



# 2021-2022 Year in Review

**Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association**  
Advancing and protecting the interests of cattle producers in the Northern Territory



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## Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association Year in Review 2021-2022

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2021/2022 NTCA

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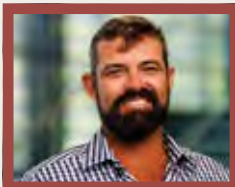
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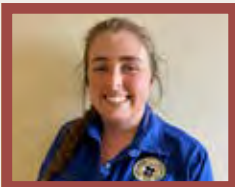
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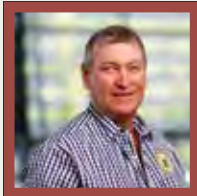


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# President's Report

**David Connolly**  
NTCA PRESIDENT



For those of you who aren't aware, my name is David Connolly, and I am the 14th President of the Northern Territory Cattleman's Association.

An association that promises to "Advance and protect the interests of Cattle Producers in the Northern Territory".

This will be my first formal address as NTCA President – so let's see where we end up!

Good morning and welcome to Darwin.

Welcome to the 37th Annual Conference of the Northern Territory Cattleman's Association with the theme of Pioneers, Pastures and Perseverance. I will touch on this theme in my address. But may also talk about other P's such as Protections, Policing and others.

But first, welcome to Covid freedom and meeting in person again.

It's great to see you all once again in person. Hopefully today we won't have any people yelling "you're on mute" or "Can everyone see the slide I should be sharing now" through their computer screens. Just one of the many advantages of being together today. Except that when you are sick of listening to me you can't just click me off, you will have to get up and walk outside.

Today, we'll be covering some of the big topics facing the industry. We've speakers covering politics,



speakers covering the environment and some great panel sessions around development opportunities and how we can get in front of the curve when these cattle prices start to come back down.

Importantly we've got a discussion this afternoon about regional healthcare. Now, we don't want to start the day on a sad note but given some of the things that have happened in the industry over the past few weeks, this will be a great session to come to, so please make time for that.

I'll note quickly that there's a number of sponsors out there in the exhibition hall. The breaks today have been extended to allow you all time to go and have a yarn and a sticky beak and hopefully do some business. Please ensure you do have a look through because without these businesses and their support events like this wouldn't be possible. So, a big thank you to our wonderful sponsors for their continued support.

I'd like to say thank you to the Association's management and staff for organising today's festivities. I can see Will and Romy over there looking very calm so I'm sure things must be all running well and to schedule, although it's only early Romy.

Now, I best move on to the formalities for this morning.

We also have in attendance distinguished guests and life members who I wish to acknowledge.

Yesterday we concluded the business of the Association from last year, with our Annual General Meeting reporting to members the health and strength of the Association – and then welcomed the new members of the Executive Committee for 2022.

From this, I am pleased to report to you all that the NTCA continues to go from strength to strength. Over the past year we have added both revenue and staff resources to the organisation.

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## **The association thoughtfully supplied an excellent mix of youth, enthusiasm and experience to the executive team to see us through 2021 and we have had the great benefit of gender diversity on the team.**

As both our CEO and I had just taken up our positions at the same time last year, we undertook to have a period of consolidation and stabilisation – and we, and the association have emerged stronger for it.

I acknowledge and thank the Executive of the NTCA that have worked diligently beside me in my first year of this presidency of the organisation. I acknowledge the work of Chris Nott our immediate past President and also Stewart Weir and Tony Hayne who for many years have stood in executive positions of the organisation and have now stepped down to allow other members to come forward and apply their skills.

The association thoughtfully supplied an excellent mix of youth, enthusiasm and experience to the executive team to see us through 2021 and we have had the great benefit of gender diversity on the team. Something I shouldn't even have to comment on, as Cattlemen and Cattlewomen have always worked the business and the land and the animals together.

Today's event is attended by more than 700 guests, a record for the Association, and tonight's dinner has even more than that coming – so get there early for what I'm sure will be a terrific evening.

I would like to acknowledge the past presidents of the association, my predecessors, as I open today's conference with the President's address. I now know the work involved and the necessary dedication they brought to the role.

Tradition dictates that the NTCA President's speech set the tone for the day of the Conference and indeed our work for the coming

year. It is also tradition that the address comes from the heart, that I speak honestly and openly about the opportunities and challenges facing the industry and that is my intention, I have never in my life been accused of not speaking my mind directly.

When one has the podium there is so many topics crucial to our business to talk about:

- Pastoral protections
- Services
- Policing
- Telephones
- Internet
- Bush Fires
- Weed Management
- Cattle production
- Mining
- Energy Exploration
- Environment
- Land clearing
- Carbon Farming
- Diversification
- Government funding
- Economic reconstruction

To name a few but there's just not the time to do that now so I will just speak of a few things at this time.

In looking forward to the year ahead, I found it helpful to consider where the industry has come from and how successive opportunities and challenges over the years have fallen into similar categories and contain common themes.

---

# A land, bought and paid for, by the very sweat that has dripped from the brows and the hands of those who have gone before us.

## Pioneers

As we gather here today to discuss the business of industry, I would like to pay my respects to the Pioneers, those that have gone before us to help make this great Industry.

All people, of all races and creeds, who have contributed to the development of the pastoral sector in the Territory. From the indigenous peoples who taught us much about this wild land and then became the Aboriginal stockman working alongside the first white pastoralists, to the Chinese miners who opened up much of the country to industry. To the Afghani cameleers who crossed the deserts and brought with them the machinery and goods we've relied upon to survive and build our businesses in those early days.

To the Italians, the Scots, the Irish and the English, people from all over the world who came here and those who were already here, who helped build our industry. I would like to acknowledge them all. The Territory and our industry is one made by many and today we acknowledge you all and your families for their contributions you've made. Thankyou you all for your belief in this wonderful industry and in this land.

This year we celebrate a hallmark of the industry. One that is not known to many of us here, and one that was only recently brought to my attention.

On 13 February 1872, Edward Mead Bagot was granted pastoral lease 1 and pastoral lease 2, in the area that is now Alice Springs. 150 years ago this year, the pastoral industry in the Northern Territory was born. Today we gather in the shadows of those who laid the foundations of our industry, and their legacies that surround us all.

These first leases were created under an act of South Australian parliament – then called the Wastelands Act – and whilst we may today take offence to the name of it, in 1872 it was a reference to the regions beyond those areas then settled in the south.

Those early families who spread into this great northern land did so not knowing what they would find or how they would handle what they would find.

Instead of selling off vast swathes of land, the government of the day agreed to the granting of pastoral leases as a way of the Government retaining interest over lands about which not much was known. The benefit of this policy was that any future wealth generated from minerals discoveries could be returned primarily to the crown over the rights of the pastoralist. This was 1872 and gold was never far from the minds of any public official.

It was only 18 years after the Eureka Rebellion after all.

However, security over the land was also needed. Leases were therefore granted in perpetuity, so that title could be transferred, and ownership of pastoral interests could be retained beyond statutory time limits – unlike the 99-year leases we see elsewhere in Australia.

The effects of these decisions remain with us to this day.

There are pastoralists in this room who now have the seventh generation of their family on the same property their ancestors settled. For many here, the granting of these leases has not just been a lifetime commitment but a multi-generational commitment, and a way of life handed down to

their children and their children's children.

As an industry we have outlasted countless Government's, Ministers, Officials and Departments. Through good times and bad we have endured and persevered through hardship, difficulty and unimaginable loss. What remains from these periods are those of us here today, our industry, our people and the land. A land, bought and paid for, by the very sweat that has dripped from the brows and the hands of those who have gone before us.

The pastoral industry is 150 years old this year.

150 years is a long time and a short time depending on how you look at it. Australia since Federation is only 121 years old. The Territory only 44.

But there aren't many industries in this country that are as old as our industry. And while our industry has changed, the community that supports it has as well. Which brings us back to one of these core themes I mention earlier, an issue that has shaped so much of the past 30 years.

The rights of pastoralists to work our leasehold land in quiet enjoyment, protected by the law and given the same services from Government as all expect.

## Protection

150 years ago the pastoral industry, admittedly unknowingly at the time, entered into an unspoken pact with Government that left a door open that today we would probably wish was closed.

What was this agreement you might ask? The deal we struck was this - we will pay for the right to run our cattle, we will build towns and communities and manage the land. We will do all of this – but in return Government must provide protection for these things that we've built and nurtured on their behalf.

Their laws make it clear what is expected of us. And yet so often



the expectations of us are far higher than what is expected of them and others who would offer them a bag of silver pieces. Somehow, we seem to always get the stick, and others the carrot.

One of those protections is of the very land itself. The protection of the well-being of the land from the unintentional consequences of the Mining and Gas industries.

There must be strong clear leadership from the NT Government that there is an understanding and commitment to protect the pastoral estate against an environmental accident.

The NTCA was supportive of the enquiry led by Justice Rachael Pepper that is known as the Pepper enquiry. The NTCA was strongly involved with Government and industry to attain and implement the standard minimum protections of the Land and the Landowners regarding the Energy industry.

There were 135 recommendations of the Pepper enquiry, recommendations that the Chief Minister said would be implemented as part of his election promises, yet only some 64 of these have been completed (or 47%) and there is speculation that even some of these have not been implemented.

Is this due to incompetence or is it that the Government just don't want the recommendations completed. Pastoralists cannot have faith in a Government that says it will do something and then just doesn't. These protections are important for our Industry, our Land, our future and the Northern Territory.

It's difficult because as far as I can see, the business is not structured correctly, there is not one department that has carriage of the regulations, it is in fact splintered over a number of departments which allows a lack of departmental responsibility and hence our industry is building a sense of distrust that Government is not monitoring these activities closely and will actually step in and protect the land from unintended consequences.

It's not how I would manage the business.

The NTCA is not against oil and gas and petroleum development. We are supportive of sustainable development of the regions in which we operate our businesses. But we have been here a long time. And we have seen the failures of previous Governments in adequately protecting us from the environmental neglect that can occur. Our support is based on the condition that the Pepper recommendations are completed, land access agreements negotiated equitably, and a truly transparent process is regulated and enforced.

There must be strong clear leadership from the NT Government that there is an understanding to protect the pastoral estate against an environmental accident.

I would go on record as saying here, today, in this place and in front of you all, that we are placing our trust in Government to get this right. To do this properly. To live up to what has been promised and not betray this duty.

Therefore, NTCA calls on

Government to complete the Pepper enquiry recommendations that it said it would.

## Mining

The Pastoralist must be protected against this newly invigorated Mineral sector that appear to think they have some god given right to march all over our country in any way that pleases them.

Back in 1985, Mr Adams of the then Northern Territory Chamber of Mines, now the Minerals Council, wrote an article in the NTCA's first yearbook and said this, "As the Cattleman is the permanent resident of the land and the miner or explorer is the transient land user, the miner should show due respect to the cattlemen who in return should respect the miners right to explore."

I concur with Mr Adams. In my opinion both of these industries are here to stay, they are both important and they both need to mutually respect each other's operations. But in the instance where this doesn't happen, Government must be relied upon to show leadership and provide an equitable pathway to resolve conflict.

Today's legislation does not provide for this. It basically says that if a miner wants to come on and do as they please, they can and there's bugger all we can do to stop them. This needs to change.

This is why the same minimum protections in place for the energy sector must be introduced and upheld in the Mining sector and is what the NTCA is, and has been, calling for.

We do not believe that gas companies or mining companies are bad people or mean us harm. But as Mr Adams pointed out, our relationship with the land is different.

Ours is permanent and theirs is fleeting. This must be respected not just by industry, but by Government and enshrined in the

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**There must be strong clear leadership from the NT Government that there is an understanding and commitment to protect the pastoral estate against an environmental accident.**

law. Government officials, miners and gas companies are just visitors to our land.

### Biosecurity

I want to have a little chat about Biosecurity, a pet subject of mine and given the risks to our industry should be all of yours as well.

According to NT government figures the value of production from the primary industries sector (agriculture and fisheries) has more than tripled in the past 25 years. Most of this income has come from Cattle production. This has got some connection to the historic investment in R&D and other government backed work in days gone by.

We know that productivity and profitability take time to multiply and flow through the business. What we do today can take many years to have an impact. Equally what we don't do today can have immediate impact, particularly in the case of a biosecurity incursion, and this will be a long-term impact.

Alarmingly, there is an overall downwards trend by Government to invest in Agriculture, including Biosecurity.

If you spend your free time trolling around historic government budgets (Boy, do I ever have a wild life), then you can see that in the 1996-97 Budget, \$69.1m and 401 staff were in the Department of Agriculture.

Adjusted for inflation at 2.5% in today's money that is about \$80m

In the last NT Government budget the same Department received \$47.1m and supported by 250 staff. Now some of that is due to commercial activities on behalf of the Department itself – meaning that somewhere around, almost a quarter of the funding for the Department we rely on, was generated by the Department itself.

This is a very disturbing trend.

We rely on this Department not just for research and development for

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## Our land is our home. It is where our family lives. It is where we raise our children and look after our animals. Where will the next seven generations live if we get this wrong?

the industry, but for the protection and security of the industry.

I remember in one of past president Chris Notts addresses, his urging State and Federal Government to take a more staunch approach to their collective Biosecurity responsibility.

Here we are again, pleading with the same Governments to understand this huge issue, the massive clear and present threats to Agriculture, and to fully fund Biosecurity measures and personnel to safeguard and prevent these incursions or deal efficiently with them when they land on our shores.

The reality is that a major biosecurity breach in this country is not just an issue for the beef industry or those in rural areas. It's an issue of national significance. Our supply chains are all orientated in one direction – out. We have never been buyers of beef on the global scene. And in today's market I would suggest that we would not want to be.

The luxury of living in Australia is that we have an overabundance of resources to consume. Continued failures in northern biosecurity threaten all Australians and our way of life.

And the worst part of the current issue is this. We know we have a problem. We know how big it is. But we're not doing enough to stop it. The Federal Government has run scenarios that say that a minor incursion of Foot-in-Mouth disease in Northern Queensland would cost Australia more than \$6 billion and lead to the collapse of the rural economy nationally, not to mention the flow on effects to those in the

cities.

To eradicate a foot-in-mouth disease outbreak in England in the early 2000's – they had to send in the army. No joke. The army. And what did the army do? They assisted in the slaughter of 100,000 animals.

A day.

For 32 weeks.

Resulting in more than 6 million head of livestock being destroyed to waste.

I would suggest that were an outbreak to happen here, these numbers would be substantially worse and would take decades for us to come back from. As a country built on exporting food and fibre and resources, the damage to our global reputation for failing to protect our livestock, our country, our land and our communities from the devastation of an animal disease outbreak like this would be beyond measure.

We in the Top End of the country in the NT are going to see, feel and suffer from these threats first. And we have the stuff of nightmares knocking on our door. Swine Fever, Japanese Encephalitis, Foot and Mouth Disease etc, and we are particularly concerned at the moment about, Lumpy Skin Disease of Cattle and Buffalo.

I thank the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade CEO, Shaun Drabsch, and his department's Chief Veterinary Officer, the very capable Sue Fitzpatrick and Luke Bowen the Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Agriculture, Fisheries and Biosecurity for taking this industry matter so seriously. I do want to thank the NT Chief Minister



for acting decisively and taking this issue right to the Prime Ministers National Cabinet when we as an industry asked him to.

I would like to think that directly as a result of this due to this influence we saw the Federal Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia fly into Darwin yesterday and announce further Federal funding for Biosecurity.

He remarked that now I would have to re-write this part of my speech, he was right, I did.

\$61.6m over 4 years to help fund Biosecurity measures in Northern Australia.

The priority is to protect from Lumpy Skin Disease, African Swine

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**The luxury of living in Australia is that we have an overabundance of resources to consume. Continued failures in northern biosecurity threaten all Australians and our way of life.**

Fever and other priority Pests and diseases, the focus to be on

- Biosecurity
- Infrastructure
- Industry Resilience
- Surveillance technologies

I suggested to the Minister that the bulk of this money needs to be spent here in the NT and he agreed.

But here is the kicker.

Anyone can apply for this funding, it is not just Government to Government, I can apply for it, anyone can.

So lets look at the maths - \$61.6m over 4 years is \$15.4m per year.

If spent over 3 States Qld, NT and WA that's \$5m per year.



I'm not whingeing, I am very grateful, but is it enough.

Well it won't be if the NT Government don't get the bulk of it, and the NT Government doesn't kick into the barrel as well.

Because our departments need funding, and they need personnel. We currently operate the Northern Territory with 6 Livestock Biosecurity officers. Stock inspectors in the old language. If one of these people need some time off, then there is a massive gap left in the business. In fact, I know the Chief Veterinary Officer has been stepping in to cover the duties. This is not her job but the

NT is lucky to have her.

This is untenable, alarming and disgraceful, the NT needs at least 20 of these officers, not just for Biosecurity, but for Tick control, inspection of swill feeding, tracking of livestock movements, management of Feral animals, investigation of Poaching and stock theft etc etc.

Biosecurity is an issue that affects us all in the room and we must have the funding it requires to be effective to protect our industry, our Northern Territory and Australia as a whole.

The pastoral sector is well placed to offer assistance to Government

to meet these challenges. But we must be met halfway. Biosecurity is something that can only be secured if all parties work together. Cutting funding to those we rely on to help us, must stop.

### Pastoral Lands Regulation

The Pastoral Lands Act makes it a condition of our lease to protect the environment within our means. It is the law of this land that we are to safeguard our properties from those things and those people who would do it harm.

It is a fundamental force in our industry that we are to give to our children and the next generation something greater than what we ourselves received.

Grant Heaslip, our first president, and life member of this organisation said, 'our industry, without financial support, has helped develop the Northern Territory and it's performance speaks for itself.'

And for 150 years we have met our end of the bargain.

And yet somehow Government thinks that we have not. Last year, the Department of Environment came out with a Compliance and Enforcement Framework for the Pastoral Sector.

In it they say that the goal of the policy is to,

"Foster a culture of compliance within the pastoral sector."

Now I reacted strongly to that. I was disappointed that a public servant in an office in Darwin felt it necessary to insinuate that we are a not a complaint industry.

But I stopped and I asked myself, maybe they have a level of expertise that outweighs ours as an industry. Maybe they do know more than us about how our properties should run. Maybe I'm being too quick to judge.

I was then shocked when I was told that to be a Rangelands Inspector, at the Department of Environment,

---

**In summary, I would ask the NT Government to address this decline. Take seriously these threats. We do not want to have these diseases here and look back on what we could have done. We must act first, fund and resource the Department to allow them to meet these threats head-on.**

it is not a requirement to have any knowledge or experience in the pastoral industry at all.

I kid you not. Recently a job as a Rangelands Inspector was advertised, and there in the ad, written in black and white, it included a passage that said knowledge of the pastoral sector was desirable but non-essential.

Not only do we need a culture of compliance, apparently, we may be the only ones. In the same Department's Monitoring and Compliance Strategy for On-shore Petroleum, the Environment Department say the goal of the strategy is to 'encourage and help to build an improved voluntary compliance culture within the petroleum and gas industry and support innovation and stewardship by industry leaders.'

Apparently, we don't deserve the same treatment and need to 'foster a culture of compliance'.

I would say to the Department of Environment a few things, the first is this. To quote Mr Heaslip again, 'Unless a sound and constructive relationship is developed and maintained between industry and Government very little will be achieved. The old them and us attitude must be put aside.'

So I say to the Department of Environment and the Pastoral Lands Board, we are not your enemy.

We are not the Environments enemy.

We are a force to be used and not one to be opposed. We can help. But we will not be spoken to as a child or treated like one.

## Services

Now I want to move from the protection of industry to the industry wide protection of business. In modern society, basic services like telephones and internet are not optional. You cannot run a cattle station in 2022 without the internet. At the very least we need to upload cattle

## The Pastoral Lands Board must reconsider this Compliance and Enforcement Framework and ask themselves, does this show the respect to the industry and acknowledge their experience, expertise, knowledge, and hard work built over 150 years working this land. If it does not, then it must be amended to include us as part of the solution, and not the problem.

movements to the NLIS.

Services like Roads, Rural Police, Telephones, Health services; access to MVR, Bushfire support. All things that the tax paying public expect from their Government but mostly only receive north of the Berrimah line.

We have been working hard with Minister Lawler to have Pastoralists with the ability, to be accredited to fix their own access roads and be protected by insurance or indemnified to do that work.

We have been working hard with Minister Manison to solve the issue around rural Policing, and MVR agencies. These are real issues to our members but after years of lobbying we cannot honestly say the situation has improved.

Maybe we are not making enough noise.

We have a large land holder in this room today who lives on a remote station. He has a large indigenous community right up the road from his homestead. The nearest police station is nearly 200km away and has one police officer stationed there. This simply isn't good enough. Neither our member, nor the people living in that community, can rely upon a prompt response to any issues they may have. They are left alone to their own devices – and in this day and age this cannot be considered acceptable. To the pastoralist, the community or the police officer.

While roads are expensive, phones

can drop out, satellites can fall from the sky and offices might shut, surely all of us in the Northern Territory, and all of us in Australia, should at the very least be able to call the police and have them come help us out when we need them.

The Government tell us they haven't got the funds, the cupboard is bare. Well, Pastoralists know about tight times, try operating a business when your supply chain has been cut in an act of ministerial malfeasance. I suggest you take a leaf out of our book, sit down, and work out what the real priorities are, no it isn't a new boat ramp at some creek in Darwin.

It is putting funding into policing, making it safe for members to walk around Alice Springs, funding a stock squad with real teeth and real full-time members to combat the increase of stock theft and trespass and poaching.

The loss of livestock is not just about money to us here today, it is distressing to see animals that we have raised being slaughtered inhumanely in our own paddocks.

We as an industry were delighted at the response by The Police Minister to instigate Operation Starlight to investigate rural crimes. But to be efficient, it needs full time resources and funding. It must be given some real teeth and allowed to bite these thieves.

Actions must have consequences - consequences that deter people from repeating these acts that harm law abiding members of the community.

### COVID

This week the NT Parliament is debating and discussing the powers of the Chief Health Officer.

Someone we didn't hear from or probably didn't even know existed a couple of short years ago.

Since 2019 when we the NTCA flew and drove staff to Borders across the Territory we have had a hands on role in supporting our regional communities and supporting the Government in protecting the Territory.

Our industry has done a lot of the heavy lifting during this pandemic. In fact Agriculture in the NT has increased in value during this time.

But now it is time for our NT Government to stop, pause and think.

The powers being granted to Health officials are powers that exceed even those granted to our police force.

The power to enter your home.

The power to make you turn over private information.

The power to detain you.

The power to prevent you going to a place at a time of your choosing.

The power to throw you out of those places.

The power to prevent you from working.

Now let me be clear, I think the NT Government has done a pretty reasonable job during this pandemic.

And I think we should be vaccinated, I am and glad to be.

I am also vaccinated for Measles, chicken pox, polio, cue fever, tick fever, buffalo fly, fly strike, 5 in 1 and god know what else.

But the time for Government intrusion in our lives is over.

Our elected officials handing this obscene power to unelected public servants must stop.

This "health emergency" must be undeclared.

The attitude that only those employed by Government can be trusted to make good decisions and hold our fate in their hands is farcical.

Did you know that this means the CHO can continue this ridiculous policy of, if you lost your job due to covid you can continue to not pay rent or pay well reduced rent for the time of this emergency. This is depressing investment in the NT and holding back our economy.

I urge the NT Government to hand us back our rights.

Hand us back our democracy and our democratic freedoms.

End the CHO's power now – NOT in 2 years.

This is destroying our businesses.

We have spent 150 years building them.

### In Closing

Problems aren't solved by complaining. Problems are solved

by those who are willing to do. To act. And despite my frustrations, and the frustrations of our members, there are those within Government, both elected and appointed, who work hard on our issues.

I often say that we are actually lucky to have a group of smart women in the NT Govt. I am not trying to be sexist or derisive or any of those things. I believe that we have an opportunity as an industry under this Government due to a couple of the people who have certain Ministries that we deal with a lot.

In particular Minister Manison, as the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Agribusiness and Minister Lawler on Environment and Infrastructure. These Ministers get beaten up plenty by NTCA and industry, but the truth of the matter is that they are standouts in their Government. We find them to not only be accessible to us, but they are forthright and honest in their approach, and we are people renown for our love of forthrightness.

So I publicly thank these Ministers for their continued support and have them know we will continue to bang on their doors.

I would also like to thank the associations CEO Will Evans and Executive Officer Romy Carey and their staff.

The association has a brilliant and dedicated team who work tirelessly on our, the members', behalf.

I also wish to thank my partner Sue, for her support of my role for the NTCA and the time I have to dedicate to this activity and the gap it sometimes leaves at home.

In saying that I also thank my employer, Mr Allan Myers, for his generosity towards the NTCA. Indeed, this is Allan's second employee to the position of President and his ongoing support is valued.

The NTCA is by far the best SFO (State Farming Organisation) in the

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**It is putting funding into policing, making it safe for members to walk around Alice Springs, funding a stock squad with real teeth and real full-time members to combat the increase of stock theft and trespass and poaching.**

land. An association that punches well above its weight in looking after the interests of its members. Envied by others the NTCA is at the forefront of issues that are having affect on our members daily. Sometimes it may be hard to see the work that is going on behind the scenes, but I assure our members that like a duck sitting serenely on the troubled waters, there is plenty going on underneath.

We are living in unprecedented times and for many of us 2021 was the hardest year to conduct business in, of our lives. Labour shortages, fuel, steel, Urea, fertiliser, transport, stock supplement and everything price increases, thank goodness for the highest cattle prices of our lifetimes.

The TERC Commission urged the NT to attract new investment and to embrace that investment. But I put to you that one of the biggest investors in the NT is already here. Some of the biggest and most progressive and sophisticated companies are already investing in the NT. They are in this room,

they are the pastoralists, the Landholders, The Cattlemen, with huge commitment and diversified investment in land and business in this Territory.

Maybe the problem is, our business has been around for 150 years and it's not sexy anymore. Well maybe not as sexy as a space station, but our collective investment in this industry far surpasses that of many "new" start-ups in the NT.

I urge the Ministers to not get distracted by the shiny things but understand what you have already.

A fantastic investor, a wonderful supply chain, a resilient and purposeful tenant and an economic powerhouse for the NT.

I challenge you the members to stay involved through your branch affiliations, and strongly invite those few pastoralists who are not members to join the NTCA and benefit from the hard work being done by the management team on our behalf.

I think it may be more important now than ever before.

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# CEO's Report

**Will Evans**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



It's been another big year for the Association. Looking back through the pages of past yearbooks, I'm not certain any CEO report hasn't included a similar statement or sentiment to this effect.

And yet, it remains consistent that the work of the NTCA grows each year and that the needs of members and industry can only be met through dedicated passionate staff willing to give far more than what is reasonable, in order to achieve what is required. A standard that is set by the members of our industry each and every day, that we in the office do our best to emulate.

One thing that our staff could never be accused of is lacking in passion. All possess an unrivalled commitment to advancing and protecting our industry and I am constantly surprised by their tenacity and the strength of character they utilise to undertake these tasks.

To the team – well done. You have been a credit to the industry again this year and I thank you all for your work.

2022 will likely be recorded in the annals of the history of the Association with one word echoed across all aspects of our business. Biosecurity. And if I can, I'd like to use this opportunity to discuss this



topic in detail. While this is a slight divergence from the normal format of the CEO's report, the topic has overshadowed so much of the past 12 months and remains such a significant issue to the industry that to speak about it at length is a necessity.

From the AGM in March through to me sitting here today in November writing this report, reinvigorated biosecurity programs have been built into the business plans of the association, the industry and Government for the foreseeable future.

Whilst it is welcomed to see a return to this most fundamental pillar of our businesses, it must be noted that the warning signs were there far earlier than they were noticed and that if all of us were being honest, those of us in industry associations and Government that is, we probably haven't been as focused on it as we could have been.

Biosecurity, in many aspects, has become a bit like drought. And for the purposes of this report, drought serves as a terrific analogy.

When there's a drought on, it's all anyone wants to talk about. Politicians stand in paddocks announcing funding, Government Department's put together taskforces and working groups and consultative committees which go on to undertake tours of regions and talk about 'being better prepared for drought next time'.

And yet, across decades of drought plans and billions in public expenditure, thousands of hours of consultation and the many, many, hands in which responsibility for these programs has rested, Australia still does not have an agreed definition for what a drought is.

For many reading this, that would sound improbable, but I kid you not. Why? How has this work gone uncompleted? How can one of the driest countries on earth not have a definition for one of its defining characteristics?

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## **Biosecurity, in many aspects, has become a bit like drought. And for the purposes of this report, drought serves as a terrific analogy.**



The truth is, at a Government level, drought is complex. There are many ways in which a drought can be declared. There are droughts that come from no rain, too much rain or rain that falls at the wrong time. Indicators are different for cropping regions versus livestock regions. Land systems, soil types and flora react differently, as do the communities in which they sit. Australian agriculture is imbued with a complexity often misunderstood, rarely equalled and seemingly ever changing.

All the work associated with understanding these systems, like coming up with a definition and better designing the programs of the future, comes down to one thing – funding. Yet, the winds that determine where public investments fall can be fickle.

Drought so often can be a political mechanism as much as a climactic one and even more often can come down to who is demanding support, when, where and how loudly. This can equally be said of biosecurity – and fundamentally herein lies the problem. You cannot treat biosecurity, a constant imperative, the same as drought, a periodic occurrence. But somehow, we do.

Arguably, over the past few years, industry has had bigger political challenges to focus on. A global pandemic being a key point to note here. But still, over the past decade Infrastructure and market access spring to mind as being buttons that are more often pressed, seemingly by default– our incomes seemingly prioritised over things that can often be seen as costs.

Yet when there are limited threats on the horizon, this loss of focus leads to deleterious processes coming to the fore. Politicians respond to this reprieve by pushing spending elsewhere. Departments will reprioritise their allocation of resources based on this advice. Industry will often follow this trend and develop internal capacity in other areas. And slowly we slip into dangerous waters.

This is exactly the situation we found ourselves in at the start of 2022. Despite the warning signs clearly being there.

Recently, Northern Australia has had pests and diseases come in from South-East Asia, some blown across by the wind, and yet for whatever reason little if any action was taken. Ehrlichiosis, Fall Army Worm and Japanese Encephalitis

## CEO's Report

all emerged in Northern Australia over the past three years. With a global pandemic ongoing – we were all of us looking elsewhere and away from one of the things that mattered most.

This loss of attention could have been fatal. Make no mistake. But at its core the issue is not solely that Government and industry attention was focused elsewhere, nor that we were not working hard enough. This issue is more foundational than cosmetic. The design flawed more than the execution. Funding, that is so critical, allowed to ebb and flow in line with political ambitions and community concern is fundamentally wrong – and only in retrospect can be recognised as dangerous as it is.

A lack of a sustainable funding mechanism for biosecurity programs nationally serves as one of the largest existential threats to our industry today. One we have known about for years. Even with the significant increase in funding provided by state and federal Governments this year, next year it could all go away, or the year after that.

Worse still, these investments made today have a long pipeline to see returns. Biosecurity staff have to be found and trained. Researchers need to be sought. Labs repurposed. Infrastructure rebuilt. To fix the issues of today, we should have started 5 years ago. But the uncertainty of funding provided for a shrinking ecosystem of resources – the same resources upon which we would need to draw if the worst were to happen. We have lost more than we will be able to get back quickly.

So, what lessons can we learn from this? How can we shape a future in which these sort of policy failures don't happen? And most importantly, what are the unknown unknowns sitting out there now and how do we find them? These are the big challenges that we will have to tackle over time, over and over again.

Finding answers to these big questions has very much been a focus for us here in the office this year. While there is still a long way to go – finding ways to improve our processes has been a good starting point.

To aid in refining the information we can provide to industry and members to support their decision making, and in looking to more proactively engage issues, the NTCA is moving to become more data driven. We are seeking to better understand our members' businesses at a deeper level, better understand industry and government decision making and looking for patterns both recognisable and alien to us all, from which to build the strategies that future proof our businesses and our industry.

Constantly embracing adaptation and learning are critical to the success of industry associations. Not being afraid to reshape strategies, redesign process and retrain out people, we must

always be moving faster than the challenges surrounding us. Staying ahead of the curve, insofar as possible, is the currency by which we survive.

So, what's coming in 2023 for the NTCA? As always, we will seek to meet any challenge head on – hopefully pre-emptively and not reactively. For us it is important to serve our members not just on issues that are important to them, but in a way that is reflective of who they are.

There will be knowns, there will be unknowns – things anticipated and things long forgotten re-emerging to the fore. But in the slightly abridged words of the President – the fundamentals will remain the same. We must assist in helping members look after their land, look after their livestock and look after their loved ones. After all, these are the things that really matter.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in 2023.





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# NFF Report

**Nick Krebs**

NATIONAL FARMERS FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE



Over the past 12 months, the work of the NFF has been substantial. While many Government and Industry organisations have been preoccupied with COVID-19 and the impact it has had on not just the health of people, but of the business community as well, the NFF has had to deal with the additional challenge of an evolving political environment.

In my report to the membership I will cover some of the more substantial issues that the NFF has been working on, though in truth this is a small part of the overall workload they've covered.

## **Indigenous Engagement Strategy**

The Federal Department of Agriculture has instigated a process by which they are looking to industry to assist in the development of an indigenous agricultural development strategy.

For this they enlisted the support of NFF, who worked to establish first what an engagement strategy for this would be, prior to entering into any further discussions around possible policy implications.

The work was referred to the Telecommunications and Social Policy Committee who put forward



an engagement strategy to the NFF membership at the Members Council Meeting following the AGM last year.

Members noted that more work on this needed to be completed and asked that the management of the NFF refer this to a specialist committee appointed made up of industry experts to provide more specialised advice.

To this group the NTCA nominated Luke Bowen to be an independent chair – which has been accepted. Other appointees are John Elfrink and David Galvin, both of whom have strong connections to the Territory as well as to the pastoral sector.

This group has not yet met, though is looking to have a strategy developed by the next members council meeting later in the year. Further opportunity for members to contribute will be provided.

### Biosecurity

With the recent announcement regarding Lumpy Skin in Indonesia, NFF has been a key stakeholder in assisting the Federal Department of Agriculture in bringing together industry to receive updates from high-ranking Department officials including Mark Schipp, Australia's Chief Veterinary officer.

This work is still ongoing, though NFF have done a commendable job in leading it.

### Ag Visa

The need for on-farm and on-property workforce has been significantly increased by the effects of COVID-19. Where some of us would have some difficulty finding suitable staff in a good year, doing so during a global pandemic that closed by national and state borders has proven almost impossible.

The NFF has been a key driver of supporting the development of the

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## NFF played a central position on a national stage during the early stages of the Covid-19 crisis, NFF navigated through shutdowns and multi-pronged challenges especially around maintaining agriculture as a key essential service to allow movement of products and people across borders.

Ag Visa, though there has been considerable opposition to this from sections of the community. Negotiations are currently ongoing. It does not appear that some SE Asian countries have withdrawn. However, Indonesia is still taking part in negotiations.

Were this to be ratified soon it may provide some relief for us here today. However, next season appears to be more likely.

### Regionalisation Agenda

The NFF developed a regionalisation agenda launched a few weeks ago in the lead up to the Federal election. 20 regional districts from around the country were assessed using a detailed matrix designed to determine their suitability for

This formula resulted in the only 'regional area' of the NT that was identified as being suitable for further development was Darwin. As this does not offer much utility for the NTCA membership in regard to 'regional' development, in consultation with the Executive and President we put forward Tennant Creek as being an area that would be ideal for further agricultural development. This was supported by the NFF.

The reasoning behind selecting Tennant Creek was multifaceted. However, as we were only eligible to nominate 1 region for development, Tennant was felt to offer the most utility to all members, instead of selecting one of the larger more established towns. Also, with work around

regional agricultural precincts continuing by the NT Government, as well as increases in economic activity associate with future gas development being likely, Tennant Creek could be a likely regional centre for further investment by Government.

### Ag Career Start

AgCareerStart is a new project that has now 3 new staff to run and oversee. It is a structured 'gap' year program that introduces school leavers and young Australians to a career in Ag. Over 12 months the participants will be provided a job, VET training and support to engage in industry events.

This program is currently delivered with the help of:

- Primary Producers South Australia
- NT Farmers
- Dairy Australia
- Growcom
- NSW Farmers
- Victorian Farmers' Federation
- GrainGrowers
- Cotton Australia
- CANEGROWERS
- AgriFutures Australia
- Primary Industries Education Foundation of Australia.

This strategy is coupled with the NFF realising the need to get Agriculture back into the schools and I will discuss further with Will to see if there is potential for the



to promptly notifying a Farmer where an attempt (successful or otherwise) has been made to gain unauthorised access to the data. This will make for more defined lines of data ownership and allow the farmers to negotiate and retain ownership of some data which is held by a provider or third party.

Along with these topics stated the NFF continue to be active on the international agriculture scene by developing an International Engagement strategy and being members of the World Farming Organisation. The NFF is taking an active advocacy role and being present in the global discussions.

In closing I would just like to say that as always the NFF tries to speak the voice of the farmer. Through out different parts of the year and through a few programs the NFF have put out different media campaigns and adverts. I would ask that if any NTCA members see anything the NFF put out and disagrees on the content or messaging being put out to please let me know. The NFF are always actively looking for members feed back.

Thanks

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**The NFF has also endorsed a call for 2021-2030 to be declared the Decade of Biosecurity – an initiative led by the Invasive Species Council, Centre for Invasive Species Solutions and Animal Health Australia.**

NTCA to become active with in this space.

**Australian Farm Data Code.**

As the agriculture world moves more and more into the world of Data collection it has been identified as a risk to farmers. Particularly data collected and stored by a third party. The NFF believe that this policy will help farmers by:

- Increasing awareness in which providers are collecting data,
- Using and sharing their farm data.
- Give a framework to compare providers and inform

negotiations about data policies

- Improvements to industry wide data practices over time
- At request of farmers have providers delete any individual Farm Data relating to the farmer

Although this may not seem relevant to all, I feel that over time as more and more producers incorporate data collection into their systems there will be more push to protect the integrity of the data and information which is collected. This will set guidelines and protocols around storage of data by providers as well as





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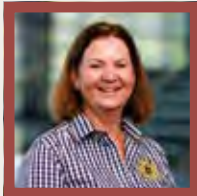
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# Cattle Council of Australia Report

**Anne Stanes**

CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA REPRESENTATIVE



Many cattle producers will remember 2021 for the welcoming rain that broke the drought.

After years of poor seasons, widespread rain fell across much of the continent and Australia's cattle market turned red hot as restocking began in earnest.

Prices have broken records with the EYCI pushing above 1000 cents per kilogram, and live export over \$5 per kg liveweight.

Record prices, Strong export demand for quality assured Australian product combined with good seasons and low interest rates have created a lot of positive energy and optimism for the Grass fed Cattle Industry

## **COVID-19**

Ongoing COVID lockdowns and disruptions in freight and logistics have led to supply shortages, and increased costs for just about every farm input.

Without our foreign workers, backpackers and skilled visa holders travelling to Australia, the resulting labour shortage in the beef and wider agricultural industries has affected our ability to get the job done. Productivity and growth will be severely compromised and the target of 100 billion value of Agriculture products by 2030 will not be achievable



without a suitable labour market.

## Cattle Herd

The National Cattle Herd hit a low of 23.5 million and is in the rebuilding phase and projected to reach 28.2 million by the end of 2024.

The high cattle prices were welcome for those who had cattle to sell, however producers who do not have their usual cattle numbers are having to pay extraordinarily high prices to restock. Processors and the live export sectors are also struggling to compete with high cattle prices and limited supply.

## Trade

The UK and Australia struck an in-principle Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in June 2021 which will see beef exports to the UK fully liberalised over the next decade, after facing substantial trade barriers for nearly half a century.

In 2023 the US market will offer unlimited access for Australian Beef. The Australian United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA) is this year in its last year of transition after 18 years.

Australia now has Free Trade Agreements with 26 other nations.

However, COVID has caused many disruptions to world trade. A container shortage is just one example of the challenges facing exporters.

## Markets

### Boxed Beef

Lack of supply, COVID related stoppages, and the recent floods in processor regions have seen low levels of beef shipped, despite high prices and demand overseas.

Japan our strongest market is taking 26% of Australia's beef followed by China and South Korea. The Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences projects that beef exports will increase by 11% this year and that beef prices

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## The high cattle prices were welcome for those who had cattle to sell, however producers who do not have their usual cattle numbers are having to pay extraordinarily high prices to restock.

will remain strong through to 26/27 as global beef demand is greater than supply.

### Live Export

Live Export prices are also at a record high, but for Live Cattle Exporters 2021 was an extremely challenging year, and this is expected to continue through 2022. Live Cattle Exports were down 26% in 2021, mainly due to record prices and tight supply.

A positive was the resilience in the Indonesian market that was only down 12%. Forecasts predict Indonesia will import less Buffalo meat and Brazilian beef in 2022 which should support Australian Live Cattle exports.

Vietnam trade fell by 48% due to COVID related issues, oversupply and competition from Brazil.

### Biosecurity and Traceability

It was welcome news in 2021 that the Government committed 400 million to boost biosecurity and manage risks. However a long term, sustainable funding stream is critical to ensuring the Commonwealth biosecurity system is fit for purpose now, and capable of meeting future challenges.

Cattle Council is committed to progressing the SAFEMEAT reforms that applies to all livestock species. Our traceability and Integrity systems are central to differentiating the quality and safety of our product in a highly competitive marketplace.

The extremely concerning recent public announcement of the detection of Lumpy Skin Disease in cattle in Indonesia has escalated

the threat to our industry with this disease on our doorstep and there is a real and high risk that it could reach our shores. If it were to reach Australia, beef exports to our high value markets would cease or be heavily restricted.

Health certificates for a number of our major trading partners have the requirement to be free of LSD. Korea for example, requires 3 years LSD free.

It is critical that Biosecurity and Traceability are adequately invested and resourced as Australia's unique pest and disease free status underpins the profits and productivity of the beef industry.

### Environment

The Red Meat Industry has set an ambitious target of Carbon Neutral by 2030. Emissions from livestock have halved since 2005, and it is important that government engage cattle producers fairly with most of the Nation's emissions reductions coming from a change in land use.

Cattle Council has continued to lead the national discussion on alternative climate metrics to measure methane to ensure the beef industry's emissions are accurately measured.

Current carbon accounting methods uses GWP 100. This method treats short lived gases like methane with a life cycle of 10 years the same as CO2 from fossil fuels which last up to 1000 years in the atmosphere. A more accurate method to measure methane emissions is GWP\*.

Cattle Councils objective is this discussion is to reinforce the ruminant's role in the carbon



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## The outcomes of these reviews will set the operating and regulatory framework for the cattle industry and supply chain for a significant period in the future.

cycle and the environment, and to ensure that our carbon footprint is measured accurately.

Notably New Zealand and EU Agriculture have been made exempt from the Carbon Emissions Reduction Scheme.

Cattle Council supports an effective Climate Policy Framework including financial incentives, and pathways to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

### Industry Structure and Policy Reviews

Currently there are four key Reviews of Industry Structures underway. These are:

- Streamlining and modernising levies legislation
- Statutory Funding Agreement
- Integrity Systems Company Review
- Red Meat Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The outcomes of these reviews will set the operating and regulatory framework for the cattle industry and supply chain for a significant period in the future. At some level these reviews are all interconnected, predominantly through levies legislation. The existing legislation sunsets in 2023 with provision to extend this for another six months.

CCA in the submission to government considered a more flexible legislative instruments were required to maximise the benefits to industry and enable them to better respond to changing circumstances. The lack of flexibility in the system inhibits optimising levy settings to the benefit and needs of industry.

Without a strategic long term view, a lack of clarity on what the grass-fed sector is looking for out of these various reviews, it will likely result in a lost opportunity and the industry bound by structures less than ideal.

### Alternative Proteins

Cattle Council welcomed the Senate Inquiry recommendations that would help clear up confusing labelling practices with alternative proteins.

Cattle Council provided substantial input into the inquiry into meat definitions, which recommended the Federal Government implement:

1. A mandatory regulatory framework for the labelling of plant-based protein products.
2. Food Standards Australia NZ review relevant sections of the FSANZ Code to ensure alternative proteins are appropriately labelled.
3. The ACCC develop a National Information Standard that defines and restricts the use of meat category brands to animal protein products, including guidance on the use of livestock imagery for labelling and marketing of plant-based protein products.

### Restructure

After ten years the long awaited grass-fed Cattle Industry Restructure is in progress after successful roundtable discussions with other cattle industry groups.

Travis Tobin the CEO of CCA until last December and Marcus Rathsmann CCA President embarked on meetings in 2021 with the founding State Farmer Organisations, the Federal Government and other Industry Stakeholders. Travis and Marcus were the key drivers for the restructure gaining momentum and laid the foundations to progress to a new industry peak body.

In late 2021 a facilitated 'Industry Leader Forum' (ILF) meeting brought together Representative Groups to gain agreement on the structural and funding options to be taken forward.

David Connolly and I attended these meetings and put forward the NTCA position for the restructure process that was developed from branch meetings over the past 5 years or so. NTCA supports a well-resourced grassfed Peak Industry Council or (PIC).

The result of the series of Industry Leader's forum meetings was the appointment of an Industry Restructure Steering Committee. The purpose and objective of the steering committee is to guide the process and implement the formation of a new united, well resourced, effective, representative peak industry body for grass-fed cattle producers.

The Restructure Steering Committee is comprised of two representatives each from Cattle Council Australia - Lloyd Hick and Alice Greenup, Cattle Producers Australia - Paul Wright and Cameron McIntyre, Northern Pastoral Companies Group- Mick Hewitt and Troy Setter and State Farmer Organisations representatives Gillian Fennell and Lisa Sharp. An Independent Chair, Andrew McCaulay was appointed by the Steering Committee.

Andrew MaCauley Independent Chairperson of the Restructure Steering Committee and Jackie Poyser in the role of secretariat are here today to discuss the restructure process with NTCA

members.

The Restructure Steering Committee has announced further details of the new organisation.

The Name of the new Peak Industry Council is to be Cattle Australia.

Providing it has broad support from Australian cattle producers, 'Cattle Australia' will replace all existing producer representative bodies, including Cattle Council Australia, from July 1, 2022.

The new Peak Industry Council will have a more democratic model, with the board comprised of seven directors democratically elected by members, and two skill-based directors appointed by the new board. A chair will also be selected from the nine board members.

A twenty-three member Policy Advisory Council will be comprised of Fifteen directly elected levy paying producers from identified Meat & Livestock Australia Regional Advisory Councils regions, of which the NT has two positions. A further eight State Farming (SFO) representatives to be appointed by their respective organisations. An Independent Chair will be appointed.

Cattle Australia structure is to be reviewed after two years of operation.

At this time funding and voting options have not been announced.

Cattle Council fully supports this transition and sees it as a once in a generation opportunity to further unite our industry for the good of all producers.

### CCA PILOT Policy Council

In 2021 five standalone consultative committees were replaced with a single Pilot Policy Council comprising a broad cross-section of knowledge, skills, experience, regional diversity and industry capacity. They are supported by working groups to feed in specific policy issues.

The Pilot Policy Council is separate from board function and the appointment of the Independent

Chair, Dr Beth Woods has been greatly valued. The Policy Council has better focused the organisation's limited resources, and following a review along with positive feedback from State Farmer Organisations during the restructure discussions, the CCA board agreed to continue the PC under its current structure until 30 June 2022, when the Cattle Council Australia will cease. Cattle Australia or its interim Board will come into operation on July 1st 2022.

### CCA Organisation

In December Travis Tobin CEO of CCA resigned. Travis demonstrated the highest standards of integrity, dedication and professionalism. He was a key driver at CCA for the Restructure, and the reformed policy development with the implementation of the Policy Council.

Cattle Council of Australia's long-serving Policy Director John McGoverne has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer, and brings experience and stability to the role. I thank the small team at Cattle Council for their dedication and hard work.

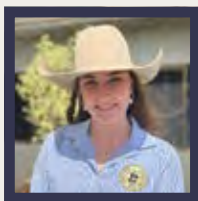
I would also like to extend my thanks to Marcus Rathsmann, CCA President, for the hard work, integrity, determination and dedication he has demonstrated in his role as CCA President.

Thank you

# Business Development Report

**Isobell Heffernan**

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



How quickly things can change! A year ago, I was stuck in lock down, working from home in the ACT developing apps for the Commonwealth. Now I am out and about, connecting with our NTCA members who form the backbone of the NT Pastoral Industry, and developing business along the way.

As you all know before I joined NTCA the Business Development Officer role was held by Hannah Murray. I've quickly accepted being referred to as the "new Hannah" and take this as a compliment as I know the NTCA appreciates all Hannah did during her time in the role and looking forward to continuing the legacy.

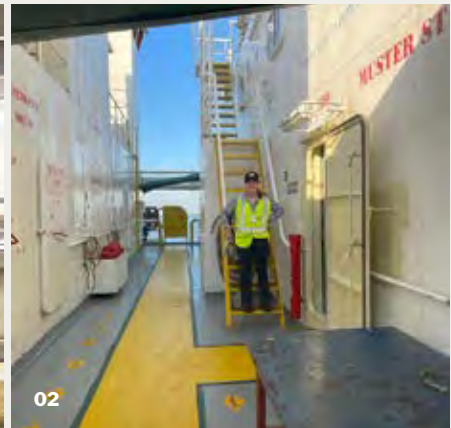
Before finishing up in the BDO role Hannah oversaw the completion of the 2021 NTCA REDF Project "Pre-Feasibility study to identify options for future development at the Bohning Cattle Yards" with a report delivered that presents some exciting regional economic and strategic development opportunities. Carbon has also been identified as a potential avenue for diversification of pastoral business models and the NTCA ran a successful "NT Pastoral Industry and Emerging Carbon Market" roundtable event in November 2021. At our 2022 conference the inaugural "Tech & Tea" event showcased a range of tools and technologies which can improve northern beef production and business outcomes. This event was







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well received by pastoralists, and we are looking forward to what can be showcased in the future.

An application to the Small Business Financial Fitness Fund was also successful and enabled the NTCA to deliver the Business EDGE program (developed by Meat & Livestock Australia), targeting members of the pastoral industry who are currently in established, or in emerging management roles.

I spent the first month in the role following the NT show circuit from Alice Springs through Katherine and Darwin connecting with members, learning about the unique challenges and opportunities in the NT pastoral industry. I am continuing to work closely with the Small Business Champions from the Department of Trade, Business, and Innovation to facilitate the uptake government funded improvement programs particularly the Business Pivot and Smarter Business Solution programs. I am also constantly

reviewing grant opportunities for community and business development opportunities which may be of interest to our members.

I have begun conducting BDO consultation visits to get a sense of regional operations and challenges and identify opportunities for NTCA to provide value. So far, I have been out and about across the Victoria River, Katherine and Douglas-Daly Regions and appreciate the hospitality and insight of everyone who has hosted me so far. I endeavour to get to everyone over the coming year so please expect to hear from me!

On behalf of NTCA, I attended the BeefEx22 Conference in Brisbane hosted by the Australian Lot Feeder's Association. The 2-day event included insightful speakers on topics from international trade to workforce resilience to the adoption of innovative technologies. Along with the solar bore pump and carbon-neutral

**01.** Tour of an international live export vessel. **02.** Tour of an international live export vessel. **03.** All-women's cross-saw team champions at Katherine Show. **04.** Hosting a BBQ for the Totalweld Cows 4 Schools competition winner – Bulla Camp Community Tour. **05.** BeefEx 2022

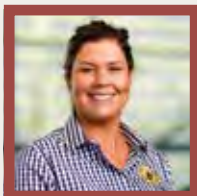
agriculture training sessions to be hosted by the NTCA, I am excited to utilise the connections from BeefEx22 to organise further extension activities.

The beef industry in the North is an exciting place with immense potential for change and growth. If any members would like to discuss diversification opportunities or trainings, that they would be interested in, please reach out. As a fresh set of eyes in the industry I am looking forward to seeing all the change that will take place in another years' time!

# Operations Manager Report

**Annie Harvie**

OPERATIONS MANAGER



First of all, I would like to thank all of the producers, cattle traders, transport companies and livestock agents who have utilised the Bohning Yards Facility in the past year. I feel privileged that you entrust your animals into my care. Some days I pinch myself at the sheer value of the cattle that are under my watchful eye.

In August of 2022 I celebrated the 2nd year anniversary in my role. A role which so far has served me with endless challenges, a wealth of knowledge and its fair share of tough lessons. The growth I've had, both personally and professionally has been immeasurable. Thank you for your support.

The greatest challenge for 2022, was without a doubt overseeing the coordination of the cattle sale in July. The last cattle sale at the facility was held in 2019, so after a two-year hiatus mixed with a lack of experiencing anything remotely similar on my part, there was much work to be done in the lead up.

The cattle sale was held on Thursday 30th June 2022 and turned out to be a very successful day for all involved. A total yarding of 4,142 head. The highest price per kilogram on the day went to a pen of 34 USDA & NOP Organic Milk Tooth Angus Steers averaging 185.3kg, which sold for \$6.85/kg.

Thank you to all involved for helping



pull the day together, especially Ben Parkinson from Desert Secret Contracting for working extremely hard on last minute yard repairs. The proposed date for the next sale is Thursday 6th July 2023. We look forward to seeing you there!

Now more than ever biosecurity is of the utmost importance and one of the highest priorities for all involved with the running of Bohning Yards. Please be assured that we will do everything in our power to minimise the spread of disease and keep the health of your cattle at the forefront.

Extreme vigilance is practiced when cattle are transiting through the facility to look for signs and symptoms of disease along with ensuring that "Fit to Load" standards are adhered to. Regular audits with our Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer, Casey Ellis are undertaken to ensure the traceability of all animals transiting through the facility.

Please remember to be vigilant with NLIS tags and paperwork when sending cattle to the facility. This will ensure database transfers are seamless, prevent delays with transfers and allow cattle to have quality resting time without having to be retagged or rescanned.

As of July 2022 two additional staff became based out of the facility, an exciting development for members, particularly in the Central Australia

## It has been another busy yet enjoyable year at the yards, from July 2021 to June 2022 just over 39,000 head have transited through the facility.

area. Daniel Capps, Industry Liaison Officer and Shannan Hayes-White, Events and Hub Extension Officer. Feel free to pop in and say hi if you're passing by with 5 minutes to spare!

A highlight of the year for me was being given the opportunity to represent the NTCA at the BeefEx Conference in Brisbane, hosted by the Australian Lot Feeders Association. I felt very fortunate to attend and appreciated the experience endlessly. Some of the most notable speakers for me over the two days were:

- Anneline Padayachee, The Food and Nutrition Doctor. A very inspiring lady when it comes to advocating for the red meat industry through nutrition and gut health.
- Anna Speer, Managing Director at Greenstock (Australian Meat by Woolworths) who spoke about consumer trends and the way that we need to tell our stories better as an industry to have a positive influence. At the end of the day, nobody is

going to tell our stories for us.

- Rob Redenbach, Leadership Coach. Overall, a very thought-provoking speech in relation to resilience and using alternative approaches to build a strong team of employees that will pass the test of time. Focussing on allowing team members time for productive recovery after times of high intensity and stress.

In summary it has been another busy yet enjoyable year at the yards. From July 2021 to June 2022 just over 39,000 head have transited through the facility for spelling, with June of 2022 being one of our busiest months with over 7000 head coming through prior to the 4,142 head for the sale. High numbers of organic and EUCAS cattle have been sent through the facility which is great to see coming out of Central Australia.

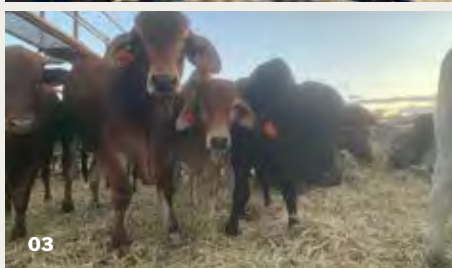
Once again thank you for your support and we look forward to working with you in the months to come.



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01. Early morning loading. 02. Undoolya 150th Anniversary. 03. Cattle in the Bohning Yards. 04. Isobel at BeefEx

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# Pastoral Real Jobs Program

The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association, in partnership with ILSC (Indigenous Land & Sea Corporation) are now in their 14th year of running the Pastoral Real Jobs Program.



**Anthony Walker**



**Bradley Hector**

**From:** Darwin

**What sort of cattle do you work with?** Brangus.

**What is your favourite dinner at the station?** Steak on the barbecue with some vegies.

**What has been the best event that you've been to?** Aileron rodeo.

**What is something that you've learnt out on the station?** Driving the truck and working cattle on the yards.

**Are there any other jobs in the pastoral industry that you'd like to try?** No, I love being a station hand.

**What has been your favourite part of the program?** The training course.

**From:** Timber Creek

**What is your favourite job on the station?** Mustering on a horse.

**What is the name of your favourite horse?** Brodie Lewis.

**How do you like your steak cooked?** Cooked well.

**Have you done any rodeos?** Yes, open bull ride.

**How was it? Are you going to go pro?** Good, still getting the hang of it.

**Was the station and Barkly country what you expected?**

No, but got used to it.



**Jonita Daly**

**From:** Yarralin

**Why did you want to become a jillaroo?** Station work was always my dream job.

**What are your favourite jobs on the Station?** I like branding and walking cows and drafting.

**What is something you want to learn on stations?** I would like to be a contractor one day.

**What is hardest about working on a station?** Mustering on hot days.

**What do you hope to do in the future?** My future is still working at station.



**Bradlene Young**

**From:** Yarralin

**What is your favourite job on the station?** Drafting.

**How do you like to spend your free time?** Chilling at home & love chilling with the horses.

**What's your favourite horse?** Girl horse - Malibu / Boy horse - Marlin

**Is there any job you want to get better at or skill you want to learn?** Yeah, still wanting to learn about bores and fixing cars.

**What made you want to work on a station? Did any of your family do stockwork?** Well, my dad was once a stockman & his uncle, so I decided to follow the track. Plus, it was my dream job of being a jillaroo too.



**Aqib Williams**

**From:** Pidgen Hole

**Do you prefer mustering or yard work?** Mustering.

**What do you want to get better at?** Stock Handling.

**What would you say to young fellas about working on a station?** As long as you do good work you will see how far you will go and get away from trouble too.

**What is good about working on a station?** Go out bush. Have some fun and make some friends along the way.

**What is hard about working on a station?** The work can be hard. If you make mistakes just get back up and do it again. It's about doing your best and getting it right the second time.

**What is your favourite meal of the day?** Breakfast, it tastes good but at lunch it's soggy.

**Do you cook?** Yeah, me and Draylen at camp. We make mashed potato and steak and snags.

**Did you always want to be a cowboy?** Not really, I just liked the sound of the program and wanted to follow my family because my grandpa used to be a horse breaker.



**Draylen Long**

**From:** Yarralin

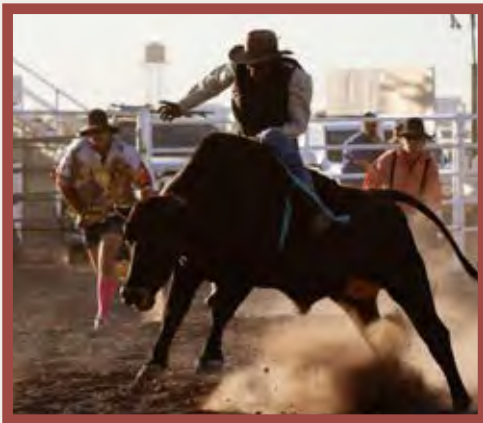
**What made you interested in station work?** Getting to experience the work in a cattle industry.

**What is the hardest thing you have done this year?** Shoeing a horse.

**What will you miss over the wet season?** I'll miss working down here (at Brunette).

**Best station feed?** When they cook them steaks when the big bosses come from USA and other places I don't know, but the steaks when they cook for them.

**Do you prefer riding a horse or motorbike?** Motorbike because they're good for catching up and it's easy to bring back cattle to the mob and I'm getting really good on it so yeah.



**Lane Smiler**

**From:** Timber Creek

Lane has come a long way from when he was interviewed for the program in January 2022. Before Pre-Employment Training Lane was extremely timid and had little to no experience around livestock and horses. Since then, Lane has demonstrated his natural ability for stockwork in the Brunette Downs stock camp. He even cleaned up the Bullock ride at the Brunette Downs Rodeo, taking home 1st, 2nd and 3rd. His talent on rough stock has even earned him the new nickname of Lane Frost.

The NTCA is extremely proud of how much Lane has developed over the last year.

"If Lane keeps up his work ethic and perseverance, we know he will go a long way in the industry" – Jimmy NTCA Pastoral Support Officer.



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Borroloola	18th Aug 2023

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# Biosecurity

**Chloe Grant**

BIOSECURITY LIAISON OFFICER



This year has seen the re-emergence of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Indonesia, something that was eradicated from the country in the 1980s, now back on our doorstep. The FMD outbreak came at a time where Indonesia was already experiencing an additional livestock disease incursion as the presence of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) was also detected earlier this year.

The response from the NTCA Executive Committee was immediate and profound with a motion put to the members at the AGM in March outlining the priorities of industry in meeting the then threat of LSD, then equally for FMD following its detection in April.

These were:

- Trade
- Vaccines
- Domestic Preparedness
- Support for Indonesia

The initial focus has been on engaging with NTCA members and the wider NT Pastoral Industry to increase the level of preparedness for an Emergency Animal Disease incursion. With an anticipated 30% chance of an LSD incursion of over the next 5 years, the importance of discussing biosecurity practises





& measures, applying diversity to your business(s) & the value of being strategically set-up has never been so significant.

With the support of the Alice Springs branch, the NTCA has been able to access emergency funds from the Alice Springs Fighting Fund to allow for the creation of a new position within the Association.

These funds have allowed NTCA staff members to meet on ground with pastoralists and engage with a wide range of people across Northern Australia to progress the critical discussion regarding biosecurity. Having this conversation with the high-risk properties & areas in the Territory

across a range of stakeholders has been invaluable, providing much needed understanding of what pastoralists may require.

With the \$4.33 million dollar boost from the Federal Government to Northern Australia in Darwin in October, by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry as well as the Minister for Emergency Management, this funding increase is allowing all livestock industry peak bodies to work together and further improve Australia's surveillance and preparedness coordination.

A key priority for the NTCA moving forward with biosecurity is meeting face-to-face with pastoralists. If you are a pastoralist, or work in the pastoral industry in the Territory, you will be seeing us over the next

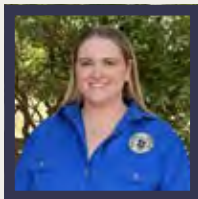
12 months to talk about Biosecurity.

In the words of Troy Setter "The key thing we have learnt is that exotic disease doesn't wait for you to get organised – it doesn't wait for you to catch up. When you are sick of talking about exotic disease with your team, you are only just getting started", resonate fiercely with the looming threat on our borders.

# Events & Hub Extension Officer

**Shannan Hayes**

EVENTS & HUB EXTENSION OFFICER



I am the Events and Hub Extension Officer based in the Alice Springs region. I have now been in the role with the NTCA since July 2022, and continue to enjoy the opportunities the role brings.

I want to start with a little introduction into who I am and my background. I am the sixth generation on my families owned and operated pastoral lease in the Northern Territory, and the oldest pastoral lease in the NT, Undoolya Station. I am a Future NTCA Alumni, on the Centralian Beef Breeders Association committee, and am studying at Charles Darwin University my Bachelor of Arts in Graphic and Digital Media.

From my life experiences and the people around me, I have a strong passion for the Pastoral Industry, as well as design. Having the opportunity to combine my passions allows me to further invest my skills into benefiting my role, the Northern Hub and the NTCA.

With the addition of the Northern Hub, I am excited to be pioneering the Alice Springs Node and look forward to the opportunities it will bring to the NTCA and the Pastoral Industry, as well as how we can benefit other areas in the Northern Hub and around Australia.

Throughout my time in the role, I have attended events and meetings to engage with stakeholders, allowing





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**01.** Barkly Grundfos Training Day. **02.** Barkly Grundfos Training Day. **03.** Barkly Grundfos Training Day. **04.** 150 Year celebration for Undoolya Station. **05.** Barkly Grundfos Training Day. **06.** 150 Year celebration for Undoolya Station

me to bring further conversation around the work of the Northern Hub and NTCA.

I was fortunate enough to have travelled to Darwin for a Node managers meeting and an APEN Hosting Engaging Events Workshop. This was a great way to get introduced to the other Nodes and learn about their future endeavours, and how best we can work together. The APEN workshop was also great, and I was able to learn some fantastic tools for hosting workshops through the NTCA.

I believe it is valuable to stay across different issues, liaise with a range of department staff and stakeholders to ensure feedback from the ground is communicated through to relevant government departments, industry bodies, research groups, and so on.

The Safer Stations Project is one I have been working on and hope to make a great impact with for the health and safety of everyone who live and work on Pastoral Leases in the NT. This is very much so a passion project for me, given the way I grew up and the risks

that I know firsthand can and do occur. I expect the launch of the Work Health and Safety booklet to be released online soon. The children safety videos will also be completed soon, allowing us to present these to young school age children and advocate for safety around stations from a young age.

If you would like to know more about the Northern Hub and what it can offer you, the Safer Stations Project, events and workshops, or anything else under the sun, please reach out. I am happy to help where I can.

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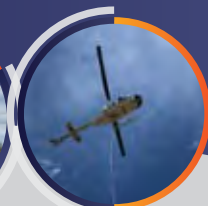
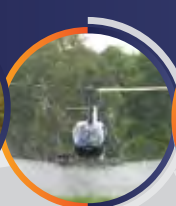
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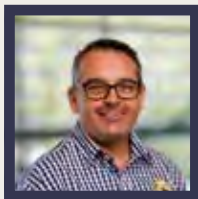
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# Industry Liaison

**Daniel Capps**

INDUSTRY LIAISON OFFICER



In November 2022 I completed my first year with the NTCA and quite a year it has been. From attending Supreme Court matters, meetings with Government Ministers, Senate Enquiries, liaising with Government and peak industry bodies and a move to Alice Springs.

One of the great perks of my role as Industry Liaison Officer is the opportunity to experience the diversity of the Northern Territory, whilst working with the phenomenal men and women of this industry. I will continue to travel in the coming year to meet and provide on the ground assistance to members facing land access issues involving the resource industry.

My primary role when I started with the NTCA was to assist pastoralists faced with the prospect of petroleum exploration and or production activities on their property. It became clear early on that there was an area of confusion regarding the differences between, the rights of petroleum producers and the rights of other resource sector operators under the Northern Territory Governments policy of “shared land use”. The focus of my role shifted to clarifying the differences between the two legislative frameworks and helping members in respect of land access across all resource sectors. I have since developed land access templates for both petroleum access and other resource sector stakeholders to help members negotiate the different types





of land access issues that they may face.

A natural progression from my initial work has been an increasing overlap of Native Title and Indigenous land issues in the resource sector space and I have helped a number of members in dealing with an increasingly broader range of land access issues. Policy issues have ranged from consultation around the implementation of the recommendations of the Scientific inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the NT, through to the development of a new royalty framework for petroleum. This has including policy matters that whilst not strictly petroleum related impact members in respect of broader resource related infrastructure development.

In conjunction with the mines department of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, the NTCA has introduced a complaints form (which has been emailed to

all members) to gather data of activities that negatively impact members, as well as providing those complaints directly to DITT. The NTCA is hopeful that the increased awareness of the difficulties faced by members will lead to reconsideration of the mining legislation around land access.

I also sit as the NTCA representative on the Northern Territory Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance. The RAC is responsible for reviewing and approving research projects that address community concerns, issues and potential impacts as a result of onshore gas development in the NT. My role is to consider project submissions and whether they meet the requirements of members and where appropriate approve funding for the project. The primary aim of GISERA is to provide the public with access to relevant and

transparent research around the impact of oil and gas exploration on communities directly affected by the industry.

A further project Romy Carey and myself are involved with, is the development of a new dynamic website that provides greater functionality for members including access to an array of templates, guidance, notes and materials.

I look forward to being part of the NTCA into the future and providing greater levels of service and access to information to help members during government consultations and when negotiating land access agreements with resource companies.

# Project Coordinator

**Annabelle Keith**

PROJECT COORDINATOR OFFICER



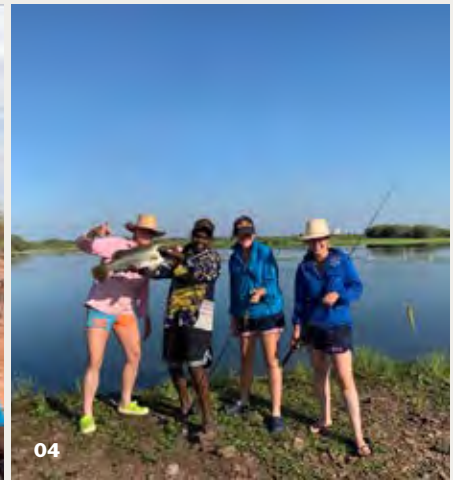
I started with the NTCA in early January, and what a stella year it's been! 2022 started with our Pastoral Real Jobs Program (RJP) Pre-Employment training. We saw seventeen young indigenous Territorians complete the two-week training. This included accredited training by Charles Darwin University, where students gained competency in motorbikes, water, fencing and cattle handling. Marc Gallagher delivered the horsemanship training, and it was amazing to watch all the participants increase their horsemanship skills. For some of these participants, this was the furthest they had travelled away from their homelands. James and I spent a lot of time building confidence in these students, and we saw by the end of the training their self-esteem had grown enormously!

Since the training, we have placed eleven first-year participants into full-time station-hand roles. I can honestly say I have been overly humbled watching our RJP participants develop their professional and personal skill-sets in so many diverse areas. James and I made it a high priority to support and respect each participant's cultural background. In turn, the participants have been educating others around them about local indigenous culture and stories. The program, by its nature, has an extremely tight-knit atmosphere and connectedness. We are excited to watch these young Indigenous stockmen and woman





03



04



05



06

forge a career within the pastoral industry.

The show season was a busy period with the highlight being our Totalweld Cows for a School Program. Twenty-two schools across the territory participated in the competition and advanced their knowledge of the NT pastoral industry. We teamed up with MLA and Good Meat Australia to run online live farm excursions, which included valuable education surrounding property sustainability, farm technologies and animal welfare education. The 2022 Totalweld Cows for a School champion went to Bulla Camp school! We held a BBQ out in the community, with meat donated

from Legune Station and invited families to join the day. Great thanks needs to go to our major sponsor Totalweld, for organising the cow cut-outs and supporting this great program, that helps educate younger minds about our industry.

In September 2022, Shannon Hayes and I had the opportunity to stand up and speak about mental health and suicide within the NT pastoral industry. This was a powerful day and readjusted my focus on what can we do better. Royal Flying Doctors Services teamed up with NTCA and we have been able to run Mental Health First-Aid Workshops. These workshops have been designed

**01.** Middlepoint School - Cows for School **02.** Brunette Downs Commercial Camp. **03.** Year 12 Graduates. **04.** Legune Station - Ethel and work mates. **05.** Lake Nash Crew Mustering. **06.** Brunette Downs RJP- Lane & Bradley.

for people to pick up on early signs of mental health decline, destigmatisation, how to have real conversations about suicide and intervention during a crisis. This is only the tip of the iceberg! I want to further develop mental health literacy, support networks and have materials that are relatable to our industry. This needs to be in line with the real struggles we face within our community. Watch this space!

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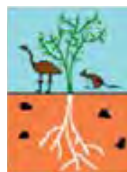
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**Sam McBean**  
TOP END BRANCH  
CHAIR

## Top End

### Branch Report

Good morning and welcome to the Top End Branch AGM. Thank you all for taking the time to attend this meeting as well as the other quarterly meetings which have all been very well attended in the past twelve months. It is this continued level of commitment and support from members that give our NTCA the strength it has.

2021 has continued to be influenced by covid. Border restrictions, lockdowns, lockouts, and continuous rule changes have all impacted on our members and their business. During 2021 covid has taken a considerable amount of NTCA staff time, however their help in relaying the changes to members as well as influencing some government decisions has been invaluable. This was shown in December when a change in border entry conditions meant it looked like boarding school kids and their families would not be able to spend Christmas together. Thankfully, after some swift lobby by NTCA and others, the NT government let common sense prevail. It seems recently we have entered a new phase of the covid 19 pandemic, with restrictions opening up and cases skyrocketing across Australia. It seems a new set of challenges lay ahead.

BushfiresNT continue to be an issue for many members across the Top End. The reduction in services delivered combined with a more onerous reporting system have members and volunteers questioning the relevance of BushfiresNT in its current state to our industry. It seems recently there has been some

small progress, with BushfiresNT acknowledging their current structure does not support the pastoral sector. Let's hope we can get some change in this space before the next fire season.

Surveys during 2021 found Siam Weed beyond the areas first thought. Because of a much larger infestation area, a lack of funding, possibly a lack of energy and maybe because of no vested interest, the NT Weeds Branch has given up on eradication on Siam in the NT. This weed provides a significant threat to our pastures in the top end. It has been estimated eradication of known infestations would cost \$20 million, which seem worth it given the alternative looks something like Mimosa, which costs our members millions each year just to contain. The NTCA is assisting local members to establish a Top End Landcare group that can access funding and recourses to hopefully provide a solution to this issue.

To pastoralists, containing the spread of weeds, such as Siam, is common sense and taken for granted in good farm management. This is one of the many reasons it is important the NTCA continue to push the NT government for mandatory land access agreements for miners similar to what exists in the gas industry.

We were sold simplified clearing applications by the NT government last year as a way to reduce application times and reduce red tape. After completing one of these, it seems the process is more onerous on the land holder and less responsibility with the department. I would suggest we were sold a bum steer, as it is not simplified for the applicant. That being said, government and industry are under increasing pressure and examination from green groups such as ECNT. We must get better at managing these groups and rebuff any untruths as an association and as individuals.

Despite the ongoing challenges our industry faces, agriculture in

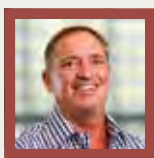
general and particularly the cattle industry in the top end, conditions have never been better. Rainfall this wet season has been good throughout the top end, giving plenty of feed and hopefully putting plenty of kilos of beef on our cattle. Hopefully the wet season has a couple of months to run yet.

With good rainfall throughout, Australia has seen record cattle prices during the past year. The top end has been no exception, with the boat price in excess of \$5/kg for the first time. We have seen southern restockers coming this far north offering in excess \$6/kg for light cattle and some northern producers sending out of spec cattle to southern saleyards to cash in on the record prices. There is no doubt it is a terrific time to be a cattle producer, however some thought must be spared to our customers in Southeast Asia. Reports suggest they have struggled more with covid than Australia, and now are paying unprecedented prices for cattle, forcing them to look hard for other suppliers. Our advantage has always been and will always be our proximity to Southeast Asia. As a producer I am always going to take the top market for my cattle, however I do hope we can continue to nurture and supply our live-export markets into the future, as I believe they are our best.

During 2021, the NTCA welcomed a new CEO in Will Evans and a new chair in David Connolly. Both started in the same week which is never easy. I believe both have done a sterling job and on behalf of the top end branch, I would like to congratulate Will and David on their first twelve months in the positions. I would also like to thank Romy, Hannah and the rest of the team for their tireless work and endless energy in supporting our members. The NTCA is lucky to have such a dedicated team.

It has been a privilege to be chair of the top end branch and I am grateful to be involved with such

a great association. I would like to thank Tony and Colin for their help and support throughout the year. I would strongly encourage anyone any member who wants to be apart of the NTCA exec to nominate. I, like most of you, would prefer to be mustering or drafting cattle, however many of the issues facing our industry are equally as important as drafting cattle. The NTCA is the best platform in Australia to influence those issues.



**Justin Dyer**  
KATHERINE BRANCH  
CHAIR

## Katherine

### Branch Report

Good morning, Katherine Branch members and guests. I hope everyone is getting some decent rain, there have been some fantastic falls recorded all over the NT. Hopefully home will see some decent rain soon as we seem to be in a dry patch. Either way the market continues its bull run and that will last for a while yet. Live export quotes of over \$5 for brahman feeder steers is exceptional and I wish the Live Export industry all the best in what must be trying times for the trade. With good rain over large areas of Australia the demand for cattle into all markets will remain strong for the foreseeable future as the herd rebuild continues. Interest rates remain at all time lows however inflation is well on the rise in the US and we may not be far behind, with increase in interest rates to normally follow suit not long after. Even so the beef game looks to be as strong as ever with large increases in value but volume is down overall.

It is a pertinent time to consider

what we need to do to get the best representation and advocacy at a National level with Cattle Council still trying to find a way forward. This issue has been on the NTCA Executive Agenda for as long as I have been present and I urge all members and levy payers to take an interest in how and when this can be resolved. We must do better for a strong future platform of Advocacy for grass fed cattle. NTCA has fine representation to CCA with Marcus and Anne so I urge members to reach out to them on possible restructure best outcomes.

Anyone who has had experience in recent dealing with the Pastoral Land Board will likely tell you of frustrations and delay. We have seen a power shift to the bureaucratic administrators of the PLB and the Board is left feeling like they are being dictated to. There are issues with the security of Sacred Site Clearances and some have been challenged by Land Council even though correct procedures have been adhered to. A new mandate called a “culture of compliance” will come into effect and that is going to bring some challenges with it such as stocking rate information and potential enforcement.

The National Livestock Identification System or NLIS has been raised at this Branch questioning its efficacy. It seems the NT is the only jurisdiction that goes close to compliance with many other states receiving exemptions. Is it fit for purpose? It is costly. NTCA exec have pushed it up to CCA for investigation so we will have to wait and see what comes of that. All I can add is that the mock infectious disease outbreak scenarios run by the Department have raised concerns.

A new Strategic Water Plan is at the submissions phase and NTCA will put ours in. On face value there does not seem a lot to be concerned about yet however as always, the devil is in the detail. One aspect we need to be strong

on is keeping water rights tied to farms and farmers and away from pure investment traders. Rob McGauvin who has overseen some of Australia’s biggest start up plantations from grapes and nuts to olives will testify that the problem down south with investment speculators is very costly to the industry.

These are just a few of the issues that the NTCA will be watching and again I urge members to attend and engage at Branch Meeting or pick up the phone and talk to your President, CEO or Branch Chair.

The last 12 months has show that we are strong and able to operate in the most challenging environments. However, we must remain vigilant with a cost recovery mandate by NTG and soaring debt leaving me wondering who will pay the bill.

Thanks again to the great staff and Board members and especially our President Mr. Connolly who is Chairing the Exec professionally and with enthusiasm.



**Henry Burke**  
BARKLY BRANCH  
CHAIR

## Barkly

### Branch Report

I would like to thank the dedicated members of the Barkly Branch for their continued support of our branch, region and industry. It has been fantastic to have such great attendance and input and debate at our quarterly meetings. It is always challenging to find the time to get to the meetings, please know your attendance and input is valued.

The NTCA took these issues raised at our local branch meetings to the forefront and debated and advocated on our behalf

throughout the year. Whilst much success has been had with many of these issues, there will always be more that require ongoing attention. These issues and many more have been and will be reported on by our CEO and EO in their reports.

Producers faced another patchy season on the Barkly for the 2020/2021 wet, overall, there was enough rain to allow properties to begin their herd rebuild back to pre-2019 drought levels. 2021/2022 is shaping up to be another below average season but there is still hope that the next couple of months will deliver more rain.

The long-term rain forecast is pointing to a drier winter/spring when compared to last year, cattle prices could be impacted if comparing to last year as this period saw prices spike due to continuous rain in the South and low cattle numbers.

The cattle markets have continued to climb throughout the year to unprecedented levels, while they have been very good for producers it is certainly starting to impact our South-East Asian markets and we certainly need to be aware that we take a longer-term view of what this might look like for the industry in the next few years.

I spoke last year about the challenges that COVID brought us in the regions and around the world and as we look to 2022 we can only hope that we return to a level of normality now that the virus has set in and is widespread. COVID has been well managed by our Industry. Our staff at NTCA have been a great support to all within the Beef industry. The major success to this has been good information/communication that's always been provided by the team to the industry. Moving staff, getting kids home from school, quarantining is just some of the factors involved.

Carbon has and remains a hot topic, with NTCA working hard to identify methodologies that will best suit

our landscapes and production systems as well as identify best practice providers in this space. The message to members at this time remains, proceed with caution. We continue to experience below average maintenance of our critical road networks, the recent flooding events showed just how fragile our network is. NTCA continue to lobby for better spend of allocated road funding and 2022 will be no different.

Remote policing is again topical for our branch with no additional boots on the ground. It is concerning to continually hear feedback from members regarding the ongoing issues they are facing in the regions and the day to day impacts that lack of remote police has on operations.

I thank all members for their continued support throughout the year. I will be available to stand as Chair for the Barkly Branch in 2022 if all members wish for me to continue.

I would also like to thank the NTCA executive and staff of NTCA for their continued support and look forward to working together in 2022.



**Stewart Weir**  
ALICE SPRINGS BRANCH  
CHAIR

## Alice Springs

### Branch Report

After such a significant dry period it is fantastic to see 2022 shaping up to be a big season for all in our region with plenty of rain going around and strong prices.

As we know all too well with good rain comes significant fuel loads and fire risks. It is disappointing to see Bushfires NT remain extremely

under resourced and unable to carry out its core business. Ensuring that we are prepared this coming fire season will be crucial to prevent a repeat of the catastrophic 2010/11 fire season. I know that we will all be busy in the coming months ensuring that we are carrying out all necessary mitigation work to prepare ourselves and our properties.

Good rain also places additional stress on our already fragile road network. We have seen the recent weather events leave our roads in a total state of disrepair. Ensuring that Government are making informed decisions, getting best bang for buck and delivering road repairs, maintenance and upgrades for the regions will no doubt remain high on the agenda for NTCA.

In June 2021 we had the Petroleum Acreage Release announcement with the Minister calling for applications from petroleum companies interested in being granted a petroleum exploration permit in our region. With more than a dozen pastoral properties listed in the identified area, NTCA worked quickly to ensure that impacted producers were informed. Information sessions were held to assist producers with assessing the likely impacts of potential activity so that submissions to the Minister could be made. Responses to these submissions are still pending.

Compulsory land access for mining has been a significant policy priority for NTCA in recent years. In the coming month members will receive a complaints/feedback template. This template is designed to capture the dataset needed to drive legislative change. When this comes out members will be asked to provide details of incidents and concerns with mineral title holders and exploration and mining activities. NTCA will continue to lobby hard to see the introduction of mandatory land access for the mining industry.

Coronavirus has well and truly settled in with restrictions, lock

downs, lock in's, lock out's, border closures, masks and sanitizer becoming the norm. All facets of work and life for everyone have been tested like nothing we have experienced before. Business have struggled to continually comply with ever changing directions to ensure that they can continue to operate. Our industry has shined through this all, working tirelessly to ensure that beef is still available. It hasn't been easy however as restrictions begin to ease, we can only hope that we might be able to return to a level of normal, whatever that looks like now.

Workforce shortages continues to be front of mind for all, industries are competing for what seems to be a declining pool of workers. The introduction of an Agriculture Visa is positive, but for our industry not likely to alleviate the significant shortages being experienced. We can't just turn off the lights and shut the doors when the workforce isn't available. There's bores and fences to check, roads and fire breaks to grade, cattle to tend to, the list goes on... We are doing more with less so ensuring that we

are taking the time to look after ourselves in amongst this all is more important now than ever.

The emerging carbon industry on our doorstep has been an exciting prospect. NTCA have worked tirelessly to ensure that we all have the relevant information to make informed decisions when considering how this industry might apply to our individual properties. Proceeding with caution and ensuring that you have done your homework prior to entering contracts is paramount. We look forward to seeing this market mature over the coming years.

The Bohning Yards look fantastic, Annie Harvie has done a great job maintaining the property and the yards. As always, I encourage all members to make use of and support the yards where you can. The Association has been committed to maintaining these facilities and they need the support of the membership and industry to remain viable and allow for improvements and upgrades to occur. In addition to the yards there

are some exciting development opportunities in the pipeline that the NTCA team are working to map out for the Executive to consider.

I will not be standing again for re-election in 2022 and would like to thank the Alice Springs branch for having me as branch chair, your commitment to industry and your support of NTCA. Nicole and David for the time and effort that they have put in, representing the Alice Springs branch, and ensuring that issues from our region are raised at Executive meetings.

I look forward to a phenomenal year with fat cattle and paddocks of green grass for everyone.

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# NTCA Ladies Lunch

## Terry Underwood OAM

NTCA LIFE MEMBER

Friends, I want to tell you why historically NTCA has meant so much to me, NTCA, which honoured me with Life Membership in the year 2000.

My late husband John was a founding influence and long term office bearer of the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association, which, after the amalgamation of several splintered industry groups, held its inaugural meeting in Tennant Creek on 11th July 1984. However from the inception of this all important industry body, I too was actively involved in various capacities.

Back in the beginning many of us contributed financially to the purchase of the NTCA office – the same one that exists today - and that place became home away from home for members of cattle families visiting the big smoke called Darwin.

The Administrator of the day, Commodore Eric Johnston, dressed in his immaculate white naval suit, officially opened our NTCA office. During those associated celebratory drinks, Commodore Johnston declared his intention to visit every Northern Territory pastoral property during his time representing Her Majesty, and he did just that.

Black and white framed portraits of our pillars of industry rightfully took pride of place on NTCA office walls:

Grant Heaslip, Cliff Emerson, Malcolm Roberts, John McKenzie, John Dyer, John Underwood, Ken Warriner and others.....

Back in those early years, communications were restrictive and roads were unreliable. However

we remote living pastoralists made every effort to work with people in high places, as well as politicians and policy makers. We were always focused on our complex Agenda.

Because we all belonged to the same associations and organisations, Town Meetings were of necessity organised back

to back: Katherine School of the Air, ICPA, Bush Fire Council, Land Care Groups and NTCA, meetings galore. There was no Top End Branch back then, just Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine. I remember at the conclusion of our first productive Katherine Branch AGM, we endeavoured to find a restaurant with the capacity to feed our large group. It was impossible and so the following year the Katherine Branch AGM saw the birth of the Beef Bash Annual Dinner Extravaganza.

NTCA Gala Dinners became legendary, simply because the entertainers were we, us and co. It was easy for me to identify the simmering talents of cattle producers and their colleagues, and over many years I nurtured their natural flair for acting. Helicopter pilots, stock inspectors, vets, bush children and their parents enthusiastically participated in Industry Parades and Theatrical Productions.

Kirbys Restaurant became The Opera House of the Northern Territory, and today I remain in awe of all my performers and the enduring friendships we forged, on and off stage.

Way back then there was never a thought that bush women might pull up, let alone dress up, to enjoy the luxury of each others company over a bite to eat.

“Ladies Who Lunch” sounded like a Hollywood Movie. However once established, the annual NTCA Ladies Lunch has been a sell out success.

Today we are gathered on the splendid green Pastures of Pee Wees at the Point, celebrating the significance, and absolute joy, of being together.

From earliest beginnings, the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association was acknowledged on the national stage as an industry body of integrity and strength. Grass roots members adopted leadership roles with knowledge, passion and unflinching commitment.

We all know that change is inevitable; however some things do not change. NTCA will always be as strong as its members.

Ladies we must continue to contribute, as the current Agenda is more complex than ever. Importantly our affiliation with the National Farmers' Federation, Cattle Council of Australia (soon to be renamed) and Live Export Groups remains rock solid.

As an Ambassador for Australia's Year of the Outback in 2002, I organised the magnificent bronze, one and a half times life size statue of stockman on horseback, known as the Katherine Icon. This arresting and beautifully detailed monument in Katherine pays tribute to our Pioneers of yesteryears, those who blazed the trails in which we follow. Right now as we reflect upon this brief glimpse into NTCA history, we honour our modern day Pioneers. We stand on their shoulders, as one day others will stand on ours.

Having dealt with Pastures and Pioneers, there remains the third theme of our 2022 Conference: Perseverance.

That attribute is ingrained in us all.

We live and breathe Perseverance. It is the only way.

# Paparazzi

2022 NTCA & Bilba Ladies Lunch







# Paparazzi

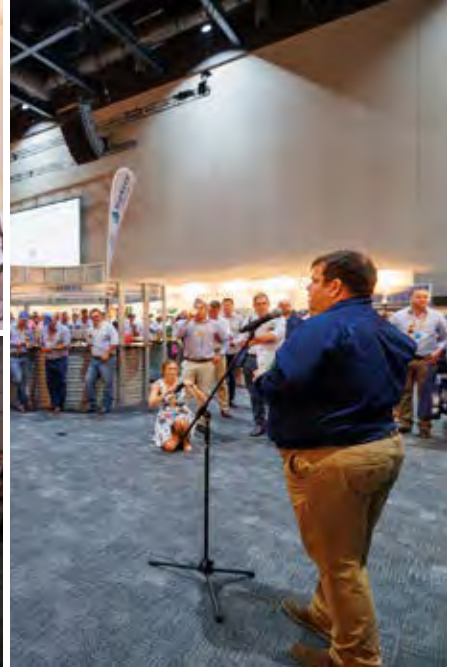
2022 NTCA Conference



12

# Paparazzi

2022 NTCA & Pioneer Tanks Welcome Drinks





# Paparazzi

2022 Georgina Pastoral Company Future  
NTCA Breakfast



# Paparazzi

2022 NTCA & AACO Gala Dinner





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# Address to Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association

**The Hon Nicole Mansion MLA**  
MINISTER FOR AGRIBUSINESS  
AND AQUACULTURE



I respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land on which we are meeting – the Larrakia. I pay my respects to Elders past present and emerging.

I would like to specifically acknowledge the Chair of the Northern Land Council, Mr Samuel Bush-Blanasi.

I would like to welcome notable dignitaries, delegates and speakers here today: Senator Susan McDonald, Senator for Queensland. Mr Markus Rathsmann, President of the Cattle Council of Australia. Ms Fiona Simson, President National Farmers Federation. Mr Hugh Nivison, Chair of the Australian Farmers Fighting Fund. Mr Alan Beckett, Chair of Meat and Livestock Australia. Mr David Galvin, Chair ALEC. Mr Troy Setter, Chair Livecorp. Mr Gulfan Alfero, Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia. The Hon Shane Stone AC QC, Former Chief Minister of the NT. Mr Simon Smith, President of the NT Farmers Association. Mr Arief Wicaksono P. Putro, Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia

I would like to acknowledge the NTCA Life Members – especially Mr Luke Bowen. Former NTCA Presidents.. Mr David Connelly President of the NTCA. Mr Will Evans – Chief Executive of the NTCA

This time last year, I was welcoming David as the incoming NTCA





President and Will as the incoming NTCA Chief Executive Officer.

And what a year it has been! Congratulations to you both on your passion, hard work and dedication over the last 12 months, ensuring the continuing success of the Territory's livestock and agricultural industry through the second year of the global COVID pandemic.

Well done on a record attendance for the 37th NTCA Conference, with over 800 attendees. This has to be the biggest annual agricultural event of its kind in the nation. I might be biased but I think it's definitely the best!

Thank you to all of you in the room today for your support and agility over the past 2 years, working with us to keep Territorians safe, keeping Territorians in work, keeping our industry rolling and our vital trade open! Thank you.

### **NT Beef Cattle Industry**

I am delighted to be here today - my second NTCA Conference as the Minister for Agribusiness, with the responsibility for supporting the development of the Territory's iconic cattle industry! And I want to be clear, the Territory Government backs the cattle industry and live export trade and we will do everything we can to keep backing you and your vital work here in the Territory.

You are one of our oldest and greatest industries, and the Territory has so much to be proud of in what you achieve and everything you do.

At a time when we see record livestock prices, which as we know brings mixed blessing across the supply chain, including for our Indonesian trade partners.

It's rarely plain sailing in agriculture, as you'd know. We are witnessing the impact of war and geopolitical tensions. We are seeing rapidly rising cost of production, manifest in fuel, chemicals, fertiliser and many other business inputs. And of course COVID is not over yet. But we're absolutely determined to

succeed in spite of it!

Ladies and gentlemen. We have a goal of reaching a \$40 billion economy by 2030. And the Territory's livestock and agricultural industry will play a critical role in achieving this target.

We all know, our livestock industry is a key economic driver, not just for the Northern Territory, but for Australia. This billion dollar industry manages just under half of the Northern Territory's land mass and around two million head of cattle and provides diverse employment opportunities in rural, regional and remote areas of the Territory. This is a significant contribution made by a fraction of the population, scattered over a massive area of land. That is something you should all be extremely proud of!

And as Minister for Agribusiness, I will continue to do everything I can to work with you to springboard more infrastructure and investment projects, improve trade opportunities, employment and innovation in the Territory's livestock and agricultural sector.

So this industry can continue to strive to meet its full potential and create jobs, jobs and more jobs for Territorians and remain one of the best places in the world for the production of agricultural commodities.

### **Biosecurity**

But Ladies and Gentlemen. While we can celebrate the fact that we are one of the best agricultural production areas in the world, we must never be complacent.

Biosecurity forms the foundations supporting not only our production systems but our ability to trade nationally and internationally, and there is no greater example of this, than our cattle industry. It's through the vigilance of industry, the Territory's dedicated biosecurity officers and our partnerships with the Commonwealth and other states, that Australia's Northern Territory and the nation, remains safe and able to trade.

As the emerging threats grow in complexity, how we respond to them needs to evolve too.

Last year I had the pleasure of opening the new \$8million Molecular Diagnostics facility at the Berrimah Farm Science Precinct, which is part of a wider \$44million redevelopment.

This facility is the only one of its kind in northern Australia and it is world class. And it is designed to deliver biosecurity containment to level 3 capacity allowing for highly specialist research and diagnostic activities supporting the agriculture sector and improving outcomes for the cattle industry, while focussing on protection from exotic pests and diseases.

But make no mistake, I am acutely aware and highly concerned about the threat that is currently before us with Lumpy Skin disease.

AND I know that it is not if - but when it arrives.

We cannot afford to have our industry put at risk because of Lumpy Skin and other ongoing biosecurity threats.

That's why today I am pleased to announce that the Territory Government will be permanently boosting our biosecurity team and capacity in the upcoming budget by \$2million a year.

This is a significant ongoing investment because we need more people and more permanent resources on the frontline in the Territory to fight potential biosecurity threats that could put the cattle industry and other agriculture at risk.

Our dedicated biosecurity officers and laboratory teams have played crucial roles in identifying serious threats to Australian agribusiness, and they are in a state of readiness to respond to any threats to the Northern Territory's livestock industry, such as Japanese Encephalitis, African Swine Fever or Lumpy Skin.

As Agribusiness Minister, the NTCA has been clear to me from the start

that having a strong biosecurity system is vital to you and we are backing that in with more action and resources.

I want to thank you and your fellow producers for your ongoing adherence to biosecurity protocols and participation in preparedness and response measures to protect the Northern Territory from biosecurity threats. I've heard the NTCA loud and clear, Lumpy Skin is a real threat and I stand ready to do more to protect this great industry.

Two weeks ago today the Chief Minister put Lumpy Skin on the National Cabinet agenda, to the surprise of all the other state leaders who had not heard about it! I understand David Connolly had a bit to do with that too. Thanks David.

And it is great to see that this has translated into action from the Feds. I want to thank the Federal Government for their announcement this week about increased biosecurity funding across Northern Australia and we look forward to securing as much funding as possible for the Territory.

BUT I need to be very clear. The fight against Lumpy Skin must include a deep, respectful and effective partnership with Indonesia and Timor Leste.

It must include a seamless collaboration across northern Australia and Australia.

We must have a vaccine. FAST! We must get live virus into Australia's Centre for Disease Preparedness in Geelong to develop a safe vaccine, FAST!

We must start the diplomatic and trade negotiations with our international partners to establish post incursion protocols, FAST!

There is no time to waste. Lumpy Skin and other biosecurity threats is "all our responsibility". Our continued prosperity depends on it.

I want to specifically acknowledge Dr Sue Fitzpatrick, our hard working and dedicated Chief Veterinary Officer for the critical role she plays

in ensuring the continuing success of the Territory's livestock industry and protecting it from all the bad stuff!

### **Roads**

I don't need to tell you how important our road infrastructure is and NTCA will never stop advocating for roads investment. This was highlighted during recent flooding in Central Australia that saw the closure of the Stuart Highway, as well as the Adelaide to Darwin railway, impacting food and critical goods and service supplies.

The Territory Government knows the significant economic and social contribution the livestock industry provides and that is why we are continuing work to seal more roads to support the cattle industry. We have invested hundreds of millions of dollars into our roads, but there is still a lot more to do and we will continue the fight to get more money working with the Commonwealth Government into beef roads.

We have sealed more kilometres of roads than any other Territory Government and will continue to do this. You've seen this on the Tanami, Plenty, Arnhem, Barkly to name a few.

We are delivering the \$200 million Tanami Road upgrade and the \$225 million Central Arnhem Road upgrade. And we will deliver the \$125 million Buntine Highway upgrade and the \$150 million Carpentaria Highway upgrade.

And other roads – the Maryvale, Tablelands, Plenty, Roper are being invested in too and we will keep this momentum going because it is critical work to you.

### **Pastoral Land Board – permitted activity schedule**

We know access to land is fundamental to building the Territory's economy. We need roads, pipelines, railways, electricity corridors and housing and we need developed land for food and fibre production.

Less than 1% of our total land area has been cleared for any purpose so making comparisons with the history of land clearing in southern Australia is ridiculous. Yes - ridiculous - and I need to call it out.

With such a small land clearing footprint, sensible and modest development makes sense, to enable growth in our food and fibre production, while protecting our unique environment. That is why the Territory Government is focused on streamlining processes to accelerate investment.

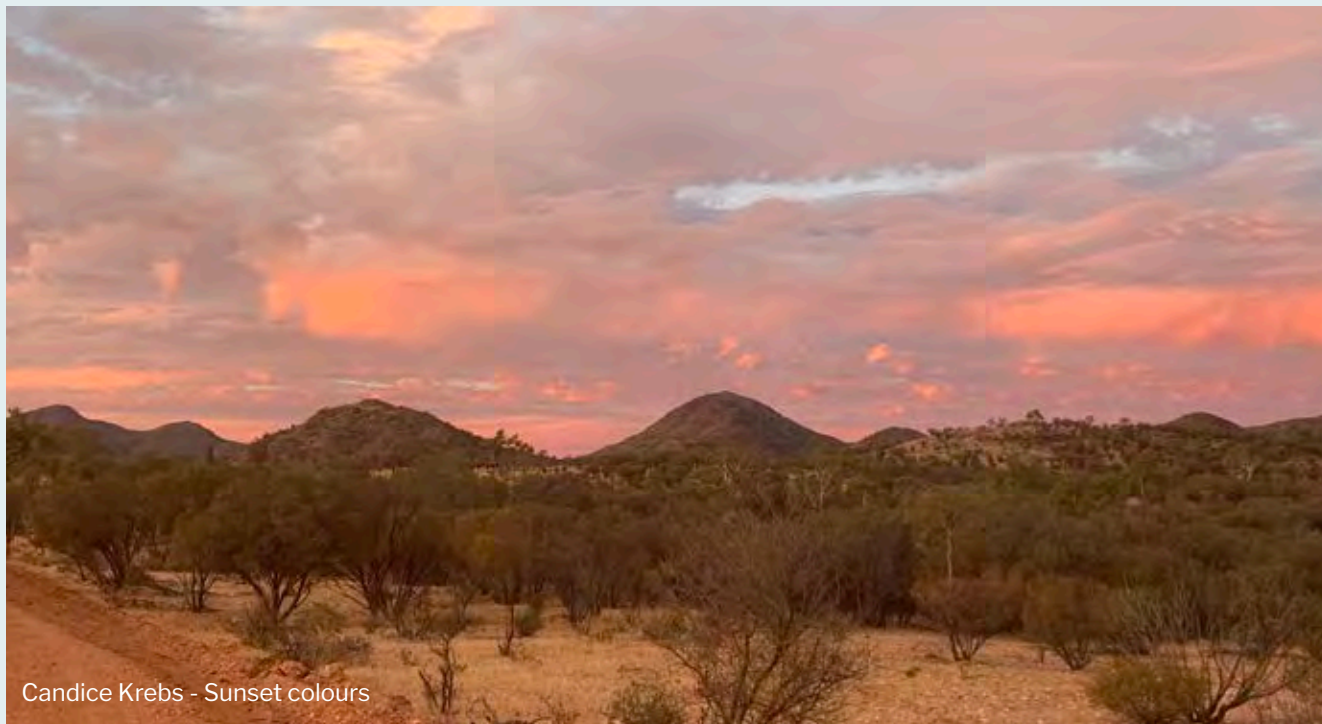
Amendments to the Pastoral Land Act will commence next week, from 31 March 2022. This will mean that for the first time the clearing of pastoral land will be supported by a comprehensive, and enforceable, permitting scheme established in legislation ensuring land clearing is undertaken in a sustainable, and fully regulated manner. This will provide industry with greater certainty and clarity of processes.

The Pastoral Land Board will have greater powers to direct a person to stop land clearing, require rehabilitation of unauthorised clearing, and prosecute breaches of land clearing requirements.

Last year I announced the 'simplified pastoral land clearing applications process' which enables pastoral land clearing applications to be assessed and approved in shortened timeframes where strict environmental criteria are satisfied. I am glad we've seen 5 applications and I want to see more going forward. If you want more information please go see our government display in the display hall to get more information and advice.

### **Land Development and Diversification**

Agriculture is a growth sector in the Northern Territory. That statement isn't just a pun – agricultural investment and pastoral diversification bring people, jobs, capital and ideas to the Territory, all of which contribute to our regional economies.



Candice Krebs - Sunset colours

Diversification builds resilience, improved profitability and economic security for producers, it attracts important enabling infrastructure, and brings significant long-term economic and regional development and investment, benefiting our communities.

We see the opportunities with Modern cotton and grains complementing existing sectors such as cattle. The NT Land Corporation recently announced AAM Investment Group as the preferred proponent for the Keep Plains agricultural land development. We are supporting the further land release and precinct developments including those at Wildman Plains, Larrimah, Gunn Point and the Western Davenports area in the Tennant Creek pastoral district. The Agribusiness Development Precincts team is here today and I encourage you to catch up with them, if you haven't already.

**Mining and Petroleum**

As many of you know, I am also the Minister for Mining and Industry – which includes gas. I don't pick favourites, I believe we

can all co-exist to benefit of each other. The Territory Government supports an emerging onshore petroleum industry that protects our unique natural environment for all Territorians and delivers local jobs. It is critical, a robust regulatory framework is in place.

I want everyone to work together in a fair and equitable way. The onshore petroleum industry, mining industry and the cattle industry are both critical to the Territory's economic future they these industries can and must co-exist. That's why under the Petroleum Regulations we require statutory land access agreements between a pastoral lessee and a petroleum permit or licence holder. All agreements must include the 24 minimum protections required by the Inquiry.

Given its early days, there has been some matters before NTCAT and the Courts, but I am confident this will set for a sound and equitable beneficial pathway forward for pastoralists and the gas industry. And I have made my views to mining companies clear – relationships with pastoralists must be respectful and mutually

beneficial. This ensures we all win with better infrastructure, more opportunities for growth and stronger regional and remote areas.

**Industry innovation - advisory committees – agribusiness strategy**

The cattle industry in the NT continues to lead innovation in many areas. This leadership has included the work of the NTCA and the three industry advisory committees who provide the feedback we need to guide NT Government and industry investment into research, development, extension and adoption initiatives.

The work of my department continues to play a key role in partnership with you, your Research and Development Corporations such as Meat and Livestock Australia, and other groups to deliver research, development and extension programs driving increased productivity, profitability and sustainability. The focus of our work is evolving as new priorities emerge. It includes the science and technology required to underpin robust and verifiable methodologies to support carbon markets, while

also preserving the integrity of production systems and the environment.

It also includes meeting and exceeding carbon neutrality. The cattle industry has already set a 2030 target to achieve neutrality and I know the NT and Northern Australia will be doing much of the heavy lifting. I thank the NTCA who are doing further work in this space, and I look forward to seeing this work further develop. I remain committed through the work of our rangeland, livestock, plant production and biosecurity scientists to be partner with you to advance agriculture for future generations. And I would like to thank you for your feedback on the Agribusiness and Aquaculture Strategy to help guide the Territory's economic growth. I will be releasing this strategy soon and it is a great piece of work.

**Trade and investment**

So it has been a big 12 months and we have another big 12 months ahead. Domestic and international borders are open, and we can look

forward to more certainty than what we have experienced in the last two years to continue strengthening our cattle industry. As Minister for Trade I am also planning a program to visit our nearest and most important partners in the region. Indonesia, Vietnam and Timor are my priorities. I look forward to working with many of you here to enhance the growth and vibrancy of our international relationships. We can look forward to seeing people face to face again and going about our travel without fear of borders being shut.

**Taskforce Starlight**

And before I finish, I also want to talk about my role as police minister and how we fight stock theft. With prices where they are at, cattle theft is a genuine issue.

Last year, I announced 'Taskforce Starlight' - work between NT Police, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade Livestock Biosecurity and the NTCA to combat stock theft and stock related crime in the Northern Territory.

As recently as last month, stolen cattle were returned to their rightful owner, and a man ordered to appear in court. The identification and recovery of stolen livestock, and prosecution of the offenders is a great outcome of this partnership. And this is just one of a few of their success stories so far.

I am pleased to announce that Taskforce Starlight will continue. I urge anyone who has stock theft to report it. We can only deal with it if it is reported.

**Closing**

In closing Ladies and Gentlemen. I again thank the NTCA leadership again, for your ongoing vision and strength advancing the cattle industry and look forward to making the most of the opportunities that are ahead. The Northern Territory Government will keep backing you and supporting you so we can see this great iconic world class Territory industry continue to thrive for generations to come.

Thank you.



Juliane Vlach - Ready, Set, Fight

## RECIPE

# BRIT IN THE BUSH

ELLIE DABORN

## Biscoff Blondies

### Method

1. Grease a 30cm×14cm brownie tray
2. Combine veg oil and brown sugar
3. Beat in eggs one at a time
4. Add vanilla extract and 2/3 of the jar of biscoff
5. Whisk together flour, salt and baking powder
6. Combine wet and dry ingredients
7. Fold in chocolate chips
8. Melt remaining biscoff in the microwave
9. Tip blondie mixture into tray and top with melted biscoff
10. Bake for 25 mins and allow to cool

Makes **49** small blondies or **24** small

- **2/3** cup veg oil
- **1** cup brown sugar
- **2** eggs
- **2** egg yolks
- **2** tsp vanilla extract
- **1** jar of biscoff spread
- **1** tsp salt
- **200g** plain flour
- **1.5** tsp baking powder
- **250g** chocolate chips



**SPEAKER UNVEILING OF THE PLAQUE OF COMMEMORATION**  
- UNDOOLYA STATION

# 150 years Undoolya

We are delighted to see so many friends, neighbours and family here to celebrate such a special milestone.

I would like to welcome Marion Scrymgour Member for Lingiari, Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Bill Yan MLA Member for Namatjira, Joshua Burgoyne MLA Member for Braitling.

I would also like to say a special welcome to those that have travelled from interstate, from the topend of the NT, from the stations and communities.

I would like to acknowledge many kind words and messages of disappointment of those people that were unable to attend today. And to those that are no longer with us.

Like my father Jim and grandfather Ted, I understand how important history is and the importance of the facts. We are lucky to be the care takers of many documents, letters and photos and hopefully the future generations will value them as much as we do.

So again welcome to Undoolya Station, the first official pastoral lease in the Northern Territory.

Although the first application for a pastoral lease in the NT was made in 1864 by FJ Manton for land on the Roper River. The granting of pastoral leases could not begin until after the passage of the Northern Territory



Lands Act 1872. This Act allowed persons to apply for land outside settled districts and to use that land for pastoral purposes.

On the 13th of February, 1872, Edward Meade Bagot applied for two blocks adjoining the Alice Springs Telegraph Station, both of which he received approval by the South Australian Government for on the 1st of April that year for lease number 1 on the eastern side, and number 2 on the western side of the Telegraph Station.

The 17th of February, 1872, saw Bagot's friend Joseph Gilbert apply for three blocks between MacDonnell and Waterhouse ranges for which he received approval on the same day as Bagot. His leases being numbers 3, 4 and 5.

Bagot's son, Ted and his step son James Churchill Smith commenced mustering and selecting bulls, breeding cows and bullocks to stock Bagot's and Gilbert's Central Australian leases on the 14th of March, 1872,

By late June, Bagot and Churchill Smith had completed selecting cattle from Pewsey vale and the Lake Bonney areas of the Murry River area and set out from north-west-bend, Morgan, on this historic first great cattle drive from SA to the Northern Territory.

Bagot and Gilbert not only placed this responsibility on these young men, for what became one the great droving feats of Australian history, but equally responsible for setting up the first two authorised stations in the NT.

They travelled some distances apart and each party was totally self-dependant in respect of provisions, tools and materials for fabricating the basic necessities for future accommodation and constant repairs to their wagons, harnesses and all other equipment.

Bagot and Churchill Smith had six men helping them on this journey. Ted Bagot celebrated his 24th birthday and Churchill Smith his

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## **Bagot and Gilbert not only placed this responsibility on these young men, for what became one the great droving feats of Australian history, but equally responsible for setting up the first two authorised stations in the NT.**

21st Birthday on the journey up.

So finally after almost one year of planning, implementation and resilience they reached Fenns gap, Undoolya, on the 25th of March, 1873.

This became their temporary camp until Churchill Smith commenced the construction of the first permanent stockyards and homestead on Undoolya.

An extract from his diary in 1873 reads.

*April 28: Shifted camp today up to the gorge about 4 and a half miles.*

*April 29: Hart, W Bains and I went out cutting forks and rails for horse yards.*

*May 1: Commenced putting up the frame work for a building for the men. 18ft by 16ft. It is to be thatched sides and ends and a tarpaulin roof.*

The first stone building soon followed these humble beginnings of the first station homestead in Central Australia, 1873.

Soon after, leases were quickly being taken up not only in Central Australia but also for properties in the eastern Barkly Tableland, including Alexandria in 1877, followed by properties in the western Victoria River area, including Victoria River Downs and Wave Hill. In some cases properties were leased by individuals, but many properties were ultimately acquired by large companies. By the end of the 19th century over 4,000 applications for pastoral leases were received.

Leases for other purposes including agriculture and timber were also allocated at this time.

By the 1st of April Andrew Tennant and John Love purchased Bagots leases. Bagots desire to chase the gold mining boom saw him heavily in debt.

The serious drought in the eighteen nineties and the Australia

wide financial crash brought about an almost total collapse of the cattle and horse breeding industry in Central Australia.

For the previous ten years there had not been a genuine application for a new lease, and by the mid-nineties all the original pastoral companies had been forced out with staggering financial losses.

Tenant & Love were the first to read the signs of the times, and in June.1891, just prior to the final debacle, they sold their four Undoolya leases, 1.2.16 & 17, to D.Murray, B.Russell & R.M.Kane.

That same month they were transferred to D.Murray & R.M.Kane, and following month all four leases were transferred to the Willowie Land and Pastoral Association.

The Willowie Land & Pastoral Association struggled on and held

Undoolya through the great depression and in 1905 finally made a sale.

The Hayes family had already expressed an interest in Undoolya but Norman Alexander Richardson a S.A. Pastoralist made a quick deal with the Association.

Richardson was known "as a considerable dealer in land' who also undertook various contracts for the Overland Telegraph Department.

Richardson wasted no time in completing a deal with William Hayes and Family for the purchase of Undoolya.

The Lease Register shows 1907 as the transfer from the Willowie Land & Pastoral Association to W.Hayes & Family, though they had taken possession in 1906, with son, John Hayes as manager.

In March 1922 Edward Hayes Sr became general manager and moved his family from Maryvale to

Undoolya.

The Hayes Family Company was dissolved in 1930 and Maryvale and Owen Springs sold. Edward Sr and Jane Hayes purchased Undoolya from W. Hayes & Sons but the registration was not approved until 1932.

Records show that the transfer of Undoolya was made in 1947 to Ted and Jean Hayes from Edward & Ann Jane Hayes.

1988 Ted Hayes passed away leaving Undoolya and Deepwell well to Billy Sr and Jim Hayes.

Like many here today we've seen the changes over time in not only in the cattle, but the technology

we use, as well as the people that have come and gone. Centralians understand how the importance of careful land management is.

My grandfather Ted wrote this many years ago and its still just as relevant today as it was nearly 50 years ago.

We are at heart conservationist and see the cooperation with conversation interest is the way to go. We are aware of the fact that the property has to be left in as good condition as we found it, for our children, grandchildren and the future of Australia.

I am fully aware that there is criticism of people who are trying

## NORTHERN TERRITORY PASTORALISM

### 1858 to 1970

**1858** South Australian pastoral interests were seeking more land, and they pressed the Government to explore the region as far north as the nominal border at the 26th parallel of latitude.

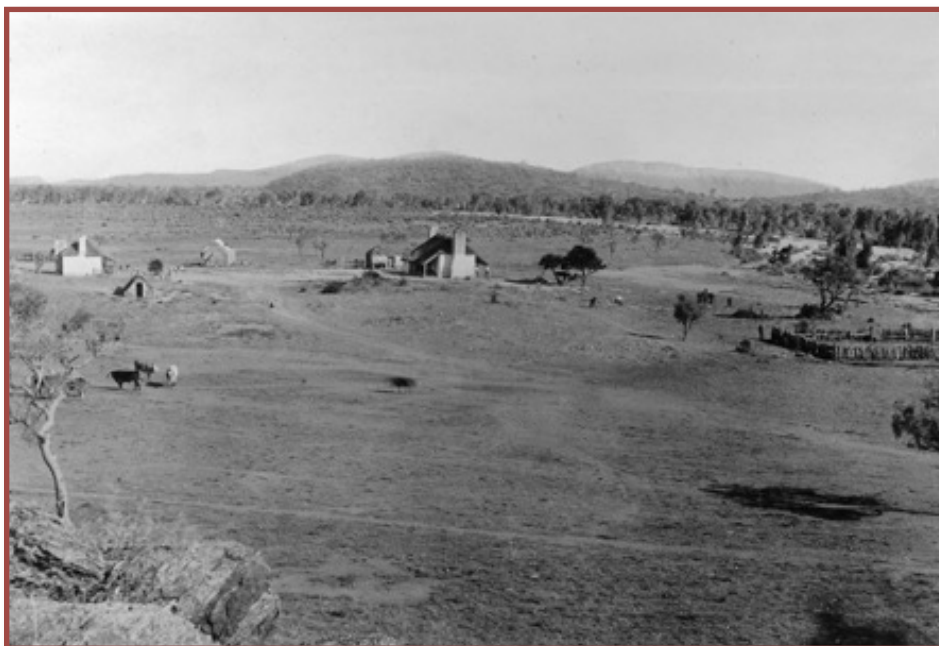
**1862** The South Australian Government offered a reward of £2,000 to the first person to successfully traverse the continent from Adelaide to the Arafura Sea. John McDouall Stuart sixth attempt reached Adam Bay, east of present day Darwin in July 1862.

**1863** On 6 July Queen Victoria signed the Letters Patent that formally annexed what had

previously been a nameless part of New South Wales as the Northern Territory of South Australia. The 1863 Act also provided for the administration of Crown lands by granting pastoral leases in response to calls by South Australian pastoralists for access to northern lands.

**1864** The first application for a pastoral lease in the Northern Territory was made by F.J. Manton for land on the Roper River but this was delayed. Survey delays meant that between 1864 and 1872, while a small number of applications for pastoral leases were received, no leases were issued.

**1872** South Australian Northern Territory Lands Act and the granting of pastoral leases began. This Act allowed persons to apply for land outside settled districts and to use that land for pastoral purposes. Leases were initially for 14 years (although this was later amended to 21 years or 42 years), and covered an area between 25 and 300 square miles, at a rental of sixpence per square mile.





to do the right thing but have been hit again with dry conditions and this should be understood and appreciated.

The emphasis on ecologic sustainability in the real world is not the answer.

Ecologic sustainability can only be got through a total approach of social economic and ecologic sustainability to end with sustainable productivity.

I believe we should remember the past but always be aware of the future, and never let an opportunity to promote the Centralian Pastoral Industry slip by.

**1872 13th of February**, Edward Mead Bagot applied for two blocks adjoining the Alice Springs Telegraph Station

**1872 1st April** approval for Lease No.1 on the east and No.2 on the west of the Telegraph Station was granted. On the 17 February, Bagot's friend, Joseph Gilbert, applied for three blocks between the MacDonnell and Waterhouse Ranges for which he received approval on the same day as Bagot his leases being Nos 3-5 Owen Springs.

**1872 14th. March**, Bagot's sons, Ted Bagot, James Churchill Smith and Joseph Smith's son, William, commences mustering and selecting bulls, breeding cows and bullocks to stock Bagot and Gilbert's Alice Springs leases.

**1872 August 22nd** the Overland telegraph line from Adelaide to Palmerston (present day Darwin) was completed

**1873 March 24th** Ted Bagot and James Churchill Smith arrived in the Alice. They reached Fenn Gap, the Undoolya lease on the 25 March 1873. The first well was sunk that year on Undoolya near the homestead.

**1876** Bagot and Gilbert sold their leases, Bagot's 'Undoolya' to Tenant & Love and Gilbert's 'Owen Springs' to Thomas Elder. Bagot had been compelled to sell due to his staggering losses in mining investments at Pine Creek, N.T, while Owen Springs sale was due to the death of Joseph Gilbert and William's return to Pewsy Vale.

**1890s** The depression in Australia occurred after the land boom bubble of the 1880s burst. Overseas investment dried up, banks failed and unemployment soared. It was exacerbated by a severe drought that gripped much of Australia from 1895 to 1903,

**1891** The serious drought in the eighteen nineties and the Australia wide financial crash brought about an almost total collapse of the cattle and horse breeding industry in Central Australia.

**1891 June** just prior to the final debacle, Tenant & Love sold their four Undoolya leases, 1,2,16 & 17, to D.Murray, B.Russell & R.M.Kane. That same month they were transferred to D.Murray & R.M.Kane, and following month all four leases were transferred to the Willowie Land and Pastoral Association!



**1902** Pastoral permits issued in lieu of pastoral leases

**1906** The Willowie Land & Pastoral Association struggled on and held Undoolya through the great depression and in 1906 finally made a sale. The Hayes family had expressed an interest but Norman Alexander Richardson a S.A. Pastoralist made a quick deal with the Association.

**1907** Richardson wasted no time in completing a deal with William Hayes and Family for the purchase of Undoolya with son, John Hayes as manager. His name does not appear in the Lease register but his part in the transfer was verified by William Hayes .

**1911** Commonwealth assumed administrative responsibility for the Territory on 1 January

**1912** Grazing licences issued in lieu of pastoral permits

**1912** The Hayes Undoolya leases No.s 1,2,16 & 17 lay between Jay Creek in the west to almost Trephina Creek in the east and Hamilton Downs boundary to the north. William and Mary Hayes continued to live at Mt.Burrell, but around 1912, they retired to Mt .Barker in the Adelaide Hills. Leaving their youngest son, Edward, to manage Mt.Burrell - now Maryvale. William's retirement was brief, for on 17 November 1913, he died at the age of 86.

**1913- 1921** External Affairs put the pressure on the Administrator to take over the Hayes leases and develop into a horse breeding station. Hayes and Sons were kept on tender-hooks until they received advice that the Minister approved the Hayes family occupying all four leases for a year at a time at the existing rental. But it was not till 15 September 1921, after eight years of uncertainty and two more of waiting for the new lease documents, that these were signed and delivered into the hands of a depleted Hayes family. William, the father had died in 1913, and son John who managed Undoolya from its purchase had retired in 1919, due to ill-health, and died shortly after. Sons William [Bill] and Edward, the youngest were then the only two members of the Hayes family still in Central Australia.

**1914-18** World War I

**1917** Completion of Vestey's meatworks at Darwin

**1920** Vestey's meatworks closed down

**1922** March Edward became general manager and moved his family from Maryvale to Undoolya.

**1925** Vestey's meatworks reopened briefly, then closed permanently

**1926** Southern railway line from Adelaide to Oodnadatta complete.

**1926** North Australia Act passed; Territory divided into regions of Northern Australia and Central Australia

**1929** The Southern railway line from Oodnadatta to Alice Springs completed Originally known as the Afghan Express, now known as The Ghan.

**1930** The Hayes Family Company was dissolved and Maryvale and Owen Springs sold. Edward Sr and Jane Hayes purchased Undoolya from W. Hayes & Sons but the registration was not approved until 1932.

**1932** Pastoral Leases Investigation Committee established, which completes its report in 1935

**1932** Edward Hayes was regarded as one of the best cattlemen in Central Australia. It was he who introduced poll Hereford to Central Australia.

**1936** Edward Hayes Sr purchased Owen Springs. Following the serious drought of the late nineteen-twenties when the lack of permanent water on Undoolya, except at Emily Gap, caused heavy stock losses, Edward realized the need for dams. This was the beginning of the vast improvements due to dam sinking, fencing and then deep bores that continued over the following decades.

**1937** Board of Inquiry appointed to Inquire into the Land and Land Industries of the Northern Territory

**1937** The first bore sunk on Undoolya was No 1 in the Todd Valley

**1938** Second Land Board abolished

**1938** Edward Jr. married Jean Bloomfield they then took over the management of Owen Springs, and while still there entered into a partnership with his father in Undoolya.

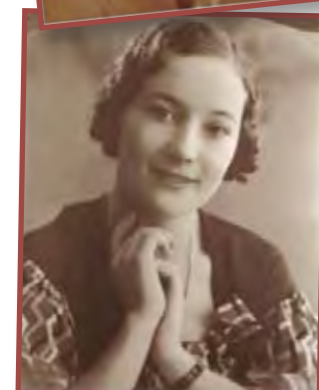
**William & Mary Hayes**



**Edward Sr & Jane Hayes**



**Edward (Ted Jr) & Jean Hayes**



**1939-45** World War 11

**1946** Animal Industry Branch established, with Lionel Rose appointed Director

**1949** Meat Production Development Committee replaced the Northern Australia Development Committee

**1952** Records show that the transfer of Undoolya was made in 1947 to Ted and Jean Hayes from Edward & Ann Jane Hayes. By 1st of February 1957 settlement was paid in full.

**1955** Agriculture Branch established

**1959** Committee of Inquiry into the Prospects of Agriculture in the Northern Territory appointed

**1960** During the bad drought Ted and Jean Hayes purchased Deep Well. They set about subdividing, and building cattle traps at watering places with trap paddocks to hold the cattle for drafting.

**1964** Committee of Investigation into Transport Costs in Northern Australia appointed

**1966** Agriculture and Animal Industry Branches amalgamated

**1970** Australian State and Territory government program of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign (BTEC) included Australia's entire cattle population and ran for 27 years.

**1978** Northern Territory Self Government

William Hayes had established a successful pastoral industry on land abandoned a decade earlier by over-capitalized companies. Having recognized the fragility of the land, he practiced careful husbandry of the herbage through understocking supported by family initiative, hard work, dams and wells. He was the first and most successful 'battler' to recognize and accept the parameters that this land imposes on man.

.....

*We are at heart conservationist and see the cooperation with conversation interest is the way to go. We are aware of the fact that the property has to be left in as good condition as we found it, for our children, grandchildren and the future of Australia.*

*I am fully aware that there is criticism of people who are trying to do the right thing but have been hit again with dry conditions and this should be understood and appreciated.*

*The emphasis on ecologic sustainability in the real world is not the answer.*

*Ecologic sustainability can only be got through a total approach of social economic and ecologic sustainability to end with sustainable productivity.*

*I believe we should remember the past but always be aware of the future, and never let an opportunity to promote the Centralian Pastoral Industry slip by.*

**Ted Hayes Jr**



*While the material in this book is compiled with due care, the Hayes Family does not warrant or accept liability with regards to the accuracy or completeness of the material including unforeseen errors or omissions in factual content.*

# Pioneering for prosperity in beef supply chains

**Justin Sherrard**

GLOBAL STRATEGIST ANIMAL PROTEIN, RABOBANK



The world is changing we prepare to meet in Darwin. The invasion of Ukraine is causing human suffering at a scale we struggle to understand. It will also cause ongoing shifts in geopolitical dynamics, and long-term changes in agri commodity markets and the way global food security and supply chains are managed.

Less profound but closer to home, we're still recovering from Covid, while battling a wave of inflation, and managing the weather.

Where-ever we are and whatever our perspective, it seems that the pace of change is accelerating. This isn't something we can measure, but it sure feels different.

Change isn't new to the cattle industry. The industry is built on change – it has needed to adapt in order to survive and to thrive, and has a strong track record of doing so.

This ability to change – and even to embrace change – is what pioneers do. Pioneers see opportunities in change while others are cautious because they see risks.

The cattle industry is facing plenty of changes, and for many of us, the pace of change certainly feels like it's accelerating.

Prices, trade access, currency, technology, sustainability and consumer trends – the list of changes confronting the northern Australia cattle industry



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**The cattle industry is facing plenty of changes, and for many of us, the pace of change certainly feels like it's accelerating.**



goes on.

Among these many changes, I see three specific areas where we need some pioneering spirit – to embrace the opportunities inherent in all change processes – to ensure future success.

First is the way we think about data.

Data helps management decision-making, and leads to production improvements, and data can show people that we are doing the right thing.

The change I see right now is the growing number of people who ask for evidence that cattle producers are indeed doing the right thing, in terms that those asking want to define. This includes companies selling beef to consumers and banks that are financing beef supply chains.

Second is the re-orientation of beef supply chains to focus on the consumer.

More effective engagement with consumers offers upside – lifting price points and margin to benefit the whole chain.

But there's also a catch – you have to deliver what consumers want. And consumers are a long way from cattle producers, so they want data that shows they're getting what they're paying for.

Third is that new approaches are needed to develop export markets.

No one can talk about exports without talking about China, and when it comes to beef, the outlook for China's imports is appealing, in price and volume terms.

We all want stable trade relationships, but as people working in trade say, there's

no shortage of uncertainty at the moment. In this context, maintaining trade flows requires more focus on creating value than on short-term price, which means we may need to give up some margin in the short run.

We're going to need more of the pioneering spirit the cattle industry is built on to navigate a way through these changes. If we get this right – and I think we can – we will see that pioneering still leads us to prosperity.

# Life Member Award

Rohan Sullivan



Life Memberships are awarded to long-standing members of the NTCA who have contributed to the Association positively at Branch and or Executive level for an extended period. Life members have often contributed in a range of positions or interest areas and have made a significant contribution to advancing and protecting the interests of members at a regional, Territory, national or international level.

The person receiving Life Membership this evening has certainly lived up to this, he has made significant contribution to our amazing Association, he has represented Northern Territory producers on many levels, and he truly encompasses the values of the NTCA. In a moment I will share with you just some of the highlights and history of this year's awardee.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate and award a truly deserving member of our Association with Life Membership, Mr Rohan Sullivan.

Before I welcome you to the stage Rohan, I would like to take a moment to share with our guests some of the incredible highlights we have compiled for this evening.

## Tortilla Flats

Rohan McDonald Sullivan has been part of the NT Cattle industry since he was in nappies (9 months old) in 1964 when his parents Jim and Barb took up a Commonwealth Government Pilot Scheme farm to grow cattle on improved pasture at Tortilla Flats on the Adelaide River.

He has always been a keen and insightful observer with a long memory. He can remember standing in knee-high Townsville stylo that his parents had painstakingly developed on that bare block. Mind you, that's knee-high as an 8 year old?

He can remember the fungal disease Anthracnose that decimated the stylo, the subsequent drastic reduction in cattle numbers, the financial hardship and frugality, the government wanting to wind up the pilot farms; and the brave and highly principled stand by his parents to retain the lease for their family of five kids; and then the beef

slump of 1974 thrown in for good measure.

### **St Phillips /UNE**

Somehow the parents managed to school Rohan at St Phillips in Alice Springs, where he met kids from the Central Australian Stations. He then studied Rural Science at UNE in Armidale (following I think the obligatory stint on a Barkly station). He travelled the 3500km trip in a falcon ute equipped with the biggest box of heavy metal music cassettes ever seen. At Uni he was lucky enough to meet Sal.

### **DPI**

After graduation he became an Animal Production Officer with the DPI in Katherine and Sal followed north to become a Soil Conservation Officer in Darwin. Sal got a transfer to Katherine, but before she got there Rohan became the Station Manager and researcher at Kidman Springs. Sal eventually tracked him down and they have been together ever since.

Rohan was a good manager and a better researcher. He had the rare knack for interpreting data and putting it in a practical context. Between 1985 and 90 Rohan should be credited with the development of the Kidman Springs "Best-Bet Breeder Management" system, pulling together all the good outcomes of previous research and experience into a grazing system based on stocking rate, supplementation, vaccination for botulism, and weaning (All of which seems hum-drum now but was quite game-changing in an industry that had recovered from the 1970s beef slump to spend the next 20 years managing for the BTEC). The Best-Bet System reduced breeder mortality from the industry norms of 12-14% down to 2%, and lifted weaning rates from 50% to 80%. It was a system which was ripe for adoption as the BTEC wound down and the Live Export market started to grow. It is a system that has stood the test of time and helped

to create incalculable wealth in the northern industry.

Also in the mid-80s the Sullivan family, still up for a challenge, purchased another bare block near Mataranka, "Cave Creek", where the clan still resides.

Before moving permanently to Cave Creek Rohan transferred back to Katherine as head of the Beef Extension Program and did a productive stint as Regional Director from 1999.

### **Cave Creek & Birdum**

Between breeding 5 of their own, Rohan and Sal leased more grazing country around Cave Creek and purchased Birdum Creek near Larrimah in about 2003.

### **NTCA:**

- Rohan became an active NTCA member in the Katherine branch after finishing with DPI and became
- The Alternate Executive member for 2004 and 2005,

- Branch Chair for the years 2006-2008, and
- NTCA President from 2009-2012
- It is typical of his modesty and self-deprecating nature that following his Presidency he went back to being Branch Secretary for a number of years, and subsequently served for an extended period as our
- NFF representative from 2015 to 2020.
- Rohan and his family have been active participants in the Real Jobs Program and Indonesian Student Program

Rohan was President in 2011 when the Live Export Crisis unfolded. Other Presidents had overseen some tough times but surely there had been no tougher gig than being the person in charge of our response to, and recovery from, this crisis.



With the knowledge, experience and principles learnt from the times that he was in the stylo on the Adelaide River levees in nappies, through his parents formidable battles with the Canberra bureaucracy, volatile seasons and cattle markets, his networks across industry, local and interstate education, and his logical and scientific thinking, Rohan took it on successfully in his normal “salt-of-the-earth”, approach. Importantly Super Sally Sullivan was always at his side.

It was as if he had studied for this examination all his life, and luckily for us all he came through with distinction.

Rohan has been a historically significant contributor to the NTCA over 20 years, and to our Territory industry more generally over a much longer period.

We could continue to talk about Rohan’s achievements and significant contributions all night but I would now like to welcome Rohan to the stage to receive his Life Membership.

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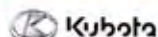
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# Life Member Award

Steve Ellison



Steve & Terry Underwood OAM

In carrying out the NTCA's duty to advance and protect the interests of its members, the association relies on partnerships and long-standing relationships with people who may work:

As staff for the NTCA,

In government at Territory or national levels,

In commercial, service or finance sectors,

Internationally in market support and development,

Other industry and interstate organisations.

Every so often an individual through either perseverance, brilliance, financial contribution or other means makes a significant and lasting contribution to the interests of members.

The Life Members' Medal allows the Association to recognise and thank such individuals.

It brings me great pleasure to tonight award one such individual with The Life Members' Medal. Mr Steve Hugh Ellison.

Before I call you to the stage Mr Ellison, I would like to firstly read a summary of some of your achievements throughout your remarkable career.

Stephen Hugh Ellison was born in 1940 in the Yorkshire Dales, England. At 16 he was awarded a Scholarship to attend the Lancashire Agricultural College where he obtained his National Diploma in Agriculture with honours. Arriving in Australia in 1961, Steve played rugby league in Sydney with the likes of Langlands and Gasnier before starting as a jackaroo in North Queensland, where he met and married Daphne Rose in 1964.

Rising rapidly through the ranks he fulfilled a number of managerial positions in the Mareeba Cape York area until 1976 when he moved to Winton to manage a large scale sheep and cattle station.

In 1980, Richard Trivett from GRM International interviewed and employed Steve to work with the Sabah Department of veterinary Services to manage its Cattle and Buffalo Breeding Project on the Sook plains in Sabah.

In 1983 Steve was sent from Sabah to Johor in southern Malaysia where he was responsible for the establishment of an importing and distribution depot for Sahiwal Cross dairy heifers near a small village called Sesik (pronounced Sea sick). Jungle was cleared with fences and yards built and pastures planted. One morning Steve arrived at the fence line to find wild elephants pulling out the newly placed fence posts and hurling them into the bush. He also regularly found tiger tracks in freshly turned dirt. Once word got out that Steve was an outstanding horseman, he was invited to join the Sultan of Johore's polo team where he played with a 2 goal handicap.

GRM next sent Steve to manage a very large sheep, goat, and camel station for the Nawab of Kalabagh, a feudal lord in the Punjab, Northwest Pakistan. The property was located on the western banks of the Indus River not far from the Afghan border. Steve's job was to produce fat sheep, goats and camels then drove them on horseback to the border and smuggle them across to sell to the Taliban who were at that time fighting the Russians. And get paid. The Nawab's property included an Arabian horse stud. The horse book went back for 900 years! One of Steve's many special abilities is his capacity to learn foreign languages very quickly. He was forced to pick up the local Pakistani language of Pashto in record time as he needed to negotiate the cross-border sales with the Taliban fighters in person.

In mid 1984 GRM International sent him back to Sabah as manager of the Desa Cattle project on the Sook plains. The project had

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## **The cattle industry is facing plenty of changes, and for many of us, the pace of change certainly feels like it's accelerating.**

developed approximately 3,500 ha of improved pastures for the fattening of imported feeder steers from the Australian properties. The project included the establishment of a logging operation and sawmill to utilise the timber as the jungle was cleared. In addition to the Beef Fattening Project, Desa Cattle, on the instruction of the Chief Minister, had taken over the Veterinary Department projects, in Jan 1983, that Steve had managed in 1980.

Desa ran one of the first purpose-built livestock carriers, the "MV Desa", built in Labuan and launched in July 1980, commencing a bi-monthly service loading cattle from the Desa properties of Camfield, Montejinni and Legune in Wyndham to discharge ports in Tawau, Sandakan and Kota Kinabalu in Sabah, Muara in Brunei and Bintulu in Sarawak. Desa Cattle developed and managed the receival depots in each port as well as the abattoirs, processing and retailing outlets. This was the first and the most successful totally integrated foreign investment in Northern Territory and the business model was subsequently copied by the governments of Brunei and Sarawak

In 1988 Steve and family moved to Singapore as Southeast Asian marketing manager for Austrex. This role involved travelling throughout Asia to meet potential customers and develop live export contracts which would then be fulfilled by the Austrex operations across Australia and New Zealand. While in Singapore, all 3 Ellison sons Andrew, Willy and young Steve played in the local rugby union competition and at international level for the

Singapore national team. Steve is a certified referee for international level rugby union and has refereed matches around the world.

Steve's next posting was to Thailand in 1990 where he headed up the Austrex project to import and distribute grey brahman heifers to Thailand and neighbouring countries. When asked how good his Thai language was, he replied "good enough to negotiate a million-dollar contract". Other languages picked up along the way include fluent Bahasa Malaysia and Bahasa Indonesia, Urdu (another Pakistani/Indian language) as well as useful conversational capacity in Mandarin, Tagalog (Filipino) Lao, Khmer (Cambodia), Burmese and others.

In 1993 Steve and family moved to Darwin to manage the Austrex office during one of the busiest periods in the Australian live export trade with a full range of species and types of livestock sent to all corners of Asia. The trade was so busy that Austrex employed a young and enthusiastic offside to assist Steve named Alister Trier. Steve showed great judgement when he employed Darwin based live export veterinarian and noted author, Dr Ross Ainsworth to conduct all of Austrex's export health protocols. Son Willy also joined Austrex during this period.

In 2004 Steve and Willy resigned from Austrex and established their own live export company called Wyndham International Pty Ltd.

While in Somalia on a project looking at livestock for export Steve was shot at by a local warlord gang. During the skirmish his driver

and guide was shot and killed leaving him to extract himself from the situation alone.

Steve's professional qualities, integrity, and exceptional breadth of knowledge of all aspects of the livestock trade were recognised when he was employed as the Australian representative and personal advisor to Husodo Angkosubroto, the billionaire owner of Great Giant Pineapple and Livestock company in Sumatra, one of Indonesia's largest agribusinesses and livestock importers. Steve advised this company for about 5 years until his retirement.

Steve is a Life member of the NTLEA and a former Chairman.

He is a Life Member of the QLEA.

He has served the Australian livestock export industry as a Board Member of ALEC and a Director of Livecorp.

In 2021 the Australian Brahman Breeders Association recognised Steve for his work in Live Export and his support of the Brahman Breeders Association at their 75th Anniversary dinner at Rockhampton during BEEF 2021.

Time constraints this evening mean that this is only an extremely brief summary of a truly amazing life.

I would now like to invite you Steve to join me on stage.

Steve, there can never be enough

words to encapsulate your attributes:

multi-skilled, loyal, adaptable, tenacious and truly brilliant.

Despite personal tragedies and immeasurable challenges on the global stage, you Steve are a survivor.

NTCA thanks you for your magnificent contribution to our best practice, world leading Live Export trade, which is crucial to all our lives, and to the cattle industry of Northern Australia and Asia.

In presenting you with this NTCA Life Medal, we honour and salute you Steve Ellison, good mate and role model extraordinaire.



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# Georgina Pastoral Future NTCA

## **Business Edge Workshop, 21st - 22nd March.**

Facilitated by Tim and Ian at Bush Agribusiness

## **Georgina Pastoral Future NTCA Induction Week, 17th – 20th May.**

Following the Georgina Pastoral Future NTCA's engagement at the NTCA Conference, the program's induction week consisted of 4 days of training and personal development in Darwin.

The participants commenced the week with a one day 'Leadership within the Pastoral Industry' workshop led by Tammy Kruckow.

This was followed on Wednesday by a tour and discussion of diversification in business with NTCA President, David Connolly hosted at Tipperary Station.

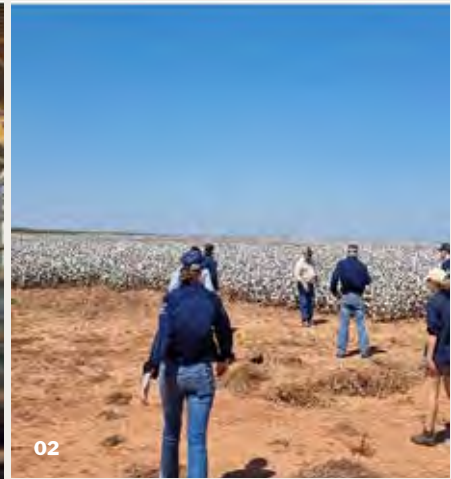
After a day out in the Douglas Daly, Thursday sessions were hosted at the Northern Australian Development Office. Sally Leigo spoke on behalf of MLA, before Tim Gallanger & Tracey Hayes - AAM group, delivered a session on emerging opportunities in Northern Australia. Later, Bradly

**Back (L) to (R):** Jo Tulloch, Henry Ponder, Jake Hicks, Oliver Thorne, John Delaforce, Danielle Darcy. Front (L) to (R) NTCA CEO Will Evans, Matt Bevern, Sean Torta, Jen Cotter, Hon David Littleproud MP, Senator Susan McDonald, Jess McGrath, Annie Murphy, Kelly Janessen, NTCA Executive Officer Romy Carey





01



02



03



04



05

01. Berrimah Yards 02. Tipperary Cotton Fields. 03. LIVEExchange 04. Tipperary Cotton Fields. 05. Berrimah Yards.

Torgan & Kevin Stephens - Ward Kellar, provided an introduction to tenure & Native Title in the Northern Territory. After lunch Angela Tomazos & Zoe Eyles - NAB Agribusiness, informed participants of NAB's specialised banking and resources for first-time farmers. Thursday was concluded with afternoon sessions from Matt Brann - NT Country Hour and Annie Hesse who spoke respectively on Media in Agriculture and the Connellan Airways Trust Ambassadors project.

Friday allowed the Georgina Pastoral Future NTCA Leaders back out of the classroom where they were introduced to Department of Industry Tourism and Trade, current livestock and biosecurity strategies, research projects and focuses at Berrimah

Farms by Luke Bowen - Deputy CEO DITT and Sue Fitzpatrick - Chief Veterinary Officer. After Berrimah Farms, the group were accompanied to Berrimah Export yards by Kari Moffat - Chair YLEN, Hamish Shannon - ACE Operations Manager, Tom Dawkins - CEO NTLEA and Ben Giblett - PEQ Manager. This provided an opportunity for participants to see 'the other end' of many Northern supply chains. Peter Dummett - General Manager of Darwin Port, followed the export yard excursion with a tour of Darwin Port. Finally, the week concluded with a tour of Parliament house.

**Georgina Pastoral Future NTCA November Training 7th – 10th November**

After the Induction week, the future leaders were given the

opportunity to raise funds and attend a development or industry conference of their choosing. The 2022/23 Georgina Pastoral Future NTCA Leaders decided to raise funds through an auction at the Katherine Ringer's Rugby 7's, the AA co rugby game, and by applying for grants. They chose to utilise the funds they raised to attend a Livestock Leaders Course as well as the LIVEExchange conference held in Darwin.

SPEAKER NTCA INDUSTRY CONFERENCE 2022



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# 2022 NTCA and Elders Photography Competition

**The annual NTCA & Elders Amateur Photography Competition, is now in its eleventh year. On the following pages are the entries and the winners from each of the sections.**

These photographs illustrate our unique outback lifestyle and the distinctive Northern Territory people and landscape.

This year's NTCA and Elders Photography Competition was judged by Her Honour, The Administrator of the Northern Territory, Elders NT Sales Manager Paul McCormick and Territory author Terry Underwood OAM.

## **Section One Portrait Person or Animal**

A photograph that captures the likeness of a person or animal, or a small group of people or animals, in which the face and expression is predominant. The objective is to display the likeness, personality and even the mood of the subject/s.

## **Section Two NT Landscape**

Intended to show different locations within the NT, showing little or no human activity, using subjects as landforms, weather or ambient light.

## **Section Three Industry at work or play**

Pictures of the NT pastoral/beef industry, people and landscapes, showing everyday life or extraordinary situations. Pictorials must include people and may also include examples of caring for our livestock, environment and each other.

## **People's Choice**

The People's Choice Award is the major prize of the competition and was judged in a public Facebook voting, to be the overall favourite of the competition.



2022 NTCA and Elders  
Winner  
Peoples  
Choice  
Photography Competition



**Amber Driver**  
Rendezvous with the  
RFDS

2022 NTCA and Elders  
Winner  
Portrait  
Photography Competition



**Sara McBean**  
Poddy calf love - Ruby  
Downs



**Chris Smith**  
From dawn til dusk



**Amy Craig**  
Work or play



01



02



03



04



05



06

01. Amy Craig - Hey cowboy 02. Zoe Miller - Through the Turpentine 03. Ashley Sutton - Gotta love a Willow 04. Chris Smith - At The Tail 05. Doug Laurie - Hughie in the distance 06. Layne Pontifex - Feeding time





01. Paddy Weir - Central Australia 02. Russell Young - Incoming 03. Lilyanne Corke - Those eyes  
 04. Chris Smith - Early bird 05. Andy Hayes - Just waiting 06. Candice Krebs - Joy  
 07. Georgia Glasson - Beauty of the Barkly 08. Harry Lawton\_Quiet As A Mouse 09. Michelle Lang - Celebrations

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01. Mardi Umland - First light canter 02. Anna Weir - Mutual adoration 03. Mick Sheather - Shepherds Warning  
 04. Alex Brislan - I Know What This Means 05. Jim Carey - Taking The Big Girls Home 06. Paddy Weir - First Speckle Park calf  
 07. Sarah Beament - Storm at Opium

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06

01. Harry Lawton - Breaker Cuddles 02. Jim Carey - Photo Bomber  
 03. Brooke Harwood - The Bad Lands 04. Candice Krebs - All in a days work  
 05. Mardi Uwland - Load out 06. Kate Murphy - NCW Stud

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### NT Cattle Industry Serious Work Injury Snapshot

1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

**27** Average age of workers seriously injured

**42%** The main type of serious injury was fractures.

**24** Serious injury claims

**80%** A fall from height was the major cause of serious injury.

**17%** Vehicle incident was the second major cause of serious injury.

For information to make your workplace safer:

1800 019 115 | [worksafe.nt.gov.au](https://worksafe.nt.gov.au)

**NTWorkSafe** | **NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT**



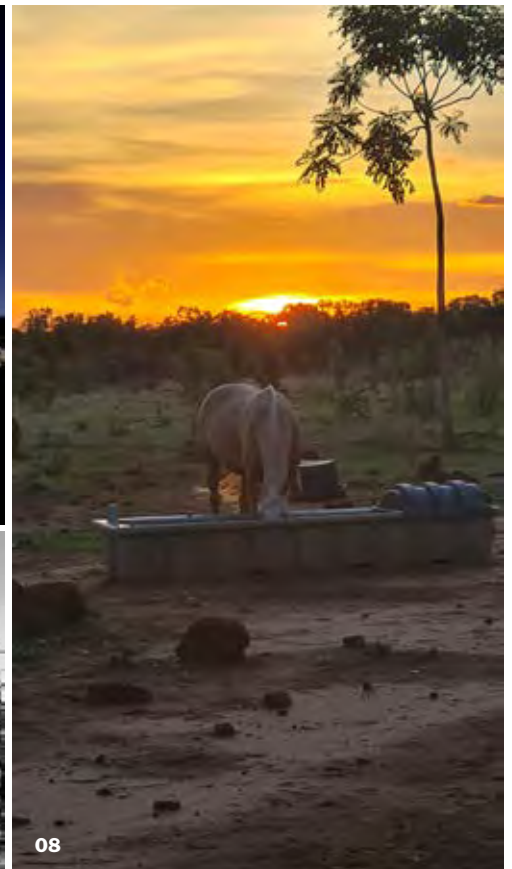


01. Anna Weir - Will and Eernie 02. Alex Brislan - Pumbers 03. Mick Sheather - Daily Dose 04. Georgia Glasson - Heroes in the sky 05. Anna Weir - A girl and her pets 06. Chris Howard - Stormy Horizon 07. Alex Brislan - Long Days 08. Kate Hurley - All ears 09. Jennifer Cotter - Old Durack's bronco yard, Argyle Downs Station 10. Candice Krebs - Glowing





01. Anna Weir - Desert beauty 02. Candice Krebs - Beer O'Clock 03. Michelle Lang - Where There's Smoke, There's Fire 04. Georgia Glasson - Learning together 05. Kate Murphy - NCW Hanger 06. Michelle Lang - Waterfront Views 07. Georgia Glasson - The Quiet Achiever 08. Tash McQueen - Pushing Bullocks Under The Highway 09. Candice Krebs - The Long Paddock





01. Suzanne Shearer - Dan 02. Kate Everett - Stand alone 03. Suzanne Shearer - Dave 04. Paddy Weir - Kulgera Melbourne Cup  
05. Emily Neighbour - Twilight 06. Annie Murphy - The last light 07. Annie Murphy - Eyes in the sky 08. Kate Everett - Golden Hour  
09. Kate Murphy - Walking 2,000 head 10. Lilyanne Corke - Early morning muster







09



10

01. Suzanne Shearer - Peek-a-boo 02. Sarah-Jane McBean - Little helpers on the muster 03. Sally Dyer - Bore runs with dad  
04. Georgia Glasson - Teamwork makes the dream work 05. Georgia Glasson - Continuity of movementw 06. Kate Everett - Wild and free  
07. Sarah Beament - Storm at Opium 08. Georgia Glasson - Sometimes you need to stand alone to stand out 09. Chris Howard - Green Grass  
10. Ben Giblett - Trying to maintain a smile!



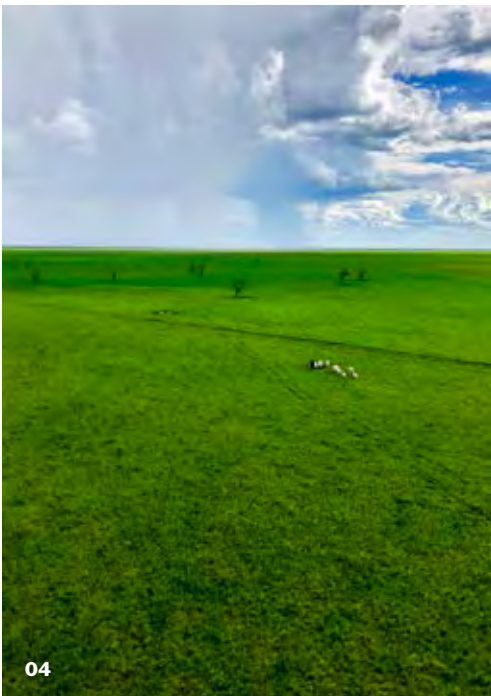
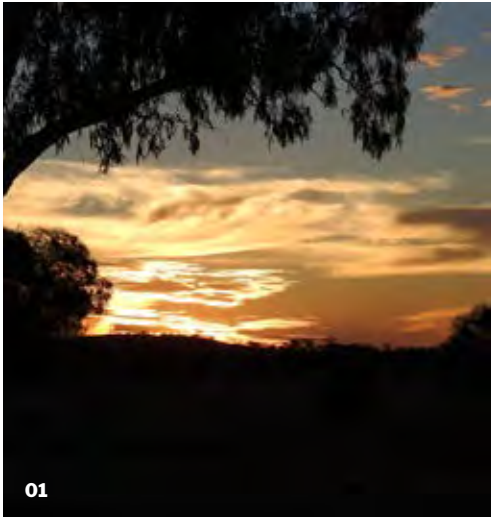


07



08

01. Markus Rathsmann - Rise and shine 02. Kate Murphy - Tess 03. Margie Deveraux - Double Rainbow  
04. Chris Howard - Flood Plain 05. Sally Dyer - Dinner and a show 06. Sally Dyer - Wildflowers on the fence line  
07. Paddy Weir - Loaded and ready to go 08. Sarah-Jane McBean - Breakfast time at the feedlot





**01.** Andy Hayes - Sunset **02.** Sarah-Jane McBean - First rain of the wet **03.** Emily Neighbour - Counting cattle  
**04.** Doug Laurie - Wet season **05.** Kate Murphy - In the Lead **06.** Michelle Lang - Laying Down on the Job  
**07.** Markus Rathsmann - Right hand man **08.** Chris Howard - Wet Feet **09.** Suzanne Shearer - Watch'em





01. Andy Hayes - A rain day 02. Michelle Lang - Better Than a Cold Beer 03. Emily Neighbour - Mum life  
04. Doug Laurie - The yard up 05. Kate Murphy - Trucking 06. Chris Smith - From dawn til dusk  
07. Georgia Glasson - Beauty of the Barkly 08. Mardi Uwland - Beautiful Barkly







09

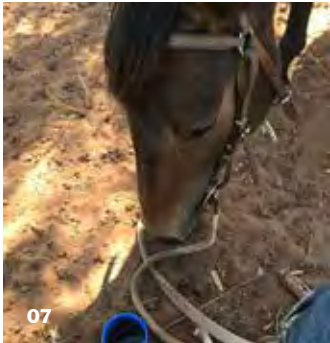


10



11

01. Paddy Weir - Sunny the poddy bullock 02. Paddy Weir - Hi Mum, your home! 03. Paddy Weir - Green between the sandhills  
04. Michelle Lang - Who are you looking at 05. Brooke Barkla - Watering hole 06. Markus Rathsmann - Happy bunch  
07. Lilyanne Corke - A Tennant Creek sunset 08. Chris Smith - River rats 09. Text 10. Doug Laurie - Marking a path  
11. Emily Neighbour - Sunrise at King Ash Bay





09



10



11

01. Brooke Barkla - NCW weaners 02. Kate Everett - The road less travelled 03. Doug Laurie - Time for a drink 04. Layne Pontifex - Young gun  
05. Kate Everett - Chugs 06. Michelle Lang - Distant Rain 07. Suzanne Shearer - Cuppa Tea Time 08. Andy Hayes - Just waiting  
09. Markus Rathsmann - Much needed 10. Sarah-Jane McBean - Greedy puppy 11. Andy Hayes - Future leaders



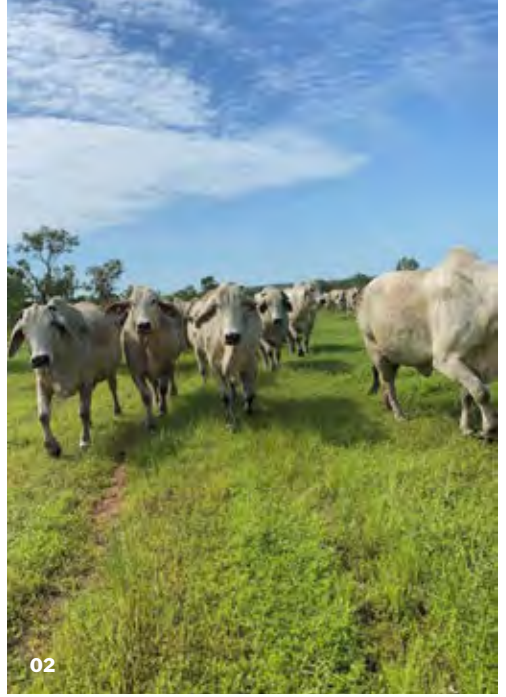


07



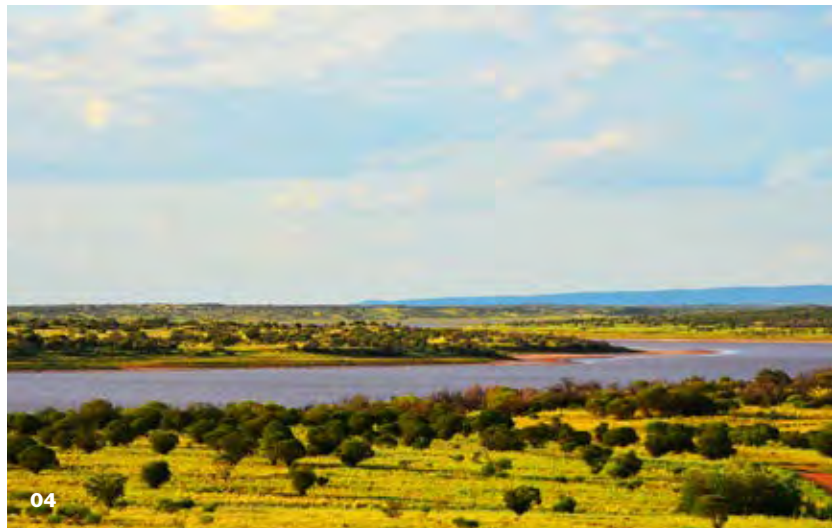
08

01. Mardi Uwand - On the run 02. Michelle Lang - Girl on Swing 03. Andy Hayes - Waiting for the panel  
04. Markus Rathsmann - Somewhere in the long grass 05. Brooke Harwood - The Smile  
06. Amy Craig - The stare off 07. Paddy Weir - Philipson in flood, Allambi 08. Amy Craig - The waiting game





**01.** Suzanne Shearer - Move along **02.** Mick Sheather - Old Girls Marching **03.** Zoe Miller - On It Boss  
**04.** Andy Hayes - Bittersprings **05.** Kate Everett - Just a girl and her brahman  
**06.** Brooke Harwood - Long hot days **07.** Michelle Lang - Spring to Life



01. Chris Howard - On Guard 02. Annie Murphy - Taking the lead 03. Jim Carey - Long Walks Down The Lane  
04. Ross Stanes - Pulcura 05. Alex Brislan - Dusty Tail Duties 06. Annie Murphy - Sunburnt country





01. Anna Weir - Father & Son 02. Zoe Miller - Curious & Curioser 03. Chris Howard - Yard Up

## Biosecurity, a hot topic.

### **Andrew Tongue**

DEPUTY SECRETARY, BIOSECURITY AND COMPLIANCE GROUP, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT



At the NTCA annual industry conference, Mr Andrew Tongue PSM (Deputy Secretary, Biosecurity and Compliance Group, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment) presented on biosecurity issues of concern to Australia and to NT cattle producers in particular, with a focus on Lumpy Skin Disease. Mr Tongue noted many diseases of concern to Australian exporters are moving internationally, getting closer to Australia; an expert assessment panel conducted by the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis in 2021 found an increasing probability of a range of emergency animal diseases entering Australia. Lumpy Skin Disease has been confirmed in the Riau province of Indonesia and is mainly transmitted by biting insects including flies, mosquitoes, midges and ticks; the introduction to Australia could occur through the long distance spread of insects. Conference participants heard about the consequences if Lumpy Skin Disease were to be found in Australia; the biggest live export markets for the NT (Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam) all require country freedom from Lumpy Skin Disease as an import condition, and regaining country freedom following an incursion could take several years. There are challenges with vaccination; all current commercially available vaccines are based on the live virus, and are not available in Australia – Mr Tongue confirmed this was something the Department of Agriculture, Water



and the Environment was looking into. The department has also increased surveillance in the north, including of feral bovids for Lumpy Skin Disease, is developing a national preparedness plan for Lumpy Skin Disease, has reviewed import risks and pathways, and has accelerated existing preparedness activities including building testing

capability of laboratories in northern Australia. Mr Tongue also briefly discussed the incursion of Japanese Encephalitis Virus into Australia.



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DRY SEASON	●	●	●	●
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- Trace Element Northern Breeder
- Trace Element Northern OR Superphos 8%



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urea



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# Vale John Dyer



The passing of John Dyer was the passing of one of our icons of the pastoral industry in Northern Australia.

John became Manager of Hayfield Station in Jan 1974 after a wonderful career with Elders, forever remaining loyal and thankful for the friendships that grew over the years.

In 1982 John and Val decided to take up the offer to buy Hayfield. Sit tight and hang on. She'll be right mate.

The industry was going through very difficult times with many issues and separate organisations with different views.

John became very involved, along with many others like Ian MacBean, John Underwood, Ken Warriner and Grant Heaslip, in creating a unified voice for the Cattle Industry, culminating in the formation of the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association in 1985.

John was President of the NTCA

from 1987-1990, becoming a Life Member in 2004.

He was appointed to the Pastoral Land Board in 1992, becoming Chairman in 1994. During his 5 year term as Chairman, the Board introduced the Rangeland Monitoring System, land clearing and subdivision guidelines, feral animal control and estimated carrying capacities. It is testament to his character that he was able to bring the industry along with these policies by personally visiting properties every year.

During John's term as chairman of the NT Bushfires Council, resources were made available to assist with early aerial burning and fire control with the government supplying personnel and machinery to assist in fighting fires.

By far John's greatest agri-political achievement was in the TB eradication programme. With the formation of the National BTEC Committee, John and Ian MacBean, together with Peter Plummer, Brian Radunz and others were able to eventually convince southern cattle producers and the Federal Government to agree that a part of the Cattle Transaction Levy should fund compensation for eradication.

At the time the southern industry was about to throw the northern industry under a bus by drawing a line on the map leaving the northern cattle industry without a market. Not all cattle producers survived this difficult time, however TB was eradicated and a high quality brahman cattle herd eventuated in the north.

Socially John was IT when it

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**Through hard work, courage and commitment the company grew, specialising in remote area and bulk transport systems for livestock and mining.**

came to entertaining as MC/Quiz master/captain or organiser of events for ICPA, School of the Air, Brahman Breeder dinners, NTCA conferences, the annual Hayfield cricket match and the Daly Waters Campdraft. He always added colour, comedy and flair to the events.

John was extremely proud of the achievements of his family and how they grew and developed into professional, caring adults in maintaining and growing the successful family company's Northern Territory businesses at Hayfield Station, Heli-muster and Sturt Plains.

Sadly missed and survived by his wife, Val, sons Nick and Justin, daughter Lisa, daughters -in -law Kathy and Sally, son-in-law Brad and eight grandchildren.

To John, may your lines always be tight. RIP.



# Vale Colin "Bruce" Morton

Colin "Bruce" Morton was a second-generation beef breeder, from the Northern Territory with family ties to QLD's Birdsville region.

Bruce Morton was born on December 15th 1954 in Alice Springs. He was the 2nd of 5 children to Patricia & Colin Morton, and brother to Ian, Ross, Margaret and Gaye. Colin & Patricia established Victory Downs Station and from this, went on to own a number of pastoral properties throughout the Northern Territory.

Bruce spent most of his life on Victory Downs station, and this was where he tragically passed away on December 21st, 2020.

Bruce attended school in both Alice Springs and Adelaide, and has worked on many stations including Annitowa, The Derwent and Elkedra. However Victory Downs was always calling Bruce home when he took over the reigns in 1981.

Bruce then purchased Mt Cavanagh in 1999, and Eridunda in 2011, running Braford cattle across all three stations.

Bruce and Narda endured the good and the bad of what station life brings, although nothing could compare to the joy their five sons would bring them.

It would be hard to capture all of Bruce's achievements from his extraordinary life. Although time with their Dad was unfairly cut short, sons Matthew, Brett, Jake, Timmy and Aaron will continue to

live on through his legacy.

The family would like to thank everyone for their continued and constant support over the past two years.

Those who saw Bruce as a Poppy would know how he very much enjoyed, quietly watching his granddaughters Izabelle, Alexis, Riley, Matilda and Ella grow and play. Knowing Poppy is now up there watching his three new grandchildren Scarlett, Benji Bruce and Cove join the tribe and thinking, finally some grandsons!!

Our Dad, father-in law, Poppy, friend and hero, gone too soon but never forgotten.

The Morton Family



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**It would be hard to capture all of Bruce's achievements from his extraordinary life.**

# Vale Greg "Whippy" Smith

A wonderful story and some photos provided by Greg's family for all to enjoy.

Our great mate Greg Smith was tragically killed on the 2nd of April 2021 as a result of an accident while discharging cattle in the port of Belawan in north Sumatera, Indonesia. He leaves behind his wife Lina, daughter Felicity (Flossie 35) and sons Tristan (18) and Brody (15). He was 59 years old.

After family, his passions were cattle, Indonesia and socializing. He left the northern cattle industry for a back-packing holiday to Indonesia in 1989 and has remained there for most of his life. Forced to become fluent in the Indonesian language as a necessity for survival, he became an extremely valuable asset to the Indonesian/Australian cattle import/export industry where he was able to combine his deep knowledge and empathy for cattle with his first rate communication skills.

Greg was involved in a wide range of cattle projects in Indonesia (and other Asian countries later in his career) from the establishment and operation of feedlots, safe handling of imported cattle, ESCAS auditing, training of staff, development of breeding projects and most recently in the monitoring of the health and welfare of imported Australian breeders after distribution to small holders across huge areas of Indonesia.

Greg was the kind of person you would call at a time of trouble or tragedy for companionship and

support to meet up, talk and maybe receive his own very special brand of pragmatic advice, oftentimes over a cold beer (or several). We miss him already.

The photos below are a good summary of his career with the first taken not long after his arrival in Indonesia.

Greg enjoyed getting to know the small farmers who received Australian cattle and closely followed their progress. These farmers were delighted to receive sensible, practical advice on the best way to care for their cattle delivered in their own language by someone who understood their situation implicitly.

One of Greg's most recent projects with PT Mitra Asia Lestari was to lead a team of field para-vets who rode motor bikes all over Indonesia to carefully monitor, advise and report on the health and welfare of Australian breeding cattle delivered to a large number of small holders across the archipelago.

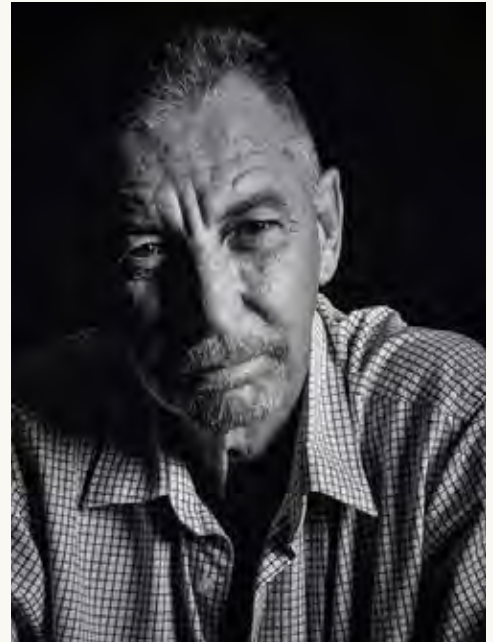


Photo taken in Indonesia by his friend Gusti Made.



Like most cattlemen, Greg just loved working with and caring for cattle.



Greg enjoyed getting to know the small farmers who received Australian cattle and closely followed their progress. These farmers were delighted to receive sensible, practical advice on the best way to care for their cattle delivered in their own language by someone who understood their situation implicitly.



Greg providing advice to feedlot staff in West Java.



**An article written about Greg, the great communicator, about 3 years ago.**

**People in the Industry.**

**Greg Smith ; Austrex Supply Chain Manager, Indonesia.**

The Industry Collaborative Animal Welfare Program is quite a mouthful so it is usually described by its acronym ICWP. It refers to a Livestock Export Program (LEP) initiative established in 2011 which provided livestock exporters with partial funding (primarily through MLA) for the placement of animal welfare or supply chain officers within markets.

The job calls for exporters to employ in-country staff who can monitor and support the performance of their customers to ensure compliance with ESCAS (Export Supply Chain Assurance System). Obviously while this person is interacting with the customer they are also available to delivery the usual range of customer support services on behalf of the exporter. This program has to be one of the most successful and cost effective projects supported by the LEP.

The ideal candidate for this role is someone with a thorough understanding of Australian cattle industry and the live export trade as well as in intimate knowledge of the operational environment and culture of the importing country. Greg Smith's CV could have been written with this job in mind.

After beginning as a jackeroo on Brunette Downs in 1979 he worked his way up to head stockman on a number of stations in the Northern Territory and Kimberley. At the end of the 1989 season in the Waterloo bull catching camp with John Quintana, he decided to do some backpacking around Indonesia. During the next 2 years Greg was totally immersed in Indonesia and its culture, working for local wages in a range of jobs from teaching English to selling household chemicals. As a result, his Indonesian language skills

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**Through hard work, courage and commitment the company grew, specialising in remote area and bulk transport systems for livestock and mining.**

and deep cultural knowledge are exceptional. He landed his first local cattle job with Tipperary-Indonesia in Sumatera when they opened the Indonesian feeder cattle trade in 1991.

From 1992 to 2003 Greg worked for a number of major Indonesian feedlotter and even branched out into exporting bulldozers after the Asian financial collapse temporarily shut down the live export trade from 1997 - 1999.

In 2003 Greg took his wife and young son back to Australia, working in both the cattle and construction industries in the NT until 2011.

Following the closure of the live trade in mid 2011, Austrex employed Greg as one of the first ICWP positions based in Jakarta. With the heart of a true cattleman and the comprehensive understanding

of the beef industry and culture of Indonesia, nobody is better qualified to monitor and support customers than Greg. No one else has such an intimate knowledge of the back roads and back doors of the Indonesian cattle industry. He is just as comfortable speaking with the CEO as he is to the feedlot staff cleaning the pens or the street vendors feeding the truck drivers.

Importers greatly appreciate Greg's communication skills and cultural diplomacy. Unfortunately, people with this background of cattle and culture are as rare as they are valuable.

My only criticism of the ICWP is that its budget is limited and there are not enough Greg Smith's to go around.



Greg providing training on traceability data management.



One of Greg's most recent projects with PT Mitra Asia Lestari was to lead a team of field paravets who rode motor bikes all over Indonesia to carefully monitor, advise and report on the health and welfare of Australian breeding cattle delivered to a large number of small holders across the archipelago.

# Vale Jim Cooper

Jim Cooper passed away peacefully in his daughter's home at Lake Wanaka, New Zealand, on Friday 28th January 2022.

Jim began his career as a motor mechanic in a small New Zealand town. With his wife Jenny, Jim built up Cooper Transport in New Zealand before deciding to purchase Gulf Transport in Darwin in 1972. Through hard work, courage and commitment the company grew, specialising in remote area and bulk transport systems for livestock and mining.

Jim was the founding member of the Australian Trucking Association NT Branch. Jim was also founding director of the Road Transport Forum, later called the Australian Trucking Association. By holding that voluntary position for ten years, Jim ensured that remote area transportation held a voice in Commonwealth policy affecting transport companies in remote Australia. Jim's other numerous achievements included the establishment of an On Highway Safety Plan.

In 2002 Jim was awarded the Centenary Medal for his contribution to the Road Transport Industry.

On 7th April 2006 Jim was awarded NTCA Life Membership in recognition for his unique contribution to the Road Transport Industry in remote Australia. During that ceremony, Jim's invaluable assistance with transportation of the bronze Katherine Icon statue from the United States of America to Katherine was also put on record.

On Australia Day 2008 Jim was conferred a Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to the transport industry, particularly through the development of specialist transportation systems for mining and livestock.

Jim and Jenny relocated back to New Zealand in 2011. There forever innovative

71 year old Jim purchased a well situated vacant block of land on which he established the largest dairy in the South Island, incorporating 4,500 milkers per day.

In 2019 Jim's book was published:

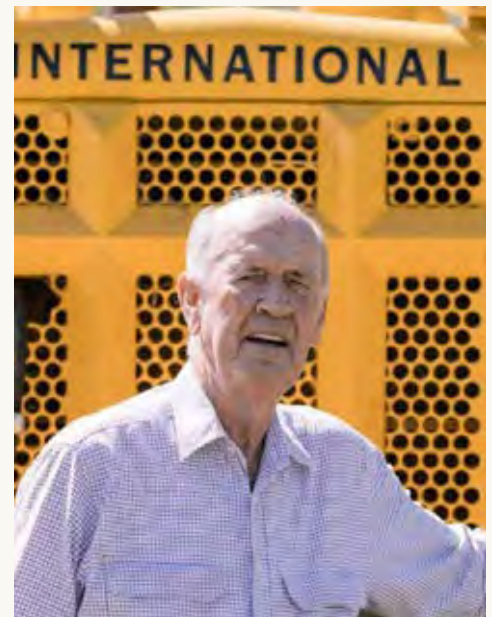
"Pushing the Boundaries – the Gulf Group in Remote Australia"

By James Wilson Cooper AM

Jim is survived by his children Robyn, Erynne, Allison and Jamie and their families.

Jim's funeral service was held in New Zealand on Thursday 10th February 2022.

We extend our deepest condolences to Jim's family at this time.



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**Through hard work, courage and commitment the company grew, specialising in remote area and bulk transport systems for livestock and mining.**

# Vale Jim Hayes

Jim Hayes is a 4th generation NT pastoralist, over 100 years of knowledge has been passed onto him about Central Australia and raising cattle in the arid zone. He has taken this gift of understanding and developed his own unique way of thriving, even when sustainability in the Centre has been questioned. He has a strong belief in the NT Beef industry.

Jim has been a long-time supporter of the NTCA since its formation. He has served as a member of the NTCA Executive and represented the Alice Springs branch as chairman. He has encouraged and motivated 3 more of his family members to do likewise.

Jim held a position on the Pastoral Lands Board for a number of years. His long connection with Central Australia and the NT made him a great asset to the board. His knowledge and understanding of the land, cattle and people of the region are significant and valuable. Always willing to learn more and providing a logical opinion.

Jim also represented pastoralists on the Bushfires Council from 1986 until 1999 as a board member. The Bushfires Council recognised this achievement with an award. Acknowledging his many years of involvement, his efforts and leadership.

Jim brought together Centralian Pastoralists, in a time of drought and very low cattle prices. He was the driving force of the Centralian Beef Producers Consortium. Its aim was to open an export

market of high quality boxed beef into Indonesia. It was very well supported by local pastoralists, they saw it as being a positive and proactive. It showed determination to brand and find new markets for NT beef. Particularly when there was little to no support elsewhere.

Jim is a great operator who believes in promoting that the Northern Territory has a quality beef product. He has supported the Alice Springs show since it began in the 1960s. There has been very few times that his cattle have not been exhibited there. In the 1990s he stepped back, but encouraged and motivated his children to the same. We now see his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren showing and promoting the quality beef that the NT has to offer.

Jim has been Patron of the Central Australian Show Society for many years now and will be handing over the role to one of his sons this year.

Over the years Jim always promoted the NT and its assets. He's an industry leader who has not been afraid to take risks. Looking for opportunities in beef, tourism and horticulture. Diversifying into table grapes over ten years ago. He continues to be an important mentor to the next generations. He has made a significant contribution to the Northern Territory Pastoral Industry.



# Vale Peter Severin

Peter Severin was a rare wit and relished holding court under the Bough Shed on Curtin Springs Station where he would regale travelers with tales of the life in Central Australia. Alas, no more. Peter died in February at the age of 93 on the station to which he had devoted his life, surrounded by his beloved family.

Peter was born at home in Clarence Gardens in Adelaide on 21 January 1928 to Conrad, a tax accountant, and Coral (nee Edwards), a schoolteacher. Even though his childhood was overshadowed by the Great Depression, Peter recalled it as a happy time with his three siblings – Bardie, Maxine and Rollo.

When he was 13yo he had decided he wanted to be a sailor and joined the Royal Australian Navy Volunteers with Rollo. Later he applied for a position as a cadet midshipman at the Royal Australian Naval College but was not selected. Disappointed, he went to Central Australia to visit his sister, Bardie, who lived on Tieyon Station and was married to the owner's son, Bob Smith. This visit would last 11 years and see him become Tieyon's head stockman.

The station carried 14,000 head of cattle and for most of the year Peter lived on the back of a horse, sleeping in bush camps that moved every three days and enjoying a diet of salt meat, damper and billy tea.

In 1951, he married Dawn Rohrlach, but would only see his bride for 56 days that year because he was away with the cattle. However, together they were to forge a partnership that



would create a lasting legacy in the region.

With the help of his brother-in-law, Bob Smith, Peter and Dawn secured ownership of Curtin Springs and in 1956 they arrived with their toddler son Ashley and 1500 head cattle. Peter's brother Rollo and his family came as well but left soon after.

Peter's noted comment about those first years on the station was "not long after we arrived in 1956, the heavens opened up and it rained one

inch - then it didn't rain again for nine years".

Life was very basic, and visitors were few. In the first year just six people drove past Curtin Springs. For the first three years the Severins made their home under the Bough Shed that now serves as a dining area for visitors. The lack of rain reduced the size of the herd to less than 400 head.

Times may have been tough, but Peter was determined and soon he

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**Many people will remember his infectious laugh when he farewelled you with "everyone brings us happiness... some when they arrive... others as they leave".**

and Dawn were providing morning and afternoon teas for pioneer tourism operator Len Tuit's Ayers Rock Tours. From these humble beginnings a successful wayside inn and tourism venture would emerge.

In 1958 Peter obtained a liquor licence, which he held continuously until his death.

A 500 gallon underground fuel tank was installed, because in the summer, the petrol would boil in the 44 gallon drums. At the end of the 1950s a small grocery store was added to the fuel dispensing pump that serviced travelers.

Around the same time, Peter began recording weather readings for the Weather Bureau, something that continues to this day and is a part of the daily station routine.

In the early 1960s Peter helped build the original entrance to Ayers Rock National Park and installed the chain on the Ayers Rock climb. He single-handedly constructed the first air strip adjacent to The Rock for Connellan Airways, and additional income would come from working on the growing number of motels at the base of Ayers Rock, including putting in the first bores and piping water to the 4 motels and the pub.

The development of the tourism activities at Curtin Springs never compromised the cattle business. Peter and his son Ashley worked hand-in-hand to advance the station and Peter was still very much involved in the day to day decision-making right up until his death.

Over the decades the pair were constantly looking for more effective means of managing the cattle on the station. By the 1980s helicopter mustering had changed to water trapping and they installed more bores to effectively control cattle movement across the million-acre property. This was a challenge with the quality of the water. 119 bore holes drilled over the years, however only 14 sites useable. Most struck water, but it was simply too

salty for any use.

They also opened their own abattoir and delivered meat, by plane across the region. In 2009, they changed the herd to Murray Grey cattle.

Peter was particularly proud of the conversion of the old abattoir where handmade paper is now made from the native grasses on the station. Curtin Springs Paper was launched in 2014. Later a gallery was added to the facility.

In 2017 he was awarded Northern Territory's penultimate tourism award – the Tourism Minister's Perpetual Trophy, known as the Big Bird, for his services to tourism, in particular recognizing his role in establishing the tourism industry in Central Australia and providing services to visitors for 6 decades.

Peter was foremost a cattleman who prided himself on building a viable business that was supported by tourism. Anyone who had the absolute honour of watching Peter and Ash work side by side in the cattle yards, could clearly see the commitment they both shared to their animals, as well as their innate instincts and knowledge. Father passed these skills to son.

Peter understood and respected the land he was responsible for, in a way that only long term, passionate and committed pastoralists can possibly know.

He had an affinity with animals and wildlife that was part of his entire life, down to always having crumbs in his pockets, because some little bird would need it today.

Peter was also a proud member of the Masonic Lodge for 65 years. The Lodge provide him his network and peer group, and in a time when that support for men wasn't as highly valued as it is now, he was both recipient and nurturer.

He was a convivial and generous host who loved to welcome friends and visitors to Curtin Springs and share lively yarns about his life on the station and his love of bush poetry.

Many people will remember his infectious laugh when he farewelled you with "everyone brings us happiness... some when they arrive... others as they leave".

Peter is survived by his son Ashley and his wife Lyndee, his grandchildren and great grandchildren.



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