

Total clearance of 117 Bulls to \$60,000, av \$14,434

BANQUET's annual on-property autumn bull sale proved that Big Bold Banquet Bulls are still as industry relevant as ever.

Bidding was solid in the lead up to the feature lot of the day - Lot 20 - who had been brought forward after the pick of the three embryo transfer brothers, Lot 15, 16 and 17.

The superstar sire was picked up by a syndicate of Millah Murrah, Keringa and Alpine Studs and ABS Australia.

The 18-month-old bull weighed 880 kilograms at the sale and was in the top 1 per cent of the breed for scrotal size.

Trent Walker, Keringa Angus, was in attendance at the sale, purchasing on behalf of the syndicate.

"Both the other stud partners had inspected the bull, and I drove over Thursday morning to do the final inspection," Mr Walker said.

"He's a very usable bull that aligns with all our herds and he's got a balanced set of data.

He's thick, he has shape and still a moderate bull."

Fletch Kelly, ABS Australia, said they first saw this bull at the *Stock & Land* Beef Week field day

"And we really liked him so we came back and had another look at him," Mr Kelly said.

"It's not often you find a bull with such powerful phenotypes and so much bone and good looks, but also a nice balanced EBV (estimated breeding values) set.

"He comes from a really strong maternal line in the Banquet herd, and we believe he's got great commercial and seedstock application right across Australia."

Return client, Mal Scott from Gunns Plains, Tasmania, selected Lot 59 for a valuation of \$48,000.

Banquet rated Lot 59, Qcomplete Q399, as the pick son of the great Dream G489 and retained a half share of possession and semen rights. Q399 will stand at Banquet in the winter and Gunns Plains in the spring.

Another repeat client, Brett Wilder of Coralyn Pastoral, Greenthorpe, NSW, purchased Lot 66, Qinetic Q375, for \$33,000. Q375 is a son of Jhett J426 who is a son of Dream G489, same as the previously mentioned Q399. Mr Wilder was attracted by the strength of head, thickness and depth of body that Q375 has.

Daniel and Anne Marie Barrow, Merlewood Angus, Mirboo North, selected Lot 54, Quirky Q209, for \$30,000. Q209 is sired by the \$32,000 Nixon N099 and was born at only 34kgs from a maiden heifer and grew into a powerful headed, meat machine weighing 850kgs at 19 months.

A feature of recent Banquet February Sales has been the offering of PTIC Commercial Heifers.

The heifers are sourced as top of the drop weaners from Banquet clients. They are grown out, joined to Banquet calving ease bulls and rigorously classed. These 190 elite future breeders topped at \$3,900 and averaged \$3,490.