



**70 Bulls**  
**100 Females**

*On the way to the yards*

## Preparation

It is a source of great frustration that we commence every newsletter with discussion about the weather. We were hoping that we had left the tough summers and dry autumn's behind us, but unfortunately nothing has changed! Approaching the half way part of the year, with our traditional wet period behind us with less than 300mls of a 1000ml rainfall average, and half of that on one day. In other terms our rolling twelve months average is right on 50% of our long term annual rainfall. Paddocks that just made it through the 1980/81 drought ran out of water earlier this year, prior to the March deluge.

In saying this, in our travels outside of the Gloucester district we soon realised that we are the lucky ones. We feel for those people west of us at Scone, and north to Walcha that are facing a terrible winter. We are very fortunate that we have been able to keep our breeding herd intact, and present our sale team in excellent condition. A combination of jumping early and getting a lot of cattle away on agistment, and supplementary feed for our sale bulls has our herd in good order.

From a bull sellers perspective, we are under no illusions as to how much more difficult it will be to clear our sale team this year. In the past couple of years many clients have had to stretch their budgets to secure bulls they like. This year will be the square up! Cow numbers have been decimated in the upper Hunter, and prices for secondary weaners have taken a huge hit in the past couple of months. On the positive side, the heavy export market remains relatively strong with the easing of the AUS\$ helping. Carcase grid prices around \$4 for heavy cows and over \$5 for the best end of heavy grassfeds is not all bad. National herd liquidation is well underway with many producers opting to sell, not feed. There is no doubt good slaughter cattle and well bred young females will be hard to source when the season eventually breaks.

## The Genetics

Last year the Dunoon Highpoint H744 sons created a tremendous amount of interest, and were the top selling sire group. They will lead the draft again this year with fourteen in the mix at the moment. Their growth, sire appeal, soundness and excellent temperament make them very easy to recommend. In particular, M88 and M186 would be as good a pair of bulls that we have ever offered. Other high growth Highpoints worth a second look are M94 and M184.

The Bartel line this year is represented by fifteen excellent sons of Booramooka Bartel J373 and Booramooka Bartel J568. Those two bulls were our choice of Bartel sons at Booramooka that year, but we were well and truly run over at the auction by Guy Lord from Branga Plains! Fortunately Guy gave us the opportunity

to purchase semen in both bulls and we used them over our heifers. The J373 sons show tremendous growth when you consider they are all out of two year olds. M113, M106 and N03 will all be in the front pens and deliver a great set of performance data. The J568 group are earlier maturing with extra thickness and will suit the heifer bull role perfectly. Also representing the Bartel line is the homebred Jimmy Bartel J4 who will have three sons in the younger management group. Similarly, they excel for calving ease whilst still exhibiting good carcase shape.

Another calving ease set of sons represented are by Murray Powertool K8, purchased when we missed out on the Booramooka bulls. He brings the same calving ease characteristics, and also has the extra body shape and carcase traits that we strive for. N24 (in the younger bulls) presents an outstanding set of performance data, and is also very well put together. Seven sons will represent the Powertool line.

Booragul Docklands K18 has eight sons on offer this year after his sole son last year made \$23,000. They are typical of the bull himself, well made with great skins and softness generally. A number will feature early on the sale, but keep a look out for M90 and M154, who display exceptional growth, but also the Docklands softness.

Myra Jacko J16 has four sons in the sale and whilst being some of the younger bulls in the two year old draft they don't give anything away in growth or weight. For big bulls they maintain their thickness well, with M180 and M209 looking very impressive at this stage. At the Booragul sale at the end of May, the Jacko J16 line were keenly sought after with the top seller making the sale high \$16,000.

In the younger bulls the first four sons of Bowmont King K306 will be presented. Possibly the standout younger bull, N46, typifies the sire line. Tremendous thickness and shape with King himself in the top 1% of the breed for EMA and also very high for IMF. They also have what we consider an ideal maturity pattern, and with adequate growth and moderate birth. We will have plenty more of them over the next few years.

Rounding out the major sire group represented is Peakes In Focus G57. He has had some of the larger drafts at our past two sales and have met with solid competition. He should have twelve sons in the mix this year, typically soft and easy doing to suit coastal terrain. His first daughters are milking very well and will continue to feature in our pedigrees for a number of years.

## Inspections invited

Our annual Open Day will be held on **Friday July 27th at Moppy**, but if you cannot make it that day we invite you to call us and arrange for a more convenient time to inspect our team. We anticipate that the bulls will be at Kia Ora in the first week of August for the **Saturday August 25th sale**.

**OPEN DAY** at MOPPY  
**FRIDAY JULY 27th from 11am**

From Gloucester take Scone road for 30km then turn left towards Rawdon Vale for 5km, then at T intersection turn right to Moppy for 1.5km. (From Nowendoc turn right at Scone road intersection 10km from Gloucester.)

**SALE** at KANANGARA Kia Ora  
**SATURDAY AUGUST 25th at 1pm**

From Gloucester travel 3.5km towards Barrington and turn right onto Bowman Farm road for 1km over Barrington River and turn right onto Kia Ora road for 2km and on top of hill continue straight on into Old Kia Ora road for 2km to sale complex.

# 2018 Sale Team

## BLAM88 - Lot 3



Sire: **Dunoon Highpoint H744** Dam: **Panda F36**

CE.Dir	Birth	200	400	600	Milk	EMA	IMF%	ABI
-1.6	+6.5	+53	+92	+128	+15	+4.3	+1.6	\$116

## BLAM186 - Lot 4



Sire: **Dunoon Highpoint H744** Dam: **Panda H119**

CE.Dir	Birth	200	400	600	Milk	EMA	IMF%	ABI
-0.9	+5.7	+55	+99	+140	+22	+4.0	+2.1	\$122

## Thanks

Our bulls are looking well essentially because we have been able spread them out over more acres after getting a number of cattle away on agistment throughout the year. We owe a huge thank you to all those clients that have been in a position to provide us with agistment at various stages, depending on where the storms fell. Doug and Evelyn Blanch, Wards River; Jim Nivison, Ohio North, Walcha; Hamish McLaren and Ian Colwell, Forrest Lodge, Yarrawitch; Jamie and Sal Andrews, Merewether, Gloucester, Chris and Sal Maslen, Cobark; Nick and Kylie Johnston, Wallanbah, who have all either had or continue to have some of our commercial herd on grass.

When we leave the district and head west and assess the effects of this dry period over the range we realise how fortunate we are to get this far with the majority of our herd numbers intact. It is still going to be a very long winter here, with the majority of our cow paddocks over grazed. Frosts have well and truly arrived, so the natives and naturalised grasses have shut down. We are not feeding any cows at this point, but that could well change once calving starts.

## Highpoint H744 feature sons

Whilst we think that there a number of very good bulls throughout the catalogue, the pair that tick all the boxes for us are Monty M88 and Monty M186. We place a lot of emphasis and time on the collection of performance data. They are weighed at birth, then at 200, 400 and 600 days, ultrasound scanned for fat, EMA and IMF, temperament scored and independently structurally assessed. They are also tested for genetic disorders, and now we have commenced genomic testing as well. All this is carried out whilst they run in large management groups so the good ones can rise to the top.

With all this in mind we do not forget those traits that are harder to measure. Breed type, sire appeal, body capacity, hair type and cow longevity are not in the performance data, but remain important. If you have to sell in the auction system, or need your cows to work hard in tough times, these are all \$ traits. We are always attracted to those cows that have good ones every year to every sire. Their progeny stand out in the mob as they grow up.

The Highpoint sons, M88 and M186, and their dams fit into this category – in every way. F36, dam of M88, first calf sold as Lot 2 to Bonnington Beef for \$6500 at the 2014 sale. She then went on to have three daughters, and as a result flew under the radar somewhat. Her eldest daughter, J107 just joined the ET donor mob. Then came M88, and next year, N90, also sired by Highpoint is the standout calf again. We await her Millah Murrah Lock Up L133 calf in the spring with anticipation.

M186's dam, H119 has produced four bull calves in succession. At our 2016 sale John Gillies and Karen Miles paid \$14,000 for Kiwi K80. Last year, Lofty L177 made \$10,000 to Col and Kerry Meyn, and it was interesting that our catalogue note suggested that next year's calf, M186 was a standout! Her fourth calf, N191 sired by US AI sire Musgrave Mediator, catches our eye in his mob of 78.

## Commercial females

We sold a number of young joined females privately in the autumn as our season deteriorated, but have been able to set aside our annual draft of yearling heifers for the sale. Because of the season they were reared under, they may not be quite as heavy as they often are, but we still anticipate that they will make joining weights comfortably by sale day.

Drafted into pens of between 15 and 18 head they are EU accredited and represent the genetics of our Angus herd. Many will be sisters to the bulls in the sale. They will represent both our autumn and spring calving herds and be 16/17 months and 11/12 months of age respectively.

In the older group sires include, Peakes In Focus G57, Bowmont King K306, Booramooka Bartel J373, Knowla Jimmy Bartel J4, Myra Jacko J16, Booragul Docklands K18 and Waitara Jollyrodger J4. Those sires are also represented in the younger group, along with the latest genetics introduced in Pathfinder General K7, Wattleop Lock L4 and Dunoon Kind K1354.

## Health treatments

- All unassisted at birth
- Yard weaned and educated to bunk feeding
- Vaccinated 7 in 1
- Vaccinated Vibrio
- Vaccinated 3 Day Sickness
- Tested Pestivirus

# KNOWLA LIVESTOCK Bulls

## BLAM113 - Lot 7



Sire: **Booramooka Bartel J373**

CE.Dir	Birth	200	400	600	Milk	EMA	IMF%	ABI
+3.3	+3.8	+55	+106	+141	+21	+3.2	+2.0	\$147

## BLAM154 - Lot 2



Sire: **Booragul Docklands K18**

CE.Dir	Birth	200	400	600	Milk	EMA	IMF%	ABI
+3.1	+4.2	+49	+88	+122	+22	+6.8	+1.4	\$130

## BLAN24 - Lot 23



Sire: **Murray Powertool K8**

CE.Dir	Birth	200	400	600	Milk	EMA	IMF%	ABI
+1.2	+4.3	+58	+101	+136	+19	+4.9	+2.4	\$148

## BLAM184 - Lot 8



Sire: **Dunoon Highpoint H744**

CE.Dir	Birth	200	400	600	Milk	EMA	IMF%	ABI
+0.0	+5.6	+59	+102	+148	+16	+4.8	+1.8	\$131

## BLAN03 - Lot 25



Sire: **Booramooka Bartel J373**

CE.Dir	Birth	200	400	600	Milk	EMA	IMF%	ABI
+2.9	+2.9	+47	+90	+113	+23	+7.7	+2.1	\$138

## BLAN46 - Lot 21



Sire: **Bowmont King K306**

CE.Dir	Birth	200	400	600	Milk	EMA	IMF%	ABI
+0.9	+4.0	+46	+84	+108	+16	+10.4	+2.0	\$120

**Health treatments**

• Semen tested and Vet Soundness • Tested for genetic status • Independently structurally assessed • Farm Biosecurity Plan implemented J-BAS 7

## Success for clients

It has been a lot tougher year for those producers selling weaners, particularly for the lighter calves. The almost complete absence of oat crops in the west and south of the state peeled back demand for weaners this year, with most sales a dollar per kilogram live weight behind last year's levels. The tougher season generally also impacted on sale prices as weights were lower across the sales.

The very top end producers still returned some very good results. Dean and Mandy Woods on Joe Berry's Buri West always sell at the top end, and this year was no different. Dean always has Buri West looking a picture, but all his skills were tested this year, managing to get his front pen of 108 steers to average 322 kilograms. They sold for \$3.31 on Auctions Plus in early March to return \$1065.

George and Sue Lyons, The Springs, Nowendoc sold an outstanding pen of weaners at the Ray White Feature Armidale weaner sale. Although most of George and Sue's calves had just been pre weaned, at 344 kilograms they were the second heaviest pen in the 3500 head sale. They made \$3.20 cents a kilogram to return \$1100.

George and Sue have also had some outstanding results selling direct over the hooks. They retain a reasonable portion of their steers each year and grass fatten them. Their first truck of these 20/22 months old steers with milk teeth produced an average carcase weight of 372 kilograms to return \$1989.

## JRGV Angus

Last year Jack and Georgia selected their share of the Black n Blue Angus females, as well as purchasing two females from Bald Blair and Kenny's Creek to establish their own stud, JRGV Angus. JRGV will have two bulls in the sale this year representing their handful of females. The Black n Blue team had only the one bull, but he didn't make the cut at the time of cataloguing, and as a result will be in the private sale group.

All the kids maintain an interest in the property in some form, even though their lives tend to be increasingly full away from home. Sandy is now employed full time in the finance industry in Sydney – and gets very minimal time at home, but is developing the skills to keep a close eye on the financials of our business.

Doug has spent much of the past eight months studying for and then gaining his helicopter licence through Fleet Helicopters at Armidale. He hasn't quite got to the spraying or seeding stage yet though, with the aim to head to the top end to get the flying hours up. In the meantime he has spent plenty of time here, fencing, ground spraying and doing stock work.

## 25 years on

As we approach our 25 years of breeding Angus cattle it was exciting to again secure a female from Dulverton Angus. Knowla Angus started with embryos from Dulverton early in 1994, and that was the origin of the 'Sal' female line that still is very evident in our pedigrees today.



James and George Lyons with his weaners that made \$1100 at the Ray White Armidale Special weaner sale.

Rob worked at home over the summer as he starts to get down to the pointy end of this University Ag Business degrees. He moved off campus into a house with a group of his rugby playing mates at the start of the year and looks like he may be developing some cooking skills as a result!

Jack has had plenty on as well. After spending most of the summer here either fencing, or on the Quik Spray unit, he commenced his Ag Science degree at UNE, Armidale. He is passionate about breeding Angus cattle, and forever is on the lookout for the next new sire. He was awarded an Angus Australia scholarship to attend Beef Australia 2018 at Rocky, and has since been involved with some of the carcase assessment work carried out through the Angus Young Sire program.

Georgia has only a couple of months to go to finish her schooling and HSC. It can't go quick enough for her as she wants to get out of Sydney and pursue her interests in the bush, most likely involving both horses and cattle.

We teamed up with John and Chrissy Patrick, Huntington Park Angus, Wauchope, to purchase Dulverton Mandy M237 at the recent Dulverton female production sale. At 22 months of age she sold for the top sale price of \$9000, and should calve in July prior to joining our embryo donor mob in the spring.



Auctioneer Shad Bailey, John and Chrissy Patrick, Greg Chappell, Jack and Annie.



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