

Banquet soars to record highs

The Branson family's annual Banquet Angus bull sale has regularly delivered top end results, but even those high standards were exceeded last Thursday at Mortlake.

There was another total clearance of the 89 very impressive 'Big Bold Banquet Bulls' to go through the auction sale ring, these selling for a Banquet record average of \$9169 and topping at \$52,000, another Banquet record. These were up \$300 and \$31,000 respectively on last year's very good sale result.

In introducing the first lot to the big crowd of close to 300 people and containing over 90 registered bidders from five states, Landmark auctioneer Kevin Norris said, "Banquet is one of the most prepotent female herds in the country and it shows in the quality of these bulls."

The \$52,000 record and sale topping bull was the 19 month old Banquet Lukas L200 (AI). Sired by the USA bull Sydgen Black Pearl 2006, this 740kg bull took the eye of many in the pre-sale inspection pens and this flowed through to the sale ring with a flurry of bidding until it settled down to the final two bidders for the last quarter of bidding action.

Winning that battle was Alex Scott Agency's Rob Ould, bidding on behalf of John and Peter Blyth, Blyth Bros, Fernleigh Angus, Elmbank, Vic. Blyth Bros are regular Banquet purchasers, including paying the sale top in 2014 at \$30,000. This record exceeded Banquet's previous high of \$50,000 which was achieved in 2005, which was also an Angus breed record at the time, when Banquet Time Frame Y135 sold to Stephen Handbury.

The smooth skinned Lukas L200 had wonderful balanced Breedplan figures, including +4.2 for birth weight, +18 for Milk, +50, +88 and +115 for 200, 400 and 600 day weight and + 6.6 for EMA, while also having strong bone and a stud sire's powerful head and muzzle.

The sale's second top price was set earlier in proceedings when regular Banquet supporters Charles and Cass Kimpton, Toora West stud, Glenthompson outlaid \$30,000 to purchase the exceptionally powerful and huge growth lot 6 bull, Banquet Leigh L010. Sired by Aberdeen Estate Homer H70, this 23 month old was the heaviest bull in the catalogue at 945kg, with growth figures of +53, +93 and +135 for the three weight categories.

The Kimptons well recognise the extra productivity gained from these powerful bulls that put extra weight in their progeny and when selling young cattle, extra weight is extra income.

Underbidder on both this and the top priced bull was Tasmanian Livestock Consulting's agent Cade Ebdon, operating for long term Banquet client Tom Shoobridge, Cleveland Cattle Estate, Ouse.

Banquet Liverpool L186 (AI) by Silveiras Conversion 8064 was another to exceed last year's \$21,000 top price when purchased by Gilmandyke Angus, Orange, NSW for \$22,000. This 720kg and 18 month old youngster attracted a lot of pre-sale interest and was brought forward 21 places in the catalogue to be sold after lot three.

Three exciting ET yearling bulls were included in the offering, these selling to \$18,000 and averaging \$14,333 to buyers from three states. Banquet Mantra M003 went to Mark Scott, Mole Creek, Tasmania for \$18,000, bidding via phone connection with Landmark's Peter Godbolt.

Long term Queensland supporter, Brad Saunders, Pheasant Creek Angus, Wowan then paid what he considered a bargain \$12,000 for Banquet Major M004, later adding B. Langdon L194 for \$9000. AG & LP McKinlay, Emerald later joined Pheasant Creek on the Queensland buying list.

MC, AD & CM Steinert, Flaxman Valley, SA then bid \$13,000 to pick up Banquet Magnum M005, the third of these impressive yearling youngsters. They were one of five South Australian buying accounts, with Ken Badenoch, through Ray White Keatley Mt Gambier being one of the strongest bidders in the sale. He purchased four bulls to \$13,000 and at a \$9500 average.

A new client account was established when Matthew and Charmayne Clarke, Pinegrove Station, Hawker purchased two bulls to \$12,000 and averaging \$10,000.

"We put Angus over our Shorthorn and Santa females and have found the best bulls we have used in the past have all had Banquet bloodlines, so we decided to come direct to the source," Matthew Clarke said.

Volume buying featured two buying accounts in particular. Peter Rollason, facilitating the Auctions Plus bidding, purchased 11 bulls from \$4000 to \$7000, with eight of these going to Mark Stoney, Bass, south east of Melbourne.

Chris Stanley, IChris Stanley Livestock was again a strong buyer for client Gippsland Water, Traralgon, purchasing six bulls to \$12,000 and at a \$7833 average.

Elders auctioneer Ross Milne highlighted the value on offer saying, "It was a great sale result but there were plenty of top value bulls in the sale, while some others made more than expected."

To verify this, 32 bulls (35%) sold for \$10,000 or better, while the same percentage sold from \$4000 to \$6000, so there were good bulls for every budget.

Other prominent Victorian buyers included Dunkeld Pastoral Co, Dunkeld (two to \$14,000 average \$11,000), P Delaney, Murroa East, Hamilton (two to \$14,000 average \$10,000), Doug Robertson, Nangana, Grassdale (two to \$13,000 average \$10,500), Jim Shaw, Winniburn, (two to \$12,000 average \$9500), C & R Wallis, Hamilton (two to \$11,000 average \$9000), RA Howarth & VL Jones, Correlup, Mortlake (two to \$11,000 average \$9000) and the James family, A J Farms, Casterton (two to \$13,000 average \$9000).

Regular repeat clients dominated the buying list, with senior principal Stephen Branson paying tribute to their loyal support post sale and in particular three who first purchased from Banquet 22 years ago; the James family being one, Keith and Merryl Diprose, Chartwell Farms, Romsey another (one bull at \$15,000), with the third being Mick and David Page, Penshurst (one bull at \$11,000).

With the 122 commercial Banquet blood PTIC heifers sold immediately prior to the bull sale by Jack Hickey (who has won the right to compete in the National Young Auctioneers final) and account Margaret and Robbie Patterson, the sale's gross on the day exceeded \$1.17 million.

Sale Summary	2017	2016
Offered	89	91
Sold	89	91
Top	\$52,000	\$21,000
Average	\$9169	\$8868

Agents: Landmark and Elders

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



Pictured with the \$52,000 record breaking Banquet bull that topped the Banquet sale, Banquet Lukas L200 are (back) Landmark auctioneer Kevin Norris, Alex Scott Agency's Rob Ould who bid on the bull for purchasers Peter & John Blyth, Fernleigh Angus, Elmbank, Vic, co-vendor Josh Meulendyks & Elders auctioneer Ross Milne, and at front are Hamish Branson and co-vendor Dianna Branson.



Pictured with the \$30,000 second top priced bull at the Banquet sale, Banquet Leigh L010 are purchasers Charles (left) and Cass Kimpton (3rd left), Toora West, Glenthompson, Vic, and Hamish & Stephen Branson, Banquet Angus, Mortlake.



While the Banquet sale was dominated by repeat clients, there were also first time purchasers including Matthew and Charmayne Clarke, Pinegrove Station, Hawker who made an impact by purchasing two bulls to \$12,000 and averaging \$10,000.