

Banquet Angus Spring Bull Sale

40 bulls sold, 97% Clearance, \$7075 average, top \$15,000

The Branson family held a very successful Banquet Angus Spring bull sale at the Mortlake saleyards on Friday, 30th September, offering an outstanding lineup of forty one quality bulls.

A near total clearance was achieved, selling 40 of the 41 bulls offered to a gallery of 36 registered buyers mainly from around the Western Districts of Victoria and Gippsland areas and as far as Moree, NSW along with buyers operating via Auctions Plus around the Longreach area of Qld, for a sale average of \$7075.

Kicking off the sale was FG&PG Van Bergen, Framlington, winning the bid on the first bull in the sale ring after animated competition, at \$10,000.

Gary Trinton, Tauroma Farming, Moree NSW, had the fall of the hammer on Lot 4, Banquet Kelso at \$12,000.

Alistair and Ian James, A7 Farms, Casterton, long term repeat clients of the Banquet stud, have bought at all 18 of the stud's bull sales since their inaugural sale in 2000. This year was no exception; the brothers buying 3 bulls for an average of \$9,333. Their top purchase, Lot 5, Banquet Khancoban K351, achieved the sale high of \$15,000,

This AI/ET son of the elite Banquet cow C226, a daughter of the legendary Kiwi Dream, showed impressive EBVs, with an EMA of +0.7, a +19 for milk and a 600 day weight of +137. It was described in the catalogue as 'an outstanding potential sire' and 'long, smooth shouldered bull, clean skinned and athletic in his movement'.

The James brothers were impressed with Banquet Khancoban's good spread of figures and selected him as the stand out bull of the sale and a perfect fit for their commercial Angus operation, producing EU accredited and feeder steers.

Six younger bulls aged 15-18 months were offered in the middle of the catalogue, with an outstanding yearling bull at Lot 17, Banquet Lancelot, reflecting his exceptional pedigree. It sold for the second top price of \$14,000 to SP&NJ McLeod, Macarthur.

Other prominent buyers included KA&DJ Harper, Timboon who bought four Banquet sires to a top of \$6,000 and an average of \$4,625; while AM Dwyer, Glenwood Pastoral, Peshurst wasn't far behind, buying 3 bulls, twice paying \$9,000 for an average of \$8,333.

Banquet's Stephen Branson said this was a great result and he was extremely happy with the stud's lineup of bulls, the prices achieved, and the good mix of new and repeat buyers.

He remarked he hasn't experienced a commercial cattle market this good since 1973/74.

"The terms of trade are very good; there are low interest rates, fuel and fertilizer prices and feed grain prices, plus a plentiful supply of both feed and water. With returns for all classes of cattle continuing to rise, this is an exciting time to be involved in the beef industry and agriculture in general," he said.



Pictured are Alistair James, Banquet's Hamish and Dianna Branson and Ian James, A7 Farms, Casterton with \$15,000 the top priced bull that the James family purchased, Banquet Khancoban in the background