Prices soar at Alice sales

Price records were broken twice in consecutive months at this year’s recent Bohning Yard Cattle sales in Alice Springs.

The July Alice Springs Show Sale saw a pen of 87 Hereford-cross-Angus steers from Lucy Creek Station, and weighing an average 321kg, fetch a record-breaking $2.94 per kg.

Strong demand for females also saw a pen of 52 Napperby Station Brangus heifers, weighing an average of 352kg, attract a record $2.70 per kg.

Overall, the Show Sale averaged $2.50 per kg for a total of 2,898 head of cattle offered - 70% more than that fetched at the last Show Sale, which took place in 2013.

It was beaming smiles all round again in August when a pen of Shorthorn heifers from Yambah Station, averaging 400kg, fetched an unprecedented $3.10 per kilogram, ousting the $2.94 per kg record set in July.

Lyndavale Station fetched the top steer price of $3.00 per kg for a pen of Charolais steers.

Alice Springs livestock agent, Doc Cunningham, told ABC Rural that sale cattle shortages in the south had enticed strong bidding from meatworks and feedlot buyers, pushing prices up. Central Australian pastoralists are also in the market to restock their herds after the recent drought. He said he believed the situation would remain ‘very strong and healthy for a long time to come’.

Northern live exporters buoyed by Indonesian Q4 quota of 200,000

The Indonesian Government has released import permits for 200,000 head of Australian feeder cattle for the impending fourth quarter, providing an enormous boost to northern Australia’s live cattle trade.

Indonesia’s new Trade Minister Thomas Lembong followed up on a Ministry of Agriculture recommendation to drastically boost the number of Q4 import permits to 200,000 after the shock Q3 import quota of just 50,000 head. Ships were filled to capacity within days of the announcement.

The welcome news on numbers was matched by news of good prices, with some export agents receiving more than $3.00 a kilo for feeder steers. NTCA Chief Executive Officer Tracey Hayes welcomed the reported record price for live cattle exported out of Darwin and says she believes prices are set to get even higher.

“This is great news for cattle producers. If you’ve got cattle in your paddocks ready to be shipped out, you’re in a very good situation.”

She conceded that while there were significant numbers of cattle on the Top End floodplains and other areas ready to be shipped out, the industry could be challenged in bringing together 200,000 head at the moment to meet the three months quota. The industry estimates that shipments of around 100,000 head won’t be an issue. It will then be a matter of sourcing cattle from wherever possible to meet the full quota.

Indonesia has also issued import permits for 2000 Australian breeder cattle to use in its herd building program.

Tracey Hayes travelled to Jakarta early this month to continue talks started on a previous visit, in regards to reinstating the system of issuing permits on an annual rather than quarterly basis.

Pricing remains high in Alice Springs. See Tara Fullwood’s program update - Page 9
New Alumni for Indonesian student program to benefit beef and agricultural sectors

The NTCA unveiled its new Alumni initiative for past participants of the Australia-Indonesia Pastoral Student program during a high-level function, hosted by the Australian Ambassador, in Jakarta in early October.

Some 54 agricultural students from several universities across Indonesia have now participated in the NTCA program, most of whom were able to attend the high level function at the Ambassador’s residence after travelling from various regions across the country.

The initiative was formally launched by Australian Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce before a crowd that included the Indonesian Director General of Livestock Professor Muladno, as well as Indonesian and Australian government officials, and beef and agricultural industry representatives.

“We believe the Alumni is unique in that it brings together a core group with a valuable skill set and understanding of the live export trade, production and other aspects of the industry...it will be a fantastic asset of government,” said NTCA CEO Tracey Hayes, who attended the launch with NTCA President Tom Stockwell.

“It will lead to many exciting benefits for our industry, and help us to build on the great success of this program into the future...(as well as) bringing together a fantastic resource of young ambassadors for both the Indonesian and NT beef industries. It provides a platform to capture the knowledge these students have developed about the live export sector, and will help keep them involved and able to pursue more study opportunities in their chosen field.

“This initiative will also identify employment opportunities - more than 250 Australian businesses now operate in Indonesia and a high proportion of those have agricultural interests. The Alumni will provide a valuable resource of qualified and experienced young people who could work in their businesses.”

The latest group of Indonesian students selected for the program recently returned to Indonesia after completing their Territory-based formal skills development course and work placements on cattle stations.

The Red Meat Partnership has committed to fund the training program for 2015-16, which ensures another intake of students will arrive in the Territory next year.

Advertise in the Cattlenews*

- Full Page - $550.00
- Half Page - $330.00
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*Costs inclusive of GST

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

KERRY SHARP (Editor) - Phone: (08) 8981 4999
Mobile: 0419 845 714 - Email: sharp@octa4.net.au
The Barkly Branch will host the NT Cattlemen’s Association’s 32nd Annual General Meeting and Industry Conference in Alice Springs on 17-18 March.

The Business of Balance will be the theme for the 2016 forum and associated events, which are expected to draw another 450 or more participants from around Australia and overseas.

Planning is well underway with venues being finalised for the day-long industry forum and ever popular Ladies’ Lunch and Gala Dinner. The NTCA Executive is also in the process of mustering another world-class complement of keynote speakers.

Tickets will go on sale in early December via a new online registration system, all NTCA members and friends will be notified via email once details have been finalised.

Puma Energy has supported the NTCA for 32 years and are excited to partner with the NTCA again in 2016 for the 7th annual photographic competition.

All entries will be displayed at the NTCA Annual Industry Conference on 18th March 2016, with the winners being announced at the NTCA Gala Dinner on the evening of 18th March.

**ENTRIES OPEN 1 NOVEMBER!!**

**CATEGORIES**

1. Portrait (person or animal)
2. NT Landscape
3. Industry at work or play

**PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD:** The major prize of the competition, which is judged by attendees at the conference as the overall favourite of the competition.

The photographs entered will not only provide a backdrop for the forthcoming 32nd NTCA Annual Industry Conference in Alice Springs, they will illustrate our unique outback lifestyle and the distinctive Northern Territory people and landscape.

**TO ENTER:**

The entry form and conditions of entry will be available on the ntca website as of the 1st of November: www.ntca.org.au

Contact the NTCA Darwin office with any queries on:

P: 08 8981 5976
E: office.darwin@ntca.org.au
An NTCA delegation, comprising President Tom Stockwell, CEO Tracey Hayes, Vice President and Katherine Branch Chair Jak Andrews, Top End Chair Markus Rathsmann and EO Tom Ryan flew to Canberra in August for their latest round of top level talks with Ministers, Members of Parliament and departmental advisors on a host of critical issues impacting on the Northern Territory cattle industry.

The 18-19 August visit included 23 meetings involving more than 30 ministers, advisors, MPs and industry representatives.

The comprehensive two-day round of talks focussed on northern development, beef roads and other infrastructure, the NBN, the live export trade in new and emerging markets, the Tennant Creek weather radar and other issues critical to NTCA members. The trip provided an ideal opportunity for the NTCA to promote awareness about Northern Australia and the Northern cattle industry, in particular, to southern based politicians who often have little or no understanding of the environment and situation in which NTCA members build their livelihoods.

“We like to do this as a group at least once a year,” NTCA President Tom Stockwell says. “It’s an important and valuable exercise in keeping the northern beef industry’s many issues in the forefront of the minds of the Canberra decision makers...We got a good hearing overall, and they were receptive to our issues.”

The NTCA group also met with Opposition Leader Bill Shorten, the ALP Country Caucuses, minor party politicians, heads of the Departments of Agriculture and Infrastructure and Regional Development and the RSPCA’s Heather Neil.

The final round of NTCA branch meetings for 2015 will be held in the first three weeks of November:

ALICE SPRINGS
Date: Wed 4th November
Location: AZRI conference room
Start time: 11:00am
(lunch provided)

BARKLY
Date: Thurs 5th November
Location: Conference room, DPI office, Tennant Creek
Start time: 11:00am
(lunch provided)

KATHERINE
Date: Fri 13th November
Location: Katherine Research Station
Start time: 11:00am
(lunch provided)

TOP END
Date: Fri 20th November
Location: North Australia Development Office - 76 The Esplanade
Start time: 11:00am
(lunch provided)

The final NTCA Board meeting for 2015 will take place in Darwin on the 1st and 2nd of December, where the Executive will spend two days discussing current NTCA business, strategies and policies.
Top Indonesian Livestock Policy Advisor Visits NTCA Members

It’s a long way from the offices of the Indonesian Government in Jakarta but Indonesia’s Director General (DG) of Livestock recently visited the Top End to learn more about the Northern Territory’s cattle industry production and supply chains.

Dr Muladno, the top livestock policy adviser to the Indonesian Government, spent several days visiting the port, export yard facilities and cattle stations in the Territory’s Top End region in late October. Dr Muladno told ABC journalist Sara Everingham that the purpose of visiting the NT cattle industry was to “know exactly comprehensively animal production system and trading system in Australia”.

By gaining a better understanding of the industry in Australia and the challenges faced by producers when targeting the Indonesian market, the DG hope it will assist the Indonesian Government in writing better policy which will remove inefficiencies in the supply chain and barriers to trade, which, in turn, will deliver more favourable outcomes to both countries through a more free and equitable trade.

NTCA CEO Tracey Hayes accompanied Dr Muladno on his tour, providing valuable insights into the production environment in which Northern Territory cattlemen and woman earn their livelihood.

Don and Kelly White, from Bridge Creek Station at Adelaide River, hosted the delegation which included Dr Muladno, Adviser to President Jokowi, Husin Bagis, Indonesian Consul Pak Andre Siregar, Tracey Hayes, Top End Branch Chair Markus Rathsmann, Branch Deputy Colin Deveraux, several local producers, Stuart Kemp from NTLEA and Australian and Indonesian Embassy staff.

The group was treated to a delicious morning tea at the White’s home, before a small group, including Dr Muladno, departed for a helicopter tour of cattle stations in the region to see first-hand the scale of the industry in the Top End.

NTCA CEO Tracey Hayes told ABC’s Sara Everingham that Dr Muladno’s visit was a positive step in building trade relations and an opportunity to strengthen NTCA’s relationship with Indonesian officials. The issue of annual quotas and approval of registered premises was discussed and the signals out of Indonesia are positive in relation to movement in this area.

“We are waiting for officials to work through the appropriate channels and are looking forward to a positive announcement hopefully in the near future” Ms Hayes said.
The NTCA expressed deep shock and sadness at news that its valued former employee Alward Foster had passed away in Queensland. In an incredible mark of respect, more than 800 people from both sides of the NT/Queensland border, including many young people, attended his funeral in his remote home community of Doomagee in Queensland’s Gulf District. Former NTCA President Rohan Sullivan represented association members at the funeral.

Tony ‘Salty’ Freshwater worked closely with the young cattle industry ambassador and in a special tribute to his friend, says he feels lucky to have been part of Alward Foster’s Northern Territory ‘family’ during his time here. “I am truly thankful for having had the opportunity to meet and get to know him while he was working in the cattle industry over here and at the NTCA. My heartfelt thanks go to his family for nurturing and teaching him the skills and knowledge to take on life and be a strong leader.

“Over the past six years, Alward enjoyed working on Territory cattle stations and with the NT Cattlemen’s Association in various capacities including those of stockman, leading hand, role model to young trainees, horse breaker, Indigenous representative on the Indonesian student exchange program, and cultural advisor to NTCA staff. He was also a whip-cracking advisor to former Indonesian and Australian Agriculture Ministers, whip-cracking demonstrator to former Prime Minister Julia Gillard, and took a starring role in our WH&S DVD and the industry movie production ‘Cattle Scars’.

“I believe he was lucky to have had the opportunity to live his life to the fullest due to the support and comradeship provided by his family, friends and people involved in all levels of many organisations, including NTCA members, staff and individuals employed at the Indigenous Land Corporation. Without his family’s and everyone’s support, our paths would not have crossed nor a friendship developed.

“Alward took on everything thrown at him with gusto and never wasted an opportunity to learn or to teach others. Those of us who had the pleasure of sharing a friendship with him will miss him terribly.

“For me personally, it’s a time of reflection. I want to make sure that Alward’s story is continued into the future, because I feel it is important that other young people benefit from his experiences and hard work”.

Cattle industry farewells a young leader and role model

Mr Foster at Afmeco Camp: He had great respect for elders in the cattle industry and enjoyed swapping stories.

Jason Craigie (R) and Mr Foster promoting the NTCA message at the 2014 Katherine Show

Cattlenews - October 2015

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Draft wild dog management recommendations finalised

Following extensive industry consultation and feedback, the Northern Territory Wild Dog Management Review Panel has drawn up and presented its draft recommendations for ministerial consideration.

The consultation phase on what is one of the most critical issues facing northern cattle producers closed in September, with the NTCA being represented by CEO Tracey Hayes, Marty Doyle from Mittiebah Station on the Barkly, and Anne Staines from Central Australia’s Lyndavale Station.

The NTCA thanks its members throughout the Territory for providing valuable feedback, both formally through the review process and at NTCA branch meetings, and informally through phone and email contact - “These contributions have been the driver of the recommendations,” NTCA Executive Officer Tom Ryan says, “The panel is confident the proposed changes will provide greater capacity for pastoralists to manage the impact of wild dogs on their livelihoods.”

The NTCA Alice Springs Branch Chairman, Chris Nott, attended the first such meeting in Rockhampton in early October to work on a spending strategy with other northern industry stakeholders and push the case for urgent funding for priority Territory beef roads.

The Federal Government announced a $100 million funding allocation specifically for beef roads, prior to release of the Northern White Paper, and followed that up with a $600 million budget commitment for bush infrastructure.

The multitude of issues raised by NTCA members included:

- Too many complex and confusing forms to complete
- Excessive length of time taken to issue authorisation
- Multiple authorisation being required for the same activity
- Obtaining the concentrate is very difficult in some areas
- Insufficient number of baits being allocated
- The program needs to be simple and flexible instead of ‘one size fits all’
- Better coordination is needed when baiting between properties.

The widespread impact of wild dog attacks on Northern Territory stations is costing the industry tens of millions of dollars a year in stock and other losses, and it is hoped that this review will result in effective changes to the system.

MEMBERS WITH QUERIES about the recommendations are encouraged to contact Tom Ryan at the NTCA Darwin office:
Phone: 08 89815976 or
Email: tom.ryan@ntca.org.au

Northern beef roads in focus

A series of meetings has begun across northern Australia to discuss the allocation of special funding for beef roads, which was announced by the Federal Government prior to the release of its 2015 budget.

The NTCA says it will maintain a close interest in the current NT Government review of regulations allowing non-veterinarians in the Territory to conduct mandatory pregnancy tests on live export cows prior to shipment offshore.

The practice has streamlined cattle processing on stations which are often remote and not within easy reach of available veterinarians.

DPIF Chief Veterinary Officer Malcolm Anderson has advised the review was part of a national discussion about pregnancy test standards for live export cattle. He said the aim was to ensure process was robust and transparent, and achieved the results required in terms of animal welfare and market access.

“If our accreditation process isn’t completely robust and it leads to pregnant export cows being certified as non-pregnant, then it will risk damaging the Northern Territory and Australia’s export trade credibility,” he said.

DPIF is consulting with industry stakeholders as part of the review.

These include the NTCA, NTLEA current accredited preg-testers. There are currently about 100 non-veterinarians performing pre-shipment pregnancy tests in the Territory.

The review is expected to be finished in December and recommendations announce by the end of the year.

DPIF reviews non-vet preg testing

The NTCA says it will maintain a close interest in the current NT Government review of regulations allowing non-veterinarians in the Territory to conduct mandatory pregnancy tests on live export cows prior to shipment offshore.

The Territory and Western Australia are the only jurisdictions that allow non-veterinarians trained by veterinarians to preg-test cows before trucking off properties.

DPIF reviews non-vet preg testing
Nuffield Scholarships for cattle industry reps

The NTCA congratulates the latest northern pastoral industry identities to be awarded Nuffield Scholarships - Adam Coffey from Katherine and Sarah Hughes from the Barkly Tableland.

ADAM COFFEY (supported by DPIF) will travel to Africa, Canada, India, South America and the USA to investigate commercial cattle production and management tactics for rangeland and other marginal areas. Adam and his wife Jacynta run about 600 head of Brahman cross breeders in a self-replacing herd and undertake opportunistic trading to spread risk on an agisted pastoral property. They are in the process of building stock numbers and fine-tuning herd management for long-term sustainability.

“I am really interested in the physical and financial aspects of producing cattle in marginal areas, whether that be as a result of low or unreliable rainfall or areas limited by poor soils,” Adam says. “I know in our northern rangeland grazing operation, there are many opportunities to potentially gain or lose efficiencies or performance by trying to address our physical and economic issues. Through my scholarship, I can look at this on an international scale and get ideas about solutions to the problems we are facing at home and in other marginal production areas of Australia, including poor soil nutrition, use of supplements, low herd fertility and sometimes difficult animal husbandry operations.”

SARAH HUGHES (supported by ANZ and AACo) will visit operations in Japan, New Zealand and the USA to investigate commercial organic Wagyu production and the potential for international production partnerships to sure-up year-round supply. Sarah and husband Fred manage Georgina Pastoral Company’s Lake Nash Station, which like other company properties, produce certified organic beef. Georgina Pastoral Company has secured long-term supply agreements with AACo for Wagyu feeders.

“There’s no one in Australia producing and supplying organic Wagyu and I think there are opportunities in this space, but there are risks associated with increased production costs, time and seasonal variability. I would like to broaden my knowledge about and confidence in organic and Wagyu production systems,” she says.
AACo Livingstone Beef Update – for NTCA members

Our Livingstone Beef facility continues to move forward and is now operating consistently, just 12 months from turning the chain on. The production team are regularly reporting incremental improvements to efficiency, and continuing to increase daily throughput.

During an 8 hour daily shift, we are processing 420 cows a day and up to 440 cows on a good day, 5 days a week. Bulls tend to be slower than cows, with 300 head in a day being achievable.

We can help you clean up lines of bulls including both cull for age herd and scrub bulls, with the added advantage of no horn width restrictions. The meat is boxed then frozen or chilled, and most of it is sent out of Darwin Port. Our top three export markets are the US, Hong Kong and South Korea. By-products, which include hides, tallow and meat and bone meal similarly go straight to Asia.

Cattle supply is predominately coming from NT and WA producers, with our AACo cattle generally being staggered and coming through for wet season production. We are buying a wide spectrum of cattle; bulls, cows, both fat and store condition, as well as out-of-spec animals. We are paying the market rate and have flexible delivery options available.

Cattle supply requirements:
All animals need to be ‘fit to load’ and have an NT Waybill as well as a National Vendor Declaration (NVD – 2013 version onwards). In addition, they must have a working NLIS tag and be branded with a registered brand. Our international customers have various market requirements so it is important that the NVD is filled in accurately. Our on-site Australian Government vet audits all paperwork for completeness including time of loading, phone numbers, accurate sex split counts accurate and all other questions answered to the best of your knowledge. It is the standard paperwork requirement for all meat works in Australia, so if any producers are interested in supply cattle, our Northern Supply team or your agent would be more than happy to help you with acquiring and filling in the required paperwork.

If any of you have more questions or enquiries regarding Livingstone Beef, please contact Steven Pocock - Phone: 0409 723 432 or Email: cattle@aac.com.au

NTCA in Indonesian talks to secure year-long permit system

NTCA Chief Executive Officer Tracey Hayes recently joined Northern Territory and Queensland Agricultural Ministers in a delegation to Indonesia. Tracey Hayes met with Indonesia’s Director-General of Livestock, Professor Muladno.

“We discussed a range of matters, including issuing annual permits for live exports, plus supply chain matters,” Tracey says.

“We believe the annual permits will provide a layer of certainty for our producers and allow the industry to be better placed to prepare their annual program on stations.”

She says the industry had a strong and good rapport with Indonesia because of the major investment it had put into developing relationships with its people. Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce also visited Indonesia in early October to discuss the proposed 12-month live cattle import permit system, which would be expected to provide greater surety for Australian cattle producers and exporters, as well as Indonesia’s burgeoning beef consumers. His visit follows closely on that of his Cabinet colleague Minister Andrew Robb who also pushed for the yearly import quota.

Mr Joyce told the media he wanted to see Australia selling beef and cattle into lots of good markets but that Indonesia remained a vital market. Minister Joyce’s visit included a meeting with the Indonesian Trade Minister and a tour of the Elders abattoir in Bogor south of Jakarta.

Addressing weather issues on the Barkly

The Bureau of Meteorology’s top Territory representative have attended a public meeting in Tennant Creek to address the concerns of Barkly pastoralists and stakeholders about the future of their local weather services. The meeting followed widespread concern and public protests over the bureau’s decision to disband the Tennant Creek weather radar.

District pastoralists argued strongly that they relied on it for forecasts for activities including essential extensive light aircraft flights.

The bureau’s NT Regional Director Todd Smith and Assistant Director Observing Strategy and Operations outlined planned major improvements to satellite and lightning services to replace the previous radar service.

They also answered questions from the audience on how Barkly residents could maximise the use of BOM services to make decisions, based on weather conditions.

The meeting was told the bureau is continuing to modernise and automate its weather observation systems to deliver better services to remote and regional communities Territory-wide.

These will include efficient new services linked to the recently launched Himawari-8 Japanese satellite which promises to revolutionise weather forecasting. Its advanced capabilities include far more regular cloud condition updates and lightning observation data.

The bureau says the combined services will allow the community to track thunderstorms at 10 minute intervals throughout Australia, including across the Barkly district.
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REAL JOBS PROGRAM

Building a skilled young workforce to shore up the industry’s future

Tara Fullwood outlines the NTCA’s Indigenous training and mentoring initiatives

About the Real Jobs Program

For those who are new to learning about the Real Jobs Program (RJP) its purpose is to recruit, train, provide mentoring support and place young Indigenous men and women into pastoral industry jobs, whether they be on cattle stations, meatworks or saleyards throughout the Territory’s Top End.

The RJP also works in conjunction with the school-based Pastoral Futures Program (PFP) announced in 2014. The PFP offers school students the opportunity to learn about the pastoral industry and undertake accredited training in agri foods. It’s a pathway into employment within the RJP for our school leavers.

2015 program update

With the end of 2015 fast approaching, the NTCA is close to winding up its 9th year of managing the pastoral Real Jobs Program.

A total of 19 participants have been trained in the pastoral industry since March 2015, and 16 of these are still being mentored on the job while working full time on their allocated stations. The mentoring visits take place to assist our young trainees to adapt to their new lifestyles, guide them through barriers such as cross cultural awareness, understanding station job roles, communication, building friendships and developing a good work ethic. Mentors also coach them through making the decisions for their future. We’ve received positive feedback from our RJP participants and we need to thank everyone involved in the program and helping us make it a success!

Billy and Waylon making their mark

A big congratulations to two of our outstanding fellas, Billy Clarke and Waylon Townson who work for Heytesbury Cattle Company, for both completing their 2nd year in the program and obtaining a Certificate 2 and 3 in Agriculture. All the best for your future endeavours men!

An end-of-year field trip now being considered with the expectation that it will inspire the young men to stay in the industry. They will be exposed to the bigger picture of the industry, by touring the AACo abattoir, meeting with NT Livestock Exporters CEO Stuart Kemp and having a lesson in Animal Nutrition and Natural Land Resource Management, from the Department of Primary Industry. It’s a eagerly anticipated trip for all those involved.

A sad closing note

On a final note, we sadly farewelled a mate and ex work colleague Mr A Foster. While it’s hard to find the words to describe Mr Foster, he is a man you could write a book about. He worked with NTCA for many years and was heavily involved in the RJP and also the Indonesian Student Exchange Program. Mr Foster was well travelled and very much deserved the industry-wide respect he had.

He cracked a stockwhip for Prime Minister Julia Gillard at Parliament House with a confident and cheeky grin, he impressed many young people with the skills and knowledge he willingly shared in the industry, and was well equipped for the job - especially with his bottom half being very fit for a saddle.

I am probably not alone in saying I was envious of his natural ability in the industry, whether he be riding the freshest horse in the mob, dealing with the most difficult of situations with ease, cooking yummy meals with a few basic ingredients, and confidently working with a camera and film crew.

Mr Foster was a pleasure to work with, a inspiring representative for young Indigenous people in the industry, and a person you’d feel proud to have had as a mate. His swagger, character and mateship will live on in our hearts and memories forever. May his soul and talent rest in peace.

Colin Williams on the job at Neutral Junction Station.

Billy and Waylon making their mark

Jason Craigie and Dusty Hutley at Birrindudu.

Building good relationships with head stockmen who look after the Real Jobs employees is important to the program’s success.

NTCA’s Real Jobs Program & Pastoral Futures Program

Cattlenews - October 2015
Spring is the perfect time to clean your cattle and paddocks for ticks with Acatak® Duostar. Only Acatak® Duostar gives you the proven long-term tick protection of Acatak® with the extra, fast acting knockdown of ivermectin, for cattle tick and broad spectrum parasite control. So give your cattle the best possible start this spring with Acatak® Duostar.

**Kill ticks fast PLUS protect your cattle long term.**
The NTCA is seeking nominations for its Annual Life Membership award and new Life Members’ Medal, both to be presented during the 32nd Annual Industry Conference in March 2016. John Armstrong is the NTCA’s newest Life Member, and former Executive Director Luke Bowen received the inaugural Life Members’ Medal at the 2015 NTCA Gala Dinner.

Criteria - Life Membership

1. Life membership of the NTCA is described under 6.1(c) of the constitution “Honorary Membership”
2. A nominee for Life Membership must be, or have been, a full member of the NTCA
3. A Life Membership may be nominated and approved by the Executive if: a. The nominee is a long-standing member of the NTCA, and b. Has contributed to the Association positively at Branch and/or Executive level for an extended period, c. Has preferably contributed in a range of positions or interest areas, and/or d. Has made a significant contribution to protecting & advancing the interests of members at a regional, NT, national or international level.
4. Nominations for Life Membership can be made by any financial member of the NTCA, but self-nomination is not acceptable. The nomination should include sufficient history and information to enable the Executive Committee to make an informed decision at the first Executive meeting of the calendar year.
5. A call for nominations may be made at the last round of branch meetings for the year, but nominations will be accepted year round.
6. A nomination in one year may be held over for consideration the next year but will thereafter lapse.
7. Only one life membership may generally be awarded at each annual conference and dinner but a second may be awarded on merit or in special circumstances.
8. A Life Membership does not have to be awarded in any one year.
9. The Life Member does not have to come from the branch hosting the Conference in the year the membership is awarded, although there is some convention in this regard that the Executive Committee will consider.
10. The Executive Committee may seek information or advice to add to that provided in the nomination.

Criteria - Life Members’ Medal

1. The medal will be awarded to an individual (or organisation) who has made a long and outstanding contribution to advancing and protecting the interests of NTCA members, and is not eligible for Life Membership of the Association. The contribution should be of equivalent value to that which might otherwise earn a life membership.
2. Any member may nominate a person for the award.
3. A group of at least 4 life members (preferably one from each branch) will consider any nominations.
4. The executive committee will appoint the life members to the selection group, who will provide the Executive Committee with their advice on awarding of the medal. The Executive Committee will be responsible for approving the nomination.
5. The medal will not be an annual award but be presented solely on merit.
6. A maximum of one medal per year will be awarded.
7. The award will be presented by a Life Member of the NTCA at the annual Gala Dinner.
8. Nominations must be received by the first Executive Committee meeting of the calendar year.
A strategic team effort by VRD cattle companies has yielded welcome success in the fight against one of the Territory’s most despised exotic weeds.

Over the past couple of years, the Victoria River District Conservation Association (VRDCA), Heytesbury Cattle Co, and Inverway, and Bunda Stations have joined forces in a campaign to significantly reduce the Parkinsonia infestation on the Sturt Creek. A combination of on-ground and aerial weed treatment has been carried out from Laura Creek on Inverway to the WA border and continued on into Flora Valley Station by Heytesbury Cattle.

To date the project has entailed four aerial surveys, three aerial Grasslan treatments and three week-long on-ground control work excursions with the entire Birrindudu stock camp, which enabled a large number of Indigenous ringers to go and work out on country. As well as more than 90% of the surveyed parkinsonia being treated and eradicated on these properties, mesquite was identified and treated in isolated, previously unknown areas.

The large scale reduction and continued treatment of parkinsonia and mesquite within this catchment has extremely positive implications from both production and biodiversity perspectives. Continued treatment will be a priority for the foreseeable future, but can be scaled back due to the marked decrease in plants.

Adrian Winwood – Smith
‘Look Out For Your Mates Memorial Award - 2015’

Nominations are open for the recognition of an individual employed in the Northern Territory Indigenous pastoral sector, an employer or in a supporting organisation, who has or continues to make significant contributions to improve their workmates and or businesses work health, safety and general wellbeing.

Adrian Winwood - Smith was a remarkable individual who accomplished a great deal for Aboriginal people involved in the Northern Territory pastoral industry. The purpose of the Award is to provide a means of allowing Adrian’s life and his achievements to inspire people to continue to improve health, safety and wellbeing in their own as well as others lives.

Proudly supported by National Indigenous Pastoral Enterprises, Central Land Council, Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association, Northern Land Council and the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.

The Awards celebrate an individual’s best and brightest contribution in at least two (2) of the following pastoral industry categories during 2015,

- Improved health and safety education and training
- Improved health and safety when working with livestock
- Improved health and safety when working with machinery and plant
- Improved health and safety when working with chemicals
- Improved health and safety for kids living on the station
- Striving for excellence in women’s health and wellbeing
- Striving for excellence in men’s health and wellbeing
- Striving for excellence, leadership and improvement in the wider pastoral sectors WH&S culture.

Nominate to win a $500 voucher from the Top Saddlery, Katherine NT

Nominations must include: nominee’s name, employer and employment position, name of person nominating, more than 100 words describing the individual’s activities, outcomes and benefits (for both Category 1 and 2), contact details of two relevant referees, and two photos of the nominee in action.

Nominations to be emailed to: nina.braid@ilc.gov.au

NOMINATIONS CLOSE - Friday 6 November 2015

Staff of the free, independent and confidential financial support service, Rural Business Support, have been working with Northern Territory primary producers and rural businesses experiencing financial difficulties. Support includes financial analysis and preparing business plans and cash flow, supporting businesses with negotiations with financial institutions and creditors, identifying and applying for government assistance eligibility, offering a referral service to other professionals when required, and preparing for succession planning. The service’s Charlie Goode and Lloyd Wright will be available for personal appointments on clients’ properties by prior arrangement, on in the Darwin or Katherine offices as follows:

- Late Sept/Early October (Charlie)
- 30 October – 6 November (Lloyd)
- Early December (Charlie)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS: Please Contact: Freecall 1800 836 211 - or Lloyd Wright or Charlie Goode - 0418 850 251
Dry season a mixed bag

Rainfall across the Northern Territory from May to September:
The official northern dry season - was a bit of a mixed bag. Overall, the period saw mostly average- to below-average rainfall totals, but some Top End areas recorded above-average falls. The story is further complicated when a month-by-month analysis is done. While most months saw average- to below-average totals, June and August, in particular, saw some significant rain events. The southern half of the Territory missed out on much of the heavier rainfall, however, and places like Alice Springs had their lowest seasonal total for at least 20 years. The southern half didn’t totally miss out on notable rainfall, however. In the middle of June, an unseasonable series of thunderstorms affected parts just northeast of Alice Springs. Heavy rainfall was a feature, with Mount Skinner recording its largest June daily rainfall on record, with 45.2mm. A further feature of the event was the copious amount of small hail which fell, turning the red dirt to a white winter wonderland in some locations. Overall, June was characterised by mostly above-average rainfall, particularly over the northeast Top End and over the central east. Gallipoli, near the Queensland border in the Barkly region, had its highest June rainfall on record with 95mm. In the northeast, Nhulunbuy also broke its previous June rainfall record with 107mm. Significant rain was also a feature during August when much of the central Territory received very-much-above-average totals. A cloudband dumped 19.2 mm of rain at Tennant Creek Airport which was a record August daily rainfall. Tennant Creek (40.0mm) also recorded its highest August monthly rainfall, along with Lajamanu Airport (14.6mm).

El Niño update
The El Niño of 2015 is the strongest since the record-breaking event of 1997-98. Persistently weak or reversed trade winds, a strongly negative Southern Oscillation Index (SOI), and ongoing warming in the tropical Pacific Ocean, support further strengthening. Most international climate models surveyed by the Bureau of Meteorology indicate the El Niño is likely to peak towards the end of 2015. Typically, El Niño is strongest during the late austral spring or early summer, and weakens during late summer to autumn. Another climate driver which has a significant effect upon Australia is the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), It has recently entered a positive phase which typically leads to below-average winter and spring rainfall to much of the continent. A positive IOD typically reinforces the drying pattern of El Niño, notably across central and northern Australia, however, sea surface temperatures across the whole Indian Ocean basin have been at record warm levels, and appear to be off-setting the influence of these two climate drivers in some areas. The Northern Rainfall Onset outlook is also indicative of the warm Indian Ocean’s effect, whereby above-average ‘build-up’ rainfall is forecast to defy the El Niño influence. The moderating effect of the warm Indian Ocean appears to be reflected in the current 3-monthly rainfall outlook which forecasts average- to above-average rainfall over the Northern Territory.

Wet season & tropical cyclone outlook
Another impact of El Niño for northern Australia is that monsoon onset is typically delayed; more likely to occur later than the average onset date around Christmas-time. The positive spin on this is that an early-season tropical cyclone is less likely than usual. Tropical cyclone numbers are also generally lower than usual during El Niño, and more likely to form in the Gulf of Carpentaria than over waters to the north or west of the Territory. The effect of El Niño wanes by the middle of the austral summer, and also has little to no influence on northern Australian rainfall after the monsoon onset has occurred. By this stage, other climate drivers such as the Madden-Julian Oscillation have a far greater influence.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY:
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