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Welcome from the Editor

Welcome to the December 2007 Northern Rangelands Pastoral Memo. This issue is a big one with plenty of original articles from right across the rangelands—and enough photos to make it look like a photo album.

Congratulations to the Pastoralists & Graziers Association who celebrated 100 years of representing WA pastoralists and graziers in August. Two days of celebrations included a bull sale at Brooking Springs Station, a PGA meeting at GoGo Station and a centenary ball at Fossil Downs. A full coverage of events is in the Memo.

The Halls Creek-East Kimberley Local Conservation District Committee also completed their road trip. It started at Legune Station and made its way down to Ruby Plains Station and back along the Duncan road to Spring Creek Station for an LCDC meeting. A diary of the journey is also in the Memo.

Throughout the year we have been reporting on the Judas donkey program across the rangelands. In this edition, we cover progress in the Pilbara.

The outlook for total summer rainfall (December to February) shows a moderate to strong shift in the odds favouring above-average totals in western WA and eastern NSW into south-eastern Queensland, according to the Bureau of Meteorology. The chance of exceeding median rainfall in the northern rangelands this wet season is 55 to 60 per cent, which is more promising than this time last year when it was 45 to 55 per cent. Good luck with soaking rains this summer.

I hope you enjoyed reading the Northern Rangelands Pastoral Memo in 2007.

Happy reading and Merry Xmas.

Matthew Fletcher
Wet season spelling – get the best out of resting your paddocks

Paul Novelly, DAFWA, Kununurra

It is encouraging to see that resting paddocks in the wet season (‘spelling’) is becoming standard practice.

It recognises that most desirable grasses in the Kimberley rangelands are not well adapted to continuous grazing and that some form of spelling is needed to let plants complete their life cycle. However, managers have reported variable results.

Each paddock is different but some of the dissatisfaction comes from overly optimistic expectations about what can be achieved by just one wet season spell.

The absence of animals is not the only contributing factor to achieving good results. Other factors include timing, seed set over the years, seasons and proper planning.

Why should I spell?

Spelling allows plants to develop and renew reserves that were depleted during the dry season. It also allows seeds that germinate during wet season rains to establish and develop sufficiently to survive the following dry season.

Defoliation, especially early in the wet season, can either reduce this development or, in the extreme, kill established plants and prevent seedlings from developing.

Spelling also has positive effects on the soil, increasing rainfall infiltration because there is more surface litter.

Spelling is particularly important to encourage perennial grasses that are palatable to cattle and actively selected for grazing.

Therefore, a paddock with all or most of the desirable plants grazed out will have little or no seed of these species in the soil and will not respond well to only one season of spelling. Spelling regularly before selective grazing has removed the best species will produce the best results.

All the grasses in the paddock are potentially going to benefit from a spell, and so there will be significant competition between desirable and less desirable (or even undesirable) grass species. Ensure that the desirable perennial grasses will benefit most.

When do I start a spell?

Plants need time to respond to reduced grazing. Therefore, spelling should start before the first rains.

Mature plants and seedlings are most susceptible to grazing early in the wet season because they are recovering from the stresses of the dry season. The most desirable grasses are generally also most palatable early in the season.

Much of the benefit of spelling can be lost if cattle are still in the paddock for some time after opening rains because the plants that you want to encourage are often the very ones that will be receiving the most grazing pressure.
Plan to empty the paddocks to be spelled as early as possible and leave the cattle out for the whole wet season.

Spelling for the whole wet season and well into the following dry season, will allow the desirable plants to develop healthy root systems, set seed and build up their nutrient reserves.

Remember that spelling means taking all the cattle out and keeping them out—not simply reducing numbers (‘lightening off’) or not preventing access because floodgates are down.

Cattle will prefer to graze the species you want to encourage, so any cattle at all in the paddock—even for only part of the wet season—will reduce the benefits of the spell.

**How do I evaluate the results?**

The best way to evaluate results is to clearly define some pasture indicators for yourself that can be used to judge success. In other words, identify a few locations in the paddock at the start of spelling, take some photos then and picture in your mind a successful result. Comparing these ‘before’ photos with the ‘after the spell’ result at the same sites will provide an indication of the benefit of the spell.

Naturally, what can be achieved will vary between paddocks but defining success for yourself will help you to judge the results. A photo record will help to convince others of the result.

Some paddocks may require consecutive wet season spells. Grazing impacts and the effect of spelling are cumulative and, particularly with some of the soil effects, natural processes need time to be set in motion

The need for successive wet season spells will be driven by how badly the paddock and its desirable grasses have been run down. Paddocks in better condition will respond dramatically to one season’s spell; poorer paddocks may take two or even three consecutive wet seasons to reach a desirable state.

Seasonal factors also have an influence. In years where rainfall and plant growth have been limited spelling may offer little benefit.

**What about the other paddocks?**

In developing a spelling program, remember that you are effectively reducing your grazing resource by the number of paddocks not in use. You need to adjust the total number of cattle on the lease accordingly.

If you simply increase the stocking rate in the adjoining paddock, it is going to be far more heavily grazed than it should be. You may end up with no net gain for the effort you have put in.

If you want to spell about one-fifth of the lease (one spell for each paddock every five years) and you are just starting off on a spelling program, you might want to reduce your herd size by about 20 per cent too, perhaps by selling a bit earlier in the year and getting rid of non-productive cows.

Starting a spelling program can also involve taking advantage of exceptionally good seasonal conditions to rest a few extra paddocks.

Equally, once a paddock has been spelled, don’t assume it can run significantly higher stock than the last time it was grazed.

Certainly, once the program has been in place for a few years, the cumulative effects should allow carrying capacity to climb compared to no spelling.
Spelling is not a magic bullet. Its benefit comes in maintaining the carrying capacity, not in dramatically increasing it. If your pastures are not at their best, wet season spelling will help to revive them and that’s when you will see an increase in carrying capacity.

Summary

Wet season spelling is an important tool in rangeland management. As with all tools, the best results come when they are used most efficiently.

Obviously a single approach is not suitable for all situations. But the same principles apply.

Customising them for your situation should maximise your chance of getting a good return on your investment in spelling.

Horse Flu, Biosecurity and Your Farm

Matthew Bullard, Veterinary Officer Broome

There are important lessons to be learnt for all livestock enterprises from the outbreak of equine influenza (EI) in New South Wales and Queensland.

The highly contagious EI virus has disrupted the activities of all horse owners across Australia, including both the recreational industry and the racing and breeding industries. The livelihoods of all people involved in the industry such as farriers, feed merchants, chiropractors and jockeys have also been affected. It is not just the NSW and Qld horse industries that have felt the impact of EI. Horse industries in non-infected States have been affected by the stricter interstate import requirements for horses, gear and semen imposed to protect these States from the disease.

Whilst horses have been the main cause of the rapid spread of EI throughout Qld and NSW, the movement of people, other animals and vehicles has also been a factor. The EI virus is relatively fragile but has the potential to remain viable on protected surfaces for several days. Failure to follow proper biosecurity procedures such as changing clothes, washing hands and disinfecting equipment between animals and/or property visits has enabled the virus to jump containment lines.

Adherence to the national stock standstill by most horse owners enabled authorities to confine the disease to areas in NSW and Qld. This means that the national focus for the containment and eradication of EI remains achievable.

Strict importation requirements for horses to keep Western Australia free of liver fluke have been in place for some time. This meant it was possible to very quickly trace all equines imported into Western Australia when the need arose. However, tracing movements of horses within Western Australia is not possible. Owners should consider keeping a log of all their horse movements. Likewise, event organisers are advised to keep records of all horses and owners attending events so that these animals can be traced if necessary.

Biosecurity is your responsibility.

So what lessons does EI have for farm biosecurity in other livestock enterprises? It means that farmers must look not only at imported stock and strays as possible carriers of pests and diseases but at human visitors and their vehicles. The EI outbreak is a reminder of the importance in incorporating good biosecurity practices into everyday farm management activities. Time spent developing a biosecurity plan and training staff and family members on what is required could be
invaluable for your business. Not only could it help lessen the impact of market restrictions and financial impact if an exotic disease such as foot and mouth enters Australia but it can assist in preventing the impact of endemic pests such as lice and worms.

Consider these key points when thinking about biosecurity on your property:

• Do you keep a log of who visits your property?
• Have two pairs of boots - one for home and one for away. Keep them clean and don’t mix them up.
• Keep vehicles clean - the ute or machinery borrowed from a mate’s property can bring home just as many nasties as the float at a horse show.
• Maintaining records, as required by law, of all your stock movements will help in tracing any animals in the event of a disease outbreak.
• Consider the property as a whole because animal and plant diseases can be spread by and between animals. Just for starters, have your sheep got lice? Have your dogs been vaccinated? Have your horses been wormed?
• Only introduce stock to your farm from another farm with the same or better health status than yours. Ask for a health statement when purchasing or introducing stock.
• Some pests and diseases such as worms can also be transmitted between animals and people.

If you need to make changes do it now!

There is no point closing the gate after the proverbial horse has bolted… particularly if it has a cough and a snotty nose!

Farmers should consider getting advice from an agricultural or veterinary consultant to develop a biosecurity plan for their property.

More information on EI in Western Australia is available on DAFWA’s website – www.agric.wa.gov.au.

WHO ARE YOU?

If you have recently taken on a role as an owner, lessee or manger for a property, We want to know who you are!!! Help us help you. Keeping up with the enormous changes in land ownership and management throughout the State is a huge task. Having the right name and contact details for properties is important to assist us in cases of emergencies such as biosecurity incidents or the like. It also ensures that innovative and essential information gets to you and doesn't end up as 'return to sender'!

Contact the CRIS (Client and Resource Information Systems) Group:

Phone: (08) 9368 3766
Email: mandacich@agric.wa.gov.au or ceaston@agric.wa.gov.au
Postal: DAFWA
CRIS Group
SortBin 17
Locked Bag 4
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983
Waybills
Maree Glasby, Stock Inspector, Broome

Under the Stock (Identification and Movement) Act all cattle movements must be accompanied by a fully completed waybill. Waybills are used to trace back the outbreak of a disease or a contamination/residue problem. They are also proof that the cattle are being moved with the owner’s permission.

Filling out waybills

It is the responsibility of the owner or person in charge to complete the waybill and provide the carrier with the original and the first copy. Further requirements are:

• The original is to be kept by the consignee or receiver of the cattle.
• The first copy is to be kept by the carrier.
• The second copy is to be kept by the original owner or consignor of the cattle.
• All copies need to be kept for three years.

All parts of the waybill must be completed. A fully completed waybill includes the:

• consignor’s name
• full address and PIC of the property the cattle are leaving
• consignee’s name and full address
• destination property’s address if it is different from the consignee’s address
• carrier’s name
• date the journey commenced
• description and brand/earmark break-up of the cattle.

The four most common brands or earmarks and the number of cattle relating to these must be recorded. If there are more than four brands/earmarks and it is impractical to record each brand, the rest may be recorded as ‘various’. See the example below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>PIC on transaction tag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(breed, sex, e.g. Hereford cross steers and brands/earmarks if present or required)</td>
<td>(If different from that shown above)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Brahman steers KS7</td>
<td>WIWK0016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Brahman mickies 4ND</td>
<td>WGWK0020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Brahman mickies OC7</td>
<td>WBDK0021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Brahman mickies 004C 018E</td>
<td>WJBE0016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Mickies—various</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The earmark may be recorded as its code. For example, 025D 025A or a picture of it may be drawn in.

If there is insufficient room on the one waybill for all the descriptions/brands, use a second waybill or record them on a separate piece of paper along with the waybill number and attach to all three waybill copies.
NVDs
The industry preferred waybill is the National Vendor Declaration (NVD waybill). While the vendor declaration part is voluntary, the waybill part must be filled out. These are ordered through Meat and Livestock Australia at a cost of $27.50 per book of 20.

eDECs
Electronic NVDs are also now available. The eDEC program allows you to fill out NVDs on the computer and email and print them. Each eDEC costs $0.825, GST inclusive, and can be purchased in blocks of 20, 50 or 100. More information is available on the MLA website at www.mla.com.au.

Waybill books
Waybill books are available from DAFWA for $14.50 for a book of 20. These only contain the waybill part, not the vendor declaration part.

Special Permit to Move
A Special Permit to Move can be issued to property owners wishing to move cattle back and forth between their properties. This removes the need to fill out a waybill for movement between the listed properties and within the properties. If cattle are moving between properties with different PIC numbers, the movement must still be shown on the database. Contact your local stock inspector for more information.

Emergency NVDs
Emergency NVDs are available to producers who have placed an order for NVDs, but have not yet received them. Every time you order waybills, three tokens are generated. Each token can be used to order one waybill. For more information or to access this service, go to the MLA website at www.mla.com.au.

Interstate waybills
Horses and cattle leaving WA must be accompanied by the appropriate paperwork required by the destination State. This can be arranged by contacting a stock inspector.

Advertisement

‘The Quarters’ — Old Broome Accommodation

Attractive new short-term accommodation has recently opened in Broome.
The Quarters is a bungalow—one-bedroom, self-contained, private and central—designed for the working traveller.
It is aimed at people in rural industries who come to town on business.
The Quarters (in rural theme) is a home away from home; a place for the working traveller to kick off their boots and lay down their hat in a town that otherwise largely caters for tourism.
Guests can enjoy an air-conditioned retreat with a laundry, outdoor mandii bathroom and wooden deck. Enquiries to Felicity Brown on (08) 9192 3274 or 0438 927 489.
Boils, carbuncles and furuncles sound horrible—and they are.

A furuncle/boil is a painful eruption caused by a staphylococci infection of the skin. It either bursts or has to be excised and drained of pus. Boils are most painful when they occur over underlying structures or close to the bone such as on the fingers, nose or ear. An infected person can get several boils before the infection clears away.

A carbuncle is a cluster of adjoining boils. The area has many ‘heads’ that can drain pus. It is bigger, deeper and more painful than one boil. The associated glands in the armpit or groin may also be painful and lumpy.

Treatment

A small boil or pustule may be treated with:

• antiseptic cream
• the application of magnoplasm for 'drawing out' before the boil has burst
• heat, for example, a warmed wheat bag or facecloth. Caution: do not burn the skin.

Cover a weeping boil with a bandage or bandaid. If it is painful and hard and the person feels unwell, contact the doctor who will probably prescribe antibiotics. Be sure to take the whole course of medicine; otherwise, the infection may come back.

If a carbuncle emerges, it is essential to contact the doctor as soon as possible because such infections are deep, slow to heal and may leave a scar. If painful—and they often are—take paracetamol such as Panadol, Dymadon or Herron.

Prevention

Where people live together, such as workers sharing an ablution block and dining room/kitchen areas, infections can easily spread.

A person with boils should not share clothing, bedding or towels. You should use soap and take extra care to wash well in the shower and use a nail brush on hands and fingernails. Shared ablution blocks need daily cleaning—as do door knobs.

If boils break out among workers, disinfect the quarters. Take mattresses and swags outside and expose them to sunlight for a full day, turning them over half way through the day. Wash curtains, mattress covers and bedding and hang them in the sun all day. Clean down beds, cupboards and door knobs and mop the floors.

And don’t forget the phone—the ear, mouth and hand are all involved. Go clean!

Sometimes a person may be a ‘carrier’ of the infection that causes boils. They will get repeated attacks despite antibiotic treatment. The doctor may need to take swabs from the nose and fingernails for analysis and may use alternative antibiotics and possibly antibiotic nasal spray.

Have a safe and happy Christmas and all the best for a prosperous 2008.

It has been said that the three phrases that best sum up the festive season are ‘Peace on Earth’, ‘Goodwill to Men’ and ‘Batteries Not Included’.
Hello everyone,

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. I have recently taken up the position of Technical Officer in the Derby office and will be spending much of my time conducting pastoral lease inspections and rangeland monitoring in the West Kimberley. In addition, I will be assisting Michael Jeffery with his heifer trial and helping to put together the Grazing Land Management package.

I have always had a strong affiliation with the bush, having grown up around Charters Towers in north Queensland. I then worked in the mining industry for a number of years and travelled extensively both overseas and in Australia. I then studied at Adelaide University, gaining a degree in Natural Resource Management which allowed me to return to my first love—the pastoral industry.

Prior to moving to Derby I worked for the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines, based in Katherine. My role there was similar to my new position and I was fortunate to be involved in some interesting research trials.

My motive for moving to Derby was simple—I am looking forward to exploring the spectacular Kimberley region and meeting the people who keep the pastoral industry going. I look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

My contact details are:

Anne Marie Huey
Department of Agriculture and Food WA
Loch Street
Derby WA 6728

Phone: (08) 9191 0354
Fax: (08) 9191 0334
Email: ahuey@agric.wa.gov.au

**NEW STAFF MEMBER FOR HALLS CREEK AND OFFICE HOURS**

Clint Vanags has commenced Biosecurity Officer duties in Halls Creek. He replaces Chad Richards who has left the Department.

Having been born and raised in the Kimberley Region, Clint brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge of the pastoral industry particularly in the Halls Creek area.

Offices hours for Halls Creek will be 7.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

After hours and at weekends the Halls Creek office phone will be diverted to Kununurra (08) 9169 1399. This number will connect to the Stock Inspector who is ‘on call’. 
The statistics in this table relate to the Judas program in the Pilbara area, not the overall station totals which began in the 1980s.

If station owners/managers can report any information about donkeys that they see during mustering programs then that information is very helpful in speeding up the progress of the program and can reduce costs and time taken to reach eradication on that station considerably.
Bull catching—collecting animals that have become too difficult to muster by ordinary means—is a challenge. Some younger operators view it as a sport, pitting mind and muscle against wily animals well versed in evading horse and helicopter.

In many instances, it is the only way to clean out undesirable mickies without spending countless hours and squillions of dollars on helicopters—the only viable alternative being a bullet. Besides, they're worth a dollar or two.

There is an art to bull catching—a right way and a wrong way (probably lots of wrong ways) of going about the business of bringing these animals in.

First there is the safety angle, ensuring neither life nor limb is placed at risk unduly. Second is the welfare of the animals, a growing issue in the cattle industry. In bull catching, there is considerable potential for breaches of the Animal Welfare Act and severe penalties.

A good operator is able to locate, catch, immobilise and load each animal for transport quickly and with minimal fuss. Yet we all know there are a million and one things that can—and do—go wrong. It is incumbent on the operator to know that when things do go wrong appropriate action must be taken to alleviate any animal suffering.

Some injuries are not apparent at capture—the broken rib, the bruised legs, the rubbed skin and the rope/hobble burns to body and legs. These injuries often take days to show and are a major problem for the yard manager, agent, buyer or exporter who is left with an unsaleable animal for which good money has been paid.

‘Exploding’ is a term used to describe the condition of an animal where the pain and swelling from broken ribs or bruised limbs results in breathing difficulties, lameness and loss of condition.

Wounds become infected and hair falls out on limb extremities where hobbles have been left on too long or incorrectly applied allowing too much movement.

The operator must ensure that these animals are presented in good condition for inspection and sale and in a fit condition for transportation. This can be ensured by keeping the caught animals yarded until any injury becomes apparent.

Animals with unacceptable injuries should be culled and others allowed time to recover. It is not acceptable to shift these animals on before hair falls out from inappropriately applied hobbles or legs blow up from bruising and injury, often several days after capture.

Yarding also allows the animals to quieten and become acclimatised to handling before being moved on.

How long is long enough? This is a matter for the individual and the nature of the injury but in my opinion 7 to 10 days is about right, depending on the circumstances.

However, it should be clearly stated that it is no longer acceptable for these animals to be trucked or sold in breach of animal welfare or if the receiver suffers a logistical or financial loss because of the animal’s poor condition.
Subsidies for the cost of herbicides for declared weed control may be discontinued because of a lack of claimants.

Kimberley pastoralists are eligible for a subsidy of up to $3000 per pastoral lease per year for herbicides. The subsidy is funded by the Kimberley Declared Plant & Animal Control Fund.

**Conditions**

To be eligible for the subsidy pastoralists must meet the following conditions:

- A 3–5 year weed management plan (template can be supplied) must be developed and signed off by your local biosecurity officer. (This should be done before control work is carried out.)
- The herbicide has to be used on the property for declared plants and registered for use on the plant to be controlled.
- A biosecurity officer has to inspect the area treated.

**How to make a claim**

Complete a chemical subsidy form (obtained from your local Department of Agriculture and Food office) and return it—together with the tax invoice—to the office.

Currently there appears to be little interest in the subsidy and continuation of the scheme will be reviewed at the next Kimberley Zone Control Authority meeting early next year.

If there is still little interest, the scheme may be stopped and the funds redirected to other areas of declared plant and animal control in the Kimberley.

If you are interested in the scheme, please contact your local biosecurity officer over the next couple of months to apply for the subsidy.
The year 2007 marks one hundred years for the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia (WA).

The Kimberley Division wanted to commemorate this remarkable and historic milestone and decided that the most appropriate way would be to revive the original Fitzroy Crossing bull sales as well as hold a centenary ball.

The bull sale was hosted at Brooking Springs Station by owner Jill Jenyns on Friday 24 August. After much planning and hard work by the bull sale committee members, vendors and selling agents (Elders and FarmWorks) the morning of the sale finally arrived.

A total of 144 bulls had been transported from the Northern Territory and Queensland earlier in the week with some vendors clocking up a massive number of kilometres in their round trip to and from Fitzroy Crossing.

Tragedy struck Reg and Janelle Underwood who lost 24 head (of a total 40 head) of cattle when the truck transporting their bulls rolled south of Halls Creek. However Reg’s true determination and tenacity shone through when he loaded his own truck with five more Bunda bulls to take to the sale along with the 10 that made it from the crash.

Strong support from local pastoralists ensured the auction was a huge success with the 128 Brahman and 16 Droughtmaster bulls notching up a 100 per cent clearance. An overall average of $2840 was achieved with the sale grossing a total of $409,000.

Vendors from 14 studs offered Brahman bulls achieving a top price of $13,000 and five studs offered Droughtmaster bulls with a top of $3500.

It was fitting that the top price of $13,000 went to a Brahman bull called ‘George’ (who was a big softie!) from Reg and Janelle Underwood’s NT Bunda stud. The top price set a new record in WA for the highest price ever paid for a Brahman bull. The last record was set in 1990 when a bull sold for $7500.

Everybody at the sale seemed to have a great time. The crowd was treated to some light entertainment from the auctioneers through their gift of the gab and colourful and amusing comments! Buyers were happy with the great quality of bulls on offer and vendors seemed to be pleased with the 100 per cent clearance as well as the prices they received for their bulls.

After the sale had concluded some light refreshments were brought out to enjoy and help celebrate the sale’s success.

The crowd then moved on to the Brooking Springs homestead where they were fortunate enough to be able to see Dan James in action.

Dan’s incredible horsemanship skills were on display for all to see. His routine incorporated a number of tricks as well as Roman Riding and it was clear to all that he had built a unique relationship of trust with his horses. After this outstanding performance it was back to the homestead to indulge in a hearty feast and a few more beers.

... continued on page 16
On Saturday morning everybody congregated under the mango tree at GoGo Station for the PGA Kimberley Division meeting. A number of people spoke on a range of topics during the morning.

These included John Thompson from RSM Bird Cameron, Federal Member for Kalgoorlie Barry Hasse and Peter Murray who has spent most of his life in the Kimberley.

An impressive spread was laid out by the GoGo cooks for lunch which everybody seemed to thoroughly enjoy.

During the afternoon session a live export panel, chaired by PGA Meat & Livestock Chairman Tim D'Arcy, spoke and answered questions from the floor. The panel consisted of speakers from Elders, Landmark, MLA and Wellards and proved very interesting.

Later in the afternoon Jim Motter was appointed as the new PGA Kimberley Division Chairman with the outgoing Chairman, Ruth Webb-Smith, staying on as deputy.

After a couple of quick drinks at the end of the day it was time for everybody to go and get their glad-rags on for the centenary ball at Fossil Downs.

Annette Henwood had spent many, many hours preparing for this centenary ball and this was well and truly evident (for the 200 or so souls who attended the ball) on arrival at the large shed where the ball was held.

The decorations were spectacular! Absolutely breathtaking—I don’t think I will see anything like it ever again!

Pink and white balls and stars suspended from the rafters were glowing, as were the tables with candles and the dazzling disco ball that hung from the ceiling.

As one looked up to the ceiling they not only saw the glowing decorations but also an old wind-mill that had been restored and painted silver – it was stunning. Boot and hat cut-outs were hung about and even the shed poles were decorated in white.

The beer, wine and champagne flowed steadily throughout the night and the food was delicious and there was enough of it to feed an army! Everybody’s meal was served up on a PGA Centenary commemorative plate which they got to take home as a memento from the night. There were also commemorative stubby holders and pens to take home too.

A large number of items were auctioned off in the celebrity auction at the ball. These included paintings, furniture, animal statues, sculptures, two hides (marked with all the station brands from the Kimberley) and there was even a special package from the adult shop up for sale!

Kelvin Hancey from Elders Broome took on the role of auctioneer and he had no shortage of bids with the Kimberley locals as well as the visitors showing their great generosity.

Everybody at the ball appeared to have a tremendous time (John and Annette Henwood sure know how to put on a party!) and the band, Quiver from Broome, played some fantastic tunes to get everybody’s feet tapping and up and dancing. They managed to keep playing until the wee hours of the morning before turning in for the night.

However, there were a fair few people who managed to stay up and see the morning in—they along with those who had managed a few hours sleep were all ready for the sausage sizzle in the morning!

All in all the PGA Kimberley Centenary Events were hugely successful and will be long remembered. A special thanks to everybody involved in the planning and organising of the events and I hope everybody is looking forward to and holding off on buying bulls until the 2008 PGA Kimberley Division Bull Sale!
PGA Kimberley Division Bull Sale at Brooking Springs Station
PGA Kimberley Division Meeting at GoGo & Fossil Downs Centenary Ball
WHAT IS KIMSS AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

Russell Shaw, Project Manager KIMSS Derby and Kim Carter, Coordinator KIMMS Broome

Supporting the development of Indigenous-owned pastoral leases is the job of the Kimberley Indigenous Management Support Service (KIMSS). KIMSS is a joint initiative between the Indigenous Land Corporation and the Department of Agriculture and Food and is also housed by DAFWA.

We are involved with all aspects of operating a successful pastoral business.

Apart from the demanding duties experienced on any pastoral operation, Indigenous leases that are owned by a community bring other challenges.

Such businesses also have to negotiate on a daily basis with the many service and support groups that are so closely linked with daily community life. Community administrators, Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) managers and store managers are just a few of the people that pastoral business managers need to deal with constantly to keep operations working smoothly.

Many of these service and support groups have no pastoral experience but abound with enthusiasm and provide valuable support. Only occasionally do we encounter an individual who is a self-proclaimed expert determined to interfere with pastoral operations.

A large part of our work is ‘hands on’ training—a fence needs to be ‘stood up’ or a water point serviced. We need first to train the Aboriginal workers on the ‘how to’ and then work with them as the job is done. We almost never have the luxury of knowledgeable or experienced workers to start with; the money (CDEP) isn’t good enough to attract them.

Sometimes we don’t have much to work with—neglected herds with little genetic improvement do not make for the quality sale stock that attracts reasonable prices in the market place. A couple of properties though have seen their market access improve to the higher end of prices offered for Kimberley cattle.

Of the 30,000 sq km that makes up the Aboriginal leases that we work with, only 2.6 per cent is considered to be good grazing country, about 14 per cent is fair and the remainder poor to very poor.

However, potential herd size on this area is rated by DAFWA at about 80,000 breeders. Even with large areas of poorer pastoral country, the Indigenous-owned pastoral leases can be built up to run at a profit, though not at a level to rival the operations of some mainstream operations.

Wider benefits for these communities in remote areas include:

- lower dependence on government welfare
- greater self-determination
- pride of achievement
- a better quality of life.

In addition, the properties have the potential to be a cost-effective training ground for a local labour force. A shortage of skilled labour is a serious limiting factor in the Kimberley pastoral industry, with many properties having to rely on backpackers and other casual labour.
Given the unhappy history of some other projects, KIMSS has demonstrated some success in a surprisingly short time. All of the properties we are involved with are laying firm foundations that can be built on in the future.

**Lamboo Station**

At Lamboo Station, 50 km west of Halls Creek, an innovative spear trap design—which saves on time and materials used in construction—is proving its worth in cost-effective and efficient musters allowing the management greater control of their herd. The design has found its way to pastoral industries in Queensland, New South Wales, the Murchison and the Goldfields. An article on the spear trap appeared in a previous Memo (June 2007).

Lamboo is also engaged in a major program of fence realignment and water point upgrades. With training and mentoring provided by KIMSS, the manager of Lamboo has developed his own skills and has obtained a diploma in agriculture.

**Noonkanbah Station**

The Yungngora Association of Noonkanbah Station (160 km south-west of Fitzroy Crossing) took an innovative approach by developing a fee-for-service contract with DAFWA. This allows the community to purchase the time of a KIMSS extension officer who works directly with elders to provide customised support.

The success of this initiative led to the wider regional approach that has developed into the KIMSS project as we know it today.

The pastoral business operates effectively and surplus business funds have contributed to a wide range of community projects.

In April this year Native Title over the Noonkanbah pastoral lease was awarded to the Yungngora people. The claim was lodged, fought for and won with money from the sale of cattle.

The group has also developed school-based agricultural training through the Noonkanbah Agricultural Academy. The students come from local community schools on Noonkanbah and Millijiddee stations. The training consists of nationally accredited certificate courses. The academy now has a three-year track record with students graduating in Certificate I rural operations and beef cattle production and Certificate II (ongoing).

**Millijiddee Station**

The Kadjina Association has turned around Millijiddee Station (south of Noonkanbah) in just over five years. A combination of fencing, yard and water point development along with strong business governance training has turned their once non-functioning business into a profitable pastoral enterprise. The cattle company directors are looking to build on progress and are breeding up herd numbers with *Bos indicus* bloodlines.
Halls Creek-East Kimberley LCDC Road Trip

Matthew Fletcher, Development Officer, Kununurra

Several land development and rangeland management projects in the East Kimberley are making good headway.

In late October the Halls Creek–East Kimberley Local Conservation District Committee (LCDC) took a four-day road trip to visit the projects.

Road trip organisers Dick Pasfield (Ord Land and Water), Sarah Strutt (Halls Creek–East Kimberley LCDC, Secretary) and Corrin Everitt (Kimberley Landcare Facilitator) ensured the trip was a huge success. Most stops were well attended and more than 20 people met for the LCDC meeting at Spring Creek Station.

I have put together a diary for those who missed out.

Day one - Legune Station

To kick off the trip our first stop was at Legune Station to look at a new dam. Cameron and Belinda Rasheed (Managers, Legune Station) kindly provided us with a hearty lunch and showed us around.

Over the past two years the station has been building a dam wall between two ridges to catch and store wet season rainfall (60,000 megalitres). The project was completed this year.

Throughout the dry season, water is strategically released to flood irrigate about 20,000 ha of native and improved pastures. Levy banks are used to block incoming tides and have reclaimed a significant amount of salt-affected land which is now available for grazing.

The combination of the new dam, infrastructure and improved grazing management has increased stock numbers on Legune to about 35,000 head. This could be increased to as much as 50,000 head with further refinement of the irrigation system.

Day two - Green Swamp and Mabel Downs exclosure

On the morning of day two, Peter Cottle (Northern Development Company) kindly showed us around Green Swamp. We discussed the methods used to clear Green Swamp in preparation for irrigation—a combination of pulling, blade ploughing, stick raking and burning.

Thorough planning has gone into the overall design of the area to consider the slope of the fields, road access tracks, supply channels and ability to recycle tail water. Sugar cane was intended as a major crop but the failure of the mill to open in Kununurra next year has required other options to be considered.
Later that day we headed down the Great Northern Highway to Ruby Plains Station. Sarah Strutt led the charge, stopping at the Mabel Downs exclosure site directly opposite Tickalara bore on the east side of the highway.

The exclosure site was chosen by then-manager Harry Riggs in 1991 as an area that rarely grew perennial pastures and that had been bare for the previous 10 years. The site was erected through LCDC using National Landcare Program funds. It demonstrates the response of perennial grasses to mechanical regeneration (opposed-disc plough) and stock exclusion on severely degraded areas.

Day three - Ruby Plains, bluebush regeneration and new dams

Mervyn Whortley and Janette Riggs (Managers Ruby Plains Station) kindly cooked a barbecue and put the touring party up for the night at Ruby Plains. The next morning we headed for Bullock paddock to look at banks designed by Dick Pasfield and Mervyn to stop water scouring out station tracks.

Photos taken before and after the wet season show the banks have certainly served their purpose of slowing down the water flow and directing it to a sill where it sits and drops out all topsoil picked up along the way.

On Sturt Creek station we stopped at No. 26 paddock to look at the regeneration of bluebush (*Chenopodium auricomum*) along the Sturt Creek frontage. Bluebush is a shrubby upright perennial which grows to 1.5 m on clay soils in low-lying flood plains.

Kidmans fenced the flood plain about 10 years ago enabling spelling and controlled grazing of the frontage. This has resulted in the re-establishment of the highly palatable and nutritious bluebush which had previously almost disappeared from the area.

Other projects we saw on our visit to Ruby Plains and Sturt Creek stations were:

- the Ruby Plains pasture renovation site;
- bulldozed banks directing water away from a scalded and eroded area;
- dams built for stock water because of poor groundwater quality.
Day three - Halls Creek-East Kimberley LCDC meeting

By mid-morning we were on our way down the Duncan road to Spring Creek Station for the Halls Creek–East Kimberley LCDC meeting.

After a typical wet season storm to cool down the roof the meeting began. Mike Shaw (chair) and Sarah Strutt (secretary) kept us on track as we watched presentations from guest speakers and discussed business.

Duncan Palmer, from the Department of Water, presented a short video on sediment (top soil) build-up in Lake Argyle. Data recorded in 1965, 1992 and in 2006 shows a steady build-up over the period, mainly in the southern portion of the lake where water flow slows and the load is dropped out of suspension.

Most of the sediments—up to 15 m deep in some places—have been deposited in the old Ord channel.

The LCDC’s opposed-disc plough has been out of action for many years. It was agreed that Argyle Downs will restore it to working order and it will again be available for use by LCDC members.

The group identified the following priorities for future LCDC projects:

- animal impact trials (wallabies);
- weed control;
- pasture composition and condition research/guidelines;
- wildfire management;
- feral animal control (donkeys on the Negri, wallabies, cats);
- more erosion control work;
- education – study tours, field days, meetings with other groups.

Geoff Glamorgan (Glamorgan Dozer Contracting) kindly put on drinks; Spring Creek stock camp cooked up a storm on the barbecue; homemade desserts were a treat and the night was great fun.

Thanks to Mike and Jane Shaw for their great hospitality and a roof over our heads for the night.

Day four - wet season spelling, gully erosion and woody weed control

On the final day Mike was up at dawn to cook us all breakfast and get the show back on the road. Discussions about Spring Creek Station highlighted the importance of wet season spelling.

Over the past seven years Mike has made a huge effort to maintain floodgates and keep fences up during the wet season. He also aligned stocking rates to the amount of edible forage grown. This combination of approaches has significantly improved the pasture condition.

He expects stock numbers in the paddock we visited to increase as desirable perennial grasses come back into the pasture mix—a very rewarding outcome.

By mid-morning the party had left Spring Creek Station for Argyle Downs to see where Dick Pasfield, Jeff Glamorgan (Glamorgan Dozing) and Joe Atkins (Argyle Downs Station) have been working to stop an actively eroding gully.

The team had:

- worked out the water catchment area;
- designed a bank big enough to handle heavy wet season rainfall;
- directed water flow to a stable area.
Their plan is to stock the paddock with a big mob of cattle for four or five days over the wet season so that hoof action will create a seed bed for grasses. The cattle will then be removed to encourage grass growth and minimise the potential for padding to create weak spots along the new structures.

After smoko at Argyle Downs we went to Rosewood Station where they have been conducting trials on the control of mimosa bush (*Acacia farnesiana*) and rubber bush (*Calotropis procera*). The trials were initiated by Doug Struber (manager of Rosewood) and Stuart Wilson (Rosewood Station) to address areas where both of these weeds pose problems with mustering. Corrin Everitt has been working with Rosewood to look at future monitoring of these trials.

They have tested two control methods—cutter barring and mulching. Most of the mimosa and rubber bushes have re-sprouted after mulching. While cutter barring has achieved a good kill but also high mortalities of perennial grasses. It will be interesting to see the results next year after the rain. Corrin will report on the progress of the trials in future Pastoral Memos.

A big thanks goes to Dick Pasfield for organising the road trip—it was a huge success. It could not have been achieved without help from stations and businesses across the East Kimberley and Halls Creek areas. Thank you very much for your support.
PASTORAL MEMO – NORTHERN PASTORAL REGION

DECEMBER 2007

MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES – MESQUITE

Linda Anderson, PMMC Project Officer

A big mesquite chemical control operation across the Rangelands is to be undertaken this financial year.

Mesquite is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because it forms dense thickets that reduce available grazing area and block access to watering places.

The Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group provided the Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee with funding of $400,000 to:

• Employ professional contractors to control strategic populations
• Purchase chemical and diesel
• Provide chemicals and diesel for pastoral stations to run their own control program
• Provide a 0.5 FTE project manager ($60,000).

A total area of 40,000 ha was sprayed in the first round. The initial contract for spraying was awarded to Territory Weed Management, of Darwin. (State-based contractors were not available.)

A team of six worked on pastoral stations in the Pilbara and the Carnarvon common areas. Details of the initial spraying include:

• 236 working days completed over six weeks (including travel).
• Strategic populations targeted on Minderoo, Urala and Mardie stations, Bibbawarra Bore and Carnarvon north common. (All require follow-up).
• Carnarvon south common completed.
• Chemical control with Garlon 600 and diesel, basal bark application.
• Funds expended so far $155,000 (contractor employment), $20,000 (chemical and diesel), $15,000 (diesel).
• Expected expenditure for initial round $200,000.

A second round of contractor spraying will start early next year, depending on rainfall during the summer (hopefully) wet season. About $140,000 will be available for the next round and to assist individual stations with mesquite management plans over the next six to 12 months.

NORTHERN RANGELANDS PASTORAL MEMO IS AVAILABLE ONLINE

For all the avid readers of the Pastoral Memo who would like to send an electronic copy to a friend or to see colour photographs, please go to our website and download your copy.

www.agric.wa.gov.au/agency/pubns/agmemos/npm
THE CENTS OF MUSTERING

Francis Bright, Regional Economist Kununurra

Mustering is one of the major costs of running a pastoral cattle business. It is the one cost with the most potential to affect the number of beasts sold and the amount of revenue raised. But how much does mustering really cost?

Over the past few years I have talked to pastoralists about how much it costs to muster and their responses varied from an accurate estimate per head to a vague guess—the range is somewhere between $4 per head and $120 per head.

Having an idea of how much mustering actually costs may provide managers with better planning information for cash flow and may also indicate whether contractors could be used.

Accurate information may also provide a basis for further development of your lease. For example, the siting of a new yard or new fences to stop cattle getting into heavily wooded broken country which is hard to muster could reduce the costs of mustering in the future.

Another reason for understanding the costs of mustering is to assess the impact on herd productivity of doing a second round of mustering.

Peter Smith, of DAFWA at Karratha, says that the late dry is a time when late calves on lactating cows suffering nutritional stress could mean losing both. The loss of breeding cows is particularly costly.

The benefits of a second round of mustering may be not only the sale of more cattle but also less mortality—with implications for both breeding herd dynamics and animal welfare.

I have developed a model which analyses all the costs of mustering. ‘Road testing’ the model with pastoralists who are interested in estimating their mustering costs should ensure that the model can be adjusted to make it easier for pastoralists to use as part of their business planning.

If you are interested in trying out the model, please contact me at f.bright@agric.wa.gov.au and I will visit your business to run through the model before the work begins—weather permitting. In the meantime, enjoy your break and have a happy Christmas.
SAVE YOUR SKIN

If you’re a farmer or work outdoors, you have a higher than average risk of developing skin cancer. If you live north of Geraldton you are also exposed to high or extreme levels of UV radiation throughout the entire year. That means it’s crucial to be SunSmart to save your skin.

In WA alone over 28,000 cases of skin cancer are diagnosed every year but the good news is that skin cancer is almost totally preventable.

Protect yourself by combining these five simple steps:

1. **Slip on sun protective clothing**
   Cover up as much of the skin as possible. Long pants and shirts with a collar and long sleeves are best.

2. **Slop on SPF 30+ sunscreen**
   Make sure it is broad spectrum and water-resistant. Apply to clean, dry skin 20 minutes before going out in the sun. Layer on rather than rubbing in for best results.

3. **Slap on a hat**
   Wear a broad brimmed hat that covers your face, head, neck and ears.

4. **Seek shade**
   Make use of trees or built shade for breaks.

5. **Slide on some sunglasses**
   Close fitting wrap-around styles offer the best protection.

Know exactly when you need to be SunSmart by checking the SunSmart Alert on the Bureau of Meteorology website or on the weather page of the daily newspaper. The Alert is a useful tool that gives you the UV Index forecast and spells out exactly when you need to be SunSmart for the day—easy!

   **And don’t forget a simple check could save your life…**

Get into the habit of checking your skin regularly. 95 per cent of skin cancers can be cured if found early. You need to check your entire body as skin cancers can sometimes occur in parts of the body not exposed to the sun.

See a doctor straight away if you notice:
- A skin spot that is different from other spots around it.
- A mole or freckle that has changed in size, shape or colour.
- A suspicious spot that is new or has changed over weeks or months in size, shape or colour.
- An inflamed sore that has not healed within three weeks.

For more information about sun protection visit [www.cancerwa.asn.au](http://www.cancerwa.asn.au) or call the Cancer Council Helpline 13 11 20.
PILBARA WILD DOG BAITING

Michael Elliott, Biosecurity Officer, Karratha

The Pilbara region has recently completed its wild dog baiting program.

Fifty-three stations participated returning a 93 per cent involvement by pastoralists.

A total of 83.3 flying hours were used to distribute 475 bags of baits, each containing 320 baits.

The baits used were a combination of cut meat baits and the newly developed sausage baits sourced from the DAFWA bait factory at Forrestfield.

Supplies of cut meat for baits again proved difficult to find and combined with the spiralling cost associated with meat baits, the need for a reliable and effective alternative has seen the development of the sausage bait.

As with cut meat baits, 1080 is the poison used in the sausage baits, however they are supplied pre-injected, in long strings of approximately 85 baits, curled up in plastic tubs. It is a simple matter of distributing the tubs onto the racks, locating the end of the string and pulling it out onto the rack for drying. In the future, dried baits will be supplied, making the job even easier.

Compared with the time involved to prepare cut meat baits, where they need to be laid out, manually injected, turned and dried, the sausage baits will require considerably less work.

The contracted pilot and bombardier also reported a liking for the new baits, as they were more easily able to release them out of the plane’s chute in a slow, even manner or at a more rapid rate when a strategic area was identified.

Pastoralists’ feedback on the new baits will be sought over the next few months to gain a clearer picture of results, allowing a clear plan for the future to be set.
The annual Pilbara District Consultation Meeting (DCM) was held in Dampier on 23 November. The DCM is held each year as a forum for pastoralists to raise issues of importance to their businesses and an opportunity for DAFWA staff to update pastoralists on their activities. The meeting was attended by 13 pastoralists representing eight businesses, along with 14 others including DAFWA staff and guest speakers. While the regular enthusiastic crowd attended the meeting, it would have been good to see more pastoralists attend.

The main purpose of the DCM is to find out what issues pastoralists see as being important. The top five issues that were raised and voted on by the pastoralists were:

- improving the profile of ‘pastoral cattle’ in the local market;
- Carbon trading – ownership and measuring;
- the future of live export and the potential for alternative markets;
- the lack of killing facilities in the State;
- effective wild dog management and aerial baiting.

Pilbara presentations were given by pastoralists and DAFWA staff including:

- Robin Mills, Deputy Chair of the Pilbara ZCA, who gave an outline of the ZCA activities including Biosecurity & Agriculture Management Act 2007, Biosecurity groups and the Wild Dog plan.
- Evan Pensini, Cheela Plains Stations, gave an overview of cell grazing on his property.
- Aticia Grey (on behalf of Murray) on NABRC update,
- Linda Anderson who gave an update on mesquite and funding opportunities for Landcare.
- DAFWA staff on the Heifer project, PIMS project, aerial baiting, training and pastoral lease inspection.

Four guest speakers presented on different issues throughout the day:

- Rodd Dyer from MLA discussed the Northern Beef Program’s current research activities.
- Renata Paliskis-Bessell, CEO of WA Meat Industry Authority, gave an update on the building progress of the Muchea Livestock Centre. The initial stages of construction are under way and the plans for the livestock handling facility are in their final stages. When completed the Livestock Centre will be a real asset for the industry.
- Mark Alchin from DAFWA Meekatharra gave a presentation on the background and potential of carbon trading in the rangelands. He outlined the concept of carbon credits and explained how pastoralists may be able to take advantage of the opportunity carbon trading systems in the future.
- Wim Burggraaff (DAFWA) explained his visions for developing a supply chain which would send rangeland weaner cattle to the agricultural regions for finishing. His argument was that due to the shortage of feed during the dry season in the north and the abundance of feed during the southern winter, cattle could be finished more efficiently and economically. This concept is not new with a number of Pilbara businesses operating vertically integrated or profit sharing breeding and finishing systems.

For further information on the day contact Peter Smith or Richard Watkins at the Karratha office.
The State Government has announced a major initiative to involve Indigenous communities in the development of new horticultural industries in the State’s north.

Agriculture and Food Minister Kim Chance launched the joint Community Gardens – Growing People initiative in Broome on 30 November. The project is a partnership between the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) and the Kimberley College of TAFE.

Mr Chance said the Community Gardens project would encourage, train and support Indigenous people in the Kimberley and Pilbara to take a more active role in the thriving horticultural industry.

“This is a unique and exciting project to develop sustainable and viable horticultural industries that foster Indigenous equity and opportunity,” Mr Chance said.

“The project is part of the State Government’s New Opportunities for Tropical and Pastoral Agriculture (NOTPA) and builds on the good work TAFE has already achieved through its training programs.”

The State Government has committed $2 million to fund NOTPA until 2009 to identify and develop new opportunities for tropical and pastoral agriculture in the West Kimberley and the Pilbara.

The Minister said a number of sites stretching from Bidyadanga to the Dampier Peninsula would be used as Community Gardens demonstration sites and training venues.

“The project will focus on the cultivation of traditional native plants with economic potential such as the bush plum gubinge as well as conventional fruits and vegetables,” Mr Chance said.

“Cultivation techniques will be based on leading-edge technology in irrigation and agronomy using an ultra low impact method known as enrichment planting.

“There will also be specialised training to maximise the involvement of local people in these new agricultural and horticultural opportunities.”

In addition to gubinge, the Minister said the project would also assess the potential for the cultivation and sustainable wild harvest of other important traditional plants including the Pindan walnut, bush tomatoes and desert yams.

“Some would say the north of Australia is the country’s ‘sleeping giant’ of agriculture, with real potential to develop new industry opportunities,” he said.

“This project will involve our Indigenous communities in maximising those opportunities, helping to foster healthy lifestyles and sustainable employment.”

The demonstration sites have been made available through a four-way partnership between Kimberley TAFE, the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), DAFWA and the traditional owners of the area.

Other partners in the project include Charles Darwin University, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, and Kings Park Gardens Perth.
A Nutrition EDGE workshop was held in Broome from 19 to 21 November. The three-day course covers aspects of cattle nutrition theory and practice which are relevant to pastoralists. There were 15 participants from six Kimberly businesses. The course was presented by Michael Jeffery (DAFWA, Derby), Peter Smith (DAFWA, Karratha) and Desiree Jackson from the Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries, Longreach office.

The course covers topics such as the nutrient requirements of cattle, how the digestive system functions, estimating the nutritional value of pasture and feeding supplements to manage nutritional deficiencies. Participants were taught methods of estimating the feed value of pasture and what level of production is possible from the feed available.

The course gives participants a great background in understanding cattle nutrition and what can be done to correct deficiencies. The knowledge of what different ingredients in supplements and licks do for the cattle improves the ability to understand product labels and ask the right questions of feed companies. Understanding what nutrients are limiting cattle performance ensures that more cost effective supplementation and management decisions can be made by providing the limiting nutrient rather than a lot of ingredients that are likely to be of little benefit.

Participants at the Broome workshop left with a better understanding of nutrition and practical skills to better manage their cattle production.

If you are interested in attending a Nutrition EDGE workshop, one is on the drawing board for the Pilbara in March/April 2008 depending on interest from pastoralists. Please contact Manus Stockdale or Peter Smith at the Karratha office for more information.
Cattle Market Update

Export Numbers
(Northern Ports 2007)

- 22,545 head of cattle have left the Broome Port between September and the end of November 2007.
- 3160 head of cattle have left the Wyndham Port between September and the end of November 2007.
- 2006 head of cattle have left the Port Hedland Port between September and the end of November 2007.

National Indicators

Japan ox

Feeder steer

Cattle slaughter

Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI)

Live Export Price Quotes (c/kg lw)

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Source: MLA’s NLRS, Landmark

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