The fracking moratorium is lifted – and the hard work begins for the NTCA

The NT Government has announced that it will lift the moratorium on gas exploration and production in the Northern Territory. Justice Pepper’s independent Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing made 135 recommendations, all of which the NTG have indicated will be implemented.

Paul Burke, CEO of the NTCA, says that the hard work starts now for the association to ensure that the proposed regulatory and legislative protections are developed in such a way that protects pastoral interests.

“The NTCA has fought hard to ensure that property rights are enshrined in law and that pastoral activities are a key focus for any proposed gas developments,” Mr Burke said.

“The final report from the Inquiry made the following recommendations which were all requested by the NTCA, and we welcome their inclusion and the increased scrutiny and compliance in relation to water quality, mine legacy issues and well integrity.”

Recommendation 14.6
That a statutory land access agreement be required by legislation. That prior to undertaking any onshore shale gas activity on a Pastoral Lease (including but not limited to any exploration or production activity), a land access agreement must be negotiated and signed by the Pastoral Lessee and the gas company. That breach of the land access agreement be a breach of the relevant exploration or production approval giving rise to the onshore shale gas activity being carried out on the land.

Recommendation 14.7
That in addition to any terms negotiated between the pastoralist and the gas company, the statutory land access agreement must contain the above standard minimum protections for pastoralists.

Recommendation 14.8
That prior to the grant of any further exploration permits or production approvals, the Government enacts a minimum mandatory compensation scheme payable to Pastoral Lessees for all onshore shale gas production on their Pastoral Lease. Compensation should be calculated by reference to the impact that the development will have on the Pastoral Lease and the Pastoral Lessee, for example, the number of wells drilled, the value of the land (both before and after), and the area of land cleared and rendered unavailable for pastoral activities.

Recommendation 14.9
That the Government considers whether a royalty payment scheme should be implemented to compensate Pastoral Lessees prior to any further production approvals being granted.

The NTCA will provide a detailed update to all members at the next round of Branch Meetings.

NTCA Conference Wrap-up
All the action and photos from the recent NTCA Conference in Alice Springs
Continue reading on pg.12

New President for the NTCA!
The NTCA Welcomes Chris Nott as the new President of the NTCA.
More information on pg.2

NTCA BRANCH MEETINGS

BARKLY:
22 May, DPI Meeting Room.

ALICE SPRINGS:
23 May, Bohning Yards Training Room

TOP END:
28 May, North Australia Room, NADO

KATHERINE:
29 May, Katherine Research Station

Thank you to branch meeting sponsor: Tanami Rural Property
The Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association (NTCA) is pleased to announce Mr. Christopher Nott of Alcoota Station has been elected the 13th President of the Association. The 34th Annual General Meeting held in Alice Springs on the 22nd of March unanimously endorsed Mr. Nott into this prestigious role.

Outgoing President Tom Stockwell from Sunday Creek Station has led the Association since 2015 and the NTCA acknowledges the significant contribution that he has made to the association and industry as a whole.

Mr. Stockwell said he has enjoyed his tenure at the NTCA, during which time he steered the Association through some challenging issues, including the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory, the Northern Territory Election, the Pastoral Land Reform Bill and the Review into Land Access Arrangements.

Mr. Stockwell praised his successor and commended the membership on their choice. “Chris is an exemplary fellow, a renowned pastoralist, and a good thinker. I have no doubt he will lead the NTCA to great heights,” he said.

“Mr. Nott has been a tireless and hardworking member of the NTCA’s Alice Springs Branch, where he previously served as the Branch President and the NTCA representative on Cattle Council Australia,” Mr. Stockwell said.

Mr. Nott said “I am looking forward to tackling the opportunities that the role of President of the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association will bring. “The Northern Territory’s pastoral industry is in great shape thanks to the diligent work of the NTCA Executive, the governance of its branches, and the willingness of its members. We must remain collectively strong as we engage with upcoming legislative reforms and seek to continue to grow and support our industry.”

The position of President of the NTCA is appointed annually, with a maximum tenure of three terms. Mr. Stockwell retires having served the Association for the maximum period. The NTCA is delighted that the remainder of the Executive Committee who served diligently throughout 2017 will serve the association and industry again in 2018.
NT Native Title proceedings explained

Overview by Bradly Torgan, Ward Keller

It is no secret that native title matters can move at an excruciatingly slow pace. Many applications have languished before the courts for over 15 years. Recent action by the Federal Court in the Northern Territory, though, suggest some at least modest changes may be afoot.

Before his retirement in 2016, then Justice Mansfield expressed frustration with the pace at which NLC was moving native title matters forward. His successor in native title matters, Justice White, has gone even further. At an October 2016 callover, a Federal Court hearing held every six months to review the progress of native title proceedings filed by the NLC, Justice White ordered NLC to show why 27 claims should not be dismissed because of its failure to prosecute, showing a lack of due diligence in moving those cases forward. Most of the claims were polygon claims, based on the boundaries of mining titles rather than pastoral leases.

NLC discontinued 10 of the 27 applications and three more were granted additional time in which to consider discontinuance. This, however, wasn’t good enough. In a May 2017 decision, Justice White dismissed 11 of the remaining 14 applications because of NLC’s lack of due diligence in prosecuting those claims. In doing so, the judge noted that the applications “have been on foot for a very long time without any action being taken to prosecute them or to prosecute replacement applications based on the pastoral leases to which they relate”. He also noted the applicants made no attempt to meet timeframes they themselves had represented to the Court.

NLC appealed Justice White’s decision, but in November 2017 a three-judge appellate panel rejected that appeal. Among the panel’s holdings was that it wasn’t enough for NLC to claim it lacked the resources to prosecute the applications.

Does this mean changes, even modest changes, are afoot for how native title applications are prosecuted in the Northern Territory? Time will tell. The next Federal Court callover, the first since the appellate proceedings filed by the NLC, Justice White ordered NLC to show why 27 claims should not be dismissed because of its failure to prosecute, showing a lack of due diligence in moving those cases forward. Most of the claims were polygon claims, based on the boundaries of mining titles rather than pastoral leases.

For further details or to comment - please contact Bradly Torgan at bradlytorgan@wardkeller.com.au or Kevin Stephens at kevinstephens@wardkeller.com.au.

DO YOU WANT TO WORK AT THE NTCA?

The NTCA is currently seeking an OFFICE MANAGER for our Darwin office - applications close 11 May

The NTCA Office Manager provides administrative and operational support to the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Committee of the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association (NTCA) and associated trading entity Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Trading Company Pty Ltd (NTCT).

For a copy of the position description please contact the NTCA Darwin office on office.darwin@ntca.org.au

NTCA WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Allison Dakin: New NTCA Business Development Officer

Allison Dakin has taken up the Darwin-based role of Business Development Officer specialising in diversification. Allison has been involved with the beef industry since leaving school and she and her husband have worked on and managed corporate cattle stations throughout the Territory and Queensland. While living and working remotely, she studied for her law degree and became a solicitor/barrister.

“Following a short stint of contract work in Canberra, we moved to Darwin and I tried a few different areas of law – but found myself back in the pastoral industry as an agribusiness lawyer.”

“I worked for Ward Keller for a few years but found that sitting in front of a computer all day was incredibly boring compared to working on a cattle station, so I jumped at the opportunity that came up to join the NTCA and work directly with producers.”

To get in touch with Allison, email: allison.dakin@ntca.org.au

Damon Alexander joins the NTCA Real Jobs Program team

Damon Alexander has joined the NTCA’s Katherine-based Real Jobs Program team as Field Officer.

Qualified carpenter and builder Damon hails from Mt Larcom and Barcaldine in Queensland and grew up on cattle stations before running his own small station. He later moved north and got to Katherine, where he worked in various jobs including at the local Landmark outlet. He also led a crew working on footpaths and building maintenance in Gunbalanya in Arnhem Land – before seeing, and successfully applying for the advertised RJP Field Officer position he now holds in Katherine.

“I’ve so far been out to Yarralin, Bulla, Daly Waters, Binjari and other parts of the Territory to meet and talk to recruits. I’ve also been involved with recent training at Bohning Yards and have just delivered three trainees to their workplace postings at Mount Sanford and Birrindudu in the VRD.”

To get in touch with Damon, email: field.officer@ntca.org.au
The recent quiet passing of admired cattleman and industry leader, John Underwood AM, has left heavy hearts but a significant legacy across the northern cattle industry and community.

John Underwood, aged 77, went to rest in Darwin on Friday 16 March during the portentous quiet before Cyclone Marcus which put an exclamation mark on a life lived with similar dynamism.

Acknowledging John Underwood’s immense legacy to industry, NTCA President Tom Stockwell recalled, “for more than 50 years John Underwood has been a central pillar of the Territory cattle industry, contributing at all levels, from the development of Riveren Station in the VRD from scratch, through to representing the NT at the national level.” In the Queen’s Birthday Honours in 1998 he was named a Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to primary industry, particularly the cattle industry, and to the community.

John Underwood was born in Townsville, Qld, in 1940 and came north as a child in 1950 when his parents, Pat and Peg, became managers of the Kimberley’s Bedford Downs for Pat’s brother Tom Quilty, before purchasing Inverway Station in the Territory in 1956. John completed his education at Gatton College by acquiring his Diploma in Animal Husbandry and returned to Inverway in 1960. In 1968 he married Sydney nurse Terry Augustus and they set up camp on the eastern end of Inverway on the headwaters of the historic Victoria River. Over the ensuing years the family and property development were inextricably linked. Their cattle station called Riveren became a separate lease in 1978. John and Terry have four children, Marie, Patrick, Michael and Rebecca.

John Underwood was a founding and Life Member of the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association and its President from 1990-93. He was the inaugural Chair of the Katherine Branch and represented Territory interests at both the National Farmers’ Federation and Cattle Council of Australia. In presenting Life Membership honours in 2010, Ken Warriner said: “On behalf of NTCA, I salute inveterate cattleman John Underwood for his exceptional family contribution and personal dedication and leadership.”

John contributed and led across the spectrum of the pastoral and NT community. Whether it was research, education, bushfires, land management or racing, John was committed. He was an inaugural member of the Kidman Springs Advisory Committee during the 80s and the first Chairman of Katherine Pastoral Industry Advisory Committee, Chair of the Katherine Rural College, and member of Landcare and Bushfire committees. He cut his teeth as President of the Kimberley Goldfields Amateur Jockey Club from 1966-69.

John was a stalwart of the introduction of Brahman genetics into NT herds, and represented the NT on the Australian Brahman Breeders Association. Apart from all their industry related contributions, the Underwoods were pivotal in bringing Katherine pastoral families together through their long-time support of the Katherine School of the Air. Despite how busy John was and how many important roles he was carrying out both at home and away, he always had time for a yarn and a smile for the shy bush kids from all over the region as they gathered at school functions. “John’s selfless contributions from the family property through to the national industry started with a 600km drive to Katherine. His commitment to family and community is a lesson and legacy for us all,” Mr Stockwell said.

The services of John Underwood AM to community and industry and mankind were exemplary. John was husband, father, grandfather, cattleman and agri-politician. Above all he was a survivor. After a long illness John passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on 16 March.

A celebration of John Underwood’s life was held at St Mary’s Cathedral in Darwin on Thursday 22 March and a private burial followed in Perth on Monday 26 March.

John is deeply honoured and loved by his wife Terry, children Marie, Patrick, Michael and Rebecca, and 12 grandchildren.
Seeking Nuffield Scholars for 2018

Nuffield Australia has launched its new campaign to unearth the best and brightest talent in Australian agriculture to apply scholarships in 2019.

The program aims to encourage primary producers from around the nation to put their name forward for a 2019 Nuffield Scholarship. The application period is open until 15 June 2018.

Nuffield Australia CEO Jodie Dean says said the theme, Produce Change, was inspired and encouraged by both the successes of existing Scholars and the next wave of farmers, who are redefining agriculture in an age of unprecedented technological advances and globalisation.

“Produce Change is designed to get Australia’s agricultural community excited about the Nuffield Scholarship program, and to encourage farmers and farm managers aged from 28-45 to apply for the unique experience it offers,” Ms Dean says.

“So producing change goes straight to the heart of what we do at Nuffield. Nuffield Scholars research and deliver practical change that adds real value to farm businesses and the Australian community more broadly,” Ms Dean said.

“Our scholarships push farmers to take the next leap in their career, whether that be an end goal of farm expansion, diversification or professional development – the scholarships are a key to unlock change. This year, there are up to 25 scholarships on offer, each valued at $30,000.

“Each scholarship runs for 18 months and enables farmers to travel overseas for 16 weeks, to discover and learn from some of the best operators in the business, who are making a meaningful impact on their industry, and to share those learnings back home.

“I strongly encourage Australian farmers to consider a study topic and to apply for a 2019 Nuffield Scholarship. It’s an investment that your farm will thank you for.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, or to apply, visit: http://nuffield.com.au/

New cattle transfer facility for Port Augusta

Livestock carriers delivering Northern Territory cattle into South Australia now have access to a new cattle transfer facility at Yorkeys Crossing that provides wide load truck bypass through Port Augusta.

Around 80,000 head of Territory cattle transit south to Port Augusta each year and until now, rudimentary interchange facilities at the crossing have posed risks for both the drivers and their livestock cargo.

The new set-up allows a road train to pull up safely alongside another, and cattle will be able to transit back and forth safely between the trailers. It also provides a bridge between the two trucks so that drivers can manage the flow of cattle in a safe manner.

John Fraser from IOR Petroleum Pty Ltd says the $250,000 Yorkeys Crossing project involved moving 3000 tonnes of stone to build the new hard stand and install the cattle cross-loading facility. “This work has provided a great new facility that’s legally accessible by three-trailer road trains,” John says. “It will provide a much safer truck-to-truck working environment in all weather conditions. There’s excellent lighting and plenty of room for access so people won’t get trapped and cattle won’t be able to escape.”

He said the yard is well fenced and will be security-gated. Planned future amenities include an improved toilet and shower block in the near future.

John says drivers will have ready access to the facility during working hours from 7am to 5pm when the gates will be unlocked and will be able to obtain security access at other times. The IOR fuel facility is also now onsite so drivers can access the tanks to refuel. The facility will be manned full-time, and likely clients have been asked to sign a waiver accepting responsibility for using the facility.

The new cattle transfer hub has been built by the Toowoomba-based heavy haulage equipment company, RYTRANS.

FOR MORE DETAILS – Contact John Fraser
P: 07 3895 4465
E: john.fraser@ior.com.au
Future beef industry leaders step up

The NT Cattlemen’s Association introduced and welcomed the 2018 participants of its Future NTCA Program at the 34th annual conference in Alice Springs in March.

The latest contingent of future leaders were endorsed by the NTCA Executive during a rigorous selection process. They come from every corner of the Territory and include:

- Shannan Hayes: Undoolya Station (Alice Springs Branch)
- Tianee Richardson: AACo Livingstone Beef (Top End Branch)
- Will Donaldson: Beetaloo Station (Barkly Branch)
- Morgan Richards: Rocklands Station (Barkly Branch)
- Hugh Dawson: Beetaloo Station (Barkly Branch)
- Mary Vaughan: Brunette Downs Station (Barkly Branch)
- Roley James: Hidden Valley Station (Katherine Branch)
- Kayla Kurnof: Charles Darwin University – Katherine Campus (Katherine Branch)
- Fiona Plunkett: Charles Darwin University – Katherine Campus (Katherine Branch)

Outgoing NTCA President Tom Stockwell has described Future NTCA as a structured leadership program designed to introduce younger individuals living and working in the pastoral industry to the association, its work and the importance of strong and unified representation of the industry on a Territory, national and international stage.

A 2017 program participant Rachael Connell said her 12 months with Future NTCA had presented some ‘amazing opportunities’. “I attended MLA’s Red Meat 2017 convention as a representative of the NTCA, but the highlight for me was the two-day intensive Government Policy workshop and induction held in Darwin.” Rachel said.

Newcomer Fiona Plunkett said: “This is an amazing opportunity and I am excited to be participating in this program. I am really looking forward to getting to know the members of the 2018 Future NTCA program.”

The innovative program is in its fourth year of supporting aspiring Territory beef sector. “The NTCA’s membership includes many industry leaders and highly respected business people who act as mentors to the program participants with priceless benefits for them,” Tom Stockwell said.

“The program plan for 2018 will be dynamic and flexible and will grow as the group develops.”

FOR FURTHER DETAILS – Contact Tom Ryan, NTCA Executive Officer
P: 0428 133 349

DELTA ELECTRICS AND KUBOTA HAVE BEEN HELPING TO POWER TERRITORY CATTLE STATIONS FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS.
The Bohning Yards near Alice Springs has been home to the newest Real Jobs Program (RJP) recruits since Easter as they completed their pre-employment training camp.

Fifteen participants from nine different Top End communities were interviewed and recruited for employment on Northern Territory cattle stations in 2018.

“The young men and women are aged between 16 and 26 and have been down in the NTCA Alice Springs Training facility since Easter,” RJP coordinator Kerrie Cokley says. “This training block has focused on delivering the basic skills they require to confidently join a cattle station stock camp.

“All our team has been working hard to establish a solid understanding of horsemanship, motor bikes, vehicle maintenance, fencing, stock waters, leather craft and welding. The 2018 program has seen an introduction of Mindworks training that has been tailor-made for our young Indigenous team which has been entitled "Outsmarting the Herd". It’s been amazing to see the participants grow in confidence and be ready to tackle any given task.

New recruit Kayla Gellar from Katherine says she’s been waiting two years to get into the program. “I’m very proud to be given this opportunity to train and learn for my dream job in the pastoral industry,” she says. Kayla will be joining Heytesbury Pastoral Company out at Mt Sanford Station with fellow RJP participant Leroy Woodroffe from Lingiari.

The Real Jobs Program is funded by the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) and has been running for eight years.

NTCA currently has two field officers who recruit, train and mentor the young men and women during their two-year contract with their host stations.

New RJP recruits in training for 2018

**To find out more call Achmea on 1800 724 214 or visit achmea.com.au**

200 years ago, 39 farmers put money into a glass jar, to be compensated in the event one of them had a haystack fire. Today, this mutual approach to farm insurance remains alive and well in Achmea Australia.

Part of one of the world’s largest mutual insurers, we’re committed to reducing your farm production risk. Our glass jar represents our dedication to a mutual partnership built on trust and transparency. Above all, we exist to keep you farming.
Farewell to a pastoral legend.
The North Australian cattle community has lost a great leader with the passing of John Underwood AM. I was honoured to pay tribute to this legendary man during Parliamentary sittings in March.
Mr Underwood’s contribution to the industry was immense and he leaves behind an amazing legacy. Whether it was pastoral research, education, bushfire and land management, or simply a smile and a yarn, John was prepared to put in the hard yards.
John was a founding member of the NTCA and was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his service to primary industries in 1998. He will be sadly missed.

Strong start to live exports in 2018.
The Northern Territory cattle industry has had a great start to the year, with 30,000 head of cattle exported through Darwin in January alone. The figures are more than double those of January 2017 and show demand for Australian cattle remains high, particularly in Asia.

Vietnam trade visit.
I visited Vietnam with the NTCA’s Tom Ryan and NT Buffalo Industry Council’s Louise Bilato late last year to build on the Territory’s relationship with our Asian trading partners. It was clear during the visit that that relationship with Vietnam remains strong. I had meetings with the Minister of Industry and Trade and the Vice-Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development and both stressed the idea of increasing trade with us under future Free Trade Agreements. The Territory delegation toured the Hao Phat Company near Hanoi and the Ket Phat Thinh Company near Ho Chi Minh City. Both have made considerable investments in modern feedlot and abattoir facilities to improve animal welfare standards and secure more Australian beef. The Territory is in a prime position to supply this beef, especially with the NT Government’s $4.1 million upgrade to the Berrimah Export Yards almost complete. These works mean we have a world-class facility that can be used year-round.

I also recently met with NTCA CEO Paul Burke to address issues ranging from the Pastoral Land Act Amendment Bill and volumetric loading for livestock transport to the Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry and the Chinese cattle trade.

Honour for an emerging leader
Talking with NTCA CEO Paul Burke and others at the 34th NTCA Industry Conference in Alice Springs in March, it was clear the sector is in good hands.

Well done to the NTCA and the ILC for supporting this award through the Real Jobs Program, and congratulations to Travis.

Hon. Ken Vowles – Minister for Primary Industry and Resources
President calls for strong membership renewal

Outgoing NTCA President Tom Stockwell has urged all Territory cattle industry stakeholders to help keep their association strong as their representative body by renewing their membership for 2018.

"The NTCA is there strategically, proactively and reactively to protect and advance the interests of members from the issues of legislation, red tape and external opponents, while working to secure and enhance market and production opportunities," said Mr Stockwell.

He highlighted the following diverse issues addressed in 2017 year or presently ongoing:

- Mining and Petroleum Co-existence
- Land Tenure, Land Valuations and Pastoral Rent
- Native Title and Aboriginal Land Rights
- Northern Beef Industry Strategic Plan
- Trade and Market Development – including China
- Biosecurity and Animal Welfare Act Review
- Weed, Pest and Feral Animal Control
- Stock Theft and Trespassing
- NBN, UHF Radio Communications and ABC Shortwave Radio
- Livestock Transport and Heavy Vehicle Safety
- Roads, Rail and Critical Infrastructure
- Rangelands and Natural Resource Management
- Water Allocation Planning and Licence Reviews
- Remote Health, Education and Services
- LGAP – Livestock Global Assurance Program
- South East Asia Relations – strengthening ties and market access
- Diversification on Pastoral Leases
- Industrial Relations and Work-Health & Safety
- Working Holiday Maker Review
- Working Partnerships with Industry Organisations and Federal & Territory Governments
- Industry Leadership, Community Extension and Awareness

“That’s a significant range of issues confronting our industry and I dread to think of some of the deleterious outcomes if we did not have a strong NTCA membership and staff to act on our behalf,” he said. “Our dedicated staff are the front line in achieving the association’s aims and I thank them one and all for the effort they put in during 2017.

“Continued member support has enabled the NTCA to be recognised as one of the most influential and relevant state industry bodies in Australia. The strength of the NTCA is in its membership, united voice and consistent approach to addressing challenges and opportunities for our industry.

"To advance and protect the interests of our members the NTCA shall continue to remain engaged and informed at all levels, seeking at all times to enhance long-term productive relationships with our trading and supply chain partners, consumers, the broader community and other stakeholders.

"Your continued involvement in our association is critical and I invite you to renew your membership in 2018 and contribute your ideas and opinions at the branch and association level."

Please contact the Darwin NTCA office with any questions:
Ph: 08 8981 5972

Manual renewal forms are available for those having issues with the online system.

ALICE SPRINGS CATTLE SALES 2018

The NTCA advises that four cattle sales are scheduled to be held at Bohning Yards in 2018, on the following dates:

- Thursday 31st May
- Thursday 5 July
  (Alice Springs Show Sale)
- Thursday 26th July
- Thursday 6th September

FOR FURTHER DETAILS - or to book in cattle, please contact your preferred agent:

TERRITORY RURAL MCPHERSON
David Eagleson – 0419 925 033
Andrew Carcary – 0428 271 799

ELDERS
Herbie Neville – 0409 696 354
Michael Newman – 0439 888 543

LANDMARK
Stephen Gaff – 0417 157 707

NATURAL RESOURCE MAPS AVAILABLE

The Northern Territory Department of Environment & Natural Resources hosts a useful online mapping tool called Natural Resource (NR) Maps.

NR Maps is a web mapping tool for discovering, researching and mapping natural and cultural research data, including bore records.

You can do all of the following with NR Maps NT:

- Turn different layers of information on and off
- Create your own maps
- Download maps, reports and data
- Email your area of interest with red-lines and mark-ups.

To get started, and for advice on how to use the mapping service, use the link: https://nt.gov.au/environment/environment-data-maps/natural-resource-maps-nt

To go direct to the mapping tool, follow the link:  http://nrmaps.nt.gov.au/

Please contact Geospatial Services on (08) 8999 4577 or the NTCA office for further information.
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| Width (m)  | 9  |
| Height (m) | 4.2|
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| Length (m) | 30 |
| Width (m)  | 15 |
| Height (m) | 5.5|
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| Width (m)  | 12 |
| Height (m) | 3.6|
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PO Box 106, Alice Springs, NT 0871

TERMS & CONDITIONS
Prices shown are supply only. The printed shed colours shown here have been reproduced to represent actual colours, however we recommend checking your chosen colour against an actual product sample before purchasing, as varying light conditions and print limitations affect colour tones. Prices exclude council approvals, windows, lift doors, skylights, flooring.
Emergency Medical Kit (EMK) holders have been invited to attend EMK training days in Darwin on Friday 18 May and in Katherine on Friday 31 August.

Organisers advise that attendance at Emergency Medical Kit Training Information Days is recommended every two years and must be completed every three years for kit holders to be eligible for an injectables licence. Potential Kit holders are encouraged to attend.

The one-day EMK training sessions, organised through Top End Health Services, will provide basic information and training for people accessing the Department of Health, Emergency Medical Kits. Our trainer, Dr Rosemary Lee, will also provide instruction on how to give an intramuscular injection and at the conclusion of the course you will be authorised to hold injectables in your kit.

More information on training days start times and Program Schedules will be sent out ASAP.

Spaces for each training session are limited to 20, so would-be participants have been urged to register their names asap.

Katherine training location: Training Room of the Resource Building at Katherine Hospital Campus, 1939 Gorge Road, Katherine

Darwin training location: Ground Floor Training Room at Casuarina Plaza Building, Corner of Vanderlin Drive and Trower Road, Casuarina

FOR FURTHER DETAILS
Contact Emma or Iona:
P: 08 8922 8220
E: RMPAdmin. TERHmedical@nt.gov.au

Potential industry benefits from new Pacific Labour Scheme

Northern Territory cattle producers and other agriculture and horticulture businesses may be able to access workers under a new labour scheme announced by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull at last September’s Pacific Islands Forum Leaders’ Meeting.

CEO Paul Burke met with Lorenzo Strano OAM from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s Pacific Integration, Labour Mobility and Security Cooperation Branch recently for a briefing on potential benefits available through the new Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS).

The department has announced the scheme will begin in July this year with an initial intake of up to 2,000 workers and will enable residents from Pacific Island countries to take up low and semi-skilled work opportunities in rural and regional Australia for up to three years.

The scheme, which contains protections to safeguard against worker exploitation, requires labour market testing to be carried out to ensure Australians have priority for local jobs, and that workers be employer-sponsored.

The Pacific Labour Facility will connect Australian employers with Pacific workers and support the administration of the scheme in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Queries about the scheme should be addressed to: PacificLabourMobility@dfat.gov.au

Pastoral trifecta for 2018 NT Rural Women’s Award

All three 2018 finalists for the Northern Territory Rural Women’s Award have strong links to the pastoral sector and identified important areas for development in NT regional, remote and rural communities.

Linda Blackwood won this year’s AgriFutures-sponsored award for a station site access accreditation project that would reduce risk and increase efficiency for remote stations hiring contractors. Linda received a $10,000 bursary to support the project and will represent the Northern Territory (NT) at the national awards ceremony in September.

Amber Driver identified challenges faced by rural women living in the NT as a key focus area. She proposed a number of workshops to equip women with the tools to generate positive pathways for self-prosperity, resilience, success and to encourage them to take on new roles to serve both the rural sector and the community.

Annette Howie established Country Connections NT, a network that provides rural, regional and remote women across the Territory with links to support services, community groups, government and private enterprise. She is working to further develop the project onto digital platforms that connect and inform.

In addition to the $10,000 bursary Linda will have access to professional development opportunities and alumni networks.

She will go on to represent the Territory at the national awards in Canberra in September. The national winner will receive a further $10,000.
The Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association’s 34th Annual General Meeting and Conference in Alice Springs in March was another outstanding success, hosting more than 480 delegates for two days of invigorating presentations, debate, meetings, networking opportunities and social events.

This years’ conference theme, Innovation Generation, was supported by a world-class line-up of experts who left many attendees awe-struck by their explanations of the world’s dramatically-changing technology and its future implications for the cattle industry and other agricultural sectors.

The full-day conference session, staged at the Alice Springs Convention Centre on 23 March, was officially opened by Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources David Littleproud and closed by NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner. Its agenda challenged the Territory pastoral industry to take on board the emerging issues facing current and future producer generations. In the ‘Future Perspectives’ panel session, which took place in the final session of the day, leaders of Australia’s peak livestock and agricultural industry bodies presented their insights into the ever-changing beef supply chain, perceptions of an increasingly informed consumer, and opportunities for the northern beef herd. ABC Country Hour’s Matt Brann moderated the session which included NTCA President Tom Stockwell, MLA Chair Dr Michele Allan, NFF President Fiona Simson and CCA President Howard Smith.

This years’ conference participants included beef cattle and live export cattle producers, industry partners and other stakeholders from throughout Australia and overseas. Attending dignitaries included Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O’Halloran AM, Administrator of the Northern Territory who, with other judges, helped select the impressive winners from among this years’ record-breaking 200 entries in the NTCA & Elders Amateur Photographic Competition.

As in previous years, the NTCA Conference attracted keen local and national media attention, resulting in solid radio, television and print coverage, as well as comprehensive social media attention – with live tweets a special feature of the main event.

The complimentary program included the ever-popular NTCA & Bilba Group Ladies’ Lunch, held this year at Tali Restaurant, the NTCA & Pioneer Water Tanks Welcome Drinks, a speakers’ and media field trip to Orange Creek Station and the Bohning Yards, and valuable networking opportunities with plenty of scope for sponsors to pitch their products.

The conference program wound up in traditional festive style at Friday night’s sell-out NTCA & AACo Gala Dinner at the Alice Springs Turf Club, where 480 guests wined, dined, and kicked up their heels. They were also on hand to celebrate the outstanding achievements of the NTCA’s newest Life Members, Roy Chisholm and Tracey Hayes, and this years’ Life Member Medal recipient, long-term animal welfare consultant Geoffrey Beere. Outgoing NTCA President Tom Stockwell was also honoured for his significant efforts on behalf of members during his three years at the NTCA helm.

Paul Burke, who was overseeing his first NTCA annual conference since taking up the CEO role, reported ‘tremendous feedback’ from attendees and praised his staff for their efforts over many months to bring the ambitious program together.

With the 2018 event now packed up and out of the way, planning is already in progress for the 35th Annual Conference to be staged in Darwin in March 2019.

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NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN’S ASSOCIATION | 34th AGM & INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

INNOVATION GENERATION

--- Alice Springs ---
CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

Thank you Sponsors
A TOP-CLASS 2018 SPEAKER LINE-UP

SEAN STARLING – General Manager, Research, Development and Innovation, MLA:
MLA executive team member Sean Starling is responsible for MLA’s $170 million annual R&D investment program across the Australian red meat industry supply chain. He has spent most of his career working with food value chains.

HIS TOPIC: Innovation and Future Developments in the Red Meat Industry - Sean presented a fascinating insight into MLA embracing dramatically advanced technology and innovative solutions to help shape the beef industry’s future.

WESLEY LEFROY – Agricultural Analyst with RaboResearch and Agribusiness, Rabobank:
Wes, who grew up on a WA sheep farm, specialises in the agricultural technology, fertiliser and grains and oilseeds sectors. He hosts a farmer-advisory series called ‘Tuesday Tech Talk’ on the RaboResearch Podcast channel.

HIS TOPIC: Blockchain & Banking in the Future - Wes presented conference delegates with an outline on how ‘blockchain’ and other technologies are becoming more relevant and valuable for Northern Territory cattle producers.

DAVID O’MAHONEY – Australian & New Zealand Head of Small Business GMS, Google
As Google’s current team leader for Australia and New Zealand, digital industry specialist David has guided hundreds of Google partners to success with their digital strategies.

HIS TOPIC: Google Development for Regional and Remote Locations – David’s presentation outlined how Google – a global giant prepared to find solutions – plans to connect the world with Territory beef producers.

TIM GENTLE – Founder, Think.Digital
Tim is a 20-year marketing and digital veteran and is described as an enthusiastic digital crusader, educator and entrepreneur – as well as an advocate for regional and rural Australia. He has shared his industry knowledge through 1500 worldwide workshops and created the virtual reality farming experience, #FarmVR, to educate people about an agricultural career path and where their food comes from.

HIS TOPIC: Immersing Yourself in Technology – Tim used a lively and entertaining presentation to share aspects of his virtual reality technology, outline the unprecedented advances in technology and give delegates an insight into the digital future of agriculture.

NTCA & Pioneer Water Tanks Welcome Drinks!
Photographs from the always popular NTCA & Pioneer Water Tanks Welcome Drinks

ABOVE: Andy Hayes (The Garden Stn) & Mick Newman (Elders ASP) catch up at the Welcome Drinks.
BELOW: NTCA members enjoyed the Welcome Drinks with a stunning backdrop of the MacDonnell Ranges.

ABOVE: Professor John Ackerman and Simon Winter (SEALS).
BELOW: NTCA members from the Barkly enjoy a catch-up.

ABOVE: Tom Stockwell leading the crowd for a toast to the late John Underwood AM.
BELOW: The Pioneer Pub is always a huge hit!
Dr Phil Holmes’ key points for farm business success

Dr Phil Holmes is in the business of helping lift the profits of corporate and family-owned farm enterprises across Australia – and he had some sound independent advice for NT cattle operations when he addressed the NTCA’s 2018 conference.

Key points he presented are from a recent independent report published by the NSW-based Holmes and Company, of which Dr Holmes is the Principal.

Dr Holmes stressed there were two barriers to profit in the Australian beef industry – a lack of critical thinking and a belief that the biggest amount of capital needed was financial rather than intellectual capital. He highlighted production costs, kilograms of beef produced and labour efficiency as the three Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for a cattle business.

“Labour and labour related expenses constitute about 70 percent of the business’ total overheads and about 45-50 percent of total operational expenditure, so if your labour efficiency is not right, it has long tentacles that go right through the core structure of the business and make it hard for you,” he said.

Dr Holmes said a mindset of needing to avoid paying tax at all costs was alive and well among Australian agricultural businesses. “If you have this attitude, you’ve got no prospects of ever having a good business. If you want to make a profit on the bottom line, you have to pay tax, and the more tax you’re paying, the better.”

Addressing barriers to profit, while operating scale was generally critical to Australian farm businesses, the biggest issue for NT pastoral businesses was operating efficiency in relation to land, labour and livestock.

He further advised:
• You cannot afford to have lower grade country. Due diligence on rangeland condition must be your number one priority because no matter how good a manager you are, if you’re operating in second-rate country you’ll be going into a permanent headwind.
• If labour efficiency is too low, herd performance will suffer. The ‘sweet spot’ is roughly one full-time equivalent running 800-900 breeders and followers. Every dollar spent on labour saving aspects, e.g. laneways, will be the best dollar you’ve ever spent. In terms of herd productivity, the three elements that determine whether you’ll get optimum weight are the reproductive rate of the herd, mortality rate of the herd and how heavy they are at turnout.
• If you have a business that’s pretty ordinary, genetics will not save you – but on the plus side, if you have a highly productive business, genetics will act as a lever – ramping up business performance at no cost.

Dr Holmes said there was growing evidence from range-land ecologists that northern Australia was being over-grazed generally, while the opposite is true in southern Australia, where most land is being under-grazed because producers were not running the number of cattle they should be for the rainfall.

He also said the best producers focus on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and he encouraged NT producers to do this, despite the potential for distraction.

“A whole lot of people out there get caught up in fads and breakthroughs, especially with grazing management, and they’ll find out 10 years down the track that the whole thing was a complete waste of time. It’s got to be evidence-based. If something new is good, there will be good solid evidence.”

Field trip to Orange Creek Station

This year’s NTCA conference field trip for speakers and media representatives travelled 90 km south of Alice Springs to visit Orange Creek Station.

The station is owned and operated by Wally Klein and his family who run an average 4,000 breeders a year on their 2,400 sq km arid-zone property. The Kleins mostly raise Hereford cattle selected and bred for their superior meat quality and have feedlot capacity for 2,000 weaners. The yards near the homestead were expanded last year after having new feed bays added two years ago and will be further developed this year so that cattle numbers being fed on the homegrown crops can be increased.

With abundant groundwater beneath the station, the Kleins have also diversified into irrigated cropping and have developed 53 hectares of mixed crops for livestock and human consumption, using two giant centre pivot irrigators for watering purposes. The family has also ventured into tourism, offering tag-along tours for visitors, and is keenly interested in ecotourism concepts.

Wally says he and his family are keen to capitalise on the property’s ‘unbelievable opportunities’ and expand their cropping and breeding operations but are being constrained by a lack a lack of access to more water. His current licence allows him to draw 1,000 megalitres a year from a bore but he is frustrated over the lack of government action on an application submitted a few years ago for a licence to increase his water allowance.

Wally’s son Jacob, daughter Joella and granddaughter Madison are fourth and fifth generation pastoralists in the district.

On the way back from Orange Creek, the group called into the NTCA’s Bohning Yards to meet Operations Manager Noel Cuffe and inspect this strategically located Central Australian spelling and saleyard facility on the outskirts of Alice Springs.

Bohning Yards was Australia’s first such facility to receive Organic Certification, and it continues to set standards for livestock complexes across the country. The yards complex has about 100 pens, and predominantly houses cattle but is equipped to also care for horses, donkeys, buffalo and camels if necessary. Special training facilities are also now being built onsite to support the yards’ training role for the NTCA’s Real Jobs Program.

ABOVE: Noel Cuffe, Operations Manager at the Bohning Yards, talks to the group.

BELOW: Wally Klein showing the group the centre pivots at Orange Creek.
A mix of praise and home-truths as President Stockwell hands over the reins

In his customary hard-hitting annual report presented to the 34th NTCA Conference, outgoing President Tom Stockwell highlighted energy, water, land and people as the major elements likely to impact on the future of the Territory pastoral industry.

The recently-completed Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory was a key focus. Tom said the Inquiry’s recommendations had responded mostly positively to NTCA submissions, and he praised its professional handling of the consultation process in what had been a difficult issue for the association and its members.

He acknowledged the enormous work and effort of the NTCA staff and Board, especially the Petroleum Working Group subcommittee, to capture and represent the wide-ranging interests and views of all members.

“I think we are in a much better position than we were before the Inquiry,” he said. “But regardless of the government’s response, there is still much to do to ensure land access agreements are developed and legislated to cover the petroleum, mining and fossicking sector, and that economic compensation stays in the regions. Much has been achieved to date but the process needs to be finished.”

The President’s report also criticised high-profile NT environmental lobby group claims of potential climate change affects in their attempts to stymie or delay clearing on pastoral leases that had been through a rigorous approval process. The claims seemed frivolous, given the actual data available which shows their economics didn’t add up, he said.

“I don’t want to be seen standing in the way of progress and saving the planet, but I’ve asked Google and she couldn’t find any record of the hay producers and horse breeders of the 19th century subsidising the horseless carriage industry to help them run themselves out of business. Like carbon sequestration, this country seems to have abundant energy sources that could be used to make us more productive and competitive, but energy policy seems to have the blinkers and hobbles well and truly on.”

Tom singled out praise for the Pastoral Land Board’s professional work and dedication. “They apply experience, qualifications, and technical knowledge to the application of the Pastoral Lands Act, which provides a solid legislative backbone for the NT’s maths and physics and all that stuff and coming up with all sorts of good ideas for the place,” he said.

The outgoing President also observed:

• ‘This year’s focus has been on the commercial, political and social environment surrounding our lives, families and businesses. It is a cautionary tale of the significant risks to our tenure and productivity but we need to acknowledge the significant opportunities ahead and the recent gains in productivity and markets. I am optimistic and confident of the future for my community and my kids, but it will not happen without a commitment to taking responsibility for the future.’

• In light of government donkey culling programs on Kidman Springs Research Station from the late 1960s, ‘many would be turning in their graves’ at reports that the government has now purchased a breeding herd of feral donkeys for genetic improvement studies at the VRD facility.

• ‘Through environmental and Indigenous Reserves and an inability or unwillingness to harness the wet season flood flows, NT policy has turned the Top End’s water into a scarce resource creating a market for middlemen to trade. A back-of-the-envelope calculation for the Top End Monsoonal zone suggests a quantum of about 400 million megalitres, falling over the wet season - equivalent to about 40 Ord Dams or 720 Sydney Harbours. Surely, we can have water as a competitive advantage rather than a scarce tradeable commodity.

• ‘Our industry members are proudly represented by the NTCA in the NT, nationally and internationally. We fund our own operations and aim to protect and advance the interests of members, but never at the expense of other Territorians. Given the longevity of our industry and our long-term commitment to the land, animals and people of the NT, our members have the positive future of the NT and our regional communities at the centre of their thinking.’

In closing, Tom said: “I’m forever thankful that the industry is full of talented, able, positive and persistent people, many of whom volunteer their time to the association.

“I am thankful too that we have the NTCA as an effective professional association to protect and advance our interests. We may by preference be independent and self-reliant people, but we need the unity of members and purpose to keep our pastoral community and the NT strong.”
Cattle industry at forefront in practical Indigenous job creation: Tom Stockwell

Outgoing President Tom Stockwell has highlighted the NTCA / ILC Real Jobs Program as an example of the cattle industry’s practical efforts to allow young Aboriginal people to train up and obtain jobs in the sector and said more than 300 had already been through the popular program.

He made the point while expressing concern for all Territorians about recent public announcements by the Northern Land Council (NLC) on rights, acquisition and power rather than quality of life. “This was evidenced by recent NLC calls for Northern Australia’s decolonisation, Native Title holders becoming landlords of the pastoral estate, and the allocation of Pastoral Land Board seats,” he said in his annual report to the 34th industry conference. “The NT Government response to this apparently bullying approach is worrying, with the NT News recently reporting ‘historic agreements’ to be announced at the Barunga Festival and with consultation referred to as ‘Treaty Talks’. Aboriginal rights and land ownership have been recognised and legislated and compensated for through: the NT Aboriginal Land Rights Act which aimed to acquire 25% of the NT and has acquired 48% and 80% of the coast line; the Native Title Act which has appropriate mechanisms in place to address future acts and opportunities; the Sacred Sites Act; and the Aboriginal Reconciliation Act.

“So, what would a treaty mean, why would the NT Government go there, what further erosion of pastoral property rights would be sold off with it, how much investment would it scare away, and why isn't this a discussion with all Territorians? Importantly, given our recent history, what chance is there of it making any substantive difference to the lives of normal Aboriginal people? Surely the Sisyphean era of separatism and division should be consigned to the bin of history and some optimistic common goal for all the NT be envisioned by our democratically elected parliament.”

FEDERAL MINISTER STAUNCHLY COMMITTED TO INDUSTRY ADVANCES

In his official opening address to the 34th NTCA conference, Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Minister David Littleproud urged cattle producers to be ‘proud and loud’ about what they do for Australia’s agricultural sector.

“When you walk into metropolitan Australia,” he said, “they need to understand and care about your livelihoods and what you do, and the ethically and environmentally responsible way in which you produce the best food and fibre in the world – and we should never let anyone in this country ever forget that. If we don’t let them forget, we’ll get better policy outcomes from all levels or government. We deserve that and it will unlock the potential of each and every one of you.”

Minister Littleproud said the Australian Government was focussed on empowering and providing tools – the environment and infrastructure - to help small rural and regional businesses help themselves to grow and develop and open up jobs. The government was not about doing the job for operators and getting entwined in their lives.

“Whether you are at the farm gate or in industries that support agriculture, you play an integral part in the future of this nation. We are the economic victors of this nation and you should never forget it – so let’s get on with the job, get government out of your lives and do what you do best.”

Touching on the ‘Innovation Generation’ focus, Mr Littleproud said Australia’s primary producers have always led the way in innovation - because they’ve had to. “We’ve done it from the very beginning and should be proud of that we’ve done, not only in agriculture but in many other ways that have led to technology advances that broader Australia enjoys as well.”

He highlighted Australian Government efforts in setting up free trade agreements with Japan, China, Korea, and Peru, and the recent signing of TPP 11 which opens up a $13.7 trillion global marketplace. “These are seeing real returns at the farm gate and these are the things we will continue to do,” he said. “My job is to get rid of technical barriers and get into the nitty gritty. We have 15 councillors in embassies and high commissions working at inter-government level to break down those technical barriers that are holding you back.

Minister Littleproud acknowledged the contribution of John Underwood AM and his family to the northern cattle industry. “We need true pioneers like John and there are true pioneers like him sitting in front of me here today who continue the legacy that he has created,” he said.

Minister Littleproud with Ben and Nicole Hayes during his visit to their Alice Springs property ‘Undoolya’ after the NTCA Conference
Sir Angus gives guidance on aerial mustering safety

This years’ keynote speaker at the NTCA conference, Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (retired) used Australian racing car champion Mark Skaife as an example of how things should be done in northern Australia’s aerial mustering sector.

“Mark Skaife is one of most professional and safety conscious people I’ve met,” Sir Angus told conference delegates. “He does a risk assessment every time he gets into a car. He mitigates any risk and everything is done in a totally professional way. That’s what it’s all about. Risk avoidance - and knowing how to use really well-developed what it’s all about. Risk avoidance - and is done in a totally professional way. That’s a car. He mitigates any risk and everything a risk assessment every time he gets into trouble.”

Sir Angus, who admitted to errors of judgement that taught him sound lessons in his own flying career, painted an unnerving picture of aerial mustering, particularly by helicopter.

They get on top of the business of flying then go into operating then into a very dangerous period where they become over confident and can do silly things. Having older experienced heads around can give them the right sort of mentoring, leadership and supervision.

Sir Angus described the ‘hazardous’ situation of pilots flying underpowered single engine helicopters at low level and often in middle of dead man’s curve where losing an engine means you’re going to hit the ground hard. “You can often be operating in dry dusty conditions and face the brownout wanted the aviation and aerial mustering business to go into the future. He suggested the association establish its own industry-based aviation safety group involving a large number of cattlemen and with a secretariat built around an appointed air safety expert. CASA could be invited along in an advisory role. The group could meet every four to six months to look at incidents and lessons learnt and provide direction down to membership on the best way to avoid things that might have happened - in other words, apply initiatives to improve safety and risk management in an operative way.

"It is imperative to establish a culture of increasing professionalism, the pursuit of excellence, and the right sort of safety standards to protect industry people, Sir Angus said. “You need to invest in the right people – reliable and self-disciplined people – and provide a training and preparation system where you set the standards you want the pilots to adhere to, you need to recognise and reward really good professional performance by pilots and promote them as being what all your pilots should be. Who wants to get into an aircraft that’s flown by a cowboy?”

He said the NTCA, as a strong industry body, needed to provide direction on where it wanted the aviation and aerial mustering business to go into the future.

He said the 2017 aerial mustering accident rate (in the northern aviation industry) of five accidents and one serious incident was higher than anywhere else in the community. He also revealed that 15 aerial mustering fatalities between 2007 to 2016, equated to the highest rate of accidents per man hours of any sector in the Australian aviation community.

“Every time an aircraft gets airborne for mustering, the mission focus is intense,” he said. “A lot of pilots are experienced young people who need to be developed and supervised. All pilots go through a phase where they think they are Teflon-coated. where you come in to land and can’t see anything because the dust reduces visibility to practically nothing. There are also distractions and pressure to get the job done and I imagine pilots are pretty fatigued at end of long day. It’s a highly demanding and hazardous environment.”

Sir Angus said risks could be reduced by good leadership at all levels to establish the right culture, and suggested principals that should followed to achieve what has to happen. He said the NTCA as a strong industry body needed to provide direction on where it

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**NTCA & Bilba Group Ladies Lunch!**

The NTCA & Bilba Group Ladies Lunch was held at Tali Restaurant on the 22nd of March and provided a great opportunity for NTCA members to catch up for a champagne or two. The NTCA thanks all of the valued sponsors of the Ladies Lunch.
Kaila Colbin – Riding the Tide of our Technological Future

Australian & New Zealand Ambassador for the Singularity University, Kaila Colbin, passionately believes that emerging technologies such as nano- and bio-technology are destined to massively increase human intelligence over the next two decades and fundamentally reshape the economy and society.

The American-born, Christchurch-based consultant, project management professional and renowned international public speaker offered 2018 NTCA conference-goers a raft of fascinating insights into the rapid progress of artificial intelligence – such as the price performance of computing doubling every one-and-a-half years for the past century.

She described the ‘doubling curve’ phenomenon that happens to all information-enabled technology, and cited smartphone photography, computing, artificial intelligence, robotics (e.g. driverless cars), bio- and nano-technology, gene sequencing, neuroscience, and energy as examples.

“This ongoing doubling of information-enabled technologies is going to accelerate even faster and dramatically change our future,” she said. Because of this, it will no longer be possible to use the past to predict the future.

Ms Colbin gave examples of how these changes could impact on agricultural production in the future, e.g. LED lighting, the price of which has dropped dramatically while lifespan has increased. This could dramatically improve the viability of indoor farming that relies heavily on artificial light, the exponentially-improving price performance of solar energy, bio-engineered eggs and milk the standards of which satisfy the world’s biggest industrial caterers and food manufacturers. Laboratory-cultured ‘fake meat’ is another example – a kilo of which has plummeted in price from an estimated staggering $2.3 million to $40,000 and down to just $80. Support for this product includes China recently signing a $300 million deal to invest in three Israel-based lab-grown meat producers supplying plant-based burgers to 6,000 restaurants and 5,000 food stores.

Ms Colbin said in light of such advances, the only two options for beef producers were to embrace the new lab-based technologies or go hard in the other direction; to 100% organic-certified meat.

“Trajectories for technological advancement affects every one of us and every industry, our government, healthcare, education – everything about the way we live and work is touched by these trajectories. Everything accelerates faster and adds up to huge opportunities like nothing we’ve ever seen in history, opportunities to solve our biggest challenges in healthcare, education and energy and to be able to make these things freely accessible to everyone on the planet.

However, this does not come without impacts, she says. Experts predicted in 2013, that massive numbers of jobs would be under threat from advanced technology within 20 years, and 40 percent of Australian jobs would be affected in 10 to 15 years.

“How will this all affect you? The first vector is to take what you are currently doing and automate it – and present it in the form of self-driving tractors, robots that can pick 10,000 apples in an hour without needing a visa or a break and never getting sick; hen robots that look nothing like a hen, that drive around making noises and that chickens will flock to and follow all over the place.

“My core message is we cannot look backwards to predict the future. We cannot use the past to predict the future any more. You have choices which include embracing what’s happening in terms of bio-engineering of alternative protein. The only thing that is not an option is standing still.”

TRAVIS FISHER: OUR 2018Emerging Indigenous Pastoral Leader

Birrundu trainee stockman, Travis Fisher, was the proud recipient of this year’s Alward Foster Memorial - Emerging Indigenous Pastoral Leader Award presented at the NTCA annual conference.

The award, sponsored by the Warriner family and presented by NT Primary Industry and Resources Minister Ken Vowles, acknowledges and celebrates outstanding leadership by a participant of the NTCA & ILC’s Real Jobs Program. It recognises an emerging leader who espouses the attributes of the Indigenous stockmen and women who helped pioneer the NT pastoral sector.

Winning trainees are seen as being worthy role models who inspire other young Indigenous people waiting in wings to take up jobs in the industry. Each nominee is a leader and role model and has made a profound impact through their work.

The NTCA said Travis Fisher shone among other potential recipients this year, demonstrating strong leadership qualities, commitment, work ethic and passion for the pastoral industry. He is also regarded as a good communicator who has inspired and motivated others through his mentoring.” Travis received a high-quality stock saddle specially hand-crafted by the Top Saddlery and Bush Boutique in Katherine.
CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

Photographs from the 34th NTCA AGM and Conference

ABOVE: Chief Minister Michael Gunner making the closing address at the Conference.

BELOW: ABC Country Hour’s Matt Brann moderated the afternoon panel session - left to right: Emma White (KPCA), Tom Stockwell (NTCA), Minister David Littleproud, and Howard Smith (CCA).

ABOVE: Violinist Sally Cooper wowed the crowd with her incredible performance.

BELOW: Kylie Gracey (NTCA) with (left to right) Pak Mohammad Hanifa, Pak Dickie D Soerjanatamiharja, and Ibu Mila Tanigan from the Indonesian Consulate in Darwin.

ABOVE & BELOW: The Gala Dinner was held at the Alice Springs Turf Club and guests enjoyed a fantastic view of the sunset over the ranges.

ABOVE: Sponsor booths were a popular spot for delegates to stop and chat.

BELOW: Kylie Gracey (NTCA) with (left to right) Pak Mohammad Hanifa, Pak Dickie D Soerjanatamiharja, and Ibu Mila Tanigan from the Indonesian Consulate in Darwin.

ABOVE: Tom Stockwell (left), Tracey Hayes, and Grant Heaslip (right) after presenting Tracey with her Life Membership.

BELOW: Left to Right - Kerrie Cokley (NTCA RJP Snr Field Officer), Kayla Gellar (RJP Trainee), Travis Fisher (Birrindudu Stn), and Damon Alexander (NTCA RJP Field Officer).

ABOVE: Future NTCA alumni Max Davis and Rachael Connell being interviewed live by Matt Brann on the Country Hour.

BELOW: Speaker Kaila Colbin and partner checking out some of the entries into the NTCA & Elders Photo Comp.

ABOVE: Chief Minister Michael Gunner making the closing address at the Conference.

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BELOW: Speaker Kaila Colbin and partner checking out some of the entries into the NTCA & Elders Photo Comp.
More than 200 inspiring pictures capturing a diverse spread of rural and remote Northern Territory people, places and things were entered in this year’s NTCA / Elders Annual Amateur Photography Competition.

The 9th annual competition, staged as part of the two-day conference program, attracted entries from pastoralists all over the NT, providing them the opportunity to showcase their daily lives, the essence of their work, the people they live and work with, and the often-rugged landscapes in which they raise their families and make a living.

This year’s competition attracted a record number of entries, with over 200 photos entered across the three categories; Portrait, NT Landscape, and Industry at Work or Play. The judging panel of Her Honour, the Honourable Vicki O’Halloran, Administrator of the Northern Territory, NT Chief Veterinary Officer Kevin de Witte, and Mr Paul McCormick of Elders Katherine had a difficult task choosing winners across the three categories, in light of the high-calibre images submitted.

This year’s winners were:
- Portrait category - “Allan” by Jodie Ward (Katherine)
- Industry At Work or Play category – “Don’t Worry, I’ll Look After you” – by Tiani Cook (Suplejack Station)
- Landscape category - “Miles and Miles” - by Stephanie Grove (Alexandria Station)
- People’s Choice - “Mini Cadzow” by Erin Gaff (Alice Springs).

The large number of entries received was in no small part thanks to the generous prizes offered by new major sponsor of the competition Elders Limited. Each category winner received a $200 Elders EFTPOS card, and the People’s Choice winner took home a 38L Engel car fridge valued at $899.

The NTCA extends its sincere gratitude to Elders for their support of the competition, and to all those who submitted entries and made the competition the largest in its nine-year history.