

Record \$2700 for PTIC Banquet blood heifers

An impressive offering of 150 PTIC commercial Angus heifers on behalf Banquet clients, Margaret and Robbie Patterson, Drysdale Partnership, Mortlake preceded the Branson family's Banquet bull sale last Thursday (25th Feb).

The heifers were snapped up by eager commercial producers to a top of \$2700 and averaged \$2411.67, in the region of \$400/head above other market prices for similar aged and status heifers. On the basis that heifers of similar description were sold at Ballarat for a declared record price of \$2280 just over a week previously, it is presumed that these Banquet blood heifers set a new record price.

The Pattersons run around 300 breeders themselves and trade other cattle. They purchased these heifers from long term Banquet clients at last year's Hamilton weaner sales and in association with the Branson family, grew them out and mated them through AI to the renowned Banquet sire Dylemma Radar W42, plus a few other specific calving ease Banquet sires.

"This was in effect a bit of a test case with the intent of demonstrating just how well the Banquet bloodlines grow on and display their full genetic potential," Robbie Patterson said.

"I think we have certainly shown that, plus received an economic reward to more than justify the time and expense involved in caring for them for the last 13 months," he added.

The first pen of 20 heifers averaging 665kg live weight, and due to calve from mid-March topped the sale at \$2700, being purchased by Chris Stanley Livestock, Woori Yallock, account Killain Angus.

Webb Pastoral, Glenburn and buying through Rodwells Yea purchased two pens at \$2250 (21 head) and \$2600 (20 head) respectively, while the \$2650 second top price was bid via the Auctions Plus network through Aaron Malseed in the sale barn, also for 20 head.

"We undertook this exercise with the Pattersons because we feel that unless we are contributing to the positive flow-on effects through the industry, we are just selling bulls and nothing more. It is important for us to be able to provide comprehensive service and advice to our Banquet clients and the knowledge gained from this exercise is very beneficial to them. In breeding Angus cattle it is important to consider the quality of the replacement female component as well as young sale cattle," Stephen Branson said.



Record Heifers: Pictured by the \$2700 record priced pen of 20 PTIC commercial Angus heifers sold at the Banquet sale on behalf of MJ & RF Patterson, Mortlake are vendor, Robbie Patterson, Banquet principal Stephen Branson and Elders' agent Jack Hickey who auctioned them. These were Banquet blood heifers mated to Banquet sires and originally purchased from long term Banquet clients and grown out for 13 months by the Patterson family.