

## Dubbo Beef Spectacular

The NSW Beef Spectacular is quickly developing into one of those shows where it is a pure pleasure to exhibit cattle. Held over four days in March at Dubbo it features excellent facilities and efficient organisation by the Dubbo Show society and Rural Press (The Land Newspaper).

For its second outing the stakes jumped considerably with twice the number of cattle (over 500 and 24 breeds) and an even higher quality in the competition. This is a professional Cattle show which attracts many of the best cattle studs on the Australian East Coast. Even better, there is a lot of prize money on offer, with \$1,000 just for the Square Meaters competition.

The three Square Meaters studs who came to last year's first show - Elendee, Gleanholme and Mabelie - were back for another crack at that prize money and were joined this year by four others - Jembella, Naringi, Thurloo Park and Woolaringa - to create a really strong Square Meaters representation of over 22 entries and six calves. Looking down the full row I couldn't see a Square Meaters I didn't like, the six excellent entries in the senior cow class ensured the judge well and truly earned his keep.

In the shed we were again located near the front in a single impressive row, beside the Murray Greys and close to the seminar and event rooms, so Square Meaters were very prominent and constantly drew positive comments from visitors and other breeders. The comparison to the modern Greys was inevitable and the difference between the two breeds was very evident to all. Again some Grey breeders asked the inevitable question of affiliation between the two breeds, but no-one offered me any good reason why that should occur in the near future.

Judging on the Wednesday morning was in the very capable hands of well known Shorthorn and Santa Gertrudis breeder John Manchee. He judged Square Meaters at Canberra Royal Show last year and applied a consistent rule over the cattle presented to him. Mr Manchee was full of praise for the animals paraded before him and the consistency of his deliberations meant no complaints were to be heard from us breeders.

Gleanholme Belvoir (18 months) took the Junior Champion Bull ribbon and prize money. Congratulations to Glen and Julianne Jackson, Belvoir is a worthy young champion, typical of their stud. Kate and Graham Stanton took the Reserve Junior Bull ribbon with Naringi Borealis (16 months) They are improving fast in this their second active year of their Fullerton stud.

Senior Champion Bull and eventual Grand Champion Bull went to Woolaringa A11 (28 months), another excellent example of Ernie Stephenson's genetic legacy to the breed and shown by his daughter Fiona. A11 was also this year's Canberra Royal champion bull so the result was not a surprise. Elendee Yancee (24 months) was a worthy Reserve Senior Champion but definitely overpowered by A11's muscle and rear width.

What was pleasing to me was the concentration on the female entries by all competitors. Elendee Clarissa (12 months) got the Judge's nod for Junior Champion Female. With the competition just so strong, this may have been sheer luck, but we'll take it. Mabelie Rosie 2<sup>nd</sup> (10 months) took the Reserve Junior ribbon for Mabelie Stud (Kylie McKinnon and Matthew Brown) from Narromine.



*The heifer classes were well contested, with a range of classes and some very nice future champions evident.*

The best was definitely kept for last, with six excellent cows (and calves) in the over 30 months, and three heifers in the 20 and under 24 month class. All were fine representatives of the breed and budding champions each and every one. The thickness through the bodies of each was very promising for the breed.



*Just some of the entries in the large "Cows over 30 months" class in the Dubbo ring. Count the number of handlers we had to find for this contest!*

Again it was experience that won out with Thurlooo Park winning both the Senior Champion Female (Thurlooo Park Zoe – 40 months) and the Reserve Senior Female (Thurlooo Park Zanella – 41 months). Zoe went on to take the Grand Champion Female award. She's a great cow that one and David and Julie Thompson are to be congratulated on their ongoing line of great females.

Elendee took home the Breeders Group prize and the Sires Progeny Group prizes with our team largely made up of Elendee Sunburn progeny. Sunburn had his success at Dubbo last year but wasn't interested in competing this year, as he is presently focused on enjoying the company of some Elendee cows in his paddock. (P.S. we hope to have semen straws available later in the year – ring me after June) The Most Successful Exhibitor award was surrendered by us (Elendee) deservedly to Thurlooo Park this year with my grudging admiration for those excellent Cootamundra cows that David and Julie keep finding in their paddocks. We will have revenge eventually.

On the Friday in the Interbreed contests, Square Meaters put up a good show, but were overpowered by some of the best stud cattle in Australia. Angus and the Shorthorns scooped the pool, probably deservedly. It was certainly worth watching. Not only was the contest strong, the social company was superb also, with an excellent tradition of the Thursday Night Dubbo Dinner being started (and hopefully continued). Dubbo has a strong nightlife and we found time to enjoy it. Getting to know your fellow breeders more closely in such a relaxed environment makes the large effort of showing cattle just so much more enjoyable.



*The end scene of the new "Thursday Night Dinner" tradition. A lot of very "mellow" breeders by this stage.*

Thank you to all the breeders who made the effort and came to Dubbo. Thanks again for the warm friendly atmosphere in the shed. Everyone pitched in, nothing was too difficult, it always looked very professional and we all had a good time (or at least I did).

Special thanks go to the breeders who came along to watch the competition, support those of us with cattle there, enjoy the atmosphere and join in the social side. Your presence made the event so much more an occasion for all of us.

The NSW Beef Spectacular at Dubbo is guaranteed to run again in 2009, with NSW Government (and RAS of NSW) sponsorship promised by the Minister. Again good prize money will be on offer.

Accommodation near the show ground is cheap or camp on the grounds like we do. Facilities are excellent, Dubbo easy to get to, the weather superb, the prize money good, the vendor support with displays and stalls are first class, the audience is "just into cattle", and the Square Meaters competition is fierce.

Come and join the fun next year and bring your best Square Meaters with you. We will be ready!

John Hodgson

Elendee Square Meaters

*(Editing and input help gratefully received from Kylie McKinnon (Mabelie) and Graeme Singleton)*

## Results

<b><u>Class</u></b>	<b><u>Entry</u></b>	<b><u>Breeder</u></b>
2701 Bull under 12 months	Elendee Solaris	Elendee
2703 Bull over 16 and under 20 months	Gleanholme Belvoir	Gleanholme
2704 Champion Junior Bull	Gleanholme Belvoir	Gleanholme
2705 Reserve Champion Junior Bull	Naringi Borealis	Naringi Pastoral Company
2706 Bull over 20 and under 24 months	Elendee Yancee	Elendee
2707 Bull over 24 and under 30 months	Woolaringa A11	E. A. Stephenson
2709 Champion Senior Bull	Woolaringa A11	E. A. Stephenson
2710 Reserve Champion Senior Bull	Elendee Yancee	Elendee
2711 Grand Champion Bull	Woolaringa A11	E. A. Stephenson
2712 Female under 12 months	Mabelie Rosie 2nd	Mabelie
2713 Female over 12 and under 16 mths	Elendee Clarissa	Elendee
2714 Female over 16 and under 20 mths	Jembella Blaire	Freund, Michael
2715 Champion Junior Female	Elendee Clarissa	Elendee
2716 Reserve Champion Junior Female	Mabelie Rosie 2nd	Mabelie
2717 Female over 20 and under 24 mths	Mabelie Rosie 1st	Mabelie
2719 Female over 30 months	Thurloo Park Zoe	Thurloo Park
2720 Champion Senior Female	Thurloo Park Zoe	Thurloo Park
2721 Reserve Champion Senior Female	Thurloo Park Zanella	Thurloo Park

2722 Grand Champion Female	Thurloo Park Zoe	Thurloo Park
2725 Sires Progeny Group	Elendee Sunburn	Elendee
2727 Breeders Group	Elendee Square Meaters	Elendee
2729 Most Successful Exhibitor	Julie and David Thompson	Thurloo Park