

# BANQUET ANGUS 2015 SALE REPORT

## Banquet's booming sale

There have been many fantastic sale results and individual highlights during the sixteen sales held by Stephen and Noeleen Branson and family, Banquet Angus, Mortlake, but none more exciting than this year.

Ninety nine Angus bulls of outstanding quality were offered to large crowd that included 103 eager prospective buyers, plus further connections via the Auctions Plus network.

The bulls displayed exceptional growth for age off grass. They had great muscling and width through the loins and hindquarters, and like all Banquet bulls they had ideal hair type, strong bone, substance, power and impeccable temperament. Over the last half decade the Bransons have taken about half a frame score off their renowned size and with the slightly earlier maturity pattern the bulls visibly displayed their growth and fleshing capabilities to the hilt.

Long-time repeat client, Tom Shoobridge, Cleveland Pastoral Co, Ouse, Tasmania kicked the sale off on a great note with a winning \$18,000 bid for Banquet Jaffa J200, yet another top son of super sire of the last few years, Banquet Ballis B017. Tom will offer 1400 to 1500 young calves at the end of March; progeny from his previous Banquet bloodlines. It is the success of such weaner steers and heifers in sales that brought so many repeat clients back to this sale, but not many expected the result that followed.

All 99 bulls sold in rapid fire bidding that seasoned auctioneers, Kevin Norris (Landmark) and Ross Milne (Elders) had to work hard to separate. They topped at \$40,000 and averaged an exceptional \$8374.

In such a high quality line-up it is hard to identify a star lot, but Banquet Juba J263, the first son of Banquet Forbidabull F485 to be offered by Banquet, was a favourite of the Branson family.

He proved to be a favourite of many others in the sale barn as well, for rapid fire action from multiple bidders quickly took the price to \$38,000. It was then that Richard and Sandra Retallack, Glengowan stud, Newbridge, NSW, placed their only bid to successfully purchase the bull. This is the highest Banquet auction price since 2005, when Banquet sold 'Time Frame' for \$50,000.

The Glengowan stud of 350 females was founded in 1957 by Sandra's father Stuart Gordon and is based very strongly on New Zealand bloodlines.

"We think he is a real stud sire. We like his type and bloodline and he has exceptional width and depth of muscling in the hindquarter. We don't have enough of what he offers and he will fit very nicely into our program," Richard Retallack said.

"He also has a strong sirey Angus type head, good feet and a wonderful temperament. We are very critical on those last two points in particular as they are so important to our clients," Sandra said.

Glengowan sells around 50 bulls in their sale each September, as well as producing bulls for their 1500 strong commercial Angus herd. This is the third Banquet bull they have purchased, their first being in 2000 when they paid \$14,000 for Banquet's junior champion bull at the Angus National, the

Branson's first big individual sale of note. In 2007 they paid \$12,000, before making this year's big investment.

New South Wales buyers were not big in numbers, but they certainly were in impact.

Repeat clients David and Gail Geddes, Warranboo Partnership and buying through Elders Holbrook's Tim Wright, were right in the thick of the top end bidding. After being one of the many bidding on lot two, they hit back strongly, picking up Banquet Jacob J191 for \$14,000 at lot 5. They then paid the sale's second top price of \$20,000 for Banquet Joefoil J205, a wonderful balanced bull that offered soundness, fat cover and a history of exceptional calving ease.

The Geddes family has strongly supported this sale for at least the last decade, purchasing sires for their commercial herd, also purchasing 4 bulls including the \$22,000 second top priced bull last year.

"The strength of our program is the quality of our breeding females and we are continuously working on improving that. Too many producers just look at their sale cattle when assessing bull purchases. It is the quality of our females that results in the improving quality and prices of the young cattle we turn off," David Geddes said.

Terry Pointing, Walcha made the trip down from the New England area and wondered whether he had made a wasted trip during the hot early bidding, but picked up two excellent quality bulls at \$8000 and \$7000 later in the catalogue, while Andrew Metcalf, Wandoo Farms, buying through Forbes O'Brien Livestock paid \$11,000 for B. Jugiong late in the sale.

These four NSW buyers outlaid \$100,000 for the six bulls they purchased, an average of \$16,667.

A tremendously powerful son of Wittalocka Freightline F76, Banquet Jacko J203 took the eye of South Australian regular buyers, Barry and Damien Pitt, Sumatanga Park, Coonawarra. Bidding through TDC's Peter DeGaris, they paid \$17,000 to secure him. They then backed up, purchasing Banquet Jack J545, a wonderfully strong 17 month old son of Banquet Duncan D412 for \$12,000. With a massive hindquarter and great length from hips to pins, this bull was a great value buy in this sale.

Ken Badenoch, buying through Keatley Livestock Mt Gambier, returned to Banquet for the first time since 2010. He made this trip memorable by purchasing four bulls to \$7000 and at a \$6000 average to be prominent in both the volume and value buying stakes.

Evan Pettingill, Millicent, got even better value with his two purchases at just \$4000 and \$3000 while Duan Butler, buying for Ian Leask, also through TDC Penola, paid \$6000 for his purchase. The four SA buyers purchased nine bulls at a \$7333 average.

While this sale was exceptionally strong, there was still plenty of other value buys. Twenty six percent of the bulls sold for \$5000 or less. Chris Stanley, Chris Stanley Livestock, Woori Yallock and buying for Gippsland Water, was again the volume buyer, purchasing six bulls at a \$6000 average. Four of these were in that great value range of \$5000 or less. This is the fourth year in the last five that Gippsland Water has been the biggest volume buyer.

Gerard Belleville, Woodlands Romsey and buying through Rodwells Kilmore averaged \$5600 in purchasing five bulls to be the next most prominent in the volume stakes.

Naturally by location, Victorian buyers were the most prominent and while they didn't account for the top two prices, there were plenty operating strongly in the top end prices, as well as volume buyers. Ross Davis, Preswon Pty Ltd and buying through Rodwells Benalla agent Neville Colville has been a select buyer of some of the best Banquet genetics for many years. This year he averaged \$14,500 for two outstanding bulls, both full ET brothers by Spickler Chisum. Banquet Jaguar J233 made the equal third top price of \$18,000 while his ET brother, Jalopy J234 sold for \$11,000.

In between was the third full brother. Phil Canavan, buying through MC Kerr and Co, Hamilton paid \$12,000 for this Spickler Chisum son. He also added Banquet Junto J267 three lots later for \$11,000. He is a long term Banquet client and was full of confidence after topping the Hamilton Independent Agents sale in January when his weaner steers made \$852/head.

Mick and David Page, Penshurst and buying through Elders Hamilton have been Banquet clients almost every year and this year got in early, paying \$12,000 for lot 4, Banquet Jancourt J199. This was another top son of Banquet Duncan D412.

Keith and Meryll Diprose, Chartwell Farms, Romsey are also long term Banquet clients and have also been the beneficiaries of sale topping young cattle in recent years. They also outlaid \$12,000, for Banquet Jackman J493, sired by NZ sire Merchiston Vision.

No-one has supported the Banquet program longer than the James family. Rod and Ann James have purchased Banquet bulls for 20 years including every one of their 16 auction sales. The baton has changed to sons Alistair and Ian, trading as A7 Farms. Buying through LMB Linke, Hamilton they also paid \$12,000 for B. Jason J258, then added two other bulls at \$9000 and \$7000 to average \$9333.

David Hurley and his daughter Diana, Dargo were back in a big way. They topped the Omeo young cattle market a couple of years ago with both steers and heifers and have always bought the best Banquet genetics they could get. Missing from this auction in the last two years due to fighting bushfires at sale time, they made their presence very noticeable this year. They averaged \$10,333 for three wonderful bulls including an absolute steal of \$5000.

Their top purchase at \$15,000 was B. Jampan J285, the first son of the \$17,000 Anvil Fusion and from one of their top ET donor females. They also paid \$12,000 for B. Jute J384, an outcross with the right credentials by Millah Murrah Doc F159.

It would be a rare occurrence if Charles and Cass Kimpton, Toora West stud, Glenthompson weren't on the buying list in a prominent way. In fact that has happened only once in 16 annual auctions. This year they were again active, ultimately purchasing B. Jindabyne J296 (tw) for \$16,000 through agents MC Kerr & Co, Hamilton. The Kimptons have paid the Banquet sale top price on three occasions in past years.

Also strong at the top end was Robert Love, Jumbuck Park, Violet Town and buying through Landmark Euroa. He paid \$17,000 to secure B. Jazz J198, another son of Banquet Duncan. Robert also paid the second top price of \$21,000 at the 2011 sale.

However, while the top results were dominated by long term repeat buyers, there were also some new purchasers. One very prominent debut Banquet buyer was Alan McDonald, Katelea Pastoral, Bass, Gippsland, buying through agents Alex Scott and Staff. He became aware of the qualities of Banquet Angus genetics when he purchased the outstanding sale topping drafts of weaner heifers

offered by Doug Robertson, 'Nangana' (\$940/head) and Jim Shaw, 'Winnieburn' (\$867/head) at Hamilton. Alan purchased three bulls in this sale at a \$10,333 average including Banquet Jerez J262, just 13 lots from the end for \$16,000.

Clive White, Fish Creek and buying through SEJ Leongatha was another prominent Gippsland buyer, but unlike Alan McDonald, is a long term supporter. He averaged \$7667 for 3 bulls this year, paying \$10,000 for B. Juggle J248 at lot 10, a terrific B. Forbidabull F485 son.

Craig Wallis, Branxholme and buying through MC Kerr & Co agent David Powling was also prominent, paying to \$11,000 and averaging \$9333 for three bulls. His top purchase, B. Joist J376 was an 18 month old, long bodied and smooth fronted NZ blood son of B.Faddist F238.

PR and MA Gristede, Peterborough, also repeat clients paid \$10,000 for each of their two outstanding purchases; one being another top son of B. Forbidabull, and the other by B. Fleet, an outcross son of the great Banquet Ballis.

Other prominent buyers included FG & PG Van Bergen, through Landmark Warrnambool (one at \$13,000); Peter Delaney, Murroa East Pastoral, through MC Kerr & Co (one at \$11,000); Kangarooobie P/L through Elders Camperdown (one at \$10,000); Dunkeld Pastoral Co, through LMB Linke (three, all at \$8000); R & P & I Bradshaw, Lismore and through Elders Camperdown (three at a \$6333 average); Maurice and Peter Starr, Thologolong, through Landmark Corowa (three at a \$5333 average); and Norma Belcher through Elders Yarram (two at an \$8500 average).

Stephen and Noeleen Branson and family were ecstatic with the result, being 'blown away' with the support, especially from loyal long term clients.

"They are very faithful and while the sale started like a rocket, this was primarily due to the strong early competition from our regular clients who are getting such good results with their young cattle. They also realise they get much more than just a bull when they buy at Banquet," Stephen Branson said.

Landmark auctioneer Kevin Norris said, "It was a great reward for breeding cattle with good figures, but more importantly from a buyer's perspective, sires that are functional, and with substance and doing ability that thrive on grass, enabling clients to regularly get benefits with sale topping weaners."

<b>Sale Summary</b>	<b>2015</b>
<i>Offered</i>	99
<i>Sold</i>	99
<i>Top</i>	\$40,000
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$8374</b>

**Agents:** Landmark and Elders

**Auctioneers:** Kevin Norris (Landmark) and Ross Milne (Elders)

## Photos from Sale Day



*Pictured with the \$40,000 sale topping bull at the 2015 Banquet Angus bull sale, Banquet Juba J263 are, at back; auctioneers Kevin Norris (Landmark) and Ross Milne (Elders); and Gordon Branson, Banquet Angus, Mortlake. At front, Hamish and Noeleen Branson; purchasers Richard and Sandra Retallack, Glengowan Angus stud, Newbridge, NSW; and Stephen and Dianna Branson.*



*Bellowing its approval is Banquet Jeofail J205 which sold for the \$20,000 second top price at the Banquet sale, being purchased by David and Gail Geddes, Warranboo Partnership, Holbrook, NSW, through Elders Holbrook's Tim Wright. They also paid \$14,000 for a second bull purchase for their commercial herd.*



*Banquet principal Stephen Branson is pictured post sale with Diana and David Hurley, Dargo. The Hurleys purchased three bulls to \$15,000 and at a \$10,333 average to be very prominent repeat buyers.*



*Banquet principal Stephen Branson (right) is pictured with the team representing Preswon P/L, Benalla, purchasing bulls at \$18,000 and \$11,000. They are Rodwells Benalla agents Neville Colville, Shane Jelliff and principal Ross Davis.*



*South Australian buyers purchased nine bulls in this sale. Banquet's Gordon Branson (2<sup>nd</sup> left) is pictured with Duan Butler (purchased one bull for Ian Leske); Barry and Damian Pitt, Coonawarra (two top bulls at \$17,000 and \$12,000), and their buying agent Peter DeGaris, TDC Penola.*



*Hamish Branson shows the impeccable temperament of the \$40,000 top priced bull, Banquet Juba J263, while Gordon Branson and the purchaser, Richard Retallack, Glengowan stud Newbridge, NSW look on.*