

# PERFORM

JANUARY 2016



**TE MANIA ANGUS**

Your Partner in Profitability



## TE MANIA'S QUIET ACHIEVERS.

It is no secret that docile cattle grow faster, have better meat quality, are more fertile and are safer to handle, but there are many other benefits including:

- Lower production costs
- Reduction in damage to infrastructure – yards and fences.
- Decreased risk of injury and stress to animals.
- Decreased weight loss during transit.
- Decreased risk of dark cutters in the chiller.
- Improved eating quality (more tender beef).

We pride ourselves on breeding cattle with good temperament while meeting expectations for all economic traits.

Not only do we select for temperament in the sires we use in our breeding programme, all our cattle are assessed and scored for docility.

While some variation in docility in cattle can be put down to the environment and good stockmanship, a

good portion of the variation in temperament is due to the genetics. Research tells us that temperament is a highly heritable trait, so this makes selection for temperament very important.

In a multi trait selection model where you need to consider many traits in every joining decision and weight them according to their economic performance, temperament is one that we have been focusing on by selection for many years. Importantly, selecting for temperament does not negatively affect other traits.

As with all traits, you get very little genetic improvement through culling alone, the major steps in genetic improvement in any herd, come from selecting the right animal in the first place. This applies particularly to the selection of bulls because each bull used contributes his genes to many descendants in the herd.

The decisions that you make in selecting animals to contribute to the genetic pool in your herd effects 100% of the animals. Selecting animals that you know are going to effect the progeny's genetics – because you know the Estimated Breeding Values (EBV's) of

those animals – is much more significant than just selecting animals on what they look like.

Most of the animals that end up in the cull pen, are there for non-genetic reasons and therefore removing them from the herd is only making a very small difference to the herd's beneficial genetic makeup.

Therefore, a joint selection approach is required – genetics (genotype), structure and other observable characteristics (phenotype) must be considered in all purchasing decisions.

Selecting for temperament is one important factor when selecting your next Angus bull. As well as observing the animal directly, refer to the docility EBV in our sale catalogue.

All profit driving traits can be selected for at once. Profit is a trait. Just as many individual characteristics make up an animals growth rate, so too, do many individual characteristics make up an animals profitability. All of these characteristics can be selected at the same time.

150+ Quiet Achievers are for sale on March 2nd at our annual bull sale.

## BEEF WEEK OPEN DAY

Tuesday February 2nd – Autumn Bull Sale Preview

## TEAM TE MANIA ON LINE COMMERCIAL FEMALE SALE

Tuesday 1 March 2016 at 5 pm – over 500+ Te Mania blood females

## TE MANIA ANGUS SOUTHERN AUTUMN BULL SALE

Wednesday 2 March 2016 at 12 noon – 150+ bulls

## 2016 REFERENCE SIRE: TE MANIA GARTH VTMG67



## TE MANIA GARTH VTMG67

Te Mania Garth VTMG67 is a versatile, multi-purpose sire with exceptional EBVs. He is a moderate to large framed son of Te Mania Africa VTMA217, with the same outstanding temperament. Garth is long and free moving with slick skin and fine hair, a tight sheath and outstanding structure. Ideal for heifer joinings with high accuracy, low birth weight and short gestation length EBVs. He has exceptional carcase qualities, great fertility, with very high \$ Index values, all in the

top 5% of the breed. Garth bends the growth curve with moderate birth weight to high 600-day growth, combined with a moderate mature weight.

Te Mania Garth's maternal grand-sire is Te Mania Yorkshire VTMY437, sire of Te Mania Berkley VTMB1. His pedigree includes longevity and some of the great female lines of the Te Mania Angus herd, including Te Mania Beeac VTMW112 and Te Mania Jedda VTMY32, who bred in the stud herd to 10 years of age and was

then sold to Herb and Lucy MacKenzie, Armidale to produce embryos for their herd.

Sons of Garth will be available for sale at our on property bull sale on March 2.

The 2016 sale line-up includes sons and grandsons of the country's most popular sire, Tuwharetoa Regent. Other, herd building feature sires that will provide fertility, structure and performance, include Te Mania Festivity F327, Te Mania Flame F565 and Te Mania Gaskin G555.

### January 2016 Angus Australia Breedplan

	Calving Ease Dir (%)	Calving Ease Dtrs (%)	Gestation Length (days)	Birth Wt. (kg)	200 Day Wt (kg)	400 Day Wt (kg)	600 Day Wt (kg)	Cow Wt (kg)	Milk (kg)	Scrotal Size (cm)	Days to Calving (days)	Carcase Wt. (kg)	Eye Muscle Area (sq cm)	Rib Fat (mm)	Rump Fat (mm)	Retail Beef Yield (%)	IMF (%)	NFI-P (kg/day)	NFI-F (kg/day)	Docility	Angus Breeding Index	Domestic Index	Heavy Grain Index	Heavy Grass Index
TE MANIA FLAME F565(AI)	0.5	2	-9.2	4.7	49	107	128	108	17	3.1	-4.3	80	-0.2	0.8	1	-0.9	2.4	0.22	0.26	8	\$127	\$122	\$139	\$122
	81%	67%	98%	98%	97%	97%	94%	90%	84%	95%	51%	86%	85%	85%	87%	79%	84%	61%	61%	96%				
TE MANIA GARTH G67(AI)	-0.2	2.6	-9.2	2.6	45	87	110	72	32	3.6	-6.5	52	6.8	2	3.1	-0.8	3.7	0.51	0.61	47	\$138	\$121	\$155	\$129
	89%	70%	99%	98%	96%	96%	93%	85%	74%	95%	58%	86%	84%	84%	83%	78%	85%	64%	65%	95%				
TE MANIA GASKIN G555	-0.7	-3.5	-3.5	3.1	44	76	104	97	18	-0.6	-3.2	73	3.1	-0.1	-1.3	-1.9	3.8	0.33	0.11	13	\$96	\$87	\$112	\$90
	85%	65%	99%	98%	97%	97%	92%	85%	72%	95%	57%	80%	83%	84%	82%	77%	81%	64%	64%	96%				
TUWHARETOA REGENT D145	-6.9	-10.5	-2.2	6	50	90	125	118	18	1.5	-4.6	90	5.6	1.1	-0.8	-1.8	4.1	0.65	0.7	-2	\$106	\$86	\$130	\$95
	97%	93%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	98%	99%	86%	97%	96%	96%	97%	94%	96%	88%	88%	99%				
BREED AVERAGE	-0.1	0	-3.5	4.3	41	75	98	87	14	1.6	-3.6	55	4.3	0	-0.1	0.2	1.5	0.09	0.16	4	101	100	102	101

## Te Mania Angus – Your partner in profitability.



2016 REFERENCE SIRE: **TE MANIA FLAME F565**



2016 REFERENCE SIRE: **TE MANIA GASKIN G555**



2016 REFERENCE SIRE: **TUWHARETOA REGENT D145**



# 90%

of the TMA Autumn Sale Bulls are in the top 30% of the breed for the Heavy Grain \$Index

# 80%

of the TMA Autumn Sale bulls are in the top 20% of the breed for Marbling (IMF%)

# \$133

is the average Heavy Grain \$Index for the TMA Autumn Sale bulls (breed \$102)

# +2.7

is the average IMF% for the TMA Autumn Sale bulls (breed +1.5)



# PROGENY TESTING INFORMATION IS KING

Knowing the true breeding value of an animal allows us to produce cattle that will increase our clients' profitability. That's why Te Mania Angus participates in extensive progeny testing.

Over the last two years, 11,000 Te Mania Angus progeny have been recorded on Angus Group Breedplan.

This analysis fine tunes early genetic predictions of sires, and improves the accuracy of all the sires within the breeding herd.

This is underpinned by an extensive Team Te Mania progeny test where objective measurements are collected in commercial breeding operations throughout NSW, Vic and SA.

All this data allows us a greater understanding of the profit drivers in cattle production. It gives us the information we need to get it right!

Progeny testing ensures that we stay connected to the commercial profit drivers. Not only does Te Mania Angus collect carcase data to ensure the increased value of the progeny, through Team Te Mania we collect information related to kg's per hectare produced.

Team Te Mania gives us a strategic advantage with fertility data coming from the Team which means that we do not have to rely on insignificantly correlated traits such as fat, to give us valuable fertility information.

The knowledge that we have on our cow herd, is validated through objective information obtained from unbiased data from our Team members.

Let's take a bull like Te Mania Berkley B1 for example. He is proven across 148 herds, he is the highest Heavy Grain \$Index sire recorded in Australia, and 3rd highest for Calving Ease, Days to Calving and Angus Breeding \$Index and the 7th highest for Heavy Grass \$Index.

Berkley B1 has had over 5,000 progeny analysed and over 3,100 progeny scanned, we know a lot about this bull and what he can do! He is a trait leader for nine traits and has sired some of the country's most outstanding progeny.

We have many bulls in the sale line up out of Te Mania Berkley B1 daughters and sons.

Progeny testing is a key component of the Te Mania Angus programme allowing us to continuously improve our genetics. Over time we have found that information is king.

## MINNAMURRA STEERS AWARDED TOP OF THE CLASS

ANGUS steers from Minnamurra Pastoral Company came up trumps at the Royal Queensland Show winning Overall Champion of the JBS Australia trade section of the Paddock to Palate competition.

The 70-day fed Minnamurra steers also topped the MSA eating quality competition, with one steer awarded the reserve champion carcase

The trade steers were bred on Minnamurra's Mudgee property Cortina.

*Below: Minnamurra Pastoral Company Te Mania Berkley B1 heifers*







Paddock to Palate 70-day winner Dennis Power (centre), Minnamurra Pastoral Co, Glenrowan, Boggabri, with Duane Woodham, JBS, and RNA councillor Liz Allen. – Picture: Queensland Country Life.

## EXCEPTIONAL TEAM TE MANIA FEMALES AVAILABLE THROUGH AUCTIONSPLUS

The regular Team Te Mania online female sales provides buyers with the opportunity to purchase exceptional Te Mania Angus genetics from a structured, professionally run programme with the aim being production of the best genetics in the Australian marketplace.

The next Team Te Mania commercial female sale will be conducted on-line only at 5 pm, on Tuesday March 1st on the eve of the Te Mania Angus bull on March 2nd.

**For more information on the females for sale or to enquire about joining Team Te Mania, contact Hamish on 0427 641606 or Tom on 0429 952197 or visit [temania.com.au](http://temania.com.au)**





## Joining Time Fixed Time AI

The 2015 Artificial Insemination (AI) programme was completed at the end of November.

In all, 1,011 cows and 450 heifers were AI'd to individually selected sires from across the globe. We use a programme called Total Genetic Resource Management (TGRM), plus good old fashioned breeding know – how, to select each bull for every female. This allows us to create a joining that will produce the most profitable progeny for our clients.

Using the Fixed Time AI programme, we split the cow mobs into four groups of females: two groups of heifers and four groups of cows.

Each group is then split again, giving us a total of 12 groups. It sounds complicated, but we don't need to draft the calves and split the groups physically until the bulls go out at the end, because we use paint to identify each group within a group, this makes it all much smoother and more peaceful for the calves.

It's all about the schedule with a Fixed Time AI programme. See the calculator below. We do two rounds of AI then a natural mating with our sires.

To start with, each group has a CIDR implanted with a CIDROL injection, then seven days later the CIDR's are removed with a dose of PG. The heifer s are AI'd 53 hours later and the cows are AI'd after 63 hours.

14 days later CIDR's go in again and are removed seven days later and a KMAR is applied for heat detection with another AI for any cows on heat two days later.

All the groups are then split with their calves and a bull goes out with around 120 females, he only needs to serve about 15 – 20 in the mob. The bull stays out for four weeks to ensure a tight joining period and improved fertility pattern. We foetal age at preg.test and then sell all the later one. It makes for a very busy calving period to come.

A massive thank you the crew from Southern Cross Genetics who put in so much hard work again this year.



no.	Start CIDR out	Finish CIDR out	Rate/hr AI at	+ OR -	Will take	Must start after	Best fit start
1461							
120	21/Oct 7:26 a.m.	21/Oct 8:03 a.m.	50 Hours 54 Hours 2 Hours		2:24 hours	23/Oct 12:03 p.m.	23/Oct 12:32 p.m.
115	21/Oct 9:29 a.m.	21/Oct 10:00 a.m.	50 Hours 54 Hours 2 Hours		2:18 hours	23/Oct 2:00 p.m.	24/Oct 12:36 p.m.
115	22/Oct 7:30 a.m.	22/Oct 8:53 a.m.	50 Hours 54 Hours 2 Hours		2:00 hours	24/Oct 1:53 p.m.	24/Oct 2:41 p.m.
100	22/Oct 9:30 p.m.	22/Oct 9:55 p.m.	50 Hours 54 Hours 2 Hours		2:01 hours	3/Nov 6:05 a.m.	3/Nov 7:47 p.m.
121	31/Oct 8:05 p.m.	31/Oct 8:05 p.m.	60 Hours 63 Hours 3 Hours		1:56 hours	3/Nov 6:04 a.m.	4/Nov 7:47 p.m.
116	31/Oct 8:04 p.m.	31/Oct 8:04 p.m.	60 Hours 63 Hours 3 Hours		2:06 hours	4/Nov 6:08 a.m.	4/Nov 9:59 p.m.
116	31/Oct 8:08 p.m.	31/Oct 8:08 p.m.	60 Hours 63 Hours 3 Hours		1:58 hours	5/Nov 5:57 a.m.	5/Nov 7:47 p.m.
126	1/Nov 5:31 p.m.	1/Nov 8:13 p.m.	60 Hours 63 Hours 3 Hours		1:59 hours	5/Nov 8:10 a.m.	5/Nov 9:59 p.m.
126	1/Nov 7:46 p.m.	1/Nov 8:13 p.m.	60 Hours 63 Hours 3 Hours		2:31 hours	6/Nov 4:41 a.m.	6/Nov 9:59 p.m.
126	1/Nov 8:31 p.m.	1/Nov 8:10 p.m.	60 Hours 63 Hours 3 Hours		2:15 hours	6/Nov 7:07 a.m.	6/Nov 9:59 p.m.

## Measuring Methane

Whether we like it or not, the beef industry is under pressure to reduce methane emissions. Fortunately, we have the ability to measure methane in large groups of cattle and, research has shown that large variations exist between animals within a breed. This is pretty exciting, as it means we will be able to select animals that are naturally lower emitters than other animals.

Greenfeed is a patented system manufacture by C-Lock INC, Rapid City, South Dakota, to monitor the metabolic gases emitted from ruminants. Te Mania Angus has been part of research coordinated by Graeme Bremner, UNE, since mid 2015 using the Greenfeed machines to measure methane in one of our heifer mobs.

The system captures the breath of the animal and analyses the emitted gases for trace constituents, including methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and water vapour. Animals are attracted periodically throughout the day to the Greenfeed by offering a controlled small quantity of feed (bait) via the units automated feeder system. An RFID system with an aerial mounted in the hood of the feeder reads

and records each animals EID. While the animals are at the unit, air is drawn past the animal's nose and the gas concentrations are analysed second-by-second.

The mass flux of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> is calculated by multiplying the measured increase in the concentrations from the ambient levels. Additional information to characterise the catch rate of the emitted gas from the animal, include a position sensor, which detects the proximity of the animals nose to the front of the measuring area and the controlled release of a non-toxic tracer gas to calculate dilution rates. Second-by-second data is collected, analysed and stored on-board the unit and automatically downloaded via the 3G Telstra network every hour to the main server at C-Lock. In addition to collecting data, the network allows for the remote control of each unit and provides real time readings and configuration settings including images from the unit.

In the near future, the cattle industry will have pressure applied to adopt a reduced methane methodology that will show it is possible to buy and produce animals that emit less methane than others and at Te Mania Angus, we want to help our clients stay ahead of the pack.



## Net Feed Intake Trials at Te Mania Angus.

Professor David Cottle and Sapient Technology are developing automated, mobile trailer bin feeding systems to measure Net Feed Intake on farm. Te Mania Angus has been a part of the trial testing the mobile feeder bins since 2014.

The mobile trailer bins enable the daily feeding of controlled amounts of supplements to individual grazing animals. These supplements contain a natural marker which enables the daily pasture intake of individual animals to be estimated from analysis of the marker in the faeces (Cottle 2015).

All this can be done without the need for humans to dose animals with markers, e.g. using controlled-release delivery devices. The trailers incorporate:

- 1) electronic ear tag readers at six feeding stations (three each side)
- 2) mechanisms to provide the supplement in such a way that maximum intake for each animal every six hours (or customised setting) is controlled
- 3) purpose built electronics
- 4) solar panels
- 5) remote data input/output capacity.

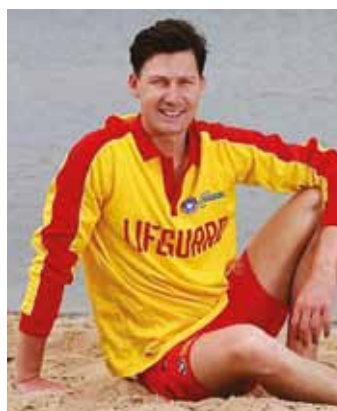
Each paddock can have up to four trailers and they can communicate with each other. This enables up to 24 feeding stations to simultaneously feed animals in a paddock. A cluster of four trailers could potentially feed 400 plus head in a paddock. The parameters controlling feed access can be adjusted remotely over the web. The trailer data, e.g. the amount of supplement each animal has eaten (g/day), is available through a purpose built website developed by Sapient Technology called preKool. For example, heifers grazing at Team Te Mania herd, Knewleave and at Te Mania Angus, have had their maize intake monitored hourly in real time in an Armidale, NSW office via 3G wireless and internet.

As cattle feed is the largest single cost item in most livestock enterprises, high feed efficiency is an important breeding and nutritional objective. Residual feed intakes measured on ad lib grain-based diets in feedlots are expensive to obtain and poorly related to more restricted pasture intakes (Herd et al. 2011). As the trailers can be used to control the individual daily intakes of any type of supplement they have the capacity to be multi-purpose and therefore more cost effective.

For more information contact Prof David Cottle, UNE or Rob Wyld of Sapient Technology.

## Luke Plant – Australian Lifeguard of the Year 2015

Congratulations to Luke Plant, son of David Plant from Southern Cross Genetics, who was named the Australian Lifeguard of the Year for 2015. Luke is in his fourth year of medicine and I looking forward to his placement at the Austin Hospital where he will part of a project looking at the development of heart failure in hospital inpatients.



## Toolong Pastoral Co Winners at Noorat Show.

Andrew Jackson, son of Jon and Karen Jackson, Team Te Mania members from Woolsthorpe in Western Victoria, recently exhibited Reserve Champion on the hoof at the Noorat Show carcass competition. The 15 month old Angus steer, also won 1st place in the class 501-600kg. Well done Andrew!

## Invitation

You are invited to join the Gubbins and McFarlane Families For an informal dinner of Angus beef

At the Te Mania Angus Bull Selling centre, Mortlake 6 pm Tuesday March 1 2016 at the completion of the Team Te Mania, On-Line Commercial Female Sale

GUEST SPEAKER, Robbie Zeissig, "Watch Your Grass Grow"

## TE MANIA'S CREW – THE FAMILY BEHIND THE FAMILY.



### FERGHAL BERRY

Fergal is the Livestock and Pasture Manager at Mortlake. Born in Scotland, Fergal's family moved to Queensland when he was eight years old to live in Longreach. His years of living in Queensland have left their mark, with the Brisbane Broncos and Brisbane Lions his favourite teams in their respective codes. An exceptional stockman, Fergal's favourite part of working at Te Mania Angus is growing feed and the challenges of working with the yearling bulls.



### ROB HERRY

Rob has been a member of the Te Mania Angus crew since 2009. He is in charge of the cattle yards administration. Rob has been a part of the local community for many years since he moved as a child to Mortlake from Melbourne. Rob is great with people as well as cattle and interacts easily with both. He and his wife Nicola welcomed their fifth child into the world in November. A mad Bombers supporter, but we don't hold that against him!



### KAREN HARRINGTON

Karen has been our Bookkeeper since 2007. She is meticulous and focused at work and on the bowling green. Current Club Champion of Torquay Bowls Club, Karen plays Div 1 Tuesdays in the Geelong District and Saturday Premier league Pennant and has competed at State level. Karen enjoys the country office at Connewarre, the people, coming face to face with the bulls on sale day and talking to farmers from far and wide.



### TYLER SCHAEFER

Tyler is currently undertaking a Certificate 3 in Agriculture through South West Institute of TAFE. His favourite part of working at Te Mania Angus is moving cattle. A highly regarded cricketer and golfer, Tyler is an enthusiastic and positive worker who enjoys learning more about stockmanship and cattle handling.



### JAMES McCORMACK

James is the Embryo Transplant and Recipient Herd Manager based at his home near Mansfield. James is a gifted stockman with a keen interest in Angus cattle genetics. A part time small goods producer and keen Melbourne supporter, James has been involved with Te Mania Angus for almost two decades.



### MARK TROETH

Mark hails from Casterton originally. Our Mr Fix It, he also loves working in the cattle yards. Mark is a positive and uncomplaining hard worker who loves to tinker with software and computers. In his spare time, Mark likes breeding pigs and poultry, doing home renovations and he barracks for Hawthorn.



### NAILS McLENNAN

Although recently retired, we still like to see Nails out on the farm occasionally to lead everyone back onto the straight and narrow! Nails spent the first part of his life as a shearer before being coaxed into joining the Te Mania Angus crew in 2009. Things just haven't been quite the same in the afternoon tea room since he retired!



**TE MANIA ANGUS**  
Your Partner in Profitability





## AN AFTERNOON IN THE YARDS – STRUCTURE FIELD DAY

On December 7<sup>th</sup> we hosted over 40 keen cattle producers at “An Afternoon in the Yards” to watch Jim Green from Greens Livestock Services assess the sale bulls for structure.

Good cattle structure has a direct impact on producer profitability.

Assessing the structure of all our animals is high on the list of priorities at Te Mania Angus and has been, even before the inception of the Beef Class Structural Assessment System in the early 1990's.

Objectively measuring structure, in conjunction with the use of performance recording (EBVs) gives us a greater picture of how that animal will perform. This knowledge gives us more insight and understanding into the key profit drivers that affect the bottom line for commercial cattle breeders.

Issues with structure can affect bull and cow longevity. The Beef Class Structural Assessment System

measures claw set, front and rear foot angle, rear legs, and for females – teats and udders as well.

Leg and feet structure in particular are highly heritable, therefore identifying structural issues within your animals allows you to improve your herd through assessment and selection.

We collect information based on unbiased, factual data, and relate it back to the animal and its genetics.

Not only does performance recording provide us with cattle that tick all the boxes for profitability for all segments of the industry, it also leaves behind, good fertility and structure in cow herds, fast growth for the breeders and the backgrounders and carcase merit for the processors.

With enough structural information, which we have collected for over two decades, we are able to make very accurate predictions about how certain combinations of genetics will perform structurally.



*Jim Green has been scanning and structurally assessing the Te Mania Angus herd for 26 years.*

## Spice Rubbed Rump Cap with Heirloom Tomato Tart Tatin.

We have found some delicious recipes using beautiful, marbled beef.

Go to [rangersvalley.com.au](http://rangersvalley.com.au) to see how to create this showstopper. Yum!





# THE HISTORY OF OUR HERD

## THE EARLIEST DAYS

The first Angus cattle arrived at Akitio beach in the North Island of New Zealand from Scotland late in the 19th century. Frank Armstrong (Great Grand father of Charlie and Tom Gubbins and Amanda McFarlane) established the Akitio stud with those original cows. In 1928 Frank Armstrong's daughter, Esther Armstrong married Edwyn Wilding, her father's wedding gift was four cows and one of his best bulls, Akitio Timber Bay.

## SOUTHLAND NZ – THE WALKING GIFTS ARRIVE

These five walking wedding presents arrived at Wilanda in the far south of New Zealand in June 1928. The original cows survived and foraged the hills of Wilanda, often snow covered in the winter. The stud was developed from hardy stock and Edwyn Wilding bred and selected larger framed animals who could get about on the hills, These Angus cattle caused interest from local commercial cattlemen and so he started selling stud bulls.

## THE MOVE TO CANTERBURY N.Z.

The family moved to Conway Flat in North Canterbury in 1936. The property and Angus stud changed its name to Te Mania. The selection pressure was put on sound, growthy cattle. Frank Wilding took over Te Mania in 1957. He installed scales and was one of the pioneers of performance recorded cattle.

In 1971, Frank made a very generous offer to his sister and brother in law, Andrew and Mary Gubbins to form a partnership and start up a Te Mania Stud in Australia. This was at the time of the Charolais boom in Australia and Frank was unhappy that his surplus females were being sold to become a base for that breed in NZ and Australia.

## ON AUSTRALIAN SHORES

58 females were imported from the Te Mania NZ stud in 1971-1972. These females were randomly selected by Frank Wilding and came to Australia in three shipments along with two bulls. Frank retained a partnership share and worked with Andrew Gubbins. The partnership was dissolved in 1986. However, Tim Wilding (Frank's son) and Tom Gubbins (Andrew and Mary's son) are still working closely together. They have a joint semen selling business which is managed by Hamish McFarlane (son in law) of Andrew and Mary.

Each of the 58 females were given an aboriginal name which has carried on down through the families of all their daughters.

## TE MANIA ANGUS – THE DESCENDANTS

Today only eleven of these original cow families names are still recorded in the Australian herd book. This is a result of dedicated and strict progeny testing and performance recording over the years. It is interesting to see the impact some individual females make on a herd.

The most well known and dominant Te Mania family names in the Australian herd book are Lowan Jedda, Barunah and Dandloo all originating from only four of the matrons who came over the Tasman in 1971 and 1972.

From the original 58 family lines the following are the numbers of active females from the remaining bloodlines still at Te Mania and in the second column the number of active females that are out in the Angus Studs across Australia.



Swimming the first Angus cattle to shore in the late 19th century on Akitio Beach.



Te Mania Overseer, Ron McCrabb with show winners from the 70's.

	TE MANIA HERD VTM	AUSTRALIAN HERD BOOK (exc. VTM herd)
Lowan	612	1132
Barunah	447	1031
Jedda	278	1293
Dandloo	186	1007
Mittagong	277	373
Wargoona	196	206
Moongara	167	304
Beeac	221	593
Barwon	119	352
Japara	149	459
Boortkoi	34	49

The most dominant cow family is the Lowan family. Many of these descended from Te Mania Lowan R426 who was the most super fertile cow. In every transplant she used to respond well and give plenty of embryos, she always got in calf herself in the first cycle. The Lowan line had excellent structure inherited partly from VPI Lord Patriot who we imported from the USA. This wonderful old sire was put down at 12 years of age, with perfect feet and structure just lacking in teeth!

We are indeed fortunate to have such a proven, high fertility and structurally sound cow family dominating our herd.

In the early days we exhibited at the Australian National Show and Sale. In 1981 the Lowan family was represented by Te Mania Poundmaker who was Grand champion and went on to sell for the then national record price of \$28,000. Te Mania Lowan W47 was Grand Champion female.

Another highlight of this family line was the sale at auction of Te Mania Lowan M118 to Russell Phelps in Missouri USA.

**Todd Landes, an early pioneer in embryo transfer has worked with Te Mania Angus since 1990 and has flushed and implanted over 10,000 embryos over those 25 years.**

**We thank him for his wonderful professionalism and on going contribution to our business.**

Russell had seen her in our sale line up when he visited Te Mania at the time of the World Angus Forum, decided he wanted her and bid by the phone direct to Alastair Brook of Elders in the sale ring. M118 was flushed for some years at Total Genetics for Phelps Angus.

The Dandloo family has 186 current active females recorded at Te Mania. They are a strong high growth line.

A dominant sire in the early days of semen selling was Te Mania Herald H9 out of Dandloo E143.

Herald's flush sister Te Mania Dandloo H5 sold for a record price in \$30,000 in 1995. H5 gave Te Mania 's record number of 32 embryos on her final flush at Te Mania. H5 was being programed for an embryo transfer flush when she was purchased by Roger Harbison. It was agreed we would keep her in our program, flush her and freeze the embryos for Dunoon. When Roger heard she had given 32 good embryos he very graciously allowed Te Mania to retain 12 of them! We were delighted that Dunoon got such a flying start with their new Angus stud herd, after spending \$30,000 on one cow, they were duly rewarded.

The Jedda family line have many high marbling females including the grand old cow Te Mania Jedda Y32 the dam of the highly sort after semen sire Te Mania Africa A217. Africa is now +4 for IMF% on the November 2015 Breedplan sire report.

Many of the early dominant cows were from this female line, including Te Mania Jedda C74 who was sold and selected as the pick of the cow herd. Te Mania Jedda V62 was another really sound agile cow who left many very good all round progeny.

There are five other family lines still in the herd descended from the original 58 imported cows. Mittagong, Barunah, Wargoona, Barwon and Beeac. These total 1106 active females still in the Te Mania herd.

Today Te Mania Angus continues our proud family tradition of continually improving our herds' genetics and working together with our clients as partners in profitability.

\* This data includes the heifer calves born in 2015

\* Aust. Herd Book data taken from December 2015 Angus Breedplan



# PROFIT IN THE PIE

By Katrina Weatherly



**As El Nino makes its effects felt across much of rural Australia, the steers in Boona's herd not far from the South Australian border are grazing their way around a rotational grazing pie, blissfully unaware of any seasonal pressures.**

Stephen and Sue Brain run a 1,000 cow Angus breeding herd in a feeder steer business on 949 hectares at Mumbannar, 35 kilometres east of Mt Gambier. The property, on predominantly sandy soils, lies 15 kilometres from the coast and relies on an average annual rainfall of 700 mm.

This cattle enterprise is a Team Te Mania, self-replacing, spring calving, EU accredited operation, supplying steers to feedlots on contract each year.

"For productivity the feeder steer business is where the maximum efficiency lies," Stephen said. "It costs a lot more to fatten an animal than to grow one."

At three weekly intervals from mid-October, a truckload of 13-15 month old steers weighing 500kgs heads to Swifts at Narrandera or Rangers Valley at Glen Innes.

"On October 14, 2015 a truckload of 72 steers had an average weight of 509 kgs," Stephen said.

"To get them off at 13-15 months of age we have to try to keep them growing through winter."

To achieve this, Stephen has the help of Doug Smith, an excellent full time, flexible, Assistant Manager, and operates a time controlled grazing system to grow and utilise more feed.

In winter a mob of 500 steers rotate through 18 twenty hectare paddocks of the pie shaped grazing system, moving every two days.

"We work with the time of year and the stage of leaf of the plant, moving the cattle when the plant reaches a 2.5-3 leaf stage."

"In winter there's a longer grazing period of 40-42 days, whereas in spring it might be 20-21 days.

"The main goal is quick growth, to get them up and off as quickly as possible," Stephen said.

"The longer we keep them the more it costs."

In the four year period 2010/11 to 2014/15 a total

grazing area of 900 hectares produced an average of 624kgs per hectare at \$1.24 per kg before tax or interest.

This cost is up significantly on the 2001/02 to 2004/05 average production figure of 520kg per hectare at 95 cents per kg per hectare.

For Stephen productivity is about growing and harvesting the maximum amount of grass possible in the shortest possible time.

"We try and match the production curve with the animals we're carrying. In winter that's hardest when we carry only weaners and pregnant females with a stocking rate of 17,000 or DSE of 19. In spring the stocking rate rises dramatically to 26,500 or a DSE of 29."

The program at Boona is a fine tuned exercise to achieve the quick growth and early turn off goal.

Heifers are joined for seven weeks, cows for nine. Bulls are jump tested or vet checked before a multiple joining program that achieves conception rates of 85-90% in the heifers and over 90% in the cows.

Heifer calving begins in late July and cows calve in August.

All steers are raised on perennial Phalaris and Rye



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Grass based pastures with sub-clover. There has been an annual 50 hectare pasture renovation project.

"It's important to manage pastures in a way that doesn't damage them too much in dry seasons. With summer rain we still get productivity here," Stephen said.

At around 4-5 months old, weaners are treated with an all trace bolus capsule.

"Trials show the minerals and vitamins in the bolus help in our sandy soils, increasing conception rates in heifers and increasing growth rates in both heifers and steers. Next year we'll probably treat our pre-calving heifers as well."

Yard weaning normally occurs in January at about 140-150kgs but lack of rainfall this season means it's likely to take place earlier.

"We'll wean in late December, putting the cows into sacrificed paddocks to supplementary feed with hay."

Because, in an average year, hay can be purchased locally at around \$130/tonne (higher this year), and it costs nearly \$100 per tonne to produce it on farm, it makes no sense to Stephen to produce hay on-farm unless there's a spring flush.

"In a dry year you either agist cattle, sell them, or feed them. That's the guts of it," Stephen believes.

"But it's important to make decisions early. We'll wean earlier and imprint calves on their mothers with pellets in the next few weeks, supplementing them with pellets at weaning and post weaning until they go into the irrigation system," Stephen explained.

And here lies the gold in Stephen's system; 160 hectares of irrigated pasture where four bores deliver good quality water to two pivot irrigations systems that automatically travel over the electric wires in the rotation cells.

"The boats on the pivot system push the wire down for the pivot to go over," Stephen explained.

"The irrigation is a really handy part of our system. Instead of producing silage or supplementary feed on farm to feed to our weaners, we put them on irrigation," Stephen explained.

"It's like a big self-feeder that helps us to get the animals off earlier."

The irrigation system is shaped like a pie with two large circles divided into eight cells of 10 hectares each. The weaners are moved through the 16 cells on two day shifts.

Cows run on a separate paddock system with the same concept.

"Cows get set-stocked for a couple of months during calving before going into rotation. Calves become much quieter as they get used to being moved through gateways, handled by people and dogs, making a huge difference to the weaning process," Stephen said.

It's not cheap to run the irrigation system. But it pays for itself with the extra period where 1.5 kgs a day can be produced by the steers.

"Without it we'd have to produce a lot of silage to grow out the weaners."

This system allows machinery overheads and investment costs to be minimised.

"There's no hay or silage equipment and feeders, no hay or harvesting machinery. We only require a tractor

and trailer for handling hay bales and an oat feeder for feeding out pellets before the autumn break or at weaning time.

Each year \$150 per hectare is spent on fertiliser.

"I'm not really conventional. I like to work with the environment, to change things around to get a balance. So we use a lot of compost, some Bio-blends and some of the more bio-friendly conventional fertilisers as well. If pasture is struggling in adverse seasons we put nitrogen out to increase growth rates. It's all about productivity," Stephen said.

Initially Stephen was attracted to Te Mania bloodlines by their growth, their frame and balance, good calves, and quietness.

He joined Team Te Mania at its inception.

"Gathering as much carcass data and figures as possible made sense to me.

"I don't want bulls that are high maintenance or too big. I'm after good growth rates, easy calving and good marbling. Really I am chasing the ideal bull!" he laughed.

"A Sapien Technology system records individual weights and average daily weight gains each time the cattle come into the yards. Te Mania bulls have allowed

us to get steers off earlier with heavier weights so we've increased productivity without incurring costs in reproductive efficiencies.

Each year Stephen and Sue sell 100 surplus females including 50 joined heifers in the Team Te Mania female sale on the eve of the Te Mania bull sale in March.

"It's a female live auction sale conducted through Auctions Plus with our heifers PTIC to calve in July at two years of age and the cows calving for the fourth or fifth time.

For the last ten years Stephen believes their sale prices have been good. "We're in a good secure area where we can produce our 600kgs per hectare and still make good returns.

"This year it will be even better with prices up around 40 per cent. That's the real cream so it's a real profitability story," Stephen said with a smile.

**Stephen and Sue Brain will be selling females in the Team Te Mania on-line only commercial female sale on March 1. See our web site for more details [temania.com.au](http://temania.com.au)**







# QUIET ACHIEVERS

“Aiming to achieve a premium price for our Angus cattle, requires premium quality and for that reason our sires are sourced from Te Mania Angus. The bulls we have purchased from Te Mania Angus are well balanced with great structural characteristics, smooth coated, easy doing animals with fantastic temperaments. Te Mania Angus bulls have outstanding EBVs with an exceptionally high level of accuracy, for this the team at Te Mania Angus are to be commended.

When thinking of quality Angus cattle you cannot go past Te Mania. Te Mania bulls have helped our herds' productivity through high fertility, short gestation length, ease of calving and producing calves with great growth and shape.

Our Angus female herd is primarily Te Mania bloodlines, these females are well framed and have beautiful feminine features with great milk and maternal traits. When selling either heifers or cows we are rewarded with a better dollar outcome and an outstanding cow herd.

Introducing Te Mania bloodlines has led to the most important benefit which is improving our bottom line – I've found people pay a price premium when we mention our cattle are Te Mania bloodlines.”

## JOHN BERGAMIN

Bergamin Pastoral Company, Willow Grove, Victoria

TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY

**BEEF WEEK OPEN DAY – AUTUMN BULL SALE PREVIEW**

TUESDAY 1 MARCH AT 5 PM

**TEAM TE MANIA ON LINE COMMERCIAL FEMALE SALE**  
OVER 500+ TE MANIA BLOOD FEMALES

WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH, 12 NOON

**TE MANIA ANGUS SOUTHERN AUTUMN BULL SALE**  
150+ BULLS

If you are not a client of Te Mania Angus, and would like to receive an Autumn Bull Sale catalogue, please email [admin@temania.com.au](mailto:admin@temania.com.au)

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