



NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Media Release

Date: 2 April 2011

The Hide of Independence

This year's annual NT Cattleman's Association conference held in Katherine celebrated 100 years since the Northern Territory gained independence from South Australia.

In recognition, three unique cattle hides were branded at the conference, bearing the signatory brands of more than 55 cattle stations across the Territory.

Each brand has its own unique story, carrying with a colourful history. The two oldest and most recognised brands in the Northern Territory are the Victoria River Downs 'bulls head' and the Newcastle Water's 'wine glass', which has symbolised its cattle since late last century.

Minister Malarndirri McCarthy, who attended this year's conference and gala dinner, finished the brand mosaic with the mark of the Northern Territory Government.

One of the hides will hang in Parliament House, the other will adorn the NTCA Darwin office wall, and the third was auctioned at the conference to raise money for Rob Cook, the 26-year-old manager of Suplejack station who became a quadriplegic after a helicopter accident in 2008.

The auctioned hide was purchased by long time Territorian, Ross Ainsworth, who has worked as a vet and livestock consultant in the Northern Territory for decades.

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Background information

The Northern Territory Cattleman's Association (NTCA)

The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association is the peak primary industry group in the Northern Territory representing over 90% of the Territory's cattle herd. With over 220 pastoral leases, our industry manages a landmass in excess of 620,000 square kilometres and a herd of over 2 million head. Annual turnoff is around 600,000 head to live-export and domestic markets.

The pastoral industry is the Northern Territory's third largest GDP earner, accounting for more than 50% of primary production in the NT and generating over \$400 million in direct income. In 2010, over 300,000 cattle were exported live through the Port of Darwin. Live cattle exports are of critical importance to the northern pastoral industry and the northern Territory economy as a whole.

The industry directly provides in excess of 1800 jobs, mainly in rural areas of the Northern Territory. By area, employment and economic contribution the pastoral industry is the dominant industry in land management in the NT, with a predominant focus on long-term sustainable production. Over 85% of all NTCA members are active participants in Conservation, Environmental and Landcare groups throughout the Northern Territory and the Association encourages members to join their local groups.

'Advancing and protecting the interests of the cattle producers in the Northern Territory'



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NTCA members include all of the country's largest beef producers including the Australian Agricultural Company (AACo), Consolidated Pastoral Company (CPC), S Kidman & Co, Heytesbury Beef, North Australian Pastoral Company (NAPCO), Georgina Pastoral Company, The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) and Paraway. These companies operations extend beyond the Northern Territory to cover vast tracts of northern, eastern and western Australia.