

Bathurst Royal Show

When you combine a ROYAL show with country NSW, you get the Royal Bathurst Show, and it's a "beauty". Since the early 1900's, Bathurst has had an agricultural show and in the 1970's it gained Royal status. Bathurst City is 100 km west of the Blue Mountains and Sydney and is at the heart of a large farming region renown for its cattle breeding heritage. Thus the show draws its large audience from farming orientated visitors and runs over two to three days, usually on a week between the Canberra Royal and the Sydney Royal shows.

We've been coming to Bathurst for three years now, consistently showing a small number of quality animals from Elendee. In 2006, our Square meaters won the All Breeds Bull, Pair of Bulls and Group of Three. In 2007, Elendee was joined by Cluskers and Naringi to make up a good number of competition animals in the "Any Other Breed" competition and an impressive display to all visitors.

In 2008, Royal Bathurst relented and gave us our own dedicated Square Meaters competition, and again we had enough animals to display a very impressive line-up from Elendee, Naringi and Woolaringa. The beef competition totalled some 100 animals of more than a dozen breeds, with many using it as preparation for the Dubbo NSW Beef Spectacular and Sydney Royal later in the month. Square Meaters represented well over 10% of these, so we were very evident.

The Bathurst cattle pavilion is a large modern steel shed, enclosed with the old traditional stall retained in the centre. There are good washing facilities at either end and the two grassed show rings are right outside the front of the main entrance, with useful marshalling area also at either end. Overall, it is very convenient for managing your team into and out-of the ring.

With a good number of Square Meaters competing, and only a small team of owners and fitters available, getting the animals in and out in the right sequence, with the best opportunity to "show their wares" was a challenge, but in the usual spirit of a Bathurst Royal, we all pitched in under Kate Stanton's watchful orchestration to get the right animal in the right class at the right time. Hectic doesn't describe it, but with some patience from the steward and judge, it eventually happened. Having John Hutt's Stud Cattle Fitting Service preparing most of the animals being show certainly helped. John's experience at showing cattle is legendary and each animal was at its shining best just prior to the right class competition.

Junior Champion Bull went to Naringi Borealis (20 months), backed up by a very tidy Elendee Solaris (12 months) as the Reserve Junior Champion bull. Congratulations go to Kate and Graham Stanton, and John Hodgson and Fiona Neumann for great performances here.

Woolaringa A11 (28 months) was once again judged as the Senior and Grand Champion Bull, with Elendee Yancee (24 months) in Reserve behind him. While we are proud of what Elendee Yancee has turned out to be, A11 is an outstanding bull and hard to fault, so congratulations to Fiona and Ernie on another deserved win.



Grand Champion Bull – Woolaringa A71

Junior Champion Female went to Elendee Clarissa (12 months) with Naringi Caleche (12 months) awarded the Reserve Junior Female ribbon. Clarissa is getting better with each showing and is by Elendee Sunburn (the 2006 Bathurst Royal All Breeds Grand Champion).

Again the senior cows provided the greatest level of competition, with four fine animals in the mix. (not just my opinion here, but taken from the judges comments). Senior Champion Female was Elendee Sunsprite (32 months) with Elendee Bethany (22 months) as the Reserve Senior champ. Sunsprite was also awarded the Grand Champion Female ribbon over the much younger Clarissa heifer. The high quality of the 4 month bull calf on Sunsprite certainly helped the judge make his decision.

If I seem a little parochial here, this was a pleasing result for Elendee as we have been working on the females for a number of years now, and the results are just starting to flow.

The All Breeds Champion bull contest was dominated by a very nice (large) Murray Grey bull and a quality Shorthorn mature cow won the All Breeds female championship. Unfortunately Woolaringa A11 was good but not good enough to overcome the mainstream breeds who have a much larger population to select from and have size on their side as well.

Accommodation is not available onsite, but there are two good cheap motels within walking distance, and a caravan park with cabins a short drive away. On the social side, the group got together for dinner at the local Panorama Motel just outside the grounds, with the on-site cattleman's bar also frequented by more than one group. Somehow a good social activity seems to lubricate the in-shed activities in beneficial ways, but I can't explain exactly how.

Consider putting the 2009 Bathurst Royal Show in your show calendar:

- It is a Royal Show in NSW and the timing just after Canberra and prior to the Sydney Easter Show saves on preparation effort and cost.
- Bathurst is a good central location and easy to get to. The facilities are excellent.
- The costs to attend are not great and there is some prize money provided by sponsors.
- The breeders, progeny, pairs, threes, cow and calf groups are all competed as All-breed contests, so success here is tough but very meaningful in having Square Meaters considered as commercial value breeding.
- The three day length (Thursday to Saturday) to the show is an efficient use of your time.
- Facilities for cattle are great, easy to get in and out of the grounds.
- The cattle committee and Chief Steward (Ken Cartwright) are most helpful.
- The committee advised they would have another Square Meaters class contest in 2009.
- Visitors to the cattle pavilion are farmers and cattle people, most appreciative of what Square Meaters are attempting to breed towards. They are legitimate customers for us.

Consider joining Elendee and the other breeders at the Royal Bathurst Show in 2009.

John Hodgson,

Elendee, Anembo, NSW

2009 Bathurst Royal Show Results for Square Meaters

Female 12 and under 16 months

Elendee Clarissa Elendee, Anembo

Junior Champion Female

Elendee Clarissa Elendee, Anembo

Reserve Junior Champion Female

Naringi Caleche Naringi, Fullerton

Female 24 and under 30 months

Elendee Bethany Elendee, Anembo

Female over 30 months

Elendee Sunsprite Elendee, Anembo

Senior Champion Female

Elendee Sunsprite Elendee, Anembo

Reserve Senior Champion Female

Elendee Bethany Elendee, Anembo

Grand Champion Female

Elendee Sunsprite Elendee, Anembo

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Bull under 12 months

Elendee Solaris Elendee, Anembo

Bull 16 and under 20 months

Naringi Borealis Naringi, Fullerton

Junior Supreme Champion Bull

Naringi Borealis Naringi, Fullerton

Reserve Junior Champion Bull

Elendee Solaris Elendee, Anembo

Bull 20 and under 24 months

Elendee Yancee Elendee, Anembo

Bull 24 and under 30 months

Woolaringa AL1 Woolaringa, Goulburn

Senior Supreme Champion Bull

Woolaringa AL1 Woolaringa, Goulburn

Reserve Senior Champion Bull

Elendee Yancee Elendee, Anembo

Grand Champion Bull

Woolaringa AL1 Woolaringa, Goulburn