

Deal day at auction

"IT WAS certainly Deal Day" was the general comment from the Sullivan and O'Brien families of Mataranka after their 3R Cattle Auction at the Peter Flanagan cattle yards in Katherine last Friday.

There was a nice crowd of families and interested people with buyers comfortable under the shady trees.

Those present took advantage of the situation and secured quality genetics at bargain prices. There was a total clearance of both the Boran and Brahman heifers.

The presentation and flow of the sale was a credit to the vendors and the auctioneering team from Ray White Rural.

The backyard workers put in the hard yakka beforehand with portable panels and lot numbering in accordance with the catalogue, so it was all a great team effort that was appreciated by all on sale day.

Jim and Barbara Sullivan were disappointed in the sale results for their Boran-cross bulls but were pleased people wanted to take home the heifers, albeit it too cheaply.

Mike O'Brien from Coodardie Brahmans would have liked more money for his bulls but said, "It was meeting the market on the day that matters and those who were able to buy were rewarded".

He's sure more people will now be keen to take a closer look at what Coodardie Brahmans has to offer the northern cattle industry.

He still stands firmly by his Australian Brahman Breeder Stud motto of 35 years of "Grass Fed - Quality Bred".

Volume buyer was Mungoorbada Aboriginal Corporation from Robinson River, south of Borroloola.

Buyers Bill South and Tony Jack are more than happy repeat buyers of Coodardie Brahmans and flew in for the sale as their roads were cut from the recent rains, and now will also give some Boran-



ABOVE: Buyers and spectators of the 3R Cattle Auction in Katherine on Friday. RIGHT: Coodardie Brahmans, Lots 1 & 2 sold to Robert Venturin, West Elsey Mataranka for \$1400 each.

Photos supplied.



cross cattle a try in their region. Managers Mal and Kylie from West Elsey bought for Robert Venturin and took home the most bulls on the day - an impressive line when all together. He too is giving the Boran-cross a go. Garry Riggs of Lakefield Station on the Sturt Plateau was the bulk Boran-cross bull buyer and as a repeat buyer also took home a red poll

Coodardie Brahman bull. Danny Groves was quick to see value in the heifers and took home a pen of Red Brahmans from Coodardie and Marcus Rathman from Mt Ringwood near Adelaide River selected a great line of Boran-cross heifers. Lindsay and Neil Miller of Margaret Downs wished they had more room in their truck but still took

home an even line of Brahman bulls from the Coodardie draft of good, quiet, quality presented, paddock conditioned animals. "No one was paying for grain feeding at this sale and the cattle can now go straight out and start doing their job - reproduction!" Moira Lanzarin from Coodardie Brahmans said. ... Clair O'Brien

> POLICE BRIEFS

Three caught in yard

KATHERINE Police say three young men were apprehended after trespassing in the Power Water yard at the rocks and climbing on a water storage tank.

Tests on the water supply were carried out by Power Water staff to ensure no contamination had occurred and the matter is still under investigation.

GUESS WHO?



HE'S been from the Australian east coast to New Zealand to New Guinea to Hong Kong back to Western Australia and has now settled in the Top End.

This man has many stories to tell from his vet career, and doesn't mind the odd spot of golf or bush hike in his spare time.

Turn to page seven to find out who it is.

Community garden for all finds a home

AN IDEA of having a community garden in Katherine is coming to fruition with a site now confirmed at Mabuhay Hall on Giles Street.

The idea for the garden came out of the Transition Town Group and after searching for an appropriate site, the group is keen to start turning the land at the back of the hall into a garden everyone can enjoy.

It's yet to be decided exactly how the space will be used but it's thought there will be a mixture of a communal space and also plots of land for people to grow

fruit and vegetables. "It's easy to access and its central...we've been able to arrange a great deal with the Katherine Filipino Australian Association NT Inc (KFAANT)...," group member Bill Daw said.

KFAANT President Russell 'Rusty' Smith said it was a benefit for them as well as the area would be well-used and the weeds would be kept down.

"It's really exciting, we've been trying to secure land for 12 months," Acting Chairperson Claire Salter said.

The group also secured a grant from Bendigo Bank

which will help them set up the garden. "They've been very supportive," Mr Daw said.

The group will host a film night on Sunday May 16 at 5pm at Mabuhay Hall where people will get a chance to look at the garden site and watch a documentary about a community garden in Brisbane and then a feature film called *Grow Your Own*.

There will be a visioning day later on and plenty of working bees to get the site up to scratch.

For more information on how to get involved in the garden contact 0438 254 056.



Ready to get digging: KFAANT President Russell 'Rusty' Smith with Transition Town Group members Bill Daw and Claire Salter.



RGSC worker Kyrie De Jong inspects he damage to the Toyota Yaris work car on Tuesday afternoon. Note the scratch and teeth marks.

Dogs rip Roper Gulf car to shreds

ROPER Gulf Shire Council (RGSC) staff found something quite unexpected when they turned up to work last Tuesday morning after the Anzac Day long weekend.

Workers discovered the entire front end had been ripped off one of the work cars parked in the compound, identifying dog hair and teeth marks on closer inspection.

Staff called Katherine Town Council dog ranger Andrew Wilson, who said he had

seen similar damage done by dogs before but not to such an extent.

RGSC customer service officer Kyrie De Jong said it was all guesswork, but outlined what they had pieced together.

"There are dog and cat hairs everywhere. Our theory is a cat ran up under the car (into the engine bay) and the dogs have tried to get to it," she said.

She said the security cameras didn't pick anything up.

Ms De Jong said it was a first-time incident, and nothing else had been reported in the area.

She said it was an example of what some dogs are capable of.

"It makes people aware of what dogs can do. If that can do that to a car..." she said.

The full damage to the car is being assessed and valued.

Ms De Jong joked it gave a whole new meaning to the phrase "the dog ate my homework".

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