

Barkly Beef

Indigenous trainees groomed for work on cattle stations

Ten young Indigenous men are being fast-tracked toward jobs as station hands with the famous Sir Sidney Kidman cattle empire.

The group has been taught basic horse-riding skills, machinery maintenance, fencing and cattle work in an intensive five-week program. This will be followed by a refresher course early next year.

The project is part of the Indigenous Pastoral Program, and is being supported by S Kidman & Co Ltd and Charles Darwin University's NT Rural College, near Katherine.

The trainees have been promised trial positions at Helen Springs, Brunchilly, and Banka Banka stations where they will be mentored throughout next year. Their duties will also include welding, bore running, drafting and working cattle.

Bill Fordham, an experienced stockman, is training the group. "All 10 have enjoyed themselves and done well. They were working up to 8.30 at night, and they all responded well. They have all improved as young men even in this short time."

Paul Black, Tennant Creek Regional Director of the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines, said the Northern Territory Government had set up the Indigenous Pastoral Program two years ago in a joint venture with the Indigenous Land Corporation and the Northern and Central Land Councils.

"The program's key objectives are to help Indigenous land owners implement sustainable pastoral enterprises and increase pastoral production from their land," Mr Black said. "The key outcomes are to increase cattle numbers on Indigenous land and to expand Indigenous participation in the pastoral workforce."

"One of the major challenges now facing the pastoral industry is to find suitable workers for stock camps and other positions. There are many Indigenous communities with a significant number of young unemployed people whose talents have the potential to be put to good use by the pastoral sector."

"It is our hope that Indigenous people will make up a significant portion of the stock camps of the future, just as they did in years gone by."

Kidmans Human Resource Manager Terry Omond said: "Kidmans have a long tradition of employing Indigenous staff, and building long-term relationships with local communities. There is a good fit between pastoral operations requiring staff looking for a career in the industry and Indigenous communities seeking employment opportunities, particularly for youth."

"A key aspect of the current project is the provision of mentoring support for trainees to help resolve any problems that may arise."



A Word from the Regional Director

During a busy few weeks I was able to attend the Borroloola Show catching up with a lot of keen contestants involved in the camp drafting events. The topic of the “dry” was on everybody’s lips, but the excitement of the day’s events soon over shadowed this conversation. I was able to call-in on a few properties on the way, and intend to visit a lot more, given time, as soon as I can.

The Pigeon Hole Open Day was, by all accounts, a huge success and recorded a very large crowd. This event displayed results collected from Swiftsynd sites, cattle grazing methods relating to watering points, animal productivity and performance, telemetry solutions of bore monitoring, cell grazing etc.. If the opportunity arises, that stations are able to be represented at future field days, I would urge your participation.

Further south at Alice Springs, the annual Indigenous Cattleman’s Workshop was held in mid August, involving Barkly participants

in a successful three-day workshop. This workshop incorporates part of the Indigenous Pastoral Program, to equip Indigenous participants with the necessary skills to enter the Livestock Industries throughout the Territory. Again this was a great success, with introduction of programs covering NLIS, feral animal control, fire management, and FarmBis to name a few.

As mentioned in John Carroll’s note, I will have the pleasure of introducing John, to as many pastoralists, their staff and families as soon as can be arranged.

Paul Black
Regional Director,
Tennant Creek
Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries & Mines
Department of Business, Economic & Regional Development

Upcoming Barkly Events

September

- 9 CWA 28th Art Award & Exhibition (Tennant Creek)
- 9-11 Pussycat Bore Challenge and Campdraft
- 17-18 Daly Waters Campdraft / Rodeo
- 23-25 Brunette Downs Campdraft

October

- 3 October Business Month (OBM) launch
 - 5 OBM event: Innovative Merchandising for Profit Seminar
 - 7-09 Barkly Campdraft - Tennant Creek
 - 10 OBM event: Tax Issues
 - 20 OBM event: Skilled Migration – It Can Work for You
 - 24 OBM event: Women in Business – Work Life Balance Seminar
-

Advance your career with FarmBis

FarmBis can help fund you to develop your management and leadership skills. If you are involved in making management decisions on your station and would like to further develop your skills to do your job better or help you advance your career then FarmBis can help fund this development.

Eligible training topics include:

- General Business Management
- Natural Resource Management
- Human Resources Management
- Production Management
- Financial Management
- Marketing

Training can be done individually, face to face, by correspondence or over the internet, or group training activities.

Examples of funded training include Grazing For Profit School, Grazing Land Management, Nutrition EDGE, Breeding EDGE, leadership courses, business management courses etc.

If there is training you are aware of that you would like to know more about or participate in, contact Ian McLean on 08 8951 8191 or the Tennant Creek DPIFM office on 08 8962 4488.

Cattle Pregnancy Diagnosis Course

The NT Rural College is seeking expressions of interest for those wanting to do a short course in cattle pregnancy diagnosis.

The course is run over a 2 and a half day period and consideration is being given to holding the course on a property in the Barkly Region. If you would like to attend such a course in the early months of 2006, please contact Andy Bubb on 8962 4492 or email andrew.bubb@nt.gov.au.

Other skills workshops available through the Rural College include ChemCert certification, basic welding, quad/motorbike operation, 4WD techniques, basic vehicle maintenance, tractor operation, stock waters maintenance, and more.

Contact Jenni Butterworth, NTRC Course Coordinator, on 8973 8311 for additional information on courses the College can offer.

Avian Influenza

What poultry producers and bird keepers need to know.

Species affected

All commercial or domesticated poultry are susceptible to infection with avian influenza, including chickens, turkeys, pheasants, partridges, quail, ducks, geese, guinea fowl and ostriches.

Avian influenza viruses can be brought into Australia by nomadic or migratory wild birds and then cycle through Australian wild or free-living waterfowl.

Many species of wild birds, especially waterfowl, can carry the virus but generally show no signs of disease. However, if they or their excretions come into contact with domestic poultry (domestic fowl or 'chickens', turkeys, quail etc.) outbreaks of severe disease (HPAI or 'fowl plague') could occur.

It is possible that some animal species may become incidentally affected, depending on virus strain and circumstance.

Generally, humans are not affected, but the H5N1 strain of avian influenza virus can infect humans who come in very close contact with infected birds. People **do not** get infected with avian influenza through eating cooked chicken meat and eggs.

Signs to look out for

The disease is difficult to diagnose and clinical signs can be almost unnoticeable before

severe mortality, depending on the strain of the virus, concurrent/other diseases and the age and species of the birds infected. Clinical signs include sudden death, respiratory distress, loss of appetite, purple discolouration of the wattles, combs and legs, coughing and diarrhoea. A consistent finding is a sudden drop in egg production. It is essential that poultry-producers and bird-keepers immediately report any unusual signs of disease in their birds. Some avian influenza viruses, called 'highly pathogenic avian influenza' (HPAI) viruses, can cause sudden high mortality (up to 100%) in domestic fowl ('chickens') and turkeys.

What can poultry and bird keepers do?

- ▶ Prevent domestic birds from coming into contact with wild birds by restricting access to open ponds, lakes and creeks. Protective netting can also prevent wild birds from entering domestic bird areas.
- ▶ Ensure water supplied to poultry is from a chlorinated mains water supply, a high quality bore water supply, or treated with chlorine if such sources are not available.
- ▶ Inspect birds daily and clean bird areas at least once a week;
- ▶ Always source your birds from a reputable producer or breeder. Avoid buying birds

See overleaf for more information

Poultry-producers and bird-keepers should regularly check their birds and immediately report any unusual signs of disease to their local vet, stock inspector, agricultural agency or Australia's animal disease hotline on 1800 675 888.



from markets or shows, as mixing birds from different sources can spread disease rapidly.

- ▶ Do not share equipment with other bird-keepers, unless it has been thoroughly disinfected.
- ▶ Maintain normal cleaning standards ie remove sand and grit from the aviary between batches of birds, and every few months for resident birds; thoroughly clean concrete floors, walls and aviary wire and scrub them down with detergent; clean and disinfect feed containers regularly.
- ▶ Restrict access to bird areas and ensure visitors are only permitted to enter bird areas or sheds after putting on protective clothing and using foot-baths containing appropriate disinfectants at bird entries.
- ▶ Contact your local poultry extension officer, vet, or agricultural agency in your State or Territory or for further information on biosecurity.

More information

You can get more information on avian influenza online at www.outbreak.gov.au or you can contact your local vet.

You can also contact veterinarians and stock inspectors with the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines.

- ▶ Darwin: 8999 2033
- ▶ Katherine 8973 9739
- ▶ Tennant Creek 8962 4488
- ▶ Alice Springs 8951 8111

Australia's control strategy

In the event of an outbreak of avian influenza in Australia, Australia's agreed strategy, as detailed in AUSVETPLAN Disease Strategy for HPAI, is to eradicate the disease by immediate stamping-out and disposal of infected and in-contact poultry to remove the major source of infection.

Additionally, there would be:

- ▶ Strict quarantine and movement controls to prevent the spread of infection.
- ▶ Decontamination to remove the virus.
- ▶ Tracing and surveillance to locate the source of infection, locate other infected premises and determine the extent of the infection.
- ▶ Zoning to define infected and disease-free areas.

Vaccination may be an option in some circumstances, but no vaccine is currently approved for use in Australia.

More information on the AUSVETPLAN can be found on Animal Health Australia's website at www.aahc.com.au.

If avian influenza were to pose a significant threat (direct or indirect) to Australia's human population, the Australian Action Plan for Pandemic Influenza would be activated. This plan provides direction for actions by all Australian governments (Commonwealth, State and Territory), their agencies and emergency services in the event of such an occurrence.

**Dept. of Business Economic and Regional Development
(DBERD)**



Pastoral Market Update

Live Cattle Exports via Darwin Port – **NOVEMBER 2005**

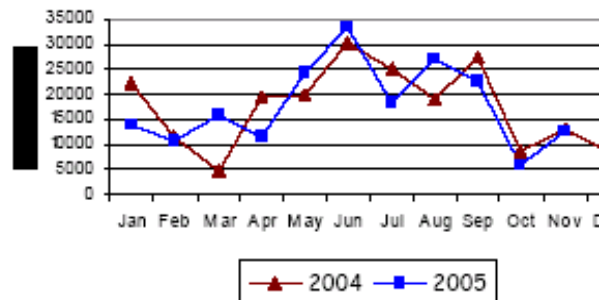
Please note that the "NT CATTLE" figures are NT cattle exported through the Port of Darwin only, some NT cattle are exported through interstate ports.

Destination	TOTAL CATTLE (including interstate)							# NT CATTLE						
	2003	2004	Last year 30/11/04	YTD 30/11/05	1-30 Nov	Previous Month	Difference	2003	2004	Last year 30/11/04	YTD 30/11/05	1-30 Nov	Previous Month	Difference
BRUNEI	16,672	14,101	10,796	5,208	261	661	-400	13,574	10,492	10,492	5,028	261	661	-400
INDONESIA	182,624	158,600	152,974	178,369	12,153	3588	+8585	145,274	150,048	150,048	177,105	12,153	3,588	+8585
PHILIPPINES	51,782	31,623	31,623	13,052	0	0	0	46,243	29,393	29,393	12,438	0	0	0
SABAH	224	304	304	1,905	340	0	+340	224	304	304	1,905	340	0	+340
SARAWAK	320	0	0	4,893	0	1900	-1900	92	0	0	4,893	0	1,900	-1900
W-MALAYSIA	9,028	6,379	6,379	93	0	0	0	7,055	6,272	6,272	93	0	0	0
EAST TIMOR	58	35	35	0	0	0	0	58	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	260,618	211,042	202,111	203,520	12,754	6,129	+6,625	212,520	205,204	196,509	201,462	12,754	6,129	+6,625
				+1,409							+4,953			

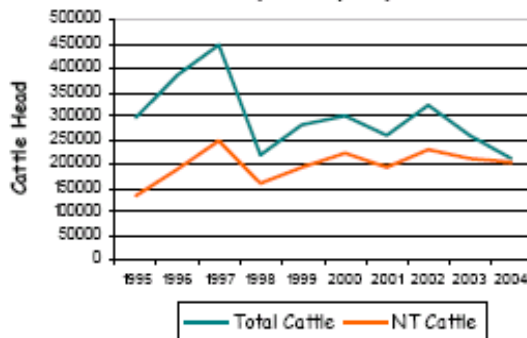
"November at a glance"

- 12,754 head of cattle through the Port of Darwin during November, 6,129 head more than October and 458 less than November last year.
- YTD figures indicate 1,409 head more than the same time last year.
- No interstate cattle through the Port of Darwin in November.
- 1,491 breeder goats from Qld were exported to Sabah
- .18 horses to Sabah and 73 buffalo to Brunei.

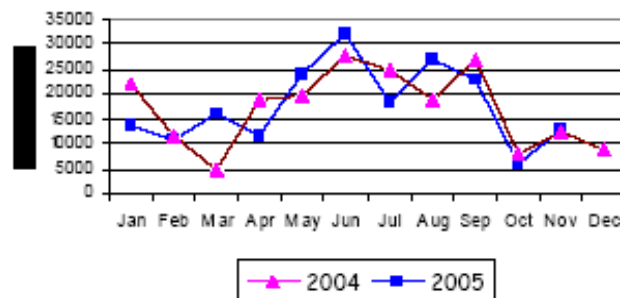
TOTAL Live Cattle Exports thru Port of Darwin 2004 v 2005



Live Cattle Exports thru the Port of Darwin (last 10 years)



NT Live Cattle Exports thru Port of Darwin 2004 v 2005




PREVIOUS 7 YEARS															
Total Cattle, Port of Darwin							NT Cattle, Port of Darwin								
1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
446,195	219,439	280,011	299,179	258,127	322,502	260,618	211,042	245,389	160,412	192,441	222,669	193,172	229,796	212,520	205,204

OTHER LIVESTOCK EXPORTS VIA DARWIN PORT (includes NT and Interstate Stock)

Destination	Buffalo			Camels			Goats			Deer			Horses			Sheep			Pigs		
	2004	2005	1-30 Nov	2004	2005	1-30 Nov	2004	2005	1-30 Nov	2004	2005	1-30 Nov	2004	2005	1-30 Nov	2004	2005	1-30 Nov	2004	2005	1-30 Nov
BRUNEI	2,279	376	73	115	0	34	8,680	369	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INDONESIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	3	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
PHILIPPINES	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	640	0	0
W-MALAYSIA	1,566	672	0	0	0	0	725	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SABAH	0	314	0	0	0	0	217	3,016	1,491	0	0	0	0	18	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	3,835	1,362	73	115	34	0	4,722	3,395	1,491	30	0	0	7	27	18	0	0	0	640	450	0

NATIONAL CATTLE PRICES - W/E 25/11/05

JAPAN OX									MEDIUM STEER										
Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)									Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)										
SALEYARDS				O.T.HOOKS					SALEYARDS				O.T.HOOKS						
NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)
This week	343	342	317	337	328	343	345	336	This week	336	349	330	338	321	339	341	334		
Last week	341	335	325	334	328	343	345	336	Last week	330	344	327	338	334	339	341	327		
Year ago	346	356	312	343	331	358	308	328	Year ago	344	356	315	348	348	353	303	320		
US COW									TRADE STEER										
Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)									Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)										
SALEYARDS				O.T.HOOKS					SALEYARDS				O.T.HOOKS						
NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)
This week	305	298	295	300	275	291	273	284	This week	368	369	341	363	336	319	330	346		
Last week	307	292	298	301	275	291	273	284	Last week	376	366	353	365	336	314	330	349		
Year ago	329	327	280	314	280	280	263	267	Year ago	373	342	325	359	343	337	304	327		
LIVE EXPORT QUOTES									Prices courtesy of Meat & Livestock Australia  www.mli.com.au										
Estimated live weight price (cents/kg)																			
LIGHT STEERS (280-400 kg)				HEAVY STEERS (400+ kg)															
Darwin		Fremantle		Darwin		Fremantle													
This week	175		nq		160		nq												
Last week	165		155		160		150												
Year ago	185		nq		185		nq												

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

Key Currencies 1AUD =	Current 30/11.2005	Previous month 31/10.2005	3 months ago 31.08.2005	1 Year ago 30/11.2004	Pre-devaluation 01.07.1997
Brunei Dollar	1.26318	1.2707	1.27356	1.2635	1.076
Indonesian Rupiah	7,407.34	7441.70	7888.16	7078.24	1830
Philippine Peso	39.93826	40.09654	42.529605	43.0647	19.84
Malaysian Ringgit	2.78178	2.77312	2.84718	2.9058	1.9
Euro	0.62822	0.61432	0.61182	0.5701	N/A
US Dollar	0.73829	0.7426	0.75474	0.7641	0.752

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Barkly Landcare & Conservation Association News

Tarrabool Lake and its tributaries are situated on four pastoral properties, Eva Downs, Anthony Lagoon, Walhallow and Brunette Downs. Tarrabool Lake is recognised as being of global importance for providing waterbirds with an extensive breeding habitat, over 200 000 waterbirds have been recorded in the Lake catchment at any one time. When fully inundated the lake is the largest wooded inland swamp in tropical Australia, the largest freshwater wetland in Australia and is the only known NT breeding site for the Painted Snipe.

Walhallow station, with financial support from the EnvironmeNT grant, has been spraying Parkinsonia infestations in the upper catchment of Creswell Creek which leads into Tarrabool Lake. This is the first stage of a collaborative approach undertaken by land managers to treat the noxious weed along headwaters flowing into Tarrabool Lake. Thank you must be extended to Michelle Kassman, weeds officer Tennant Creek for assisting with the project.

The Landcare group has submitted three projects under the new Integrated Natural Resource Management (*INRM*) plan for the NT. The first is to control three prickly bushes on nationally significant waterways on the Barkly. If successful, weed control will be undertaken on a large scale along the waterways as this is the most effective method of control and, completing the work in a collaborative approach gives land managers the advantage in combating these Weeds of National Significance. This work is consistent with the National Strategies for Prickle Bush species. The NT/Barkly region is identified as a high to very high priority for control work under the National Priority Action Framework.

The second project submitted will build the capacity of landholders and other stakeholders in the Barkly region to undertake NRM activities in a strategic, coordinated and timely way. A landcare facilitator provides encouragement, communication, resources and expertise to the group enabling the group's goals to be achieved. The project will involve the employment of a facilitator to assist the BLCA coordinate, implement and maintain a range of

existing NRM projects as well as contribute to the design, development and implementation of new projects. Having a central point of contact for stakeholders to network information, elaborate findings and discuss future projects is essential to operate a successful NRM based industry and allows for collaboration and capacity building in the region.

The final submission under the new INRM plan was a best management erosion control project following on from the success of our 2004 workshops undertaken by a number of pastoral properties in the Barkly.

The 3 projects make up a percentage for a full time facilitator, we will not know how successful we are until the end of the year.

The final field trip funded by EnvironmeNT for researching Parkinsonia Dieback on Newcastle Waters was undertaken in mid November. Dr Vic Galea, PhD student Naomi Diplock and myself battled the heat and analysed the old trial site finding a few promising results. We set up a new trial site using the latest inoculation method (dieback fungi grown on millet seed rolled in tally-ho papers) lucky there were no cops around, very suspicious!

Our group is still waiting for confirmation of funding through the National Landcare Program to undertake further Dieback research in the Barkly and VRD regions over three year, this would only benefit the work done to date and to find a possible natural biological control with a simple application technique to assist land managers combat the invasive weed would be a huge advantage.

Thank you must go to Newcastle Waters management for assisting us to undertake the project and to Vic and Naomi whose enthusiasm is so contagious.

I am leaving the Barkly at the end of the year and wish the group all the best with future endeavours.

Colleen Westover
Facilitator



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