) and Graham and Sandra Jordan's Goonoo Creek Yarran.

The bull selling season kicked off at Agshow in Toowoomba. The Moore family topped the sale at \$5500 and 21 Simmentals averaged \$3047.

The next sale was Wandoan where Billa Park topped the sale at \$15,000 and 66 Simmental bulls sold for an average of \$3272. Eight Simbrahs sold to a top of \$5500 and averaged \$3125.

The Mobbs family hosted their annual Gowrie Simbrah and Simmental Sale in September where 58 Simbrahs sold to a top of \$15,000 and averaged \$5250 and 15 Simmental bulls sold to a top of \$6000 twice and averaged \$5033.

The BCM Sale in October saw R. and E. Skene gain the top price of \$9000 and 45 bulls sell for an average of \$3511.

My thanks go all those members who contributed in any way to keeping the Simmental flag flying in Queensland during an extremely difficult 2006.

Western Australia – Mike Introvigne ALTHOUGH not as bad as our eastern counterparts, the majority of the west has been through one of the driest seasons on record.

The year began with a strong cattle market with strong buyer support from all sectors which continued through to early spring when the seasonal conditions finally had an impact.

Large numbers of cattle were forced

onto the market setting prices on a downward trend. The shortage of grain and hay is having a big impact on buying patterns with prices coming under severe pressure through to the New Year.

The 2006 round of Simmental bull sales were sluggish with buyers being very discerning, allowing some individual stud record high prices but lower clearances and averages the norm. The ensuing months saw a clearance of most of the Simmental bulls that had remained unsold giving confidence to local stud breeders.

The dry season is bound to have a big impact on bull sales in 2007 although strong demand signals from several feedlotters for Simmental calves should give commercial breeders confidence that Simmental are worth the extra bid.

The Simmental breed received its second Ross Milner Perpetual Trophy at the 2006 Perth Royal Show courtesy of three purebred Simmental steers from the WA College of Agriculture Denmark's Inlet Views stud.

This result shows what our great breed can do for the beef industry throughout Australia.

Western Australian breeders should be proud of the way they have directed the breed over the years to meet commercial demand.

South Australia – Tom Baker

IN THE past 12 months South Australia has been exposed to less than favourable seasonal conditions, with possibly the worst still to come. However, the SA Simmental has proved to be the dominant force in the European market.

Solid bull sales earlier in the year, combined with the Simmental-infused weaners continually topping the southern weaner sales have helped reinforce the Simmental name and the versatility of the breed.

Once again the Adelaide show helped showcase the South Australian Simmentals and we look forward to being the feature breed at Adelaide in 2007.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to either show cattle or visit us at this prestigious event.

The South Australian Beef Field Days will again feature most of our studs, and it gives us the perfect opportunity to promote our upcoming sales.

The field days will commence on February 2, 2007, and continue over the following days.

Our continual promotion of the breed both through Rural Press and other local outlets will help with the growth of the breed in the stud sector and most importantly in the commercial market around our State.

Tasmania – Mick Frankcombe TASMANIAN Simmental Breeders have enjoyed good bull sales this past year with steady demand for pure and percentage bulls.

With increasing interest in black genetics, Tasmania could become a stronghold for these types of cattle.

Our main activity this year was a site at Agfest field days at Carrick where Simmental and Simangus cattle were on display.

It was disappointing no new members resulted from this exercise but sales of bulls made it very rewarding.

Many contacts were made with old and new clients which made it clear just how important it is to participate in field days and promote yourself.

Many commercial breeders who had switched to British breed bulls expressed a wish to get back to producing those great Simmental cross cattle that they had a few years back and this points to a future of increased bull sales which will please members.

BANDEEKA

SIMMENTAL
STUD Founded 1983

...PERTH ROYAL SHOW 2006...



- Governor's Cup (pictured) - highest livestock award at Perth.
- Won all Simmental Classes
- Senior, Junior and Grand Bull
- Senior, Junior & Grand Female
- Supreme Exhibit
- Most successful exhibitor

TL1572206



BANDEEKA ANSA, Junior & Grand Bull, Perth 2006 by Dunmore Hansa from Bandeeka Tasha sold to Rhett Mobbs, Gowrie Clarville, Qld for \$14,000



BANDEEKA Y-FAINT, Senior & Grand Female, Supreme Exhibit, Perth 2006, by Bandeeka Vanilla from Bandeeka Q-Faint.

BANDEEKA

On-Property Bull Sale
Boyanup, WA
Thursday, February, 22, 2007

Tony & Loreen Kitchen Ph: (08) 9727 2207 Mob: 0407 771 302
Email: bandeeka@cmi.net.au Web: www.bandeeka.com

Sales summary 2002-2006

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 To Nov 4
Number of Sales	26	24	24	29	28
Numbers Sold					
Simmental Bulls	420	450	506	543	637
Simbrah Bulls	84	61	59	68	71
Simmental Females	148	136	85	415	144
Top Price					
Simmental Bulls	\$13,800	\$20,000	\$12,200	\$25,000	\$21,500
Simbrah Bulls	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$6,750	\$14,500	\$15,000
Simmental Females	\$9,000	\$5,750	\$7,000	\$7,750	\$8,000
Average Price					
Simmental Bulls	\$3,667	\$3,413	\$3,586	\$4,131	\$3,726
Simbrah Bulls	\$2,737	\$2,720	\$3,991	\$5,355	\$4,842
Simmental Females	\$2,221	\$2,118	\$2,535	\$2,331	\$2,703

Prices reflect rising demand

THE increasing demand from commercial producers has been reflected in both Simmental and Simbrah bull and female sales throughout 2006.

Strong clearances and prices have been evident at most sales.

At the 28 auction sales held in 2006 (to Nov 4), 17 per cent more Simmental bulls were sold than last year, with 637 bulls selling to a top price of \$21,500 and an average of \$3726.

There were 144 Simmental females sold to a top price of \$8000 and an average of \$2703, while 71 Simbrah bulls sold to a top price of \$15,000 and an average of \$4842.

Simmental sales summary 2006

State	No Sales	SALE	Top	Average	Sold	Clear	Gross
	28	Simmental Bull Sales	\$21,500	\$3,726	637	77%	\$2,373,261
	4	Simbrah Bull Sales	\$15,000	\$4,842	71	90%	\$343,748
	5	Simmental Female Sales	\$8,000	\$2,703	144	97%	\$389,193
					852	81%	\$3,106,202
	28	Simmental Bull Sales	\$21,500	\$3,726	637	77%	\$2,373,261
WA	Jan-06	Albany (Mt Barker)	\$6,200	\$3,600	16	100%	\$57,600
WA	Jan-05	Caringa	\$9,000	\$3,952	29	91%	\$114,608
WA	Feb-06	Bonnydale	\$9,000	\$3,922	36	86%	\$141,192
WA	Feb-06	Willandra	\$6,750	\$3,830	22	71%	\$84,260
WA	Feb-06	Supreme Sale, Brunswick	\$6,750	\$4,393	21	88%	\$92,253
WA	Feb-06	Bandeeka (Kitchen)	\$4,000	\$3,250	12	50%	\$39,000
WA	Mar-06	Bridgetown (Tallidene)	\$4,500	\$3,500	3	50%	\$10,500
WA	Mar-06	Nu-Plains (Trigwell) 1st	\$5,250	\$3,329	12	52%	\$39,948
SA	Feb-06	Woonallee/Waterfront 2nd Sale	\$21,500	\$6,551	34	100%	\$222,734
QLD	Feb-06	All Breeds Bull Sale, Rockhampton	\$6,000	\$2,750	16	62%	\$44,000
SA	Mar-06	Corinda Downs Bull Sale	\$6,000	\$3,210	26	81%	\$83,460
NSW	Mar-06	Co-Op Black Simmental (1st)	\$9,000	\$5,166	15	100%	\$77,490
SA	Mar-06	Naracoorte	\$7,750	\$3,200	20	56%	\$64,000
VIC	Mar-06	Brewer Bull Sale, Wodonga	\$7,250	\$3,026	33	100%	\$99,858
SA	Mar-06	Menalpyrn (1st)	\$5,250	\$3,277	18	72%	\$58,986
SA	Mar-06	Yerwell	\$7,250	\$3,352	22	73%	\$73,744
VIC	Apr-06	Pert Black Simmental	\$8,000	\$5,325	10	100%	\$53,250
QLD	Apr-06	Longreach	\$4,500	\$2,682	11	58%	\$29,502
NSW	Apr-06	Prime Beef Simmental Sale, Illabo	\$4,000	\$2,685	24	79%	\$64,440
VIC	May-06	National Simmental Sale, Wodonga (Bulls)	\$6,500	\$2,853	17	71%	\$48,501
QLD	July	Agrow, Emerald	\$7,000	\$4,393	13	100%	\$57,109
NSW	Aug-05	Hills of Gold Bull Sale	\$6,500	\$2,909	36	64%	\$104,724
NSW	Aug-05	Barana Bull Sale	\$12,000	\$4,488	43	98%	\$192,984
QLD	September	AgShow, Toowoomba	\$5,500	\$3,047	21	84%	\$63,987
QLD	11/09/2006	Wandoan Bull Sale	\$15,000	\$3,272	66	65%	\$215,952
QLD	29/09/2006	Gowrie Simmental Bull Sale	\$9,000	\$5,033	15	100%	\$75,495
QLD	September	Monto Bull Sale	\$5,000	\$4,600	2	100%	\$9,200
QLD	11/10/2005	Rockhampton BCM	\$9,000	\$3,511	44	79%	\$154,484
	4	Simbrah Bull Sales	\$15,000	\$4,842	71	90%	\$343,748
QLD	Feb-06	All Breeds Bull Sale, Rockhampton	\$4,000	\$2,416	3	60%	\$7,248
QLD	September	Wandoan Bull Sale	\$5,500	\$3,125	8	67%	\$25,000
QLD	12/10/2005	Rockhampton BCM	\$3,500	\$3,500	2	50%	\$7,000
QLD	29/09/2005	Gowrie Simbrah Bull Sale	\$15,000	\$5,250	58	100%	\$304,500
	5	Simmental Female Sales	\$8,000	\$2,703	144	97%	\$389,193
SA	Feb-06	Woonallee/Waterfront 2nd Sale	\$8,000	\$4,167	18	100%	\$75,006
NSW	Apr-06	Prime Beef Simmental Sale, Illabo	\$3,500	\$2,024	19	90%	\$38,456
VIC	May-06	National Simmental Sale, Wodonga (Females)	\$4,500	\$3,417	3	75%	\$10,251
NSW	Mar-06	Co-Op Black Simmental (1st)	\$8,000	\$6,437	8	100%	\$51,496
VIC	3/11/2006	Brewers Sale Wodonga	\$5,500	\$2,229	96	98%	\$213,984

Year for resilience, optimism

By PETER SPEERS
Executive Officer
Simmental Australia

SIMMENTAL breeders have displayed commendable resilience in dealing with the hardships of the continuing drought. They have continued their breeding programs to produce a high quality product and promoted it through shows, field days, advertising, and sales.

While many commercial herds have reduced cow numbers, the demand for good quality, high performance bulls remains strong. As commercial breeders strive to squeeze higher incomes from their cow herds, they are strongly attracted to using Simmental bulls as a quick means to boost weight for age and muscling in their calves.

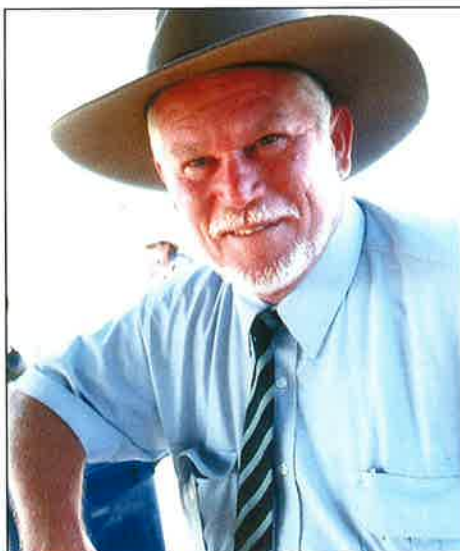
The association's move to promote a wider range of SimGenetics products offers members expanded marketing opportunities, while more closely binding stud and commercial breeders. This is reflected in growing interest in Red and Black Simmentals and SimAngus, while Simbrah remain popular in northern commercial herds.

Industry moves towards pricing grids including carcase meat yield present opportunities for increased sales of our Sim-infused genetics to existing Angus and Hereford commercial herds. These herds are keen to use Simmental, Black Simmental and SimAngus bulls, especially those with ease of calving, moderate maturity, good muscling and sound legs and feet.

Breeders who provide objective measures of these important traits stand to reap the rewards. The tools are in place to do this, but we need more members to use them.

Many stud, commercial and overseas herds are searching the Simmental website for bulls with Breedplan estimated breeding values (EBVs) to match their requirements. This is a valuable selection and marketing tool for our stud members. Posting photos of stud animals on this website is a very cost effective marketing technique.

While our primary focus is on marketing our SimGenetics within Australia, we should not underestimate



the potential of developing export markets for our genetics. The association continues to pursue these opportunities on behalf of all members, and is working with the new Australian Cattle Genetics Export Agency in identifying and developing new markets.

Sales have been made this year to China, Russia, Indonesia and Brazil. Further sales are expected, presenting value adding markets for our members.

The Trans-Tasman Simmental Committee is working hard in developing programs of mutual benefit to members in Australia and New Zealand. Closer ties between our memberships are leading to increased cross-Tasman trade in Simmentals and are strengthening our breed's reputation internationally.

We enjoyed travelling with our New Zealand friends in Canada for the World Congress in July and we are now planning a members' tour to New Zealand in May 2007.

A Trans-Tasman Simmental Select Sire program is being initiated this year, with two New Zealand Simmental bulls and two Australian bulls selected for initial matings. Members are encouraged to use semen from these bulls as a source of new genetics and to strengthen the Breedplan linkages between both countries.

Demand remains strong for Simmentals with Breedplan EBVs, as more stud and commercial cattle breeders use them as

an additional selection tool. Some buyers will only bid on Simmentals with Breedplan figures.

Simmental Breedplan is a very powerful genetic evaluation tool, but it is important the EBVs published by the association (such as on its website) have a high level of reliability. Recent changes in EBV publishability criteria have been introduced to enhance the integrity of these published EBVs.

We recognise much more needs to be done to help breeders better understand Breedplan and related new technologies, and how to use these to best advantage in their programs.

This year our association joined with 15 other breeds, the Agricultural Business Research Institute and Meat and Livestock Australia in establishing the Southern Beef Technology Service (SBTS).

SBTS has mapped out a five-year program delivering breeding extension services throughout southern Australia.

In 2006, SBTS conducted 18 workshops for members and provided technical support to these societies and their members. An exciting program of workshops is planned for 2007 and members are urged to attend one of these as an investment in their Simmental stud businesses.

Members are encouraged to use the Beef Class structural assessment program as a means of describing the structural merit of their animals. These traits are as important to cattle breeders as Breedplan EBVs when selecting replacements.

Australian Simmentals continue to demonstrate strong results in the Genestar gene marker tests. The number of available markers is continually growing, with the current Genestar service providing four markers for each of marbling, tenderness and feed efficiency. The association provides a discounted member fee for Genestar and DNA testing and posts the results on its website animal search database.

As we move towards a new year and the autumn show and sales season, there is every reason to be optimistic that Simmentals will be in strong favour and enjoy continuing strong sales results.

I wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas and a highly successful and healthy New Year.

Calendar of Events 2007

JANUARY

(tent.) 11 Albany Bull Sale, Albany, WA
19-21 National Junior Simmental Show, Toogoolawah, Qld
(tent.) 26 Caringa Bull Sale, Bindoon, WA

FEBRUARY

4 Nalpa Field Day, Strathalbyn, SA
(tent.) 5 Woonallee Field Day, Furner, via Millicent, SA
(tent.) 6 WaterFront Field Day, Tintinara, SA
(tent.) 8 Bonnydale sale Bridgetown, WA
9 Third Premier Simmental Genetic Sale Woonallee and WaterFront studs, Furner, SA.

(tent.) 13 Willandra Bull Sale, Williams, WA.
(tent.) 15 WA Supreme Bull Sale, Brunswick, WA
(tent.) 22 Bandeeka Bull Sale, Boyanup, WA.
(tent.) 22 European Bull Sale, Naracoorte, SA
(tent.) 23 Canberra Royal Show - Simmental Judging

MARCH

6 Victorian Autumn Bull and Female Sale, Colac
(tent.) 8 Nu-Plains Inaugural Bull Sale, Boyanup, WA.
(tent.) 9 Corinda Downs Bull Sale, Mt

Gambier, SA
(tent.) 12 Bridgetown Bull Sale, Bridgetown, WA
(tent.) 12 Co-Op Sale, Holbrook, NSW
(tent.) 22 Menalbyn Sale, Meningie, SA.

APRIL

13 Sydney Royal Show - Simmental Judging
(tent.) 23 Prime Beef Bull Sale, Illabo, NSW

MAY

Trade Mission to New Zealand
(South Island and Beef Expo, Palmerston North)

Calf Registrations – 2005

State	Calves	% Total
WA	966	25%
VIC	816	21%
SA	758	20%
NSW	754	19%
QLD	540	14%
TAS	42	1%
Total	3876	100%

During 2005, a total of 3876 Registered calves were born, with 25% born in Western Australia.

Sires that Produced 30 or more Registered Calves in 2005

These 2005 born calves were produced by 445 sires, averaging 8.7 registered calves per sire. 22% (96) of these were overseas sires, producing 20% (790) of registered calves. This list shows the sires that produced 30 or more registered calves.

Sire Name	Ident Sire	Calves Born
BHR THREE SIXES SA L666E	IMUPW666	72
LANGTON-GATE XTRA SPECIAL	LGPPX034	54
BUSHLANDS 643	RPMPX643	50
BREWERS PASCOE W253	DBBPW253	48
BANDEEKA XODY	LGKPX217	46
GW LUCKY DICE 187H (P) (BL)	IMUPT187	46
SS GOLDMINE L42 (P) (BL)	IMUPW042	46
LCHMAN BODYBUILDER 7303F (P) (RED)	IMUPR7303	44
MAJ ROBO	SDMPX039	44
VINTAGE D11	WSRPW160	44
CLAY GULLY WARRIOR	BRDPW058	38
QUAINDERING TENNESSEE	AJYPT019	36
GW LUCKY ONE 686K	PEDBX1657	34
VINTAGE MERCEDES	WSRPV145	34
GRIMICH PARK STYNES T36	SCEPT036	32
LRS RED REALITY 33J (P) (RED)	IMUPU033	32
PIPER WWW DOT COM	KELPW206	32
BARANA	PTCPX045	30
BARANA SHAKSPEARE	PTCPS077	30
BONNYDALE ATOMIC	MBBPW018	30
SANDERAE VERN	BRTPV032	30
WILLANDRA XIAN	AJYPX031	30
ZIMBO	IMGPS956	30

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Brewer Simmentals

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Stage 2 is going to be even bigger and better!

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Day 1 - 40 big butted black, red and coloured Simmental bulls.

Day 2 - Stage 2 of Dave & Tara's Complete Dispersal.

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New Accredited AI Sires

The following list of imported and Australian sires have been admitted as Accredited AI Sires. Members may use these bulls to sire registerable calves.

ACCREDITED AI SIRE NAME	Ident No	Horn Status	Eye Pigment (L/R)	BW_ EBV (kg)	200 W EBV (kg)	400 W EBV (kg)	Milk EBV (kg)
Breed Average (2004 Born calves)				1.7	15	24	8
SIMMENTAL							
BAR 5 P SA EXPERT 826M (P)	IMCPX826	Polled		-	-	-	-
BAR 5 SA BENZ 415L	IMCPW415	Dehorned	0/100	-1.3	3	6	-
BAR 5 SA HERO 823M	IMCPX823	Dehorned	0/100	1.3	14	20	-
BAR 5 SA KERMET 821N	IMCPY821	Dehorned		-	-	-	-
BAR 5 SA OPTIMAL 447L	IMCPW447	Dehorned	0/100	2.1	12	23	-
BAR 5 SA PIONA 04 817N	IMCPY817	Dehorned		-	-	-	-
BHR DRACO SA 628N (ET)	IMCPY628	Dehorned	0/100	0.4	-	-	-
BHR MYSTIQUE N525	IMUPY525	Dehorned	100/100	0.6	11	15	8
BHR VALIANT M883E	IMUPX883	Dehorned	100/100	3.6	17	26	6
BLUCON NEFF'S GOLDMINER (ET)	IMCPS085	Dehorned		2.0	5	5	10
BRANDBERG	IMGPW3061	Scurred	0/100	2.0	14	-	-
DIONIS	IMAPS233	Dehorned	100/0	-	-	-	-
MONEYMORE NINJA AN5 (P)	IXMPY005	Polled		2.0	19	34	11
PRL MINNESOTA 48M	IMCPX048	Dehorned		-0.3	9	18	8
RUMBA	IMAPQ746	Dehorned		-	-	-	-
SHAWACRES NACOBI (ET)	IMCPY032	Dehorned	0/100	-0.1	-	-	-
SIEGI	IMAPT934	Dehorned	100/0	-	-	-	-
TAKIROA KEELEY AK20	IXTPV020	Dehorned		1.9	14	27	11
VIRGINIAS MANIA 960M	IMCPX960	Dehorned		-	-	-	-
BLACK SIMMENTAL							
BAR CK BULL DOZER 429M (P) (BL)	IMUPX429	Polled	100/100	-	-	-	-
ES DAKOTA NK68 (P) (BL)	IMUPY068	Polled		1.1	25	43	3
HC HUMMER 12M (P) (BL)	IMUPX012	Polled		-	-	-	-
LRS PARAMOUNT 68M (P) (BL)	IMUPX068	Polled	100/100	-	-	-	-
TJF LUCKY JESS J224 (P) (BL) (ET)	IMUPU224	Polled	100/100	-	-	-	-
RED SIMMENTAL							
BRANDED BEEF LCC L397L (P) (RED)	IMUPW397	Polled	100/100	-	-	-	-
GONSIOR/NF SCARLETDREAMS (P) (RED)	IMUPZ071	Polled	100/100	-	-	-	3
SSF RED DEMETRIUS L513 (P) (RED) (T)	IMUPW513	Polled		-2.3	2	8	3
STF STARQUEST N114 (P) (RED) (ET)	IMUPY114	Polled	100/100	-	-	-	-
THSF FREEDOM 300N (P) (RED) (ET)	IMUPY300	Polled	100/100	-0.5	16	36	2
SIMANGUS							
DAUME DESIGNED DERIVATIVE (P) (BL) (ET)	IMUDW159	Polled	100/100	-3.5	7	22	2
RDDS FUTURE PROTOTYPE 13M (P) (BL) (ET)	IMUDX013	Polled	100/100	-	-	-	-

Brenair Park



Brenair Park Belle at 16 months
By Buster - Junior Champion Heifer
2006 Melbourne Royal Show



Brenair Park Lady at 11 months
By Exodus. Reserve Junior Champion Heifer
2006 Melbourne Royal Show



Brenair Park Agassi at 13 months
by Brenair Park Yucon (Yucon is by AT
Legend) Junior & Grand Champion Bull 2006
Melbourne Royal Show and Junior Champion
Bull 2006 Royal Geelong Show. Agassi went
on to be the Junior Champion Bull of All
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Email: royalpark5@bigpond.com

Principal - Don Mathieson
Phone: 0419 562 555

Barana bulls sell to \$12,000

SIMMENTAL bulls sold to \$12,000 and 43 averaged \$4488, while five Shorthorn and Simmental cross bulls sold to \$5500 and five averaged \$3700 at Peter and Charmaine Cook's sixth annual on-property Barana Simmental sale at Coolah, NSW, in August.

The result was comparable with last year's sale, where 35 Simmental bulls sold to \$10,500 and averaged \$5114.

Top price of \$12,500 was paid by Tom Baker, Woonalle Simmentals, Millicent, South Australia, for a 796-kilogram, 20-month-old horned sire, Barana Zorro, with a daily weight gain of 1.23kg, P8 and rib fat scans of nine and seven millimetres, 4.4 per cent intra-muscular fat (IMF) and a 127 square centimetre eye muscle area (EMA).

The bull was the first sale son of Grimich Park Stynes, from an elite Wondenia Taurus female, half brother to Barana sire, Yeardeigh.

He was described as a soft, easy doing sire prospect with an early maturing muscle pattern and good butt profile.

Second top price of \$11,000 was paid by the Mobbs family, Gowrie Pastoral Company, Charleville, Queensland, for Barana Zaggar, a 904kg 24-month-old scurred son of Langton Gate LGP, from a

Ronelle Park Power House daughter.

The Cooks retained a semen share in Zaggar, who produced a 1.19kg daily weight gain.

Patsy Bromley, "Chantry", Urunga, NSW, paid \$7000 for a Zimbo IMG son.

The Tunks family, Condobolin, NSW, also paid \$7000 for sons of Grimich Park Stynes.

An unregistered son of Barana Taylor sold for \$6000 to the Nowland family, "Mookiview", Gunedah, NSW, while another Grimich Park Stynes son sold for \$6000 to A.M. Singh and Son, "St Helena", Byron Bay, NSW.

The Fisher family, "Allambie", Werris Creek, NSW, and Palm Hill Limousins, Grafton, NSW, each bought a bull at \$5500.

Greg Upton, "Alpha", Niangala, NSW, and the Press family, "Myall Park", Condobolin, NSW, both paid \$5000 for bulls.

Monterey Pty Ltd, Coolah, R. and C. Dean, Murrumbidgee, NSW, and Dr Peter



LEFT: Elders auctioneer, Andy McGeoch, buyer, Tom Baker, Woonalle Simmentals, Millicent, South Australia, and vendor, Peter Cook, with the \$12,000 top-priced bull at the Barana Simmental sale at Coolah, NSW.

Trevar, Hazeldell Simmentals, Leongatha, Victoria, also paid \$5000 for their bulls.

Nattai Investments, South Grafton, NSW, bought two bulls at \$4500 each, while Bob Callan, "Woodlands", Inverell, NSW, paid \$5500 for a three-quarter Simmental, one-quarter Angus bull.

The sale was conducted by Elders and Landmark and auctioneer was Andy McGeoch.

Simmental Hills of Gold at Nundle

SIMMENTAL bulls reached a top price of \$6500 and 36 of 48 averaged \$2909 at the Hills of Gold Simmental bull sale at Nundle, NSW, in August.

The top bull, an 886-kilogram, November 2004-drop son of Waterfront Tasman, was bred by Rory and Patricia Murphy, Monreid Simmental stud, Nundle.

The bull was knocked down for \$6500 to repeat buyer Noel Rippon, "Sandilands", Murrumbidgee, NSW, who had been looking for a bull to suit his program, joining about 200 Brahman/Hereford breeders, and aiming to add weight gain and improved dressing percentage with the Simmental influence.

The next best price was \$5500, paid for a bull knocked down to Primac Elders, Toowoomba, Queensland, on account of Kammholz Farms Trust.

Warrald, NSW, breeder, Ken McMaster,

"Croppa", paid \$5000 for his selection, to join to Santa Gertrudis/Hereford cows.

Victorian buyer, Dr Peter Trevar, Leongatha, paid \$4500 for a son of Langton Gate Xtra Special, a March 2005 calf which weighed 728kg and was also offered by the Pipers.

Apart from being vendors, the Murphy family, Monreid Simmental stud, Nundle, secured their selection from the Howarth family's Langton Gate stud for \$4000, and another bull went for the same money to Powerhouse Pastoral, Tamworth, NSW.

Returning buyer, Glenn Morris, "Wilton Park", Grafton, NSW, was looking for soft, early maturing Simmentals with high eating quality.

He selected two at an average of \$4000 to be used as terminal sires over 400 Brahman-cross females to produce vealers for the organic market.

Volume buyers were Bruce and Rose McCarthy, Karuah Pastoral Company, Wongabinda, east of Armidale, NSW, who selected five at an average of \$2250.

It was their second year at the sale, and Mr McCarthy said they were looking for low birthweight Simmental bulls.

The intention was to infuse as much as 25 per cent Simmental blood in their Angus/Charolais composite herd, mainly for the breed's milking ability, but also for growth.

In the breakdown, Peter and Judy Howarth, Langton Gate stud, averaged \$2917 for 15; the Pipers stud sold nine for an average of \$2777; the Jordan family, Goonoo Creek stud, Tamworth, averaged \$2900 for five; Monreid averaged \$3083 for five, and the sole entry from McCarthy Catholic College, Tamworth, sold for \$3000.



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TL1572464



Tara, David and Austin Brewer, Brewer Simmentals, Wodonga, Victoria, sold a large portion of their top GeneStar-tested females to Ashley Adams, "Darracourt", Blackall, Queensland.

Brewers blitz it

THE opportunity to buy top quality GeneStar-tested Simmental females attracted buyers from four States to last month's Brewer Simmental dispersal at Wodonga, Victoria.

Also included in the sale were 26 sold by Judy Brewer, Sylvandale Simmentals, Howlong, NSW.

Plenty of stud competition ensured all but three lots were sold.

In all, 63 cow and calf units topped the sale at \$5500 and averaged \$2345, while 11 cows made to \$3000, averaging \$1841, 21 heifers topped at \$3300, averaging \$1981 and one of two stud bulls sold to \$4400 for an overall \$2229 average.

The top female, Brewer Heidi T134, went to stud breeder, Tom Baker, Woonallee Simmentals, Millicent, South Australia, for \$5500 with a heifer calf at foot.

GeneStar tests showed three and four for marbling and tenderness respectively, and six stars for the net feed efficiency test, in the first sale to offer the measurement.

Mr Baker bought a second cow by Brewer Bandit, from a Brewer Daydream cow, with a bull calf at foot with GeneStar figures of one, six and seven for marbling, tenderness and efficiency respectively.

The top young sire, Brewer Red Snapper, was snapped up by Peter Adams, "Rockley", Stag Horn Flat, via Wodonga, for \$4400, described as "oozing softness" and one of the top bulls in the Brewers' new program.

Ashley Adams, "Darracourt", Blackall,

Queensland, secured 26 female units to a top of \$5000 at a \$2415 average.

Mr Adams said he was looking to buy the top performing females for GeneStar tenderness in the sale to join with Samari Plain 616 – the highest ranked Brahman bull in the country for tenderness – to produce beef for his branded program Tendabeef.

"I aim to use selected high performing females with both Brahman and Santa Gertrudis bulls to breed bulls with a GeneStar tenderness of six stars, with the herd upgraded with the efficiency markers," he said.

Elders agent, John Horne, Dubbo, NSW, was with Eric and Wendy Harvey, "Gilgai", Geurie, NSW, to buy 17 stud females for an average \$1735 to bolster herd numbers, while George Augenstein, Monto, Qld, took home eight of the best for \$2094.

Stud competition kicked in with Marty Rowlands, KBV Simmentals, Kallangur, Qld, paying to \$3750 for eight females, averaging \$2406, while Richard White, Auscan Simmentals, Strathalbyn, SA-secured four at a \$2625 average.

Rounding out the sale the Smeaton family, Barnawatha, Vic, bought 10 at \$1475, Scott and Brad Creek, Strathdownie, Vic, three at \$3500 and C.O. Roots, "Truro", Adelong, NSW, three for \$1983.

The sale was conducted by Elders, with auctioneers Michael Glasser and James Brown.

■ See what Ashley Adams plans to do with his purchase, p40.

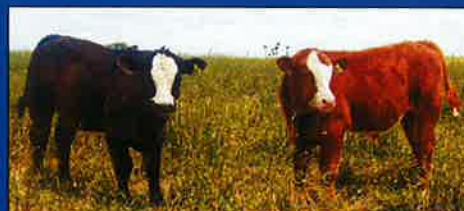
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Simmentals



First sons of Mick to be sold at the Southern Simmental Sale in May 2007

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LEFT: Jill Mobbs, Gowrie stud, Charleville, Queensland, with volume buyers Jenne, Mac and Murray Allan, "Erne", Blackall, enjoying a drink after the sale.

Gowrie averages \$5205

THE seventh annual Gowrie Simbrah and Simmental Bull sale held on property at Charleville, Queensland, cleared 73 bulls in two hours to gross \$380,000 and average \$5205.

In a 100 per cent clearance, 58 Simbrah bulls averaged \$5250 and 15 Simmental bulls averaged \$5033.

The top price of \$15,000 for Gowrie Z108(D), a 22-month-old Simbrah bull weighing 860 kilograms, was paid by Lindsay and Gill Russell, Mt Macquarie Pastoral Company, Blackall.

The Russells bought four bulls for a total outlay of \$40,000.

The top volume buyer was Mac Allan and Sons, "Erne", Blackall, who bought nine bulls to average \$6389.

Mr Allen said they had been buying Gowrie bulls for the past 12 years for their commercial operation.

The Allens breed Simbrah cattle and turn off steers at 21 months of age weighing 450kg.

The Gowrie bulls had "been doing the job for years and doing it well", Mr Allen said.

Other volume buyers included David Milton, "Stone River", Ingham, who bought nine bulls to average \$4444, and Egera Pastoral Company, Charters Towers, with seven bulls to average \$4429.

Stud principal, Noel Mobbs, described the sale an "excellent result".

"The drought-stricken south west prevented many of our regular buyers from attending, so it was pleasing to see a contingent from Charters Towers, Ingham, Alpha, Julia Creek, McKinlay and Winton," he said.

BCM Simmental sale tops at \$9000

SIMMENTALS topped at \$9000 at the second annual BCM Simmental and Simbrah sale at Gracemere, Queensland, in October.

With 46 bulls sold, the sale cleared at 79 per cent and averaged \$3510.

The top-seller, on offer from Rodney and Elisabeth Skene, Meldon Park stud, Cecil Plains, sold to Beth McDonald, Prairie, who bought the bull to run on the property of her nephew, Lloyd Riley, at Koumala.

Having used Simmentals in the past, she said the bull would be used to introduce hybrid vigour to a small group of Brahman breeders, with the bull selected particularly because of his temperament and carcass traits.

The 29-month-old was the breed's reserve senior champion at the Sydney Royal and Beef 2006, and his sire, Meldon Park Westpac, won breed grand champion at Beef 2003.

His dam, Meldon Park X-Empt, won the junior champion ribbon at Beef 2003. The Skenes averaged \$3633 for 15 bulls sold, and notched up the further highlight price of \$6500 with their 29-month-old Meldon Park Z0647 selling to the Mogoney family, "Kanandah", Longreach.

Other major vendors, Rob and Viv



Elisabeth Skene, Meldon Park stud, Cecil Plains, Queensland, sold the \$9000 sale-topper, Meldon Park Zephyr, to Beth McDonald, Prairie, near Charters Towers, at the BCM Simmental sale in October.

Laycock, Clay Gully stud, Esk, sold all 14 of their bulls, topping at \$7000, to K. Pickersgille, of Comet.

Clay Gully bulls went to herds from Wee Waa in NSW, through Longreach to Normanton in northern Qld.

These included \$5500 for 23-month-old, Clay Gully Zager, which sold to Barry and Jan Bauman, "Tryphinia View", Dingo.

The Wedel family of Muidart Farming Company at Dysart also paid \$5000 for

their selection, the 24-month-old Clay Gully Zetor.

Ross and Heather Milner, Bushlands stud, Baralaba, sold to \$5000 twice.

The Milners averaged \$3055 for the nine bulls offered, and had 100pc clearance.

Invited vendors, Robbie Shaw, Calcite Hills stud, Esk, averaged \$3166 for three and Scott and Wayne York, Billa Park stud, Dalby, averaged \$4000 for five.

The sale agent was Elders.

Vic spring sale tops \$5500

DESPITE continuing drought in much of southern Australia, the Victorian Simmental Spring Sale experienced solid demand for the high quality registered Simmentals on offer.

The sale resulted in 16 head selling to a top price of \$5500 and averaging \$2003 for a \$32,050 gross.

The top price of \$5500 was paid by Garry and Kay Gillett, Lara Leigh Simmental, Lara Lake, Vic, who selected Reagent Park Jiff, a very stylish 15-month-old female with young heifer calf at foot offered by Barbara Sutton and Garry Clarke's Reagent Park Simmentals, Warragul, Vic.

Elaine and William Sleep, Billanbri, Woolsthorpe, Vic, purchased seven females for an average of \$1771.

Their top-priced female was the \$3500 Trijena Adacel, a high performance PTIC heifer offered by Frank and Francie Rizzo, Trijena Simmentals, Mickleham, Vic.

Angelo Maglieri, Nawarra Simmentals, McLaren Vale, South Australia, purchased two females for a \$2800 average, including the \$3100 PTIC polled heifer, Trijena Awesome, offered by the Rizzo family.

He also bought the \$2500 Gelora Park Roxy, offered by Geoff and Laura Cockerell, Gelora Park stud, Geelong, Vic.

I. and J. Johnston, Glenburn, Vic, purchased two females for \$1250 each from Greg and Jeanette Huggins'



The \$5500 top-priced female, Reagent Park Jiff, and calf with vendor, Barbara Sutton, Reagent Park Simmentals, Warragul, and buyer, Garry Gillett, Lara Leigh Simmentals, Lara Lake.

Dandavjon Simmentals, Mount Egerton, Vic.

Anne Burley, Terang, Vic, purchased the \$1600 polled heifer, Tennysonvale Atsonia (P) offered by Ian and Cheryl Baldry's Tennysonvale stud, Illabo, NSW. Hayden Chappel, Koopa Creek stud,

Tennyson, Vic, added a heifer to his stud with the \$1400 Dandavjon Duchess II offered by Greg and Jeanette Huggins.

Red Simmental bull, Windan Hill Rosco (P), offered by Malcolm Hackett and Diana Robertson, Windan Hill Simmentals, Strathewan, Vic, sold for \$1750.

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New Breedplan standards

THE Simmental Society has introduced more stringent rules to ensure published Simmental Breedplan estimated breeding values (EBVs) have a high level of industry credibility.

For many years Simmental Breedplan has provided a powerful tool in assisting members and their clients to identify the genetic merit of animals for a wide range of important production traits.

The Simmental Society regularly reviews its Breedplan service to ensure the published EBVs can be relied on as having a reasonable level of accuracy based on records actually measured on the animal, its progeny and close relatives.

As part of this review, the Society has further strengthened the rules that determine whether an EBV will be published.

While Breedplan calculates EBVs on almost all animals in the association's database, not all these animals satisfy the minimum requirements to be reported.

Usually this is due to insufficient accuracy of the EBVs and/or whether the trait has been actually measured.

For example, until now, if one of the weaning, yearling or 600-day weights was deemed to be reportable, EBVs were reported for all of the 200-day, 400-day and 600-day weight EBVs.

However, if any of these individual trait EBV accuracy was below 20 per cent it was not reported.

To be reported, any one of these traits either had to have been measured on the animal or its progeny or have a minimum accuracy of 50pc, based on EBVs calculated on relatives and from correlations with other analysed traits.

To enhance the integrity of Simmental Breedplan and the reliability of the EBVs reported, the association has now

strengthened these minimum reportability criteria.

Now, to be reported, each trait either has to have been measured on the animal or its progeny or have the following minimum EBV accuracy levels:

- 60 per cent gestation length
- birthweight, 200-day weight, 400-day weight, 600-day weight, mature cow weight.
- 55 per cent carcase weight.
- 60 per cent eye muscle area, P8 fat, rib fat, retail beef yield.
- 75 per cent intramuscular fat.
- 50 per cent scrotal size.
- 40 per cent milk, days to calving.
- 35 per cent calving ease (direct), calving ease (maternal).

Also, the reportability linkage between 200-day, 400-day and 600-day weight EBVs has been removed, with each of these three traits to now be treated separately.

For any trait to have an EBV reported there has to be an actual valid weight submitted for the animal or valid weights submitted on its progeny or reach a minimum accuracy of 60pc.

The association's powerful Website Animal/EBV Search and Sale Catalogue facilities provide valuable tools for members and their clients to view EBVs on animals in the association's database.

A review of this service revealed that EBVs were being reported on some animals that had not been recorded in Breedplan herds, with EBVs calculated only from pedigree performance information.

Changes are being introduced to further enhance the integrity of these website search facilities and the EBVs displayed on animals.



The main changes for animals to qualify for display on the association's website are:

- An animal's EBVs must satisfy the new "reportability" criteria.
- All accredited artificial insemination (AI) sires with EBVs will be displayed, but base and unregistered animals (except Simmental Performance Registered) will not be displayed.
- The animal must have been bred by a Simmental Breedplan herd, or be currently or previously owned by a Simmental Breedplan herd.

In introducing these enhancements, the association is confident that its Simmental Breedplan service will be of greater value to all users of Simmental genetics, while encouraging members to Breedplan record more traits on their cattle.

MAVERICK SIMMENTALS

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Sired by MAVERICK EMPEROR V377

Contact details:

Peter & Agnes Schembri & Family
Ph/Fax: (03) 5287 1248, Mob: 0427 871 248
Hamilton Hwy, Inverleigh, Vic

TL1573256

Royal Geelong Show

IN October, 25 Simmentals paraded before judge, Duncan Newcomen, for the first Geelong show since the event was granted Royal patronage.

Mr Newcomen, chose Geoff and Laura Cockerell's Gelora Park Coquette as the grand champion female and supreme Simmental exhibit.

It was earlier named senior champion cow, with Dandavjon Dabatha from Dandavjon stud named reserve champion senior cow.

Dandavjon stud was the most successful exhibitor at the show.

Don Matheson's Brenair Park Agassi was chosen as

grand champion bull and later went on to become the junior interbreed bull.

Other winners included junior champion bull, Brenair Park Agassi, and reserve junior champion bull, Maverick Antonio.

Junior champion heifer was awarded to Maverick Astra, and Brenair Park Belle was named reserve junior champion heifer.



MILTON VIEW

SIMMENTALS

Introducing our new stud sire exclusive to Milton View

DFM MARCUS 14M



PRL Porterhouse Regent

Sire: Grinaltas Gridiron 403J
Grinalta's Polled Fleck
Anchor 'T' Metro 4E

Dam: DMF Kathleen 41K
Miss DFM Kathy Ann
97A.

Proven Poll Bull now used exclusive over heifers at
Lewis Farms - Canada

Milton View was again most successful exhibitor at Sydney
• Highlight was Milton View Administer - last 7 years.



Junior Champion - weight 615 kgs
Supreme Bull Exhibit - at 11 months.

We will be supporting the NSW triple SSS sale at Wodonga early May
with 8 bulls and 8 females - including Administer
We welcome visitors for inspections.
Bulls and Females for private sale.

MILTON VIEW
SIMMENTALS

Jim & Ellen Mison
Garrad Lane, Milton NSW 2538
Phone (02) 4456 4454

Sharing across the Tasman

THIS has been a prosperous year for Trans Tasman Simmental (TTS), with the implementation of new programs and exciting travel for TTS members to the Canadian World Congress.

The first TTS meeting was held at the Meat and Wool Beef Expo in Palmerston North, New Zealand, in May. This was an ideal venue as Tom Baker was the invited Simmental judge.

Beef Expo is the NZ multi breed national sale and there were 35 Simmental bulls represented. The quality was outstanding and this was reflected in a strong sale that topped at \$22,000 and averaged almost \$6000.

The Trans Tasman Simmental Select Sire Scheme was initiated this year with a positive response from both countries.

NZ has the opportunity to use two Australian bulls, Waterfront Xerus and Waterfront Usher, in the spring mating season and Australian members will have the opportunity to use Takiroa Keeley and Moneymore Ninja in the autumn mating season.

Next year both countries will nominate bulls again for the program and one more bull will be added into the scheme.

The next few years hold more exciting travel opportunities for Trans Tasman Simmental.

In 2007 members will be given the opportunity to travel around New Zealand's South Island and then meet at Beef Expo in Palmerston North.

In 2008 the World Congress will be in UK and in 2009 a NZ Members tour will be conducted in Australia, from Melbourne through to Sydney for the Royal Easter Show.

Then in 2010 the Australian World Simmental Congress will be held with a post tour to NZ.

Simmental NZ will be moving towards accredited Beef Class assessors in 2007 which Australia already has in place.

It is envisaged a workshop will be run in NZ to accredit more assessors as per the Australian system.

By GEMMA CARMICHAEL
General Manager
Simmental New Zealand

Simmental NZ will also be establishing an Elite Dam program in 2007 with the possibility of creating it into a TTS program. It is aimed at identifying valuable, productive cows and will therefore have a strong emphasis on fertility traits.

Breed Object is something that TTS is heavily committed to and NZ will be implementing a third \$Index in 2007.

This index will be an ease of calving index that identifies animals well suited to the dairy industry and heifer mating.

Simmental NZ will, however, be re-examining their current \$Indexes to ensure they are identifying the top animals for maternal and terminal traits.

Both Australian and NZ Societies will be

implementing a program to report their own Breed \$Indexes within their own countries on both Australian and NZ Simmentals.

The Australian Simmental Association has recently re-set the bar when it comes to EBV reportability.

Simmental NZ will be following in similar footsteps to ensure that both countries are closely aligned with Breedplan.

The year 2006 has seen many successful Southern Beef Technology Services Breedplan (SBTS) workshops conducted in Australia. NZ will be attempting to initiate a similar industry-wide program in 2007.

Both NZ and Australia have invested time and money developing great new websites this year, which are informative and user friendly.

Both websites have TTS links where updates can be sourced.

Following the success of Brad Creek's NZ tour as the 2006 awardee, the 2007 Australian ambassador, Jenna Paterson, will be travelling to NZ in May where she

will attend the Beef Expo. She will be working with a stud breeder before Beef Expo and then tour some other studs around the country.

NZ is intending to send one or two young Simmental enthusiasts over to Australia for the South Australian Heifer Show in July 2007.

On behalf of the Trans Tasman Simmental Committee, I would like to wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing many of you on the South Island tour in May.



NZ Tour

AUSTRALIAN SIMMENTAL BREEDERS NZ TOUR

May 9 to 17, 2007

THE nine day program will focus on the South Island, with visits to Simmental studs, the New Zealand Beef Expo Show and Sale and scenic attractions.

Studs to be visited include Enterprise Cattle Company, Wakefield; Willowbrook, Timaru; Ida Valley, Oturehua; Leafland, Mosgiel; Glenside, Lawrence; Lonepine, Dunedin; Mt Prospect, Te Anau; and Arcadia Station, Glenorchy.

Other highlights will include a trip to Palmerston North for the NZ Beef Expo for the Simmental Show and Sale.

The tour will also take in Nelson, the artistic capital of NZ, Greytown, famous for its art and antique shops and the Martinborough wine region, famous for its pinot noir.

A luxury catamaran ride to the glow worm caves near Lake Te Anau and jet boat ride at Queenstown will be among the other highlights.

Estimated cost of the land content tour, including eight nights' accommodation, most meals, coach travel and entry fees to all attractions, will be AU\$1978 (per person twin share).

A single supplement of \$482 applies. This is based on a minimum of 20 participants.

Rebates will be possible if numbers exceed 25.

This cost does not include international and domestic airfares (estimated \$800 to \$1000) Deposit payable by February 9

Booking forms available from Simmental Australia. Contact (02) 6773 3341, email simmental@abri.une.edu.au

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Supreme Exhibit Melbourne Royal
Gelora Park Coquette & Calf Gelora Park Tansy



TOPWEIGHT



CATTLE CARE

HOME OF THE 2005 DAM OF THE YEAR



Sale bull Affleck son of Bettina 172



Topweight Bettina 126 & her son, herd sire YMCA



**2½ year old Topweight Bettina 279
& 6 month calf**

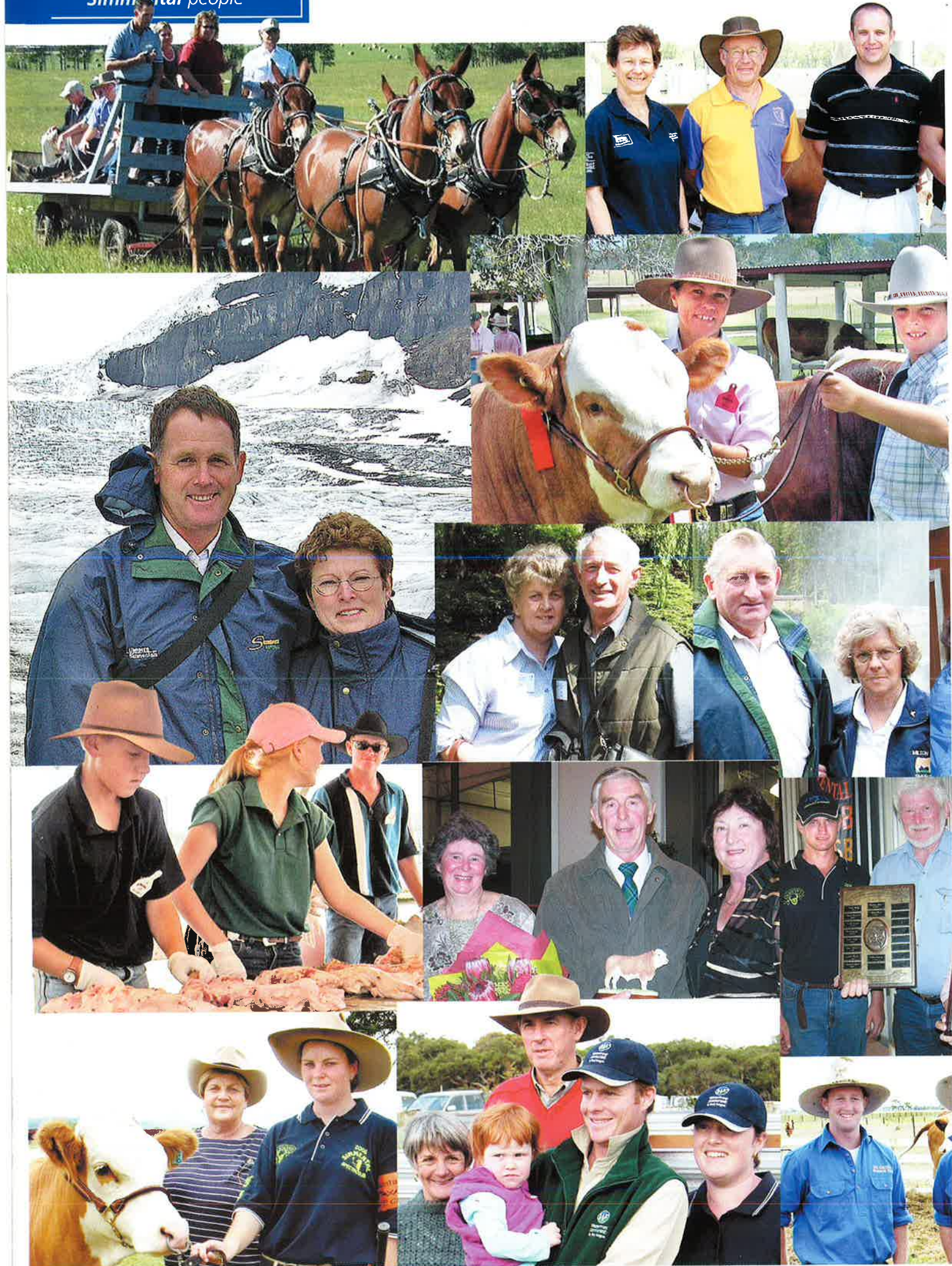


The Bettina Family has produced 1400 progeny of which 100 registered Bettina's are in the Topweight herd today.

– Visitors Welcome –

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RMB 202B, Margaret River WA
Ph/Fax: (08) 9757 2058**

Web: www.topweight.com.au Email: topweight@westnet.com.au



Trade Mission to Canada

SIMMENTAL Australia undertook a trade mission tour to Canada in July 2006 as part of its export market development program.

Thirty Australians teamed up with 20 New Zealanders and everyone had a great time viewing Simmental herds, attending the World Congress Show and Sale in Calgary, meeting many overseas Simmental breeders and enjoying the host of other activities and Canadian attractions.

The trip involved travel to areas of British Columbia and Alberta, then participation in the 16th World Simmental Fleckvieh Federation (WSFF) Congress, in Calgary and surrounding areas.

These activities provided excellent opportunities for association members to evaluate the type of Simmental production systems existing in Canada in order to better identify the most suitable types of Australian Simmental genetics to market to this country.

The event also offered a good opportunity to promote Australian Simmentals and our planned Australian World Simmental Congress in 2010.

The program included a large World Congress Simmental Show and Sale,

visits to Simmental stud herds, AI stations and other beef industry facilities.

It featured a technical conference and meetings involving world-wide participants. Ample opportunities were available for liaison with Simmental breeders and organisations from around the world.

Some members identified Simmental genetics for use in their Australian herds. Jim and Ellen Mison, Milton View Simmentals, Milton, NSW, imported exclusive semen rights in Marcus, viewed at Lewis Farms Simmentals, Spruce Grove, Alberta.

Led by the association's chief executive officer, Peter Speers, the trade mission included 29 association members:

Gary and Joy Allen, Tugulawa, Mt Gambier, SA

David and Robyn Atkinson, Neerim, Marlborough, Qld

John and Danita Brogan, Mousehole, Orange, NSW

Barry and Doreen Cooke, Tharlane, Miles, Qld

Tony and Helen Donehue, Ulmara, Myoola, Singleton, NSW

Cam and Carol Emerson, Alva Koort, Drysdale, Vic

Ian and Judith Marshall, New Luscar, The Gap, Qld

John and Margaret Martin, Killarney, Qld

Jim and Ellen Mison, Milton View, Milton, NSW

Mark and Julie Peucker, Corinda Downs, Mount Gambier, SA

Bill and Elaine Sleep, Billanbri, Woolsthorpe, Vic

John Terrill, Rutherglen, VIC

Noelle Wardle, Simwar, Bridgeman Downs, Qld

Gavin and Narelle Waters, Armidale, NSW

David and Audrey Weightman, Topweight, Margaret River, WA

James Withers, Nalpa, Strathalbyn, SA

■ The association will be planning trade missions for members in coming years. More details will be circulated on these trips – so start planning to join in:

● **Early May 2007: South Island New Zealand (Including NZ Beef Expo Sale, Palmerston North)**

● **June 2007: World Simmental Fleckvieh Federation Council (WSFF) program, Czech Republic**

● **July 2008: WSFF World Congress, UK**

● **2009 WSFF Council program, Namibia**

● **September 2010: WSFF World Congress, Australia**



Record Breaker

\$15,000



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Sets New QLD & Wandoan Sale Record

Top Average Wandoan Sale \$5500

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85% Repeat clientele



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618: Sold to Burnett Enterprises \$5,500



Alliance: Sold to Stonelands Simmentals \$5000

www.billapark.com.au

Developing export markets

THE development of export markets for Australian Simmentals has been a continuing program for some years.

There have been sales into New Zealand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Mexico, Brazil and China.

The resources needed to develop these and other global target markets are large and must be repetitive to be successful in the long term.

Recognising this, and the fact many breed societies have limited resources to develop export markets in their own right, the Australian Registered Cattle Breeders Association (ARCBA) set as its highest priority the establishment of an all-breed cattle genetics export market secretariat or agency. This has now been achieved, with the International Livestock Resources and Information Centre (ILRIC) established as the organisation to operate this agency.

ILRIC has already achieved a great deal in completing an extensive research of potential world markets, establishing a contact database and a sales barn for all breeds, linked to society databases.

One of the export markets identified by ILRIC as having enormous potential is Russia. With its rapidly growing economy and drive towards privatisation and a true market economy, there is great potential to develop a reinvigorated cattle industry, based on imported beef breeding cattle and genetics.



A modern Russian feedlot filled with over 3000 Simmental steers.

In October, Peter Speers undertook a fact finding and negotiation trip with ILRIC to western Russia.

He observed Simmentals being widely used in dual-purpose dairy/beef herds, providing some of the higher producing beef genetics in Russia.

He was impressed to see a modern feedlot filled with over 3000 Simmental steers.

Development of the Russian market for

a range of beef breeds for an extended time frame seems assured, with Australian beef Simmental genetics likely to share in its development.

A key requirement of marketing success in Russia will be reliably supplying product to buyers' specifications.

ILRIC is working with breed societies and other industry organisations to ensure quality assurance measures are effected.

BONNYDALE

SIMMENTAL FARMS

11th Annual On-property Bull Sale - Bridgetown
Thursday, February 8, 2007 at 1pm

OFFERING: **42 bulls**

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 mjintro@bigpond.com

Rob & Diane Introvigne
 08-9764 4082 • 0427 644 082
 rdintro@bigpond.com

World view for youth

DURING July 2006, Matthew Rand, myself and Carl Baldry, Baldry Park Simmentals, Junee (pictured), were fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to travel to Alberta, Canada, to participate in the inaugural World Simmental Youth Forum, Calgary Stampede and self-organised farm tours.

The 21 days spent in Alberta could be described as an eye-opening life experience.

We went to Canada to see the cattle we had heard so much about, and of course to experience the Calgary Stampede and to take part in the Youth Forum.

We all agreed that the trip turned out to be a far greater experience than ever expected.

The Canadians we spent time with went above and beyond for us.

They welcomed us into their homes and shared their views and opinions on the beef industry.

In total we visited 23 farms, 14 "Fleckvieh" breeders and nine breeding Black or Red Simmentals.

We saw powerful breeding cattle in the paddocks which was what it was about for us – seeing what's behind the "show gloss".

The World Simmental Youth Forum was a lot of fun and the three of us were proud to be a part of it.

By MELISSA HENRY

2006 Junior Simmental Ambassador

The five days were packed with seminars, open discussions, official proceedings of the Congress, Simmental judging and sale, the Calgary Stampede and rodeo, as well as a lot of beef and beer consumption!

Dana and Carla Hicks, Andrew Godfrey and Amanda Sheehan were responsible for the organisation of this event and did a great job.

The 31 participants in the Youth Forum represented Germany, UK, US, provinces across Canada and the three of us from Australia.

We were all passionate Simmental/Fleckvieh enthusiasts coming from different perspectives: from

the dual-purpose cow in Europe to the black terminal sire in North America.

We learned to respect varying perspectives and that all Simmentals have a place within the beef industry based on market demands and preference.

We would like to thank all the Canadian families who welcomed us into their homes and properties: Anchor D Ranch Simmentals, Czech-Mate Simmentals, D Bar L Fleckvieh, Eagle Ridge Simmentals, Gist Simmentals, GSB Simmentals, High Country Cattle Services, Lazy RS Ranch, Mader Ranches, Oslanski Simmental

Australian Junior
Simmental
Breeders



Farms Ltd, Pearson Simmentals, R-Five Simmentals, Remington Cattle Co. Riverbend Ranch, Southpaw Cattle Co. Springlake Simmentals, Spruceburn Simmentals, Stone Simmentals, Twin Anchor 7 Simmentals, Twin Butte Simmentals, Ultra Livestock, Virginia Ranch and Wa-Na-La-Pa Simmentals.

I would also like to thank Simmental Australia for the support I received in undertaking this learning experience, and the Canadian Simmental Association for hosting the first World Simmental Youth Forum.

Sign up to camp with fellow juniors

THE Queensland Junior Simmental Show will be held at Toogoolawah Showgrounds on January 19 to 21.

Young Simmental enthusiasts can enjoy three days of learning all the quirks of showing cattle.

A variety of competitions will be held

including parading, presentation and beef judging.

Educational activities will be mixed with fancy dress competitions, farmyard Olympics, and group work on clipping, grooming, washing and handling.

Entry costs \$77 including GST, meals

and accommodation and closes on December 15.

Juniors must be aged between eight and 25 on January 19.

■ **Contact William Dumesny, (0408) 506 798 or John Welke, (0418) 966 233.**

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Wormbete Yakka AGOPY066 DOB: 7.4.03. A magnificent sire retained for in herd use. "At 2 years of age", Weight 1015kg, Rump 10mm, Rib 9mm, EMA 120cm², IMF% 6.4, Scrotal Circ: 45cm, Genestar: 1 star marbling, 6 stars tenderness. **Semen available.**

TL1571838

Royal rewards for students

THE Western Australian College of Agriculture Denmark's cattle program again shone through at this year's Perth Royal Show in another strong performance.

The college runs Inlet Views Simmental stud and this year it prepared 32 animals for the show, including both trade and stud animals.

The college's team of seven stud Simmentals, 13 led cattle and 13 trade cattle was looked after by 35 students, many of whom specialise in cattle.

The steers and heifers used by the college in the trade and led competition came from various farms.

They were selected with an emphasis on finding a mix of both cross and pure breds.

This, according to WA College of Agriculture Denmark farm manager, Fred Knight, is to give students an idea of the various finishing weights and time needed on feed for different breeds as well as their compatibility to being broken in and led.

This year was the first time the college had prepared Simmentals for the Rob Milner trophy, which is awarded for the best group of three purebred led steers on the hoof and hook.

The team the college entered in the competition to represent the Simmental society consisted of one steer from the

Willandra Simmental stud, Williams, WA, and two steers from the college's Inlet Views stud.

All three were late 2005-drop calves and ranged in age from 13 to 15 months at the time of the show.

Of the three, two came from the medium weight class and came 17th and 28th respectively in a class of 43.

The final steer was from the lightweight class and finished sixth of 37 entries.

The win for the Simmental breed at this year's show was the second time the breed had won the prestigious award in the past three years.

The last time it won was in 2004, with a group of heavyweight steers.

RIGHT: The Rob Milner trophy, presented by its namesake for the best group of three purebred led steers on the hoof and hook at the Perth Royal, which this year was the Simmental team, represented by Western Australian College of Agriculture Denmark student, April Hawser, Balingup.



Queensland Simmental & Simbrah Studs

Sale Dates: BCM Simmental & Simbrah Sale Monday 3rd September, 2007
Ag Show Thursday 6th September, 2007
Wandoan Simmental & Simbrah Sale Monday 10th September, 2007
Gowrie Simbrah & Simmental Sale Friday 28th September, 2007

• **Roseland Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 5464 5325

• **Beauchamp Simmentals & Simbrahs**

Ph: (07) 4627 2429

E: tharlane@bigpond.com

• **Gadfields Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 3891 6711

E: juggle@bigpond.net.au

• **Stonelands Simmentals & Simbrahs**

Ph: (07) 4168 9842

E: stonelands@burnett.net.au

• **Glenham Park Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 4697 1215

E: glenhampark@hotmail.com

• **Gilsan Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 5496 7752

E: alansgilligan@bigpond.com

• **Barren Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 4164 8167

• **Conora Park Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 3206 8107

E: kenman.jo@bigpond.com

• **Clay Gully Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 5424 1207

E: darren.mono@optusnet.com.au

• **Nangur Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 4168 4241

E: gaildon@burnett.net

• **New Luscar Simmentals & Simbrahs**

Ph: (07) 3300 3360

E: imarshall@aanet.com.au

• **Moriah Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 4697 9594

• **Julden Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 4985 8118

• **Riverland Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 5423 1613

• **Bushlands Simmentals & Simbrahs**

Ph: (07) 4998 1378

E: bushlands@bigpond.com

• **Gold Park Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 4654 1831

E: GowriePastoralCo@bigpond.com

Web: www.gowriestation.com

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E: GowriePastoralCo@bigpond.com

Web: www.gowriestation.com

• **Lucrana Simmentals**

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E: andrew.moorefarms@bigpond.com

• **Cania Gold Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 4167 8183

• **Nabilla Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 5498 1229

• **Ellendale Simmentals & Simbrahs**

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E: pocock@gil.com.au

• **Aussie Park Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 4696 4280

E: rahley@optusnet.com.au

• **Springside Simmentals & Simbrahs**

Ph: (07) 4693 8282

• **Yarrayne Simmentals & Simbrahs**

Ph: (07) 5424 1800

E: boutiquemeats@bigpond.com

• **Meldon Park Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 4668 0361

E: meltonpark@optusnet.com.au

Web: www.meldonparksimmentals.com.au

• **Spanview Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 5465 1031

E: spanview@uqconnect.net

• **Star Simmentals & Simbrahs**

Ph: (07) 5483 1660

E: familygous@hotmail.com

• **Goomaburra Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 4695 8103

E: avolker@bigpond.com

Web: www.fw5beef.com

• **Simwar Simmentals**

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• **Vintage Simmentals**

Ph: (07) 4164 3253

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• **Billia Park Simmentals**

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E: sayork@redzone.com.au

Web: www.billapark.com.au



Trans Tasman Select Sire Scheme

The Trans Tasman Select Sire Scheme is an exciting program developed and implemented by both the Australian and New Zealand Simmental Associations.

It aims to strengthen the Breedplan linkages between both countries while offering members in both countries some exciting new genetics to use in their herds.

Each Association has initially selected two sires with a good balance of performance and sound structure. The two NZ selected sires are Takiroa Keeley and Moneymore Ninja. See brief details below, with more details available on the Australian and New Zealand Simmental Websites.

How to Get Involved:

- Semen is being made available to members on a first-come-first-served basis.
- Orders: Min 10 straws and Max of 25 straws per order. Semen will be delivered by Agri-Gen.
- Pricing has been structured to encourage members to submit progeny performance data.
- Price per straw (incl GST) is \$44 for Breedplan Herds and \$55 for non Breedplan Herds
- All orders and payments should be made to Simmental Australia's office:

Phone: (02) 6773 3341 Fax: (02) 6772 5376

Email: Simmental@abri.une.edu.au



Takiroa Keeley (IXTPV020)

An impressive, soft bull with a perfect set of feet and legs. He has huge depth of body, good length and is very good-natured.

Above average fat cover and sound Beef class assessments.

Sheath Score 2.5

A bull with great potential.

	Calv Ease Direct (%)	Calv Ease Dtrs (%)	Gest Len (days)	Birth Wt (kg)	200 Day Wt (kg)	400 Day Wt (kg)	600 Day Wt (kg)	Mat Cow Wt (kg)	Milk (kg)	Scrot Size (cm)	Days to Calv	Carc Wt (kg)	Eye Muscle Area (sq.cm)	Rib Fat (mm)	Rump Fat (mm)	Retail Beef Yield (%)	IMF %
EBVs/Acc	-0.8 65%	-0.2 60%	+1.8 63%	+1.9 86%	+14 86%	+27 86%	+35 83%	+38 70%	+11 66%	+1.2 77%	-1.9 47%	+23 74%	+1.3 54%	0.0 66%	+0.1 66%	+0.5 61%	
Breed Av	-0.4	-0.3	-0.4	+1.7	+15	+24	+25	+23	+8	+0.3	-0.5	+15	+0.9	0.0	0.0	+0.4	+0.1



Moneymore Ninja (IXMPY005)

A solid colour pattern polled bull with full pigmentation. Tremendous length and softness with adequate muscling.

Beef class structure scores very good, with good feet and legs combined with a great sires outlook.

His progeny tend to throw to the cow colour rather than his, and he has the ability to close the colour pattern completely if mated to a solid coloured cow, appealing to red herds seeking an outcross.

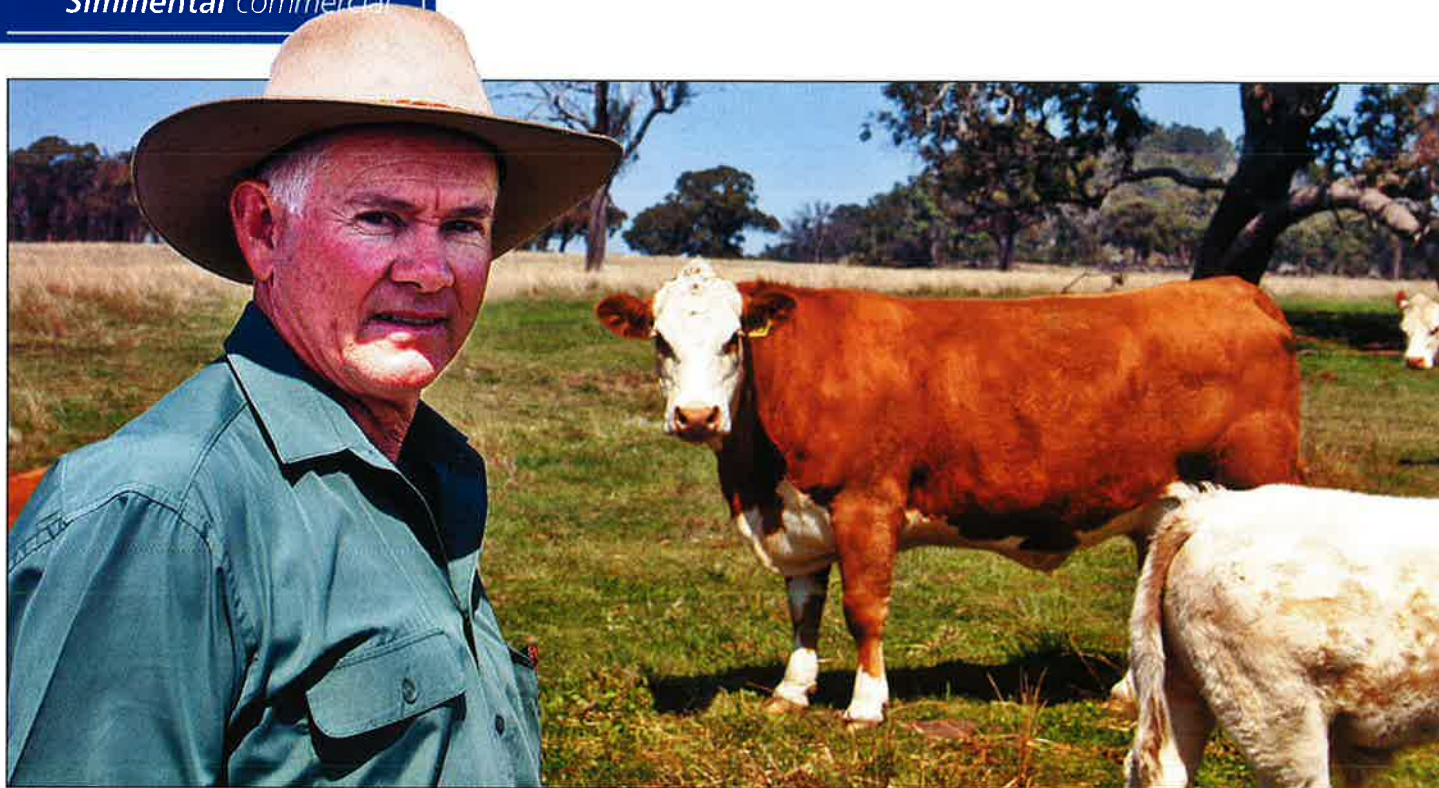
Impressive bull, offering a polled outcross

	Calv Ease Direct (%)	Calv Ease Dtrs (%)	Gest Len (days)	Birth Wt (kg)	200 Day Wt (kg)	400 Day Wt (kg)	600 Day Wt (kg)	Mat Cow Wt (kg)	Milk (kg)	Scrot Size (cm)	Days to Calv	Carc Wt (kg)	Eye Muscle Area (sq.cm)	Rib Fat (mm)	Rump Fat (mm)	Retail Beef Yield (%)	IMF %
EBVs/Acc	-1.3 53%	-1.5 44%	+0.7 55%	+2.0 83%	+19 79%	+34 81%	+34 75%	+26 61%	+11 51%	- -	- -	+19 68%	+0.9 49%	+0.6 55%	+0.7 55%	-0.2 52%	+0.6 38%
Breed Av	-0.4	-0.3	-0.4	+1.7	+15	+24	+25	+23	+8	+0.3	-0.5	+15	+0.9	0.0	0.0	+0.4	+0.1

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www.simmental.com.au

Simmental Australia - ABRI, UNE, Armidale, NSW 2351



Steers passing the Northern Schools test

TO BOB Callan, the Simmental has been the basis for his success and profitability through its maternal traits and excellent muscling.

He aims to sell his calves straight off their dams, to be slaughtered at Stanthorpe, Queensland.

A consignment of 28 vealer steers, nine to 11 months, dressed 235 kilograms, returned \$822 a head recently, while eight heifers from the same age group, dressed 192kg, came back at \$673 a head.

Some calves are weaned and supplementary fed to about 12 to 13 months, and recently 26 steers were sold and dressed at 282kg, for a return of \$986 per head, while eight

heifers, dressed 222kg, made \$775 a head.

Experience has shown Mr Callan the Limousin-sired calves he rears on "Woodlands", his property near Inverell, need to be "pushed" to finish within market specifications, however, the carcasses have been impressive.

Calving is in winter – the main herd in June and July and the heifers from mid-May to June, with joining restricted to nine weeks.

Calving in winter requires supplementary feeding of hay and high protein nuts for about five to six weeks in a normal year.

However, this timing means the calves are big enough to handle the extra milk produced by their dams

from the spring flush of feed and avoids the problem of scouring.

The combination of breeds and bloodlines has given the butcher bodies of beef with high retail beef yield and consistent meat quality.

Mr Callan regularly donates steers to Holy Trinity School, Inverell, for its cattle team, which shows at the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) and the Northern Schools competition.

This year, the steers shown by the school at the Ekka – arguably the most commercially-orientated hoof and hook competition in the nation – included the champion heavyweight carcass and reserve champion heavyweight carcass, both with Simmental, Angus and Maine Anjou blood.

Maternal magic at Inverell

AN INFUSION of at least 50 per cent Simmental blood in his breeding herd has brought NSW cattleman, Bob Callan, "Woodlands", Inverell, top dollars for the vealers he produces.

"Woodlands" comprises just over 400 hectares of principally granite country and the water supply is from rainfall only.

Since he bought the property 10 years ago, Mr Callan has cleaned the country of most of the pinrush and derby oats by spraying and wick-wiping, and although weed control is an ongoing operation the country now has a good cover of grasses and clovers.

Both the previous owners and Mr Callan have supered the property for the past 35 years, which he said was needed, since the soil was "hungry" as well as fragile.

Pasture improvement is done by direct drilling after the country has been sprayed.

Mr Callan believes in looking after his country and stocks conservatively.

The breeding herd currently comprises 120 breeders plus replacement heifers, which vary in number each year.

"By running fewer cows and producing better quality and finished vealers, the production is maximised as well as looking after the soil and pasture," Mr Callan said.

He also said any operation using European cattle in the breeding herd needed to be running the cattle on the best country, or be prepared to feed, hence his attention to the quality of his pasture and stocking rate.

So why does he like Simmental blood in his breeding herd?

"They have good, adequate frame size, along with superior milking ability and tremendous muscling," he said.

"Mind you, the herd looks like a bag of licorice allsorts."

The one common thread, however, is they all have at least 50 per cent Simmental blood.

Crossbred bulls, including bulls with Charolais, Limousin, Shorthorn and Angus influences, as well as straight Charolais and Limousin sires, have been used in the herd in recent years.

The calves are finished for the local domestic market and are sold to Inverell retail butcher, Dan Lennon, of Lennon's Butchery.

Although semi-retired from the stock and station agency business, Mr Callan likes to supply the local butcher as it gives him the opportunity to inspect every carcass.

This is a practice he urges every beef producer to do at least twice a year, and which he said had given him a greater knowledge of the meat he produced, as well as ideas for improving his herd and the calves he breeds.

When only the best will do

SIMMENTALS have always been a big part of Garry Fischer's life, and this grew when he moved to Australia.

Mr Fischer (pictured) came to Australia from Germany in 1958 as "a very young man" and started his farming enterprise.

Unhappy with the cattle breeds Australia had to offer, Mr Fischer sourced some Simmentals and started one of the first Simmental studs in Australia.

Drawing on his farming background in Germany, Mr Fischer said Simmentals were always the animals of choice for their property because of their size and ability to produce rich milk.

He said they were extremely versatile and docile animals which originally were used like draughthorses to pull wagons and plough paddocks.

"They are the most universal animal you can think of and a very quiet breed as well," Mr Fischer said.

In 1964 Mr Fischer purchased "Kalkite" near Jindabyne, NSW, which was part of the original Kalkite Station, and given the harsh, cold conditions of the Snowy Mountains, Mr Fischer thought it was only appropriate to have Simmental cattle.

"Simmentals are extremely used to the cold climate, they have very thick skin," he said.

Six years later, Mr Fischer increased his

land holding to 622 hectares when he purchased "Kalkite Park".

These days his son, Peter, lives at "Kalkite Park" and shares the running of the Simmental herd, which was established in the late 1970s.

Mr Fischer said, in the early days, he started off with whatever cattle he could get, however, he did buy six breeding cows from former theatre impressario, Harry M. Miller, one of the first people to set up a Simmental stud in Australia.

The Fischers now have about 80 purebred cows, 15 bulls of all ages and about 50 calves at foot.

However, this is half of their previous herd, with the ongoing dry conditions forcing them to reduce numbers.

Mr Fischer said the Snowy Mountains were harsh growing conditions for pasture, and there was really only a three-month growing period in spring, which had to produce pasture to last all year.

Mr Fischer said he planned to continue concentrating on breeding polled Simmentals, to avoid the extra work of de-horning, and reduce injuries from bulls sparring in the paddock.

He now splits his time between the new Jindabyne Equestrian Resort and his Simmentals, and so the lower maintenance his cattle are, the better.

The heifer calves are kept as replacements and the steers sold off



their mothers at the local Cooma market, which they rarely fail to top.

Cross-breeding is definitely not an option for him.

"People have often suggested I should cross-breed, but I could not see any reason why I should," he said.

"I could not improve on my herd - every one I have got is a pure Simmental."

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Vet with cattle passion

HIDDEN a few miles behind Dr Peter McKean's bustling vet practice lies his real passion.

While he spends many a long and rewarding day at his surgery at Pinjarra, south of Perth, cattle farming runs thick through his blood.

And because 10-hour days at work are the norm, most people are still tucked up in bed when Peter is out in the paddocks checking on his 125 breeders.

Born and raised on a dairy and beef cattle property in central Queensland, Dr McKean's love of farming started at an early age, and never left him.

"It stays with you for life," he said.

"I have always liked the relaxation of being with the cattle and working with them."

While the cattle operation was somewhat of a respite from his busy life, it was by no means just a weekend hobby.

"It takes commitment to do this, and it's not all easy, but the good definitely outweighs the bad," he said.

The 140-hectare property carries as many as 130 Angus/Holstein and Simmental/Holstein cows, which are all joined back to Simmental bulls.

All calves are turned off directly to the abattoir at nine to 10 months old.

No breeders are produced on the property, with females bought in from the Boyanup saleyards.

Dr McKean began using Simmental sires in 1992, after noticing a lack of meat yield in the previous breed he was using.

"I was really looking for something that would produce high yielding, fast growing calves, and I found I got that out of the Simmental better than other bos Taurus breeds," he said.

The Simmental genetics complemented the Angus/Holstein cows, which were excellent mothers and good milkers.

His bulls are bought at auction from the Cowcher family's Willandra Simmental stud, Williams, his most recent acquisitions costing \$5500 and \$2500 at the 2005 sale.

He said the hard work had already been done at bull selection time.

"Studs these days won't let anything go through without having been rigorously tested and checked for structural soundness and fertility, and breeders are really going out of their way to produce a good article.

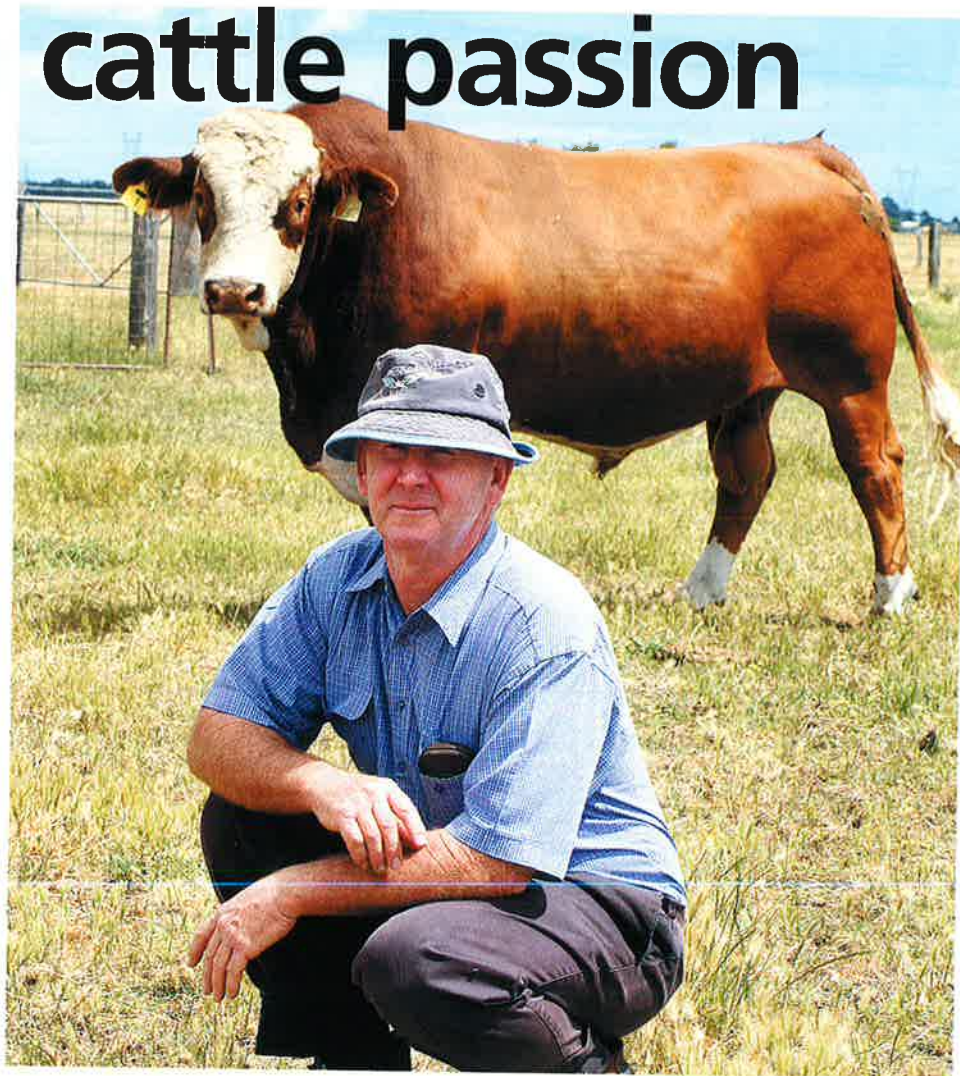
"So when I'm choosing my bulls I leave structure and fertility to the breeder, and I can select for other things like temperament and growth figures.

"I'll probably get a good whack out of these bulls for six seasons as they are an excellent type and are very quiet."

While good temperament was a priority, he also looked closely at estimated breeding values, placing emphasis on low birthweight and 200-day weight.

Calves are sold straight off their mothers, with the earlier consignments of better calves sent directly to the Harvey Beef abattoir, dressing out at between 220kg and 230kg.

The remainder are sold to feedlots.



Strategy lifts Pinjarra percentages

CAREFUL management and highly fertile bulls means Dr Peter McKean needs only two quality bulls to cover his entire female herd.

"I put one bull in with the cows at a time, and he stays in there for 10 to 14 days, then he goes out and the other goes in, and I rotate them for four months between April and July," he said.

"It means there is no risk of fighting, and because the paddocks are no bigger than 40 acres (16 hectares), the bull doesn't have to travel far and is always in among the cows."

This, coupled with stringent female selection, resulted in about 95 to 100 per cent calving each year.

While he got rid of four or five dries each year, Dr McKean (above, with one of his bulls) couldn't remember a season where there were less than half a dozen sets of twins.

Even this year's devastating dry season had little effect on calving percentages, as he ensured there was enough feed to go around.

"Usually I cut enough hay to last the season, but I've been stung a bit this year and I'll have to buy another 300 to 400 bales," he said.

The cows calved between January and April, and were given hay every day from calving onwards to promote

a healthy milk supply and maintain condition through the tougher months.

Calving through summer and autumn held many advantages.

"In my job I have seen too many big calves having to be pulled in winter, and it's just too big a risk," Dr McKean said.

"Summer calving means smaller calves that rarely ever get scours, and it just fits in well with my operation and my availability."

He said having the veterinarian background was invaluable.

"It's just a huge advantage in terms of dollars and expertise," he said.

"I monitor my herd very closely and I can spot and identify a problem very easily."

"I check on the cattle twice a day so I know exactly what is going on, and if there is something amiss I can note the eartag number, pull it in and give it the treatment straight away."

All cows were backlined and jabbed with copper, cobalt and selenium, which he said was deficient in the soil through the south west of WA.

"I would like to spend more time renovating the pastures down the track, but at the moment I run the drag over a third of the farm every year and seed clover and rye."

Keeping profitable in SA

‘WE'RE here to make money and survive," says the straight-shooting Hugh Bainger.

"We have clients returning annually for our Simmie-cross calves, and we sell every one of them.

"So, we're going to keep breeding them. It's a simple as that."

Trading as Hillcrest Pastoral Company, many in the beef industry would recognise the Bainger Beef logo identifying Hugh and Clare Bainger's large calf-breeding enterprise at Lucindale, South Australia.

While the self-replacing breeding herd of 2600 cows is predominantly Hereford/Shorthorn, 200 of the mature Hereford cows are joined annually to four Simmental bulls.

"We push them a bit: that's 50 cows per bull, but we get good conception rates of 90 per cent and better," Mr Bainger said.

"We're ruthless when it comes to fertility.

"Anything empty is quickly culled."

Female progeny of the whole operation is kept for the breeding herd, after culling, and all steers are sold on the one day at the Bainger's annual calf sale held on the second Friday of January where 1300 head go under the auctioneer's hammer.

"Without fail, we'll sell every Simmie calf offered, every year," Mr Bainger said.

The enterprise is run on 4835 hectares of flat country comprising black clay on limestone.

"It's heavily drained out to sea, as we are about 50 kilometres from the coast in the mid to lower South East area of the State," he said.

"It's good perennial pasture country for strawberry clover and phalaris, however, these days we lean towards fescues instead of phalaris, a bit of lucerne and aerial seed Persian clovers as the past four years have been drier, and the strawberry clovers like wetter conditions.

"We are a calf-breeding enterprise and focus on being EU-accredited. We always sell to retain the EU status.

"Everything is planned for an autumn calving, dropping in March and April.

"We aim to produce medium terminal growth at peak performance so calves will meet EU market specifications by 24 months."

Any unsold calves from the annual production sale are kept for the EU market.

"There's normally about 200 calves we call the culls, and they are kept for this.

"We get them off as close to 600kg as soon as possible, usually a year later," Mr Bainger said.

These are sold through September and October, when the EU prices are at their highest.

"It's money for jam, really."

"All you have to do is meet the specification grid, which is eight to 22 millimetres of fat and about 600kg liveweight and no more than four teeth."



Hugh and Clare Bainger, Mark Barton, Landmark, Wagga Wagga, NSW, with wife, Kirsty and son, Jackson, 9, with Southern Australian Livestock's Bruce Redpath at the 2006 Bainger sale at Naracoorte Saleyards.

The Simmental bulls are selected for high growth rates and medium birth weights.

"And they generally throw to what their figures say," he said.

Mr Bainger believes the critical part of bull purchasing is sticking to the same studs each year, "basically until they sell up".

"We like to develop an alliance with our stud breeders, get an understanding and commitment, if you like."

Sharing information and sire performance feedback was important.

"We ask each studmaster which bulls we should buy from their catalogue and they come back with selections based on this background," Mr Bainger said.

"They look at our cows and calves, see our figures and follow their bulls' progeny through each sale."

In return, Mr Bainger said he helped promote the studs at the calf sale, for example by advertising their sire on each pen.

Simmental bulls were secured from the Waterfront stud, Willalooka, SA.

"We have a good relationship with Matthew Parker, his bulls are performing well."

The Baingers have weaned their calves early for the first time ever, because of the drought.

Normally, all calves are taken from their mother the day before the annual calf sale.

"But this year we had to concentrate the cows into bigger numbers on less feed, reduce the amount of grass to carry our pasture."

"After taking the calves off their mothers we hold them in the yards and hand-feed them for four to six days.

"Interestingly, we always use electrolyte magnesium in the feed.

"It relaxes them and trials we have done show no weight loss during the weaning period."

Calves are sold at eight to nine months and the Simmentals are generally 10kg heavier than other breeds.

"The past two seasons have been quite different as weights will reflect," Mr Bainger said.

"Our 2005-drop Simmie calves sold this year saw steer weights average 298kg and heifers averaging 289kg.

"The season was better the year before, so our 2004-drop steers averaged 338kg while heifers came out at 355kg."

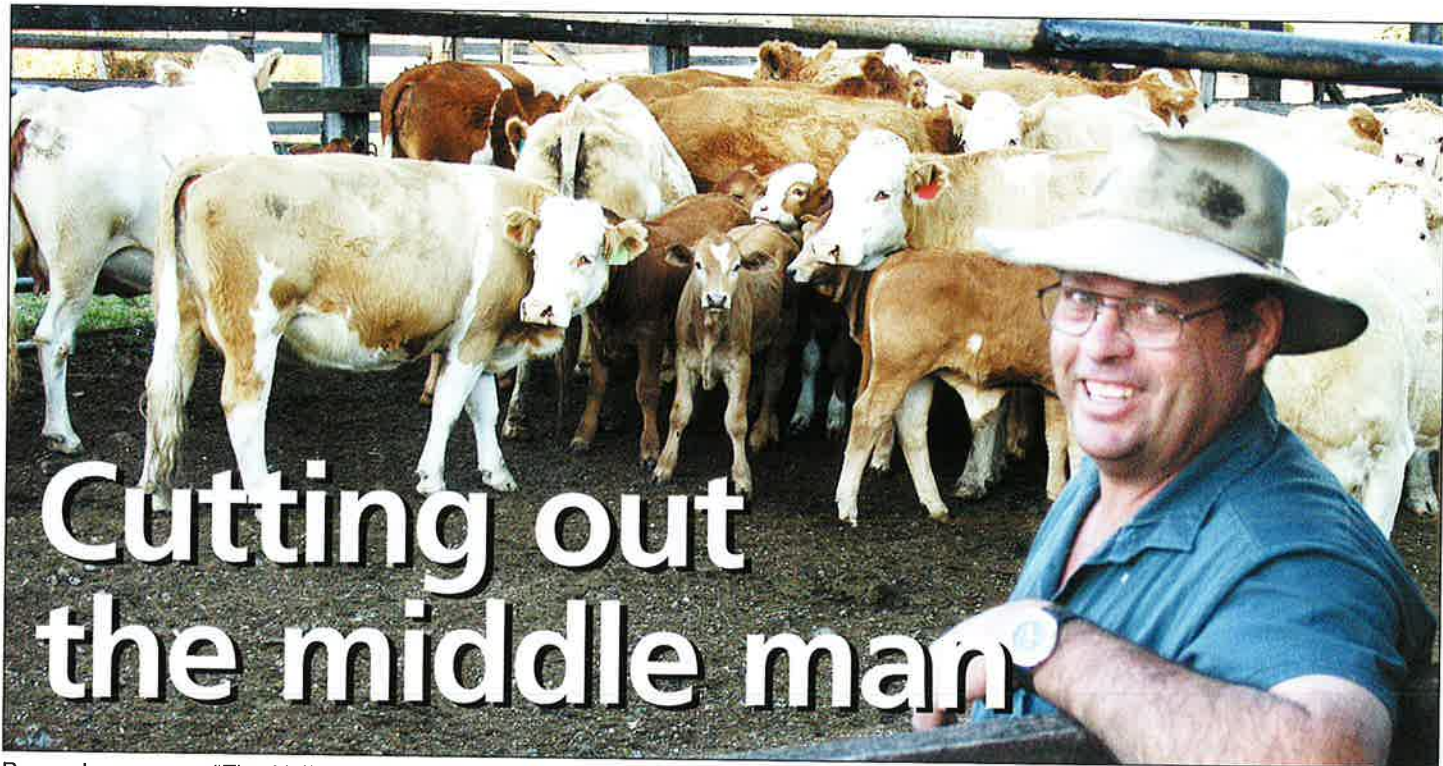
Mr Bainger said he would be sticking to his herd management practices.

"We'll stick to buying Simmental, Hereford, Shorthorn and Angus bulls because those crosses are what seem to be the highest returns for us.

"There is nothing specific that suggests to us that we should go all out to one breed.

"We find that different crosses are continually preferred by the same clients, and our bank account tells us to keep pleasing our calf-buying clients.

"So we will continue on the theory that it's got to be well-bred, well-grown and well-finished to get the best return," Mr Bainger said.



Bruce Jorgensen, "The Valleys", Mummulgum, near Casino, NSW, with his Simbrah herd.

A DECISION to sell EU weaners directly to grass finishers this year is paying off for Bruce and Sandra Jorgensen, who run a 320-breeder Simmental/Brahman operation, "The Valleys", near Casino, on the NSW North Coast.

The move has allowed the Jorgensens the best possible follow through, which they believe is the vital tool to successful cattle breeding.

"We can get good feedback all the way through," Mr Jorgensen said.

"We can look at how our weaners are performing at any time, we see the kill sheets and can tell where our breeding program is going right or wrong."

On top of that, the fact they sold on-property meant considerable savings on selling commissions, yard duties, freight and labour with mustering.

The Jorgensens run their cattle across 450 hectares on three properties at Mummulgum, Mallanganee and Theresa Creek.

They work in partnership with Mrs Jorgensen's mother, Una Barber, whose husband, Sam, decided to introduce Simmentals to the predominantly Hereford and Santa Gertrudis operation in about 1991.

"He decided Simmentals would suit this area better, producing better carcase yields and be better performers as mothers," Mr Jorgensen said.

When Mr Barber died in 2001, Bruce and Sandra and their children, Tiffany and Russell, took over running "The Valleys" and started to bring in Brahman blood.

"With the Brahman content, we got a bit of tick resistance and we have found they are even more suited to this environment," Mr Jorgensen said.

"They work the paddocks better and handle the dry."

"The Valleys" has been supplying the EU weaner market for the past six years due to the \$40- to \$60-a-head premium in the 260- to 350-kilogram live weight range.

The Jorgensens have been part of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) since 2000 and consider it "one of the best things ever for the industry".

"It gives us traceability and buyer confidence, and it makes it easier for our meat company to sell our meat - that's the bottom line," Mr Jorgensen said.

Until this year, they have sold at autumn weaner sales, but decided to go

direct to finishers this year, sending 140 to an EU producer who had bought their cattle at the saleyards previously.

"Their aim is to double the weight in a 12-month period," he said.

The Jorgensens join their three-quarter Simmental females to Red Brahmans, allowing a bull for each 45 cows.

The heifers get a six-week joining and cows four months.

The Jorgensens also put six Simmental bulls over Brahman-cross heifers, the bulls having been sourced from the annual August Hills of Gold sale at Nundle.

"We select them on estimated breeding values (EBVs) and vendor recommendation and have been doing that with success for the past 13 years," Mr Jorgensen said.

"We've found the Brahmans are our best doing cows and are not as demanding on feed.

"We start a program of loose-lick supplementary feeding a month before joining, feeding once a week until the season breaks.

"We started it in 2002 and now use a custom mix.

"That has taken us from a 91 per cent calving rate to 98pc."

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Trial proves superiority

EXPERIENCE as a stock agent, woolclasser and a software support businessman gave Eric Harvey, "Gilgai", Geurie, NSW, and his wife, Wendy, the knowledge and contacts to undertake the development of a large-scale commercial Simmental operation.

It was a modest start with the walk-in-walk-out purchase, in June 2000, of two 200-hectare Geurie blocks running Murray Grey cows, Poll Hereford/Simmental cows but, significantly, 10 purebred Simmental cows.

"I liked the Poll Hereford/Simmental cross but loved the pure Simmentals," Mr Harvey said.

Looking to the future and hoping to confirm his Simmental love, he began an extensive breed comparison, which still continues, assessing the merit of Murray Grey, Poll Hereford/Murray Grey, Poll Hereford/Simmental, Simmental, Simmental/Angus and Simmental/Shorthorn cattle.

The assessment involved performance recording calves from all the genetic pools for an in-herd comparison.

The result confirmed his visual attraction for the pure Simmental.

He said the purebred Simmental steers and heifers outgrew the others with their daily weight gain producing as much as \$150 per head better steer returns.

"We grass-finished a purebred Simmental steer at 690kg at 10½ months (he was the exceptional calf) while the purebred heifers were much better than the first crosses to the extent that we questioned the production benefits of hybrid vigour," he said.

"With Simmentals we get a big weight gain, a good dollar return per head and put quality assured beef on the consumer's plate," he said.

"The cattle and sheep are run together under a strict holistic management program which measures paddock performance, our livestock performance, mineral cycles, water cycles and our people."

The Harveys' subscribe to the Haida Indian saying, "We do not inherit this land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children".

"Our practices, therefore, have to be sustainable, if not even renewable," he said.

"So we use cell grazing as a management tool to achieve our desired ecological outcome."

Cell grazing, which is based on stock movements according to pasture availability is currently on a 120-day rotation in five- to 28-hectare paddocks grazed three to four times a year.

"This allows us to finish stock in a grass feedlot situation," Mrs Harvey said.

The Harveys use feed budgets, pasture mapping and "Quickchecks" to monitor their ecology, pasture availability and to plan mob movements. This allows them depending on the season, to stock at rates as high as 250 dry sheep equivalents a hectare.

"Gilgai's" eight- to 9½-month-old grass-fed vealers are sold at 400kg to 450kg



Breeding up to Simmental strength

ERIC and Wendy Harvey's initial good impression of Simmentals is borne out by their results, giving them the momentum to increase the Simmental influence in their herd.

"The Simmental genetics are undoubtedly working for us," said Mr Harvey, pictured with Mrs Harvey and their July/August 05 purebred Simmentals.

The first Simmental sire used was Maj Viscount, from Alan and Marge Anderson, "Wendouree", Cobbity, chosen for his milk, thickness, muscle and ability to produce vealer sons to finish inside 12 months.

A bull from Max Dench's Wondenia stud, with a lot of length and softness was used both in the pure herd as well as in the cross-breeding program.

There have been two Barana sires, from Peter and Charmaine Cook, Coolah, with Yambuk in 2005, chosen for his colour, polled head, tenderness, marbling and length, and Albert in 2006, for his tenderness and low birthweight to use over heifers.

The first purebred Simmental cows were bought from the Andersons

through the Dubbo saleyards to feeders or butchers.

Mr Harvey said the 53 to 61 per cent yield of his Simmentals may in the future produce a better return over the hook.

Because of the Simmental results, they now plan to breed up the cow herd, over four generations, to purebred Simmental.

"We plan to take our livestock numbers to 600 cows and 5000 Merino ewes."

This plan has been made possible by the Harveys' 1320ha holding having doubled to 2520ha, with additional country bought in October this year.

The Harveys like Simmentals for their visual appeal with deep red color, performance, temperament, marbling, tenderness, fertility, feed efficiency and commercial return.

"We aim to grow tender and tasty beef

while seven or eight Simmental/Hereford heifers from Tom Baker, "Woonallee", Millicent, South Australia, were joined to Yambuk and their purebred calves are now on the ground.

Their land comprises undulating country and has heavy, deep, black self-mulching soil as well as red loams, grey loams and some sodic and light sandy soils.

The native vegetation includes warrego, (which has outperformed lucerne in the past few dry years) kangaroo, giant red grass, danthonia, Queensland blue and Australian cup grass, supported by introduced fescues, ryegrasses and some sub clovers.

The plan is to move away from exotic pastures to performance-based native pastures which are drought tolerant, have better feed conversion factors and a low cost of establishment.

Their country, with an average annual rainfall of 675 millimetres since 1951 has been moisture stressed, with only 214mm this year, but in mid-November still had 45 days of feed left.

for the plate from cattle that look good and perform well in the paddock," Mr Harvey.

There is a program to GeneStar map the whole breeding herd to allow for selection of tenderness, marbling and feed efficiency.

"One of our females has had 11 unassisted calves in six years and another 19-year-old is still producing."

"We think our cows calve longer due to a strict first joining policy where heifers are joined for the first time at 27 months, and have minimum 500kg pre-joining weights."

The average heifer joining weight last year was 660kg, and some cows weigh more than 800kg.

"Our aim is for all our livestock to achieve their full genetic potential."



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Beef guaranteed Tenda

ASHLEY Adams is a man on a mission – to give consumers guaranteed tender beef, and at the same time open up premium markets which, until now, have been hard for northern cattle producers to supply.

The key to producing his Tendabeef product will be using the latest genetic technologies to eliminate poor performers, and drastically lift the consistency of meat quality.

Mr Adams has probably gone the furthest of any commercial producer in the country in taking advantage of GeneStar genetic tests for tenderness, marbling, and now feed efficiency.

“It’s not about making the best better, but eliminating the ones that cost us money,” he said.

Dry conditions have pushed numbers down a bit, but he and his parents, Phillip and Zena, wife, Margaret, and son, Ian, are joining 1400 females on 24,300 hectares, at “Darracourt”, Blackall, Queensland.

The country has an annual rainfall average of 440 millimetres and ranges from desert to Mitchell grass, box sandalwood and gidgee.

Different breed compositions are matched to the conditions, and younger cattle are generally run on the softer country.

On one property they join year-round, but elsewhere they seasonally join from about Christmas, in response to market demands for more even cattle.

The biggest productivity gain in recent years has come through water medication – delivering urea and other minerals through a network of troughs.

Mr Adams said it was a mile ahead of lick blocks, using much less labour, and making sure all cattle got the benefits.

It meant they could adjust the concentration according to the dry feed available, and helped the cattle make use of the edible trees which have been vital in the past three years where they’ve hovered in and out of drought.

Just what cattle they marketed where and when was a completely flexible response to the season and markets, and could be anything from stores to finished cattle, over the hook, through the saleyards or in private sales to feedlots or finishers.

They’d far rather sell at a good price than risk getting caught without feed, and swore that always having an “escape plan” and being prepared to “take the money and run” was the way to make money from cattle.

Mr Adams first saw Simmentals on the NSW Northern Tablelands in the 1970s, and promptly brought some home.

In the 1980s they started using



Building a better beef brand

IN THE US there’s a program using DNA testing to help breed more tender beef, called Elite Beef.

But Ashley Adams knew there had to be a name which would roll better off the Australian tongue, and he came up with Tendabeef.

“Can you imagine saying ‘hey, can you run down to the butcher and get me some Elite Beef?’,” he said.

The brand is still in its infancy but he is talking with both producers breeding in the same direction, and to processors, about how to set up a marketing system to supply wholesalers and butchers.

Interest is coming from Richmond in North Queensland down to Toowoomba, and across to Longreach.

Brahman genetics, and had since crossed back and forth with the two breeds.

In recent years the Adams’ added some Santa Gertrudis blood to help eye pigmentation and breed a more evenly coloured line, but more significantly because some of the breed’s big studs were among the first to identify the “tender” genetics among their top sires.

Mr Adams’ target at the recent Brewers Simmental dispersal was to find females rated highly for tenderness,

but also marbling and feed efficiency.

Recognising tenderness as the number one driver of consumer satisfaction, they aim to use the GeneStar tests

to emulate the eating quality performance of

breeds like Angus, Murray Grey and Bazadais.

The genetic make-up of these breeds means that after slaughter they release

Previously, beef brands have typically relied on a single or limited supply base, or a breed identity, along with tight specifications which sometimes include Meat Standards Australia, to underpin the eating quality of their product.

“All of a sudden a group of people can keep their individual breeds which suit their country, but produce an article that once you cut it up you can’t tell the difference,” Mr Adams said.

“A lot of people think I’m wasting my time, and ask ‘have you made any money from all this investment?’.

“I haven’t made any money – yet.”

“But the vision I can see in the future is making a better product for somebody to eat, and guaranteeing it.”

enzymes which break down the meat structure, making it more tender.

Within the Simmental, Brahman and Santa Gertrudis breeds, there are individual animals which are able to do the same thing, and which can now be identified.

Mr Adams has tested almost 1000 on “Darracourt”, and with the help of the internet and testing company, Genetic Solutions, has combed the country to find the outstanding marbling and tenderness performers in the Simmental, Santa and Brahman breeds.

His highly rated purchases have been used to breed 45 16-month-old Simbrah and Santa-cross bulls which all carry at least five of a possible eight stars for tenderness.

He said fewer than 10 per cent of his wider herd would test that high, and the five-star or better cattle he’s had killed have done significantly better than the herd’s average carcase performance.

Meanwhile, Mr Adams has not lost sight of his traditional selection criteria and is aiming for well-structured polled cattle with large eye muscle areas.

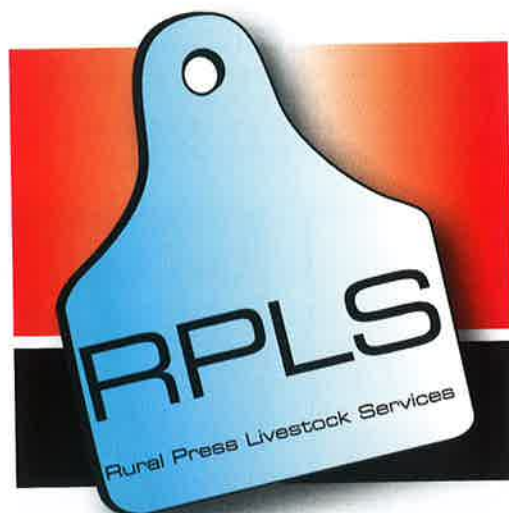


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Tough season performers

WITH about 80 breeds of cattle in Australia, there's no problem finding one suited to maintaining high calving levels under most producers' environments.

These are the cows with maturity patterns matched to the level of feed they receive.

They are the ones that can keep a bit of fat on their back, making it easier to get back in calf early in the joining period.

Everybody has their favourite breed – usually it's one that has proven itself by performing well – and cows that keep getting back in calf early, after easily having their calf, are very endearing.

The trick is to find a second favourite breed, of similar performance and strong in maternal traits, and combine the two.

These first-cross cows perform just as well because of their similar maturity, but as crossbreds they are the drought performers.

They are the ones that maintain high levels of fertility when the feed starts getting scarce.

Their hybrid vigour for the lowly heritable traits such as fertility really comes to the fore as the season gets tougher.

Cows of European and British breed combinations also perform well provided two things are checked.

By BRIAN CUMMING
NSW DPI Beef Cattle Officer,
Albury

Firstly, the European sire used must breed daughters of similar maturity pattern to any British cattle that have proven themselves in the environment in question.

They must be moderately framed, and again, able to put some fat on their backs.

Secondly, the breeds used must be recognised as having strong maternal qualities.

The Simmental, Gelbvieh, Maine Anjou and Brown Swiss are examples of maternal European breeds.

Simmental and Gelbvieh have Group Breedplan analyses, making selection of the most appropriate bull within the breed even more accurate.

Followers of the Simmental breed have seen some amazing things happen.

Introduced into Australia more than 35 years ago, the breed rose in popularity, and was promoted as the breed to cross with Herefords.

They complemented the Hereford's strengths, and added growth and muscle but within a similar colour.

Investors soon became attracted to them, and what followed was the

greatest demonstration of how powerful genetic selection can be.

Unfortunately for the breed, and the commercial cattleman, the selection was in the wrong direction.

For many years, there appeared to be a single-minded attempt to increase frame size only.

The cattle grew taller, quicker, leaner, lighter-muscled, and later maturing.

The promotion of this type in the show ring was behind the selection.

For a while they sold well, but their market soon went to other stud breeders. The commercial cattleman went elsewhere, and demand for the cattle fell.

In a bid to save the breed, some sensible commercial producers bred more moderate-framed, more muscular cattle with an ability to lay down some fat.

The taller and more extreme cattle were retired from the system.

The Simmental has now regained some of its lost popularity.

For the past six years, the cattle have been sensible, commercially viable animals with a strong place in the industry.

It's the story of a breed that just about lost any market, but saved itself at the eleventh hour and is now certainly worth another look.

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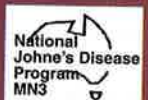


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ABOVE: Ken Bett displays the junior champion bull, Brenair Park Agassi, exhibited by Don Mathieson, Brehair Park stud, Drysdale, Victoria.



RIGHT: Bill Almond, Kensileyre stud, Wagga Wagga, NSW, and Judge Richard Anderson, Tara, Qld, present the supreme Simmental exhibit title to Mark, Geoff and Laura Cockerell, Gelora Park stud, Portarlinton, Vic.

Royal champ after 20 years

AFTER 20 years of showing, Geoff and Laura Cockerell's Gelora Park Simmental stud, Portarlinton, Victoria, has finally won the supreme exhibit title at Melbourne Royal.

It wasn't until last year that the Cockerells won their first Melbourne broadribbon - with the same cow.

Mr Cockerell said the three-year-old cow, shown with a five-month-old heifer

calf at foot, would be used in the Gelora Park stud, but the calf would be sold.

Judge, Richard Anderson, Tara, Queensland, described the cow, Gelora Park Coquette, as "a magnificent example of a beef cow of any breed".

Mr Cockerell, a refrigeration mechanic by trade, said it was pleasing to win the big award as the stud was a small one, with just 35 head.

The cow went on to be reserve senior champion European interbreed female.

The junior and grand champion bull was Brenair Park Agassi, shown by Don Mathieson, Drysdale, Vic, who also exhibited the junior champion female.

The senior champion bull was Auscan Zackery from Richard White's Auscan stud, Adelaide.

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We will be participating in the SE of SA Beef Field Day held on Tuesday 6th February, 2007. The stud will also be open on the morning of the 9th February, 2007.

Enquiries are always welcome

NARACOOPA SIMMENTALS



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Secret to show success: 'No such word as can't'

ELGIN cattle farmers, Tony and Loreen Kitchen, Bandedeka stud, were the proud winners of the 2006 Governor's Cup at the Perth Royal.

Bandedeka won every class and every championship in the Simmental class and a range of other awards in the Red Angus class to amass enough points to take out this year's title.

The Kitchen family previously bred Gelbvieh then Red Angus but their main breed is now Simmental.

Mr Kitchen, pictured with members of the Bandedeka cattle team, Rebecca

Trinca, Neil Davis, Loreen Kitchen and Sarsha Wetherell, said it was a great honour to win the Governor's Cup, attributing the victory to a team effort.

"I'd like to thank the weatherman and my financial advisor because they both made a contribution to this win and they are both very important tools of modern farming," Mr Kitchen said.

Mrs Kitchen works the stud, north-east of Busselton, while Mr Kitchen is a bricklayer. The couple also won the Governor's Cup in 1998.

"If you put your mind to something, and set goals, don't be afraid to follow

through and just go for it," Mr Kitchen said.

"There's no such word as can't in the Bandedeka cattle camp."

The Governor's Cup is presented to the exhibitor who scores the most points in livestock competition at the Perth Royal Show.

In presenting the cup to the Kitchen family, WA Governor, Ken Michael, commended all exhibitors for overcoming the difficulties of the dry season.

Dr Michael said the prize rewarded excellence and consistency.

Perth toasts Bandedeka stud

ELGIN-BASED Bandedeka Simmental stud made it a clean sweep at this year's Perth Royal Show, presented with every broadribbon for the Simmental breed and continuing the stud's outstanding history at the show.

In a magnificent display of Simmental cattle, not only from the Bandedeka stud but all studs exhibiting, judge Rhett Mobbs, Gowrie Simbrah and Simmental studs, Charleville, Queensland, had his work cut out for him in a number of classes but could not overlook the Bandedeka cattle.

The stud dominated right through the classes, championships and group classes.

The 818 kilogram young bull, Bandedeka Ansa, won his class of six before going on to win the junior and supreme champion titles.

Mr Mobbs described Ansa as an extremely good bull and, in terms of

money-making ability, said he was the ideal type to be breeding.

"He is a standout balanced sire, and at only 18 months, is the heaviest bull with the largest EMA (eye muscle area) in his class," he said.

"It helps to have the figures, but I didn't need them here; an easy-doing type with volume, strong across loin into the flank, good head pigmentation, broad muzzle and correct legs."

Standing in reserve to the junior champion bull was Bandedeka African, a son of Bar 5 SA Optimal.

The cow-calf combination, Bandedeka Y Faint, and her handy bull calf went from senior to grand champion female.

Mr Mobbs described the 36-month-old daughter of homebred parents, Bandedeka Ventilla and Q Faint, as "a very correct cow showing femininity and a quiet nature with good hip to pin placement".

Twenty-five-month-old Bandedeka Zannie with a heifer calf at foot was sashed the reserve champion senior female.

She was sired by homebred bull, Bandedeka West Aussie.

Eighteen-month-old heifer, Bandedeka Tasha, won a close battle against counterpart, Bandedeka Abba Rhonda, for junior champion female as Mr Mobbs deliberated between the two similar types. "You could be justified in going either way with these two; both of type I'm looking for in terms of size and structure and the balance of femininity and thickness," he said.

"She came out on top showing the finer details such as the true-to-type head with 100 per cent pigmentation in each eye."

The single entry in the senior bull section, Bandedeka Zeper, a son of Bandedeka West Aussie, was presented with the senior champion bull sash.

Waterfront rules Royal

FOUR STUDS shared the broadribbons in the impressive Simmental display at the Adelaide Royal, but the Upper South East's Waterfront stud had the final say by capturing the grand champion bull and female awards.

The Hodge family, Tintinara, pulled off a remarkable win when their junior champion heifer was made supreme champion.

Victorian judge, Andrew Lyons, Melville Park Poll Hereford and Hereford stud, Hamilton, liked the Waterfront heifer, Waterfront Angela A35, from the moment she stepped into the ring and it was no surprise to see her go all the way.

She was a daughter of Gooselake Jigger. "She was definitely the standout exhibit – she moved so well and had admirable thickness combined with femininity," Mr Lyons said.

The judge was also impressed by the lengthy, well-balanced reserve junior champion heifer, Woonallee Patt A071, shown by Margaret and Tom Baker, Woonallee stud, Furner.

For grand champion bull, Mr Lyons selected another young Waterfront entry, the junior champion bull, Waterfront Albert A176, which he liked for his mobility and meaty frame.

There is a remarkable story behind this win, because the bull's sire, Grimich Park Primus, is a highly successful nine-year-



LEFT: Matthew Parker, Waterfront stud, Tintinara, South Australia, with his Adelaide junior champion Simmental bull, Waterfront Albert. The bull was sashed by Luke Schreiber, Elders Keith.

old sire at Woonallee, after having three previous owners and being sold each time at bargain-basement prices.

Angelo Maglieri and family's Skillogalee stud, McLaren Vale, took the reserve junior bull ribbon with Skillogalee Alcoholic A025, a promising youngster with great muscling and length.

Richard White, Auscan Simmental stud, Echunga, the show's sole Simbrah exhibitor, shared in the spoils by showing both senior and reserve champion Simmental bulls, the senior

champion impressing Mr Lyons with his excellent mobility and muscle pattern.

Skillogalee Xotic PX014 continued the good run for the Skillogalee stud, with the lengthy daughter of Bokara Rock taking the senior female championship with the classy cow and calf unit from Woonallee, W Lucy Z033, in reserve.

Overall, Mr Lyons commended exhibitors for providing such an excellent display of structurally correct animals showing great muscling.



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Versatility prized at Ekka

VERSATILITY prevailed over size and weight in the judging of the Simmental section at the Royal Queensland Show, with judge, Read Radel, Injune, Qld, choosing a grand champion that would be capable of serving a range of breeding options.

In a breakthrough Royal Show victory for young exhibitors, Martin Rowland, 23, and Louis Allison, 16, KBV Simmentals, Kallangur, Mr Radel chose their bull, senior champion Brewers Pascoe Z258(P), over the junior champion, Meldon Park Achilles, for the grand champion broadribbon.

Mr Radel described him as a "magnificent, long bull" with impressive muscle and coverage.

"He is obviously not the biggest or the heaviest bull here, but he is the most complete and I think he will breed cattle that will suit a range of markets," Mr Radel said.

Grand champion female, Goonoo Creek Yarran, exhibited by Graham Jordan, Goonoo Creek, Tamworth, NSW, followed up on earlier wins of the junior champion award at Brisbane last year and the grand champion and supreme exhibit titles at this year's Sydney Royal Show.

Mr Jordan said Yarran stood out as an exceptional female from the start, possessing excellent conformation and fantastic milk figures, which carried



Grand champion Simmental, Brewers Pascoe, held by Louis Allison, KBV Simmentals, Kallangur, Qld.

through to the quality of the calf she carried at foot.

"She is a magnificent type in her own right, and with that big bull calf on her and near perfect udder and teat she was just too strong here today," Mr Radel said.

Mr Radel was particularly impressed with the growth and muscling of the Simmental cattle presented at the Ekka.

Meanwhile, both champion bull and female in the Simbrah ring were bred by Dr Ian Marshall, New Luscar stud, Miles.

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Albert - Junior & Grand Champion Bull at 11 months
Sire: Grimich Park Primus **Dam:** WF Virtue
****For sale at 2007 Premier genetic Sale****



Angela - Junior & Grand Champion Female
and Supreme Exhibit at 17 months (retained)
Sire: Gooselake Jigger 50R **Dam:** WF Xvlina



WF Aristotal A28 by Three Sixes

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Enquiries always welcome**



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