

2015 BANQUET SPRING SALE

Blockbuster 'Belles of Banquet' Angus female sale

Stephen and Noeleen Branson and family's inaugural 'Belles of Banquet' Angus female sale at Mortlake last Thursday produced a stunning result with 110 head selling to a top of \$30,000 and averaging \$6681. This is the first time Banquet has ever offered a significant number of females for sale in their 24 year history, with only a few select lots at special events being offered previously.

63 buyers from all states except Western Australia registered at the sale venue, plus there was strong participation levels through the Auctions Plus network.

Successful NSW buyers may have only totalled five in number at the venue, but they went away with the main top end spoils. These included the four top priced cows and the three top priced heifers from the eight included in the offering.

Having the strongest influence on the overall result was Bannaby Angus, Taralga, NSW. They were not only the equal highest volume buyers with nine head (seven cows and two heifers), but included in their purchases were both the top priced cow (\$30,000) and heifer (\$9000).

The offering was the complete dispersal of four age groups (B, C, D & E - 2006 to 2009), plus eight specially selected potential show heifers (2014 spring drops), a strategy the Bransons felt was the only fair way to attract potential buyers while balancing their breeding numbers as a result of a herd restructure.

These wonderful females included many donor cows and dams of top bulls in the past annual Banquet bull sales.

The Banquet herd is based very strongly on New Zealand bloodlines and the breeding program is shaped around proven successful female families. The most influential of these is the 'Dream' family, built from their grand old foundation female Banquet Kiwi Dream M41. There were 28 Dream family females on offer in this sale.

It was that strength of breeding in the Banquet families that attracted Keith Kerridge, principal of Bannaby Angus, to make his first trip to Banquet. Supported by manager Glynn Langford and overseer Charles Branson, Keith was looking to add top females to his 200 stud Angus herd from the 'Dream', 'Kite', 'Eclipta' and 'Champagne' family lines; lines he had established in his own stud through previous purchases from Vermont and Anvil studs, both strong in Banquet bloodlines. Bannaby also runs 1200 commercial Angus cows on their Taralga holding.

It was Lot 46, Banquet Champagne C154 (AI)(ET) that attracted Keith Kerridge's winning \$30,000 bid which was ultimately the sale's top price. This impressive daughter of Banquet Xplanation X060(AI)(ET) was the dam of Banquet Eastern Boy E231, the \$32,000 sale topper at Banquet's 2011 bull sale sold to the Toora West stud of the Kimpton family.

It was also a full sister to Banquet Bundy B002, a stud sire retained at Banquet, along with three of her daughters. A top young bull calf dropped in mid-November to Banquet Fortune F710 was the added bonus.

“You just don’t get the opportunity to access top genetics such as these very often,” Keith said in explaining his reason for attending and the strength of Bannaby’s bidding.

Also included in their nine purchases were donor cows Banquet Dream C226 (AI) (third top price at \$20,000), Banquet Kite D482 (fourth top price at \$17,000 and joined to the \$150,000 Angus record selling bull Millah Murrah Kingdom K35), Banquet Kite E442 (AT)(ET) (\$10,000) and Banquet Dream K243 (the \$9000 top priced 2014 spring drop heifer). Bannaby’s nine head were purchased at a \$12,389 average.

Also getting a significant piece of the top action was Chris Paterson, principal of Chris Paterson Livestock, Tamworth. In his agency role he successfully bid \$8000 to purchase the second top priced young heifer for client Wongalea Angus, Tamworth.

He also runs the Heart Angus stud herd along with wife Natalie and children Luke, Cara and Jye, and in that capacity purchased three top females at the highest purchasing average of \$13,667.

The 80 cow Heart herd is based mainly on Millah Murrah and Kansas bloodlines and in his first visit to Banquet Chris was looking to purchase a pick cow that displayed outstanding phenotype, softness and constitution along with proven performance. He found her at Lot 21, the donor cow Banquet Dream D310 whose dam has also produced 14 sons that have averaged \$10,700 for Banquet. He was forced to bid to \$27,000 before securing her, a price that was ultimately the sale’s second top price. Another donor cow at \$9000 and one of the eight heifers at \$5000 rounded out Chris’s bidding.

“It is my first visit to Banquet and I am very impressed with what I have seen. I couldn’t be happier with the females we have picked up,” he said.

F Nixon & Co, Taralga also purchased three head, paying to \$11,000 and averaging \$6333 to be another significant buyer from NSW. Five NSW buyers were successful in purchasing 18 lots.

It was South Australian buyers who kicked the sale off to a great start. Heath Tiller, Goolagong Angus, Warnertown and buying through Landmark’s Richard Miller bid \$9000 for the first cow in the ring, the donor cow Banquet Princess B254 (AI) by the \$50,000 Banquet Time Frame Y135. Heath later purchased Banquet Sarah C241 (AI) for \$12,000 and Banquet Dream D381 (AI) for \$9000, his three purchases averaging \$10,000.

Not far behind was Keringa Angus, Lameroo who bid \$9500 for Banquet Wivem E398 at Lot 3, then paid \$10,000 for Banquet Vicky D486, one of 19 females mated to the \$150,000 Millah Murrah Kingdom K35.

Those 19 females averaged \$7737, which was 16% above the overall sale average.

Silver Angus Pty Ltd, Jupiter Creek and buying through Elders Strathalbyn was also a significant SA buyer, purchasing four to a \$5500 top and at a \$4625 average. Five South Australian buyers purchased 11 lots, with Goolagong’s \$12,000 purchase being the highest priced female to go to SA.

It was the strength of bidding throughout that kept the sale average up high. 17 of the cows made \$10,000 or better with some of these higher selling lots going to each of the buying states. JC Wear, Bishopbourne was the only successful bidder from Tasmania operating at the sale. Buying through

Roberts Agency, they purchased three cows at a \$6000 average, topping at \$10,000 for Banquet Dream E523, with an October born heifer calf by Anvil Fusion F275 at foot.

Queenslanders have strongly supported the Banquet Angus cattle for many years, finding the bigger and more powerful Banquet strain crosses so well with the dominant Bos Indicus cattle in that state. None have supported Banquet better than Brad Saunders, Pheasant Creek, Thendara, Wowen. Brad also produces top Brangus cattle and one of the first Angus bulls he sourced was the Banquet bred Dylemma Raider W42, originally sold for a record \$40,000 to Future Angus. He said this bull was so easy doing along with his powerful growth performance and he actively chased top cows with Raider in the pedigree at this sale. He paid to \$14,000 twice and averaged \$8400 for five cow units, with Banquet Vicky E293 and Banquet Dream D228 being his top priced purchases.

Colmede Investments, Warwick also purchased five top females twice, paying to \$11,000 and averaging \$7800. They purchased a cross section of Banquet families with Banquet Pride F394 (AI) and Banquet Dream E273 being their two top price purchases; the former mated to Millah Murrah Kingdom K35 and the latter with a young bull calf at foot sired by Anvil Fusion F275.

The Aisthorpe family, Monto also purchased well, collectively purchasing four head. After seeing Banquet cattle at the Rockhampton Beef Expo, Peter Aisthorpe and partner Jenny Williams made a first time buying trip to Banquet and purchased three cow units from \$3000 to \$5000. Sons Luke and Mac paid \$7000 for the heifer Banquet Yendi K411 for their LM stud. Sired by Banquet Frederick F683, this impressive October 2014 drop heifer was supreme cattle exhibit at the recent Colac Show. Five Queensland buyers purchased 15 lots in this sale.

Understandably the Banquet home state of Victoria provided the greatest buying support, with 22 Victorians from the registered bidders collectively purchasing 50 lots.

C & G White, Leongatha were the sale's other equal highest volume buyer with Bannaby Angus. They operated in the greater value price bracket, yet still had many to select from, paying from \$3000 to \$6000 and averaging just \$4167.

Similarly, Nick Lille, Bostocks Creek was a significant volume buyer at even better value, purchasing seven head at an average of \$3786 and paying from \$3000 to \$6500.

Blyth Bros, Ellinbank are no strangers to Banquet cattle, having been strong buying supporters for a long time. They bid up strongly and paid from \$5000 to \$13,000 in securing five top females. Their \$13,000 purchase came in at Lot 6 and was one of the pre-sale tips to possibly top the sale.

As is often the case, the early lots were cheaper by comparison with later lots as buyers tried to ascertain the market strength before committing. The tips on interest in this great unit, Banquet Dream E256 (AI)(ET) with a superb April drop heifer calf at foot by Banquet Gentleman G500, were spot on as two bids were offered before guest auctioneer Paul Dooley had called for them, thus she opened at \$7000. However, just six bids later Blyth Bros had won the day for this half-sister to four Banquet stud sires.

If that unit wasn't the steal of the day, then the lot before certainly was. Donor cow Banquet Irene D546 strode into the sale ring showing all the class and strength in her impressive pedigree and was

accompanied by her even more impressive March drop bull calf, Banquet L017 by Banquet Herman H261, looking every bit a potential stud sire.

Although the \$16,000 that Waterlilli Angus, Birragurra paid for the unit was ultimately the fifth highest price on the day, for the quality this unit sold at extreme value.

Waterlilli Angus later added another great value cow for just \$4000 to average \$10,000 for their two purchases.

Willgunyah Pastoral, Gerangamete was the only other Victorian purchaser to pay over \$10,000 when they successfully bid \$12,000 for Banquet Dream E361 (AI). Sired by Banquet Waitoa W179 (AI)(ET), and strong in New Zealand bloodlines on both sides of its pedigree, she was mated to Millah Murrah Kingdom K35; this being their only purchase.

Doug Robertson, 'Nangana', Grassmere who has topped the Hamilton weaner sale for the last two years with Banquet blood steers, purchased three cow units, paying to \$5000 and averaging \$4767. Southfork Angus, Mooroduc were prominent bidders, also picking up three cow units to \$7000 and at a \$5667 average.

Those active at the sale had strong and consistent competition from buyers operating through the Auctions Plus network. Connected through the various outposts around the country to Peter Rollason at the sale venue, Auctions Plus bidders purchased 12 head, paying from \$4000 to \$7000 and averaging \$5792.

For variety and to suit young breeders in particular, the Bransons offered eight young show quality heifers. These attracted excellent competition, selling from \$4500 to \$9000 and averaging \$6500. They went to seven different buyers from NSW, Queensland and Victoria, with Bannaby Angus being the only multiple purchaser, paying the top and third top prices of \$9000 and \$7500.

Of the 109 cows offered, 102 sold to average \$6696 and when combined with the heifers, the overall sale average was \$6682 for the 110 head sold in a 94% clearance.

For the Branson family it was a very emotional time. Not only did they have the anxiety that goes with an inaugural sale concept, but they also had the stress of losing the roof of their shed the day before from a mini-cyclone that hit their property. On top of that, they had family and many friends deeply affected by the South Australian bushfires that were causing so much devastation at their old home base of Hamley Bridge.

Post sale, a very relieved and elated Branson family thanked everyone for their support and for giving such a strong vote of confidence in Banquet genetics.

The sale was conducted by Elders and Landmark, with Ross Milne (Elders) and special guest auctioneer Paul Dooley controlling the bidding action.

Photos over page:



Pictured with the \$30,000 top priced cow, Banquet Champagne C154 and her bull calf are vendors Stephen, Hamish, Gordon, Dianna and Noeleen Branson, Banquet Angus, Mortlake; purchaser Keith Kerridge, Bannaby Angus, Taralga, NSW; his manager Glynn Langford and overseer Charles Branson; and sale auctioneers Paul Dooley and Ross Milne.



Chris Paterson (right), Heart Angus, Tamworth outlaid the \$27,000 second top price at the Belles of Banquet sale to purchase this cow, Banquet Dream D310, offered by the Branson family; Stephen, Hamish, Dianna, Noeleen and Gordon (kneeling). Also pictured are sale auctioneers Paul Dooley and Ross Milne.



Bannaby Angus, Taralga, NSW purchased nine head at the Belles of Banquet special female sale, including two of the eight spring drop heifers. Here, manager Glynn Langford shows the incredible docility of the Banquet cattle as he, overseer Charles Branson and principal Keith Kerridge inspect their heifer purchases post sale.



Bannaby Angus, Taralga, NSW purchased nine head at the Belles of Banquet special female sale, including two of the eight spring 2014 drop heifers. Here overseer Charles Branson, manager Glynn Langford and principal Keith Kerridge check out their \$7500 and \$9000 heifer purchases post sale.



Five Queenslanders purchased 15 lots at the Belles of Banquet sale. Banquet principal Stephen Branson (right) catches up with some of them post sale; Mac and Luke Aisthorpe, LM stud, Monto (one heifer at \$7000); Jenny Williams and Peter Aisthorpe, Monto (three cows to \$5000) and Brad Saunders, Pheasant Creek Angus, Woven (five cows twice to \$14,000).



Heath Tiller, Goolagong Angus, Warnertown and his stud stock Landmark agent, Richard Miller, Kingston inspecting the lots on offer at the Belles of Banquet sale. Heath purchased three lots, paying to \$12,000 averaging \$10,000.