



ALC UPDATE - The year in review.



Another successful year has nearly past and we are starting to plan and look forward to another great year ahead. The year started a little on the dry side, as rain events in the summer were light and spread out, so not sufficient to make pastures grow enough to keep in front of the cattle. We were hoping for rain and rain we got! In the last few days of March, Cyclone Debbie came through in full force, dumping 416mm of rain in three days and double that upstream of the Connors River. This caused a record flood and some damage to fences. The bright side was we grew a year's grass in two months with the help of good follow up rain in May. This made for as good of a year as I can remember. To top things off, early rain in October to coincide with the start of our mating season was the icing on the cake. Hot weather and a month without rain now has grass browned off and looking for another drink. Hopefully Santa can deliver! Our thoughts go out to some producers to the West who are now entering their fifth year without rain. We sincerely hope they get a break this summer.



2017 has been good to us at ALC with our best bull selling year to date. Many clients chased the double polled gene this year and the setting for sale day was warm weather and green grass which was particularly nice

for the first week in July. Paddock bulls were all sold in the same week as well. For a full sale report, please visit the ALC Brahmins web site www.alcbrahmans.com.au

We had a record number of calves branded for 2017. The calf numbers have been a combination of our cow herd continually working harder and our yearling mat-

ing program being a great success. This year we used IVF to speed up our genetic gain. The selected few donor cows were ALC breeders with better than -10 DTC EBV and +2.0 SS EBV, who'd had more than 3 calves in the first 60 days of calving. At ALC it is important for all females to produce a calf under natural mating conditions therefore OPU appealed to us. All donors will produce a naturally conceived calf in S'19 as well as IVF calves through recipient cows. We are looking forward to these results next year!

Cattle prices have been strong throughout the year and even with a slight correction in the later half, it remains in good shape. This has allowed us to get some extra property improvements done ahead of time, such as regrowth control, fencing and water infrastructure. With all the children home from boarding school, we are enjoying our time together and plenty of work is getting completed. Calving has finished, all cows who failed to calve have been sent to the meatworks, branding is almost completed and we have even got a horse broken in. Raising a family doing something we all love is something we are very thankful for.



From all of us at ALC Brahmins, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and successful, healthy and wet New Year.

Alf



When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on - Franklin D. Roosevelt