



25th Annual General Meeting & Industry Conference

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Media release

It's a full house – all eight past presidents to celebrate 25th anniversary

March 26, 2009

There will be plenty of stories to be swapped when all eight past presidents of the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association gather at the 25th anniversary annual conference in Alice Springs tomorrow, March 27.

They will be joined by Roy Chisholm, the current president, and the president elect, who will be voted in at the association's annual general meeting this afternoon.

"It's going to be quite an occasion," Mr Chisholm said.

"The amount of history and experience that will come together in the one place this week will be quite extraordinary.

"These people each have a story to tell, having led this very important organisation through both challenging and triumphant times.

"The association is still operating with the same, if not greater, strength it was 25 years ago when it came about through the amalgamation of four separate industry groups.

"What sets us apart is that we speak for the whole of the Northern Territory on industry matters and represent more than 95 per cent of the cattle herd, which is pretty unique in Australia for an industry lobby association."

The former presidents who will be in attendance are: Grant Heaslip (first president – 1984-1987); John Dyer (1987-1990); John Underwood (1990-1993); Ken Warriner (1993-1996); David Bayly (1996-1999); Ross Peatling (1999-2002); Val Dyer (2002-2003); and John Armstrong (2003-2006).

Mr Chisholm, who has served as president since 2006, will cease his official duties at the conclusion of the cattlemen's dinner on Friday night.

During his term he has dealt with issues such as local government reform, the Douglas Daly land clearing moratorium, a boom in exports to Indonesia and most recently, the onset of the global economic crisis.

“When I came into this job the association was in very good stead, the industry was good and robust. There were production issues to focus on until we came up against the Government’s bombshell of local government reform.

“That took us from our core business and core activities for a period of nearly 18 months and that, over the time as being chairman, has been the negative side of doing this job.

“The rest of the time has mostly been good positive stuff, dealing with different issues with enhancing markets, enhancing production, working with good positive people and the department to advance the production of the industry.”

The Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association annual conference will be held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre, starting at 8am on Friday, March 27.

The official opening will be performed by the Hon Tony Burke, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry with other topics to be covered to include food security (Prof Bob Fagan), economic outlook (Paul Beiboer, Rabobank), the processing sector and markets (Iain Mars, JBS Swift, Prof. John Chudleigh, Analysing Agriculture), the red meat industry (David Palmer, Meat and Livestock Australia) and attracting and retaining rural staff (Nandi Herholdt, The Ryder Self Group).

The closing address will be performed by the Hon Kon Vatskalis, NT Minister for Primary Industry Fisheries and Resources.

For more information on the conference go to www.ntca.org.au or phone the NTCA office in Darwin on 8981 5976.

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