

Karawi Hill
MURRAY GREY STUD



On Tuesday 20th of February we left the farm to head for the Canberra Show which was on the Friday, Saturday & Sunday of that week. We were the first Murray Grey breeders to arrive, so setting up our stalls and feed storage area was quite easy.

The show team had 4 bulls, 2 heifers and one cow & calf but before leaving home we decided it would be too much to handle, as Catherine had a bad back and wouldn't be a lot of assistance in general, lugging gear etc so we dropped out two nice "Hot Chocolate" heifers and one bull.

The smaller team did well with 3 blue ribbon firsts and one white ribbon third, one of our young bulls Karawi Hill Sundowner went onto become



Karawi Hill Sundowner
Junior Champion Bull.

We entered three head into the breeders group class and won that event. The cow Karawi Hill Kate and her calf won their class and were part of the breeders group. Two of our children, Amba & Ryan came down to help on judging day and it was much appreciated.

We met up with a lot of our friends and had a good time, we came home worn out but pleased with the result, there were

about 60 Murray Greys there and the competition was excellent.

Tuesday the 6th of March saw us take another one of our flying trips. We left at 4pm and headed for the Beef Spectacular at Dubbo, it was the first ever. The bull we bred Karawi Hill Outback who was Supreme Murray Grey Exhibit at the 2006 Canberra Royal was going to Dubbo for the big event. Steve Robertson of Bennoka Park Stud was taking him up to see if he could do any good. Outback had just previously served about 60 cows and was showing a bit of wear & tear as well as a life on a drought ravaged farm. But the judge saw through that and he won his class and went on to be Senior Champion and Grand Champion Murray Grey bull under a judge from New Zealand by the name of Barry McDonald, a Murray Grey breeder from over there. ***Congratulations to Steve for having a go under difficult conditions.*** We headed for home on Thursday morning, arriving back around 3pm, we understand what jet lag is all about now! Catherine drove back to Canberra to pick up Outback on Saturday and bring him home to get ready for Sydney Royal. To put the weight on him would not be easy.

March 14th brought us a little closer to the other side of the world when our friend Narelle Wilcox from Ayr Park Murray Grey Stud called in with two visitors under her wings, they were David & Rose from south east Wales. In their homeland they too have a Murray Grey Stud on 120 acres. They said it was similar scenery to around here, it reminded them of home. It was interesting to talk to them and to learn

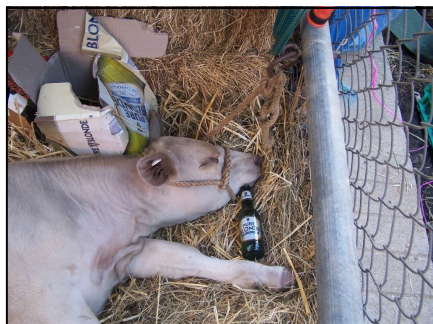
about the types of bulls they were using, mainly bulls from Australia by the AI system. Rose took photos of our calves by different bulls to what they use and I guess she will have a talk to her friends back home. I believe Rose is the Secretary of the Murray Grey Society in Britain (or some similar important position). They inspected our entire herd, we hope they were impressed with most of the cows and bulls.

After they left, it was back to the normal routine, getting two bulls ready for the National Show & Sale the following week. The only break in the routine was chasing a frightened heifer from Bomaderry High School who just arrived to be mated and decided it wanted to go back to school instead, busting a few fences on the way, some mothers do have them! Bomaderry High has its own Murray Grey Stud, we enjoy helping them out.

Tuesday 20th of March saw us packing madly to get on our way to Wodonga for the 41st Murray Grey National Show & Sale we were aiming to leave at 8:00am but it was 9:30am before we left. Conditions for loading were less than ideal as we had seen several inches of very welcome rain the weekend before and there was mud everywhere. We were taking two bulls to be sold, one seventeen month old grey bull, Karawi Hill Powerhouse by Monterey Sundowner and Karawi Hill Sundowner also by Monterey Sundowner. KH Sundowner had been Junior Champion at Berry & Canberra so we were expecting big things from

STORY CONTINUED...

KH Powerhouse had won his class at Canberra & Berry and was a member of the winning breeders group at Canberra. We thought he was the better bull but two judges at the previous shows had put KH Sundowner above him.



Baby Kate—celebrating her mother's win at Canberra Royal

KH Sundowner was unplaced in his class at the National judging and KH Powerhouse was placed third in his class. When we arrived at the Nationals it was raining and muddy but the next two days of extreme heat made conditions just about unbearable. Actually a cow in the yards went down from the heat and had to be hosed to cool down. The Nationals this year had been put on early hence the heat. We felt that if it had of been after the Easter Show our two bulls were good enough to be shown at Sydney. So the timing was not good as it may have reduced Murray Grey numbers at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, plus the very hot weather. The sale eventually came around commencing at 12:30 on the Thursday, the number of vendors sitting on the teared seating around the ring might have out numbered the buyers (or so it seemed), not a good sign.

Lot 1 sold well and that was a great start but then it happened, passed in, passed in, passed in or no bid etc. It appeared to us that about 20 bulls were passed in, about 10 withdrawn and around 16 sold with prices well below expectations. We had set a reserve figure on our bulls that

we could see would not be achieved on the day so we cut the reserves in half. We figured it was much more desirable to get the bulls out into other stud herds, where they could prove their quality breeding and be great ambassadors for the Karawi Hill Stud. How pleased we were to sell both bulls under the hammer and not too far under our original reserves. KH Sundowner went to the RM Williams subsidiary Williams River Cattle Co headed by Bryce Wales a top cattle breeder of Glenliam Stud. KH Powerhouse went to a partnership of Sussex Park & Melton Park Studs. This group is under the guidance of Colin Tangye a long time Murray Grey stalwart. We were really pleased that the bulls went to two top groups. There was great camaraderie among the vendors with everybody keen to help each other And even if the auction sale didn't go that well, the Murray Grey dinner that night was terrific and the AGM the next day was an interesting event for those that attended.

In all a great social event, but the sale left people asking a lot of questions. Some thought it must be the drought. Sure the drought has a big flow on effect but you would always find some feed for that special bull or female that you may want. In fact I think the problem is most farmers are low on cash reserves through fodder purchasing that they just can't afford to spend at the moment, another fact is that all businesses are suffering downturns, it seems that when the farmer has no money neither does any body else. It may be true that **Australia lives on the sheep's back.**

Dropped a bull and heifer off at McDonalds at Yass on the way back (no, not for Big Mac's) Col Tangye picked them up there to take to Canowindra. Then it was time to head home to the green hills of Jaspers Brush.

Our next big event was the Sydney Royal

Easter Show in about 3 weeks. Although our entries were in there seemed to be some doubt that KH Outback will put on enough weight. We may not go, but I did overhear Catherine talking to Marg & Sandy our friends from Elizabeth Farm Stud about what food, drinks and gear to take.

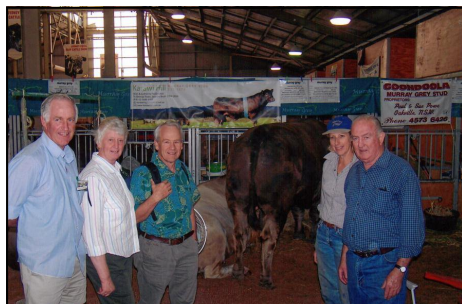
We only had KH Outback for 35 days before the Sydney Royal, he had been on two drought affected farms before that and had joined about 60-70 cows. Catherine put a lot of work into feeding him but he was not quite right, about 100 to 150 kilos under prime condition. I still wanted to take him and we did. My theory was that a good judge should be able to see his perfect structure and see past a bit of under condition.

We left Jaspers Brush on Wednesday 11th April. We were up in the dark to load up but our truck driver was 1 hour late, but we got there early enough in the end.

Most of the Murray Grey exhibitors were there and in their stalls by the time we arrived. It was tight in the lockers with up to four exhibitors allocated to some, but you just made the best of it, and got on with it. Cattle settled in well. We took 1 heifer & calf (KH Kate & Baby Kate) and two bulls KH Dynasty & KH Outback. Three head to compete and three first places (*but more of that later*).

We made a decision to stay close to our exhibits this time and it was amazing the amount of interested people that stopped to talk to us. A group of four N.Z. Murray Grey breeders was the first to strike up a conversation, which resulted in a photo of the group taken and a visit to our property two weeks later.

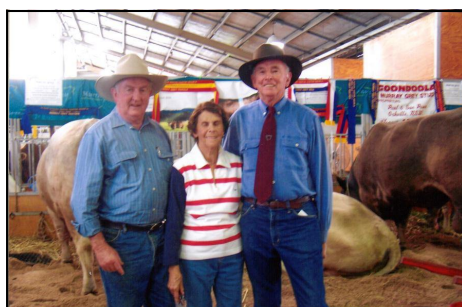
The visitors were, Wayne & Jean Allery from Kotane Stud plus Trevor & Sue Clarke of Yorkvale Stud they were Treasurer & President of the NZ Murray



The N.Z. Group and us

Another interested couple were Wally & Neith Hudspeth of Merrygoen NSW, commercial breeders now but formally "Pinehurst" Murray Grey Stud, yes, another photo taken.

We had a long and interesting talk with Marcus McMahon of Tennyson Park Murray Grey Stud at Blaney NSW. How's this for the longevity of Murray Greys, Marcus bought a superb 18 year old cow, flushed her and



Wally & Neith Hudspeth with B.Mc

bred from her but had to get her put down at 23 because of the drought, what a pity, her name was "Hillside Pauline".

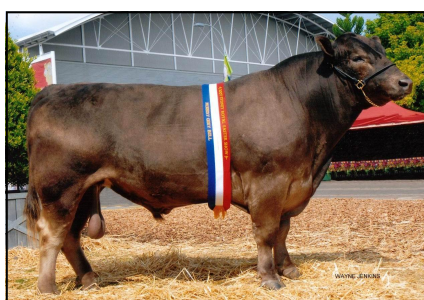
Mac McArthur, Agricultural Development & Education Manager for the Sydney Royal Easter Show also spoke with us and we discussed the exhibition of livestock and meat that they had presented in the pavilion next to the cattle sheds. It was great for the city folk to see how it all worked; paddock to plate so to speak. Meanwhile back to the main reason for being there, **the judging**. Females were in first, the judge was Tanya Guaran formally of the Millwood Stud in Victoria, it was a huge career thrill for her to judge at Sydney Royal, so she said.

KH Kate & calf went into the Under 30 Months Class and won, putting her into the Champion Female Class which was a great moment. She did well and was placed as Reserve Champion Female, beaten only by a cow that was Champion at Brisbane, Melbourne & Canberra Shows owned by Elizabeth Farm Stud at Yass. You haven't seen the last of the very young KH Kate.



KH Kate & Baby Kate

Then it was the bulls, KH Dynasty being in the bull under 30 months class with a win to Dynasty. Next was the big one for us and our partners in KH Outback, Roger & Glenda McIntosh of Myanga Stud & Steve Roberston (Robbo) of Benooka Park Stud. Roger & Glenda were there on the day but Robbo couldn't face the music, he didn't arrive. In went KH Outback to be judged, he took out first place. That meant that we had two bulls in for Senior Champion Bull, needless to say KH Outback won over the younger bull KH Dynasty. Alas Dynasty was beaten for Reserve Senior Champion Bull by the bull that stood second to KH Outback in his class. The next high point was the Junior Champion bull against the Senior Champion bull



Karawi Hill Outback

for Grand Champion Murray Grey Bull. We were over the moon when KH Outback won that award.

It was 21 years earlier in 1986 that we last had a Grand Champion bull at Sydney Royal, that was KH Blockbuster. This year 2007 we received several trophies and one perpetual trophy the "Mike Traynor" Award which stays in the trophy room at the shows headquarters. We have a photo of it anyway.



Catherine with a few of our friends did the tough job of taking the cattle in three grand parades and it must be said Catherine did a great job in preparing our cattle for the Royal, assisted by Ryan & Amba, two of our family.



We get to hold the Grand Champion Bull Trophy

As I said in the last newsletter in 2006, **eight days was a long time to be at the Easter Show for us and the cattle**. It was good to get home on Thursday 19th April. Our next adventure is to the Forbes Annual Murray Grey sale where KH Dynasty will go under the auctioneers hammer.

Our last adventure for a while started on Wednesday 23rd May when we left home for the Forbes Mid State Murray Grey Stud & Commercial Sale. We arrived just after 1pm. We didn't expect to be the first there, for a moment we thought we were, but then Betty Collis of Quindalup Stud got out of her truck. Betty is close to 80 years old and still drives her cattle to sales and shows. She is a great supporter of the Murray Grey breed, **well done Betty.**

The committee members weighed, inspected and numbered cattle that afternoon. The sale commenced next day at 11am with the commercial cattle. There were some highs and some lows but generally sold to a subdued market. Next was the stud bulls where 4 out of 17 sold under the hammer. We are not sure of the final result as a fair few animals male & female sold after the sale. We did sell our bull, Karawi Hill Dynasty

after the auction to a caring couple from Orange who appreciated the very quiet nature of KH Dynasty, a son of Newhaven Park Pericles, a known quiet temperament sire. We dropped the bull off on the way home. We bet he feels the cold at Orange. We stayed at Cowra that night, with ice on the windscreen the next morning. Once again we met many good friends and enjoyed their company.

A word on Temperament:

Recently I had cause to contact Murray Sutherland of the Michaelong Stud, after the discussion we somehow moved onto EBV's, Murray's observations were interesting and quite valid.

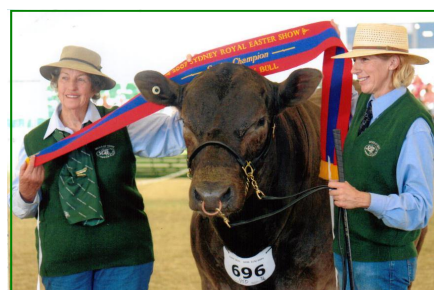
Murray's observation was, what is the most important EBV? In his opinion it is the eye, in other words the structure of the animal as seen through the eye of the person assessing the animal. Just a few of the things your eyes will see but the figures wont are, bad feed, short necks, ear placement, poll of head, cow hocked, droopy sheath and temperament. While on the word of temperament Murray said the word in America is how much "Speed" do they have in them. Some of the temperament failure is coming from crossing the generally docile Murray Grey with known "fiery" breeds, such as..... (oops better not go there).



STOP PRESS: Congratulations Sussex Park & Melton Park Studs on KH Powerhouse winning Junior Champion Bull at the Bendigo Beef Week Show. Purchased at the 2007 National Show & Sale. WE SELL WINNERS!



The Judge—Tania Guaran, gives KH Outback a final glance before her decision at Sydney Royal 2007



Betty Collis (left) with Catherine (right) sashing Karawi Hill Outback, Grand Champion Murray Grey Bull Sydney Royal 2007

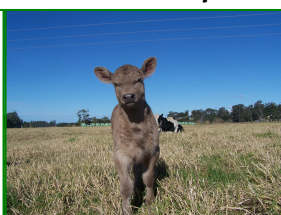
Well that's us for now, have a happy future with Murray Greys.

Karawi Hill Stud

76 Strongs Rd

Jaspers Brush NSW 2535

(P/F) 02 4448 6165 (M) 0412 604 059



FOR SALE:

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www.karawihill.com.au