



angus Raff angus

2015 - May Newsletter



50 Years of Breeding Angus ... 1965 - 2015

How it all began...

by David Raff

From a very young age I developed a fascination for breeding stud beef cattle - my ambition in life was to become a successful seed-stock breeder.

After much research, reading, attending shows and carcass competitions and talking with successful stud breeders and groomers I set about turning my dream into reality.

In 1965 I purchased four cast-for-age Stud Angus cows from the late Eaton Webster of the Sarum Stud at Kingaroy which marked the beginning of Raff Angus as it is known today. Recognising the superior meat qualities of Angus my breeding objectives were clear - to breed a faster growing, larger frame animal that retained the traditional maternal and carcass qualities that were so deeply entrenched in the Angus breed.

With limited resources, AI in its infancy, no ET and no way of measuring an animal's performance the challenge was enormous yet exciting - there were no text books. The stud industry at that time was dominated by a few well established and fairly affluent families who believed they had a monopoly on the industry and frowned upon outsiders trying to break into it.

Showing was the only yardstick to quality and by attending them it gave me the opportunity to watch and listen to the judge assess cattle of all breeds. Watching dairy judging was a valuable learning experience, learning how a cow should be made, the structure, udder shape and how to recognise milk qualities. I learnt very early that if I were to be successful my first priority was to breed a herd of cows. If I had an efficient and functional herd of cows the rest would follow.

Exhibiting steers in carcass competitions and going to see carcasses hanging on the hook taught me the finer points of the end product. Probably the single most relevant point was made by a meat works buyer telling me that,

with a group of steers hanging on the rail, the one closest to the floor was the heaviest and most profitable - thus my emphasis on length in my cattle.

I lived with my cattle. I observed every stage of production and reproduction. I began to measure and record their growth. I observed the features of those steers that produced the best carcasses and learnt how to recognise those features in a live animal.

The changes I have seen in the industry have been enormous.

All my life I have endeavoured to be an innovator, willing to trial new technology. The challenge for me has been to balance technology (science) with real world animal production.

The high points of my career have been:

- Being able break into an industry with virtually no money and no breeding tools and being able to succeed and survive 50 years
- Our achievements in the show-ring and sale-ring.
- Meeting so many good people.
- Our relationship with our loyal clients.

The lows:

- Having to go through droughts, a beef depression and 19% interest rates.
- To cope with the bitter politics of the industry.
- To battle with the divide between scientists and practical beef producers.

I am proud to have survived half a century in an industry I am so passionate about. Having begun from such a humble beginning to where Raff Angus is today gives me a real sense of achievement.

There is no greater power than to create life - I hope I have in some way played a part in making the Angus breed and the beef industry better than it was 50 years ago.



FORRES & BERRIMA
FORRES ABARIDY V4
 GRAND and SENIOR CHAMPION ANGUS BULL,
 1978 BRISBANE ROYAL SHOW

A GREAT MODERN ANGUS TYPE BULL WITH SCALE and FLESHING

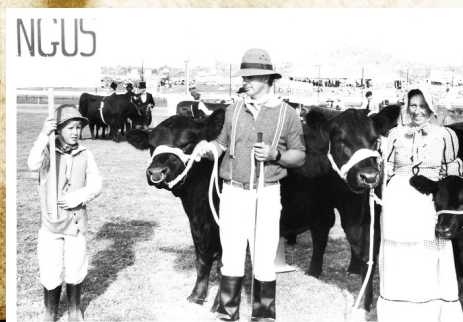
Judge's comments by Mr. Jim Anderson, Waggonia Stud, Coomo Coomo Creek, Queensland, NSW.

TOP ANGUS BREED SALE PRICE of \$2200

— also —
 THIRD TOP SALE PRICE.
 HIGHEST WEIGHT GAIN ANGUS BULL UNDER 2 YRS.

MRS B. TOUT, BERRIMA, ELBOW VALLEY
 PH: (078) 95 9059

D. G. RAFF, FORRES, KARARA
 PH: Leyburn 34



Dalgety **SELL**

FORRES ANGUS STEERS AT Record Price per kg

FOR BUTCHERS STEERS AT WARWICK SALE

PEN OF PUREBRED ANGUS STEERS
 15 Months old with an average live-weight of 361 kg, sold for 78.4 cents per kg to Borthwicks.

These steers were sired by performances tested Forres Angus Stud Bulls.

DALGETY — Warwick
DAVID G. RAFF
 FORRES ANGUS STUD — KARARA

Major cattle achievements 1965 - 2015



Perhaps the most memorable early achievement was in 1964, a year before the stud was founded, winning Grand Champion Beef Carcass at the prestigious Warwick Carcass Competition.

Warwick was one of the early carcass competitions held outside the Royal shows and attracted strong competition.

In 1975 Forres Taurus was awarded the Senior and Grand Champion Angus bull at the Royal Melbourne Show. Melbourne Royal was then the largest showing of Angus cattle in Australia and this was the first time a Queensland bred Angus had ever won a championship there. The Melbourne Royal was a trifecta for Queensland that year with the state exhibiting not only the Champion Angus but also the Champion Hereford and Poll Hereford bulls - a feat never to be repeated.

Between 1975 and 1989 Raff Angus won twelve Royal Show Grand Championships, including Melbourne and Perth.

In the 1985 two Angus animals were imported from the United States - a new sire Premier Commodore and influential cow Premier Julie. The mating between these two resulted in the now regarded 'Duchess' cow family. Again in 1989 two more bulls were imported - MA Commander and Hoff Rafferty - just before the international ban came in restricting the import of live animals.

Raff Angus heifers dominated the National Junior Heifer Shows in 1982, 1983 & 1984 by winning the Grand Championship each year.

In 1984 and 1985 Raff Angus held the Australian breed record average price for an on property bull sale and today holds the Queensland record auction prices for both a bull and cow.

2004 saw the first genetics of Hoff Limited Edition SC594 enter Australia with Raff Angus negotiating the countries marketing rights on him. A true 'beef bull' Hoff Limited Edition went on to gross over \$1.5 million dollars in both semen and progeny sales in the preceding years.

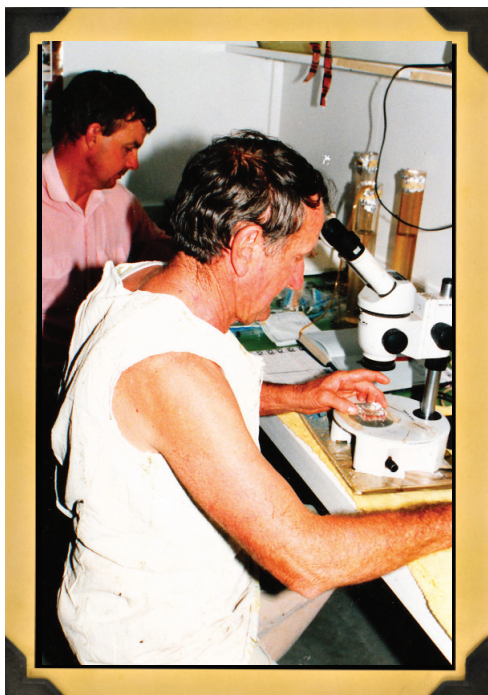
2006 marked a new beginning for Raff Angus with the purchase on four cows at the final dispersion sale of the world famous Hoff Scotch Angus herd in South Dakota USA. This resulted in the importation of 300 embryos that produced over 200 live calves. This set a new standard in type and sale demand for Raff Angus genetics.

After a twenty year absence from showing Raff Angus returned for a three year campaign within 2010 - 2012 where another five Royal Show Grand Championships were won across three states. This period witnessed the remarkable achievement of 10th generation Raff bred sire Raff Empire E269 who was undefeated on the country show circuit across Australia earning a total of 11 inter-breed Supreme Beef Exhibit titles over a two year period including the Melbourne Royal Angus Feature Show.

In 2011 Raff Angus won thirteen 'Supreme Beef Exhibit of the Show' awards from the fifteen shows attended in three states. At the remaining two shows they were awarded Junior Champion Angus Bull at the Sydney Royal and Reserve Senior Champion Bull at the Brisbane Royal Show - over 18,000 kilometres of trucking show cattle occurred that year. Also within 2011 the Ruffs saw unprecedented demand for Raff Angus bulls breaking all prior sale records when 127 bulls were offered and sold through the ring individually in 120 minutes for a new sale auction record of \$7,165 for a draft of 16 ½ month old bulls.

2015 marks Golden Anniversary for Raff Angus. To have been able break into an industry with virtually no money and no breeding tools in 1965 to now have survived 50 years of Angus Seedstock production is extremely humbling.

We are all extremely grateful to those that have supported us over these many years.



LEFT: Dr Syd Miller with David Raff during embryo collection in the early 1980's when the technology was first pioneered.



TOP RIGHT: Raff Empire E269 ~ 2012 Sydney Royal Show Senior & Grand Champion Angus Bull.



BOTTOM RIGHT: Hoff Limited Edition SC594 - all time high income earning sire that broke all Raff records.



King Island ... the land of opposites.

While many of their friends have chosen to retire to the city for a relaxed lifestyle of playing golf and bridge, David and Jill Raff have taken up a new challenge of farming on the lush pastures of King Island. Situated on the western side of Bass Strait, between Tasmania and the mainland, King Island is renowned for its reliable rainfall and lush green pastures that produce the premium King Island beef, cheese, crayfish and abalone.

The island will soon be the home of two new world class international golf courses set amongst spectacular scenery along its coast line.

Muir of Logie was named after David's ancestor's first farm in Scotland after migrating there from Germany in the eighteenth century. It is a 385 acre farm in the south east of the island and now the home for a nucleus of Raff Angus cattle. The intentions are to shift from a 100% Seedstock breeding program to an 80% commercial / 20% Seedstock business.

This will allow for the enjoyment of following 100% Raff Angus genetics through to carcasses - something never achievable in the north.

Fifty years in the breeding... all records broken

What better way to celebrate our fiftieth year of Angus Seedstock production than to breed our highest weight gaining bull ever. Raff Kingdom K76 born 17/03/14 was weaned at 300 days weighing 660kgs giving him an adjusted whole of life daily weight gain of 2.05 kg/day. Kingdom is sired by our 10th generation show sensation sire Raff Empire E269. His dam, Raff Blackbird F14, resulted from an embryo imported from one of the four Hoff Scotch Cap females purchased at their dispersion sale in 2006. She is pictured below weighing 1216kgs at 4 ¾ years of age.



RAFF EMPIRE E269 - sire of Raff Kingdom K76. Empire is pictured at 23 months weighing 1150kg with a whole of life daily weight gain of 1.55kg/day. During his show career he was undefeated on the country show circuit across Australia earning a total of 11 Interbreed Supreme Beef Exhibit titles over a two year period including the Melbourne Royal Angus Feature Show.



HOFF BLACKBIRD 5217 - dam of Raff Blackbird F14. She is also the dam of stud sires Raff Dakota D85, Raff Dynamite D345, Raff Dazzler D353, Raff Explosive E108 & Raff Ego E266. Her leading daughter Raff Blackbird D349 was the 2012 Brisbane Royal Show Supreme Champion Interbreed Female. Sons have sold to \$20,000 and daughters to \$16,000.



RAFF BLACKBIRD F14 - dam of Raff Kingdom K76. Blackbird is pictured at 4 ¾ years of age weighing 1216kgs. Kingdom was 8 months old when the photo was taken.



J & C APPEAL A10 - sire of Raff Empire E269. Appeal sons excelled for weight for age and dominated the sale ring for consistently achieving high sale prices topping at \$18,000 twice.



angus Raff angus 
Established 1965

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RAFF ANGUS ON DISPLAY AT BEEF AUSTRALIA 2015

Raff Angus on display at Beef Australia 2015

Celebrating their fiftieth year of Angus Seedstock production this year Beef Australia in Rockhampton is the ideal venue to display the culmination of the past 50 years of breeding. Having attended the first event in 1988 and following the success of their 2012 exhibits where Raff Empire E269 was named Grand Champion Angus Bull the Raff family will have on display nine bulls - six of which are direct sons on Raff Empire. One of those sons, Raff Hercules H411, will lead the display. With semen available internationally and with progeny already on the ground in the United Kingdom Hercules proves that not

all Angus are small in stature weighing just short of 1300kgs at 31 months. Three full genetic brothers Jumbo, Jackpot and Kingdom are also on display.



They are again Empire sons whose dams were imported as embryos after the purchase of Blackbird 5217 from the leading Hoff Scotch Cap herd in South Dakota. These three brothers have had full siblings sell to \$32,000 at auction with one of them Kingdom K76 smashing all previous weight for age records.

RAFF JACKPOT J448 - sired by Raff Empire E269. The consistency of type through the mating of Raff Empire E269 to the six Blackbird flush sister imports of O'Neill's Expedition x Hoff Blackbird 5217 has been phenomenal. Perhaps considered the most potent breeders ever produced in our fifty years.

Raff Angus bull sale brought forward



The Raff Family will be holding their annual on-property bull sale several weeks earlier to previous years with the new date now set at Monday August 10th. With the sale of the families total land aggregation at Drillham intended to go to auction on July 24th the Bull Sale's new date will help facilitate the timing of projected settlement. In their 50th year of Angus Seedstock production the offering will consist of a large line up of high quality HBR and APR bulls complete with all the visual and performance characteristics the family has adopted over the years. Selling at "Mundibulanga" Drillham and starting at 12 mid-

day on Monday 10th August the sale will kick off with seven of the nine bulls on display at Beef Australia 2015 followed by several used sires then a draft of older bulls compared to previous sales. For further sale updates or for catalogue requests please visit www.raffangus.com.au



Raff angus



Bull Sale

MONDAY 10 AUGUST 2015

MOORE STEPHENS
ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS

