



Director's Comment

Hard to believe that 2022 is fast drawing to a close. Very unusual to be in this situation and this time of year to have had rain across all Jumbuck stations with seasonal conditions looking fantastic everywhere. What a joy to be in this situation after some very average years, 2019 being lowest rainfall on record in the Tarcoola region and likewise at Wave Hill, although those records only go back 50 years.

While it's a time to rejoice when the season turns in our favour, we should never relax our vigilance when it comes to looking out for one another. Raising awareness around mental health in the bush needs highlighting, where once considered that perhaps country people are too practical or too resilient to suffer mental health issues, we all know that this is not so. With awareness comes the obligation on us all to "check in" with one another; sincerely, periodically. You may be

surprised at the response you get from those around you if you take the time. It was devastating to hear the death of a prominent and much respected wool business CEO recently who seemed such an affable, competent, capable guy.

In putting my heart on my sleeve, I (Callum) would like to share a personal experience. 2014 was a tragic year with the deaths of two valued employees in non-work-related car accidents. In feeling personally responsible for our staff it wasn't until a work colleague asked, "Callum, how are you going?", that it was akin to bursting my bubble and I became quite emotional. While this conversation took place some months later it made me realise and understand the emotional load I had been carrying over that time. The subsequent conversation certainly helped me come to terms with this and I am grateful the other person took the time to ask. This is my example of checking in: you may be surprised by what you find, but you may be more surprised to find how much better you

Continued over.



Wave Hill heifers.

might make another person feel by doing so.

While we talk about going that little bit further, we would like to commend the herculean efforts put in throughout this year by all crews on every station. We make special mention of Matt and Connie and the crew at Wave Hill as we find our feet there. To largely transform an entire station where water infrastructure, troughing, plumbing, pumping infrastructure and tanks were on the blink everywhere, into a situation where Matt can wake up every day without suspecting there's going to be a disaster to attend to on a daily basis. A lot more to do, but the back broken. An amazing effort.

We rarely acknowledge those closest to us whose 'behind the scenes' is so important. To Skye, Cordelia, mother and wife Fiona, words do not do justice for the stabilising influence, guidance, love and support you provide. Thank you.

To the office staff: we give gratitude for your combined continued dedicated service, good humour, tolerance in putting up with Directors and solid performance that rarely misses the mark. Led by PJ, Shane, in H.R., Monica, Emily, Meagan, Elyse, Katherine, Jennifer and newly returned Meaghan K, thank you so much. You are a joy to work with and provide an often unfettered, but acutely integral service, without which the stations would not operate. Thank you all individually and collectively, so much.

As the Christmas season approaches, we take this opportunity to thank you all for your efforts this year and hope you all have an enjoyable break however long or short, with family or friends, over the festive period.

Travel safely, take very special care on the roads and we look forward to an exciting and prosperous 2023.

Callum & Jock

Ω



BLINA

Abandoned Diamond Mine pit, now
Blina's new swimming pool!



Devonian Reef in Tunnel Creek paddock.



Just as things were really starting to dry out with day time temperatures beginning to push into the forties Blina and a large portion of the Kimberley was very fortunate to receive some very useful rainfall over the last few days of September, amounting to 67 mm at Blina homestead and some heavier falls across the run. This was good steady soaking rain that soaked in and fired up perennial grasses on the red and black soils, amounting to a good body of green feed by mid-October. I cannot ever recall mustering cattle in second round with fresh green feed in all paddocks.

Stock across the board with the help of plenty of dry season urea supplement were all still in good order before September rain and are now steaming along and gaining weight, which you do not normally see until mid-January. Hopefully the 2022/2023 wet season will be kind and we move into the 2023 dry season with stock at their best.



ABOVE: Pup Olsen and Saffie Yates installing solar array at

With forward contracts for our sale cattle into the live export market in place at very good rates, foot and mouth outbreaks in Indonesia reared its head resulting in a halt to the live export trade and uncertainty as to when the trade may resume. After considering our options and assessing our feed situation it was decided to be patient and wait it out, thankfully the trade resumed just in time, and we were able to sell before cattle lost any weight.

After first round mustering programme completed it was time to prepare camp horses, fishing, camping and rodeo gear and head off station and enjoy the local campdrafts, rodeos and race meetings we explored the beaches, gorges and unique beauty the Kimberly has to offer, not to mention some great fishing locations and the chance to hook the elusive barramundi. Mark Blount proving very capable on the fishing front, providing us with good eating fish and a break from beef.

Time in between first and second rounds also gave us the opportunity to install solar

water pumping equipment on five water bores, in an ongoing effort to reduce the use of fossil fuels to pump water and reduce our carbon footprint, it also allows us to develop new watering points to spread the grazing load and control stocking rates. The planning and implementing of banks and earth works continued in an ongoing effort to heal and prevent erosion, all combining to ensure we look after the land that looks after us.

Buffalo sighted close to Blina Swamp.



With the mustering season completed we say goodbye to the seasonal crew who head off to other adventures over the summer /wet season period. We wish you all the best and hope those who are not returning to Blina have learnt new skills that will be of benefit in their future endeavours. For those returning which include Razi Bin Rasheed as head stockman Razi is a very competent horse and cattleman, with a quick wit and sense of humour and can-do attitude, that makes for a fun working environment. Pup Olsen like Razi provides plenty of humour, with the ability to make light of difficult situations and get on with the tasks at hand, combined with a great work ethic and a give it ago attitude Pup has been a great support to management. Maggie O'Callaghan who always gives her best ,works hard and is developing into a competent and loyal employee , is good company and stands up for what she believes is right, Barb Peterson our Kiwi cook who, with Jacko the under nourished Jack Russel as her mascot, rules the kitchen with an iron fist and keeping everyone on their toes and in no doubt about what is acceptable and what is not, as well as providing plenty of good tucker and keeping the kitchen and dinning area in immaculate order. Alan Bin Rasheed who joined as mid-year and proved to be capable with horses and cattle good with steel fabrication and a fun person to have around. Gemma Laurisson who supports management, runs the office, provides first aid and counselling to staff as well as keeping gardens and homestead area neat and tidy, Gemma well supported by Margi Olsen who is a keen gardener, and guardian of the little Pups, Dawson and Colt both very lively and into everything. Jeneille Dolby, Razi's partner who along with Arrie and Tae Tae, support Razi,

keep the lawns watered and look after the poddy calves. Mark Blount who got through the grader program with ease and with quick thinking and a big effort saved the Blina grader from burning after an electrical fault, also good company with the right attitude.

Great to have the opportunity to send Razi and Allan Bin Rasheed and Ella Tatnell across to Meda with seven unbroken horses to attend a horse breaking clinic hosted by Gus Rose, returning five days later with very quiet and well broken young horses, that were put to work tailing weaners in second round. Thank you to Troy Haslet for organising school for stock camp staff with sound horse skills and as a reward for staff that have spent more than one season in a Jumbuck stock camp.

With 2022 nearly done and dusted we thank all those who did their best, and look forward to 2023, confident that we have the support of a great crew of people both on station and in the head office in Adelaide who are dedicated, work hard, adapt to change and support each other.

Jamie Laurisson
Ω

Blina crew, 2022.



BULGUNNIA

Significant rainfall made October a terrific month!



We have had 126mm of rainfall for the month of October which brings our yearly total to 248mm. Hayward swamp was still holding water after the rain we had in January along with a swamp on the north fence of south Bradman. As always, the rain started while Jacob Scales was up on School holidays, hopefully we see Jacob back over the Christmas holidays for some follow up rain, it is a pleasure to have a young bloke so interested in the wool industry and coming to help out every chance he gets.

Crutching and lamb marking are now completed. Bulgunnia crutched 20,300 along with shearing 1,000 stragglers and marking a further 1,800 lambs, very much kept us on our toes. With the help of some contractors Tom Harvey and Stacey Bennett who stepped in to run the yards about a week into crutching, Brett Goldsworthy was also on deck in the mustering crew. We look forward to having you all back for shearing 2023.

Colin Baily helped us in a flying capacity again this year along with wife Bec in the yards. Both are great assets to the team and we thank them greatly for making the effort.



Woody handling a stubborn ram.

Callum Smith has departed to head to Uni and do a Batcheler of Agriculture. We wish him the best in his future and hope to see him up on uni breaks – Callum is welcome back at Bulgunnia at any time. We welcome Peter Doldissen as station hand, Peter is stepping into the role well and proving himself as a forward thinker and hard worker. Jesse (woody) Miller has joined us from the US he was only supposed to stay with us for crutching but with a few staff departures has agreed to stay on until mid-December. We also welcome Sharon Dunn to the cooking role who is doing a fantastic job keeping the staff well fed along with new pilot, Jesse Howie as our resident pilot who keeps a close eye on us from above.

It has been a hectic year with a long shearing and a bout of Covid for all staff in the middle of lamb tailing holding us up, leaving us with little down time between main events. I am grateful for the staff's efforts over the year as it has surely been a testing one. I am also grateful for the support from head office and directors after some mistakes on my part. It is great to have such a good support base and work for such a family orientated company who are so willing and want people to succeed – thank you.

As we get ready to place rams for joining and with current conditions feed wise, we should see good lambing percentages for 2023 along with sale sheep heading off in great condition off shears.

Scott Walker
Ω



Pete bogged at Cedric.



COMMONWEALTH HILL

At the release of the July issue of the Jumbuck newsletter, we were only mid-way through lamb marking at that point. We ended up with a solid 92% finish - well done team.

Since then, we have completed crutching which flew by, only taking 13 days to crutch just under 28,000.

The country is looking fantastic with 111.9mm for November and our biggest fall being 52mm in mid-October. This is going to set us up perfectly going into next year and into shearing in February. The rain was very impressive filling all 15 dams on Commonwealth Hill and lots of water still laying out and about as you could imagine.

With some spare time on our hands after crutching we have been able to get stuck into some new development around the place including a new tank and plumbing up at Canna. This was much needed as the last tank decided it didn't want to hold water anymore! We also have a new solar set up at Neverfail, hopefully it lives up to its name.



Gotta look good!

Nicola Dam following recent rains.



Clare Bore and Mill were up recently to replace the header tank over the shearers quarters, fixing up our 22' comet at Claypan (that provides dam water to the homestead) and a 17' southern cross which provides water up our comet line. I cannot fault their work, they always do the job to a high standard. We were also lucky enough to have a new Starlink internet service installed which now makes office work a breeze.

We were lucky enough to attend the Glendambo Gymkhana last month, a great time was had by all especially Jamilah bringing home a ribbon in the team relay. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to provide the goods this year, hoping for better luck in 2023.

My self and Jamilah are loving the new role at Commonwealth Hill and can't wait to see what the future brings.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tom Wheelhouse
Ω

Canna Tank upgrade.



Ally thinking she could make it through the bog!



Few upgrades being made to the truck.

GLEN DEVON

It's been a very wet past few months!



The weather has been at the top of the topic list for everyone for the last few months and we are relieved to have shearing now behind us. The issue with the rain for us is mainly due to the yards, after rain, becoming a bit of a slippery skating rink! 206 bales were sent to Elders in Gillman, which is on par with the number of bales we have had with last year's clips. There was very little tender wool, but some weather affected backs came through as a result of the longing wet periods.

The last couple of mobs that came through the yards were starting to get dirty with the odd being unfortunately fly struck. So, it was well timed for them. The rain fall so far is 827mm leaving the country very soft and has limited the types of jobs that can be done and the vehicle used.

The Simmonds Transport carrier left a trailer for us to pack, in which they pick-up at the end once it's loaded. A great thing for us is having the extra storage. Due to the wet, the trailer went down to the gate cage under the tray and stopped half way down the leg by the time we got it out.

The yard and paddock work was completed with help from HG, Libby Langley (on the draft and race) and supported by Kaitlyn Lowe and Ashton Tilbrook.



Truck being loaded.

The task at hand are the sale sheep, wether lambs and CFT ewe hoggets which are to be drafted for an Auction-Plus sale. There will be some CFA black tag ewes destined for the meat works.

The olive grove has been maintained by Graham Andrewartha with the replacement trees that were put in a while-a-go, now coming along nicely.

Ken Prokopec has been hard at work trying to keep the gardens in shape during this difficult season of weather. His hard efforts show in the vegetable garden and the main lawn.

Mike Cochrane
Ω



Freshly shorn sheep making their way onto the truck.

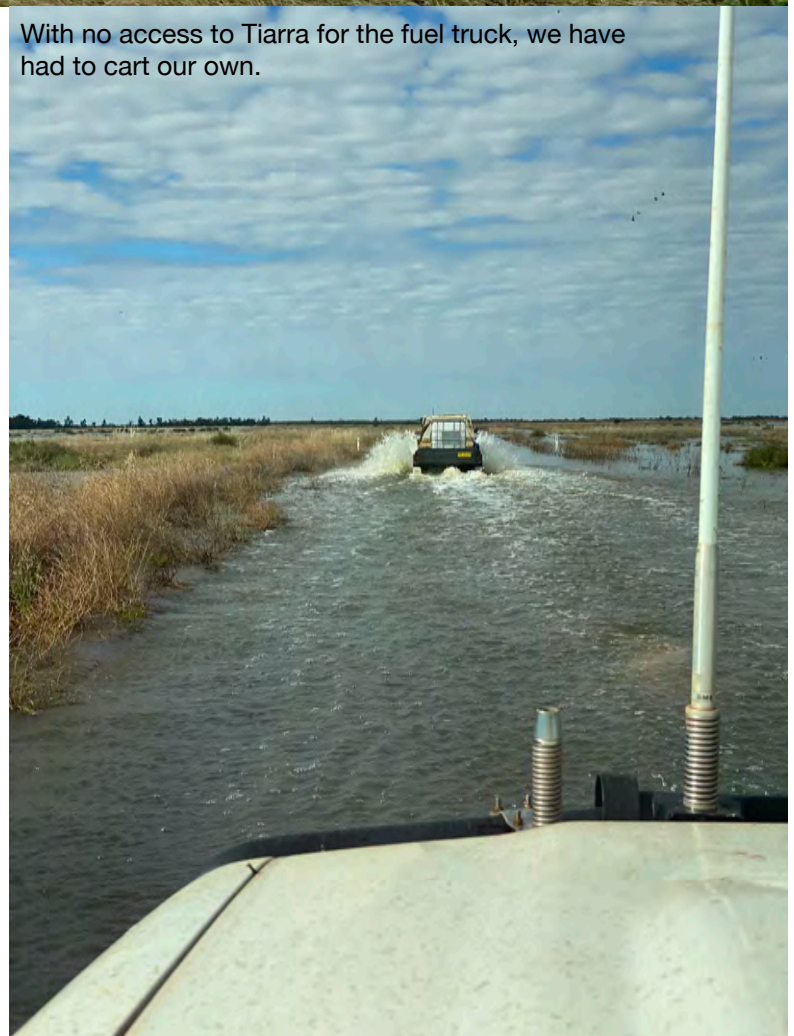


Lamb marking finished with a total of 1,6487 lambs marked for Gunbar and Tiarra. We then head straight into shearing after lamb marking, resulting in 47,358 shorn with 1,219 bales pressed which was a pretty good result. Shearing was done by Robbie Crouch's team with fourteen shearers on. At Gunbar they shored 3,323 lambs in one day knocking out just over 33,000 in three weeks.

Some sale sheep have been sold with '21 drop wethers making \$134 over the hooks and CFT ewes \$176 to \$286 and '22 drop wether lambs \$130. The sheep market has certainly gone back a long way, especially on last year. We still have more '22 drop wethers and CFA ewes to sell when things dry up allowing us to get trucks in.

The season has been crazy over here with a dry spell of 6-8 weeks prior to shearing where we watered the irrigation crop which was showing signs of the dry pinch. Since shearing finished in August, we have had massive amounts of rain with Tiarra receiving 294mm for October and 632 mm so far this year with Tiarra having an average of 312mm. Gunbar has received 189mm for October and 578mm

With no access to Tiarra for the fuel truck, we have had to cart our own.



Barley crop irrigation.



for the year and an average of 350mm. So, things are very wet with water laying all over paddocks and swamps now full or close to it. The Lachlan River is in major flood at present with a lot of our river country under water and a huge rise heading this way in the next month. Because the river is so high the Cabbage Garden creek is running through Gunbar cutting us off from the northern part of Gunbar, with the only access at present via one road which I feel will go under in the near future. We are experiencing many road closures in the area due to flood waters with all roads to Tiarra currently cut. We can only access Tiarra through Hillston at present, but you still have to drive through water that is up to the steps on the Landcruiser.

With this amount of rain we are having quite a fly problem especially in the young sheep. Additionally, we are also experiencing a big worm issue so we are currently jetting and drenching all sheep with some for the second time in the past two months.

The Barley crop at the irrigation has gone very well but we are waiting for the ground to dry out so we can get on it. We hope the river will

River water flooding in the irrigation.





Water running under the culvert near cattle yards.



Driveway to Gunbar Homestead.



Loading rams for the Northwest Pastoral - road is a bit too wet for the Semi!

not flood it all out before this can be stripped as it looks like it will be a very good crop if we can get it off. We estimate it could go for between 7-8 ton to the hectare.

Justin Lee at Tiarra, along with help from Angela, Josh and Cameron, have all but completed the renovations on the Tiarra house and they have done a great job.

Needless to say over here we are ready for the rain to stop and some hot weather to set

in to allow us to get around again.

Editor note: since Dominic wrote this piece, they received a further 70mm of rain!

Dominic Jennings
Ω

River water in C Block at irrigation.



Jack and Angus after dragging sheep of an island in a swamp in Lighthouse!

The road out to Tiarra.



KILLARNEY

Reflecting on the year that was, we are feeling incredibly proud of what we have achieved this year at Killarney. There have been highs, lows, blood, sweat and tears with plenty of laughs in between. We couldn't have asked for a better crew our first year managing at Killarney, we really hope everyone will leave feeling proud of what they have achieved and with many new skills.

Our stock camp has now completed the mustering and processing of breeders for second round, having some early isolated storms at the end of October meant we had to change our programme around a couple of times but have finally managed to get our final breeder paddock complete with weaners now all processed and walked out to respective paddocks. Having tragically lost our core work plant two years ago and many of our older horses having reached retirement or been spelled after first round, we had to rely heavily on a young green plant for second round, which at times was challenging but also very rewarding and a chance for the crew to put their horse skills to the test.

Breeders are holding on well considering the dry year we have had, supplementation and the pulling off of weaners a couple of weeks earlier this year definitely has helped.

Charlie Paton handling a weaner foal.



With another well below average wet season, we embarked on a huge water bore drilling program. With 9 new bores being drilled by Stuart Osmotherly. All new bores were then

Keeper heifers.



The crew swapping stories around the campfire.



Abbie Jewell and Penny Crothers proving that teamwork makes the dream work!



equipped with solar pumping equipment, with a total of 13 new solar set ups for 2022. John Brockhurst was busy on the fencing side putting in 25km of new fence also building 6 new tanks and troughs at various locations. Stock camp and Stuart Jones on 12g have also been kept busy running 10 km of poly to tanks from new bore sites

On the staff front would firstly like to acknowledge our hard-working leaders; Chelsea Walton and Peter Lord, you both set a great example for the younger crew always putting in 100% as well as always holding high animal welfare and work standards. Chad Golding our in between man for keeping lick up to cattle, equipment up to contractors and jumping into whatever position is needed day to day. To the crew Alex Gaylard, Jock Triggs, Charlie Paton, Sam Osborne, Penny Crothers, Emma Massey, Tom Kiss, Tejay Angland, Abbie Jewell, Phoenix Richards, Isla Smith and Jimmy Magoffin thanks for your hard work and high enthusiasm outlook on work, you really have outlined that attitude is everything and it has been a pleasure having you all in our team this year at Killarney!

Henvil Barroz, our bore man, has had a huge year keeping waters up during such dry times as well as jumping on a horse when needed, there isn't much Henvil can't do. Stu Jones on his 8th year as grader driver arrived in March with a big programme ahead, whether it be in the grader or loader he has done a top job.

With all cattle work complete we look forward to some down time and look to the sky, hoping for some very needed soaking rain!

Michael Stanley
Ω

On the domestic side, a big thank you to Amy Craig for keeping us all fed so well. Chrissy Barroz always keeping gardens and buildings immaculate and the grass green even with half the wallaby population having moved in! I would also like to add a very special thank you to Amy, Chelsea, Chrissy, Henvil and Stuart for been such a great support and help to Alex and myself in our first-year managing, your friendships and experience in your respective jobs are very much valued, and we look forward to welcoming back next year Amy for her 7th year, Chelsea for her 5th year, Henvil and Chrissy for their 10th year with Jumbuck at Killarney and Stu for his 8th year at Killarney. Also, a shout out to Isla Smith who returned for second round, Isla is a familiar face having done 4 years previous at Killarney, so it was great to have her back for second round and to also have her returning next year, also great to have Jock Triggs returning for the 2023 season.



Cooper catching up on the Jumbuck news!



Henvil Barroz putting sale cattle onto the weigh bridge.

MCCOYS WELL

What a season! Plenty of green as storms approach.



With all the rain, it's made getting around the run a challenge but easier for the stock to get a drink!



I would like to start off by saying thank you to Jumbuck for the opportunity I've been given to start working with them and taking on the management of McCoys Well. Starting in July the season was pretty average, very glad to say this has turned around!

Jamestown flooring have done a good job in the main house and cottage. They installed new floorboards and carpet which have really started to tidy the place up nicely. Additionally, JCS Building have installed a new slow combustion heater and are coming back to finish off a few other jobs.

In August we started shearing with the help of Jordan Koch, John Koch, Cameron Kakoschke, Issac Osborne and Amy Ray.

Jordan and Cameron kept the mustering under control and Issac and Amy controlled things in the yards. Shearing was a little drawn out with a few wet days but we managed to cut out on the 8th of September with 12,147 shorn for 236 bales of wool.

In late August the rain started falling across McCoys and we

recorded 13.5mm for the month. This was followed by 69mm for September, 121mm for October and 25mm at the start of November. This has resulted in most dams filling and the country has responded really well. We will hold on to our wether lambs for now with all this green feed about, they are gaining weight everyday.



Elsewhere, the pump at Bundarra bore has been replaced and the old steel line has been replaced with new poly. The HP2 pump has been renewed with a new Grundfos solar pump and currently all is going well on that front.

The rams are going out in the middle of November and with the season the way it is I'm expecting a good joining.



Bobby Wedding
Ω

Just... incredible!



MEDA

The 2022 mustering season has all but ended with the last lot of breeders being processed and turned-out early November. Breeders have been productive with an average weaning of 75% across the board. A lot of calves branded in the second round and another big calf drop underway, productivity is looking positive for the 2023 season.

The weather has been pretty kind to us all year with the wet season rolling on through into mid-April, then we got another good widespread rain ranging between 20mm-40mm in early May and again an early break to the wet with rain in early October ranging from 50mm-100mm. Country has held on well all year and all classes of stock are in good condition heading into the 2022/2023 wet season.

It has been a bit of a funny year regarding sale cattle, prices being very high early in the year before FMD put panic into everyone and all but stopped cattle moving. We were fortunate enough to be able to hold some lines of sale cattle to let the market pick and settle before moving the rest. All in all we have had a very

positive outcome on the sales programme for this year.

We have had a good run at water improvement across the run, replacing a few more windmills with solar and old turkey nest with tanks. These steady improvements on the waterfront over the past 5 year have made for the waters to be a much simpler job and a lot more reliable. Very rewarding for guys like Jason Deacon and Andy Hallen who have been with the company for quite a few years now and have seen it all change from chasing water with pump jacks to now worrying about what we are to do with the constant overflowing waters.

I would like to thank Andy and Ann Hallen for the upkeep on the Kimberley Downs homestead and their hospitality, always a good little retreat for the crew when they head over there. Andy has done a great job on his half of the run, with several new solar assembly's being installed.

Jason Deacon has had a great year making sure all vehicles, machinery and equipment are all serviced and operating as they should. As well as the mechanical works Jason has as always done a high-quality job on the water run with new improvements and upkeep on existing waters.



Yarding up at Brandys.

Stu Knickle has had another good year on the grader, his five years of operating the grader here has really started to show the benefits. With roads and fence lines improving a lot and erosion slowing down in most areas where he is working. Stu also spent a little time on the loader this year and has done a top-quality job on the erosion control he was working on.

The 2022 stockcamp have a couple of weeks left and will be finished mid-November. They have been a pleasure to have here for the season, they have all tried their best and have always had a great attitude. Lead well by Declan Childs who has really stepped up another level in his role as head stockman and I look forward to working with Declan again next year as he returns for his 6th season at Meda.

Mel Fechner (Wave Hill 2021), Leonie Heath, Grace McCallum, Ed Hodge are all returning for a second season next year. All 4 of these guys have had a great year and have a very good attitude toward work, looking forward to having these guys back. Skye Rathbone will also be returning as the govie for next year, very helpful having Skye around fitting in with the kids very well and being able to help out with mustering, yard work

or anywhere that is needed thank you.

Harry Manifold and Airlie Bowes have also done a great job this year and thank them for the efforts they have put in. I would also like to thank Hugh Stonier who is finishing up after 3 years to pursue a trade. Hugh has been a big part of the team at Meda and has always put in 110% at whatever is asked of him, thank you for your efforts and good luck with your plans.

As the weather starts warming up and we get closer the wet here is hoping that we have some good rain across the board to set us up for another good season next year.

Troy Haslet
Ω



BBQ down at the river.

Mustering of horses in the paddock.



MOBELLA

336.6mm of rain recorded for 2022!



We are settling in for our quieter times now with lamb marking, crutching and ram shearing done and dusted. We have recorded a bit of liquid gold from the sky in the last month or so, with October totalling 158.8mm for the month and thus far 336.6mm for the year. Not a bad effort considering we had no rain to speak of for 4 or 5 months during the year. As of December, all dams are full and ready for the summer.

The Mobella swimming pool will last a good 3 years, I would estimate, so good times to come!

We have said goodbye to some people who have gone off to new prospects and we wish them well on their new adventures. Keely left in October to become a diesel mechanic and Caz has gone south in November to await her new grandchild's arrival. A big thank you to you both for your hard work, team spirit, and for keeping us entertained. Mobella is a lot quieter without



Benny Kuhrt making the most of the new Homestead water features.

you both. Lenny Willis, our contractor, has been here for some time has now departed but will return for shearing next year. Benny Kurht and Zak Bailey continue to hold up the fort!

Crutching has been completed finally, with poor Harley left to do some of the work by himself

Rainfall around the Homestead.



The crew having a breather.



again. A big shout out to him for being a trooper and finishing the job, Rob and Emma were on the trailer as well and did a great job keeping the sheep up and sorting the wool. A big job done and dusted with a smile and a funny story when the days were getting long, appreciated by all involved. Thank you.

We have a new recruit by the name of Alex Chubb, who has just joined us here at Mobella. If he survives to summer, I'm sure he will be handy! We are expecting a couple for the cook's position and a jackaroo, however they are yet to arrive so I can't comment on them yet. Except to say they must be keen, travelling to the edge of the earth for a position on Mobella!!

We have had a big program on Mobella with Defence force activities, during the big rains in

Cleaning up sheep during crutching.



Pelican Dam in November.





The crew learning how to crutch.

October. While we were over the moon with the rain, they were struggling to complete their work. After battling to get around for the best part of a week, they had some success with their testing program.

After a long time being flat out doing stock work, we are looking forward to some maintenance jobs including windmill work, pedestals on troughs and other jobs that have been pushed back. I will leave you with some pictures of our dams, and water features.

Merry Christmas to all, and hope you have a quiet summer and a prosperous new year.

Tasha Masters
Ω



The crew recently at Challenger

Great weekend at the Glendambo Gymkhana with Keely, Lenny and Tasha all competing.



MOUNT VICTOR

Damn near perfect! What a great season 275mm which is not too much of a good thing. It's just right. The country is looking magnificent. But alas there is a down side with such a good season, High humidity, bogged vehicles, Stuffed up plans and flies. Rather minor things to contend with really considering the alternative of just a few years ago.

Fortunately we are only a few months on from shearing which will alleviate the fly risk to some extent. We have had more rain this year than was measured for 17, 18, 19 and 20 altogether. The stock don't look all that athletic at the moment, they waddle. We took delivery of 710 Glen Devon ewes, they were refugees escaping the flooded pastures of Mount Pleasant.

We shored in the end of August beginning of September and fortunately only lost a little time to wet weather. The sheep were shorn well by Glen Bauer and his team from GB shearing. 17486 were shorn for 441 bales. 40 above budget. We had Mark Spiggs from

Parkinsons Creek.



Bogged!

Bring sale weathers in for drafting.



Glen Devon ewes coming off the truck. This was the only place we could unload thing without risk of getting the truck bogged!



Az and Tyler laying down droppers with the fencing trailer between Woolshed-House Paddock.



Nice and neat: fence at Woolshed-House Paddock.



Wrights Air mustering for a week before shearing and he did a great job saving us many kms of sore butts. Extra members to our team at shearing were Brittainy Thompson who soldiered on with an injured foot after an incident with a motor bike and a gutter, the foot ending up in a place where it should not have fitted. Tyler Harslett and my son, Felix - thank you for your efforts and we wish you well in your future endeavours.

In July we had work experience girls Maddie Donnelly and Lilli Sanders from Urrbrae do a week at Mount Victor. They must have enjoyed it as they have returned now for another week to do some fencing which will go towards their course and we are very happy to have them back. I have great people working with me at Mount Victor Eliza Duroux, Aaron Bates, Aaron Oldfield and Mary Blackmore, all are clocking up some serious time at Mount Victor. They are a great team to work with and we work hard but have a lot of fun as we do. Every one is becoming very interested in landscape rehabilitation work, especially Eliza, who along with Aaron B, attended the Werriapalpa Sticky Beak day looking at 10 years of rehab work. Eliza came back greatly enthused, fortunately



White emu has been seen getting around in the area!



or unfortunately there is vast scope for this enthusiasm to be directed on Mount Victor /



Baby Wedge-Tailed Eagle.

Plumbago.

Just before shearing, Jimmy Reilly renovated the plumbing in the quarters and cottage installing 2 instant gas hot water systems and replacing all the old galv pipe with copper. On being asked her thoughts on the new installation Mary's reply was "Bloody awesome!". The old boiler was retired, no more chasing boiler wood, no more having to remember to light the bloody thing. Bob and Barb Ferguson were here recently putting a veranda on the west side of Mary's cottage which should make it far more liveable during the coming months. James Thomas was here last week cleaning out Mt Victoria bore and Ninnery bore and will be back next week to look at Arkaroola Bore. He is very a good operator with his old percussion rig for this kind of work.

The Yunta Race Club building was officially

open by Rowen Ramsey last weekend. What a magnificent structure for Yunta. There has been 4000 volunteer hours going in to building it for the community.

At Mount Victor we add yet another rare and endangered species to the register along with the Yellow Footed Rock Wallabies, Purple Heart and Curamona Daisy. The Slender Bell Fruit is usually found in the northern Flinders but a colony have been found on the bottom corner of Mount Victor. This tree traces its origins back 65 million years to a far more temperate climate.

How do I conclude this newsletter? Usually we would be hoping for more rain but in this season that could be a two edged sword, I can only ask that the season goes on as it is. Damn near perfect.

Richard Williams
Ω

Mount Victor, Plumbago and McCoys Well's Utes all lined up at the meat baiting site.



Catching the lightning show while trying to beat the storm home!



Mt Victor crew from Left to Right: Brittany Thompson, Felix Williams, Eliza Duroux, Aaron Bates, Aaron Oldfield and Richard Williams.



MULGATHING



Aggregation tank and yards.

What a difference a good rain makes. 98mm for October over 8 days spread across the month could not have been better. With little rain since January, we certainly were looking for it especially in the Nt West of the station. This brings our total for the year to the end of October to 199mm. We are now set up for the next six months which should result in another good lamb marking.

Considering that in 2019 we had the lowest rainfall on record at just 34.9mm meant we sold a lot of sheep off shears in 2020 as well as sent sheep away on adjustment. With only a 56% lambing in 2020, this resulted in one of the lowest shearing tallies for Mulgathing at 16,978 in February 2021.

Moving forward, coming off a 110% lambing and looking to shear around 30,000 sheep in Feb 2023 the future is looking good, and with a bit of luck and some timely rainfall we hope we can sustain these numbers for the next couple of years.

Crutching was over in 12.5 days 315 rams shorn and 25,222 crutched. CC Burgess returned this year after a year away due to

Muckanippie all under water.



Becky Casanova making sure the yards run smoothly!



First day of crutching in 2022. Lachlan looking very happy with himself!



Another windmill due for retirement.



Kitchen came up great after 4 days of scrubbing.



The crutching team hard at it.



Covid, fantastic job done by them as well as a big shout out to our crew that managed to keep the sheep up. Big effort is required for all to pull off such a quick crutching. All sheep with in a week of finishing were all placed back out and settled which is also big achievement by all.

On the staff front we have seen a few changes. Jenai Renna our cook for the last 18months has departed and has been replaced by Robyn Cox. Amber Harris and Lachlan Gill are also departing and they are heading back to the farming country. Will be sad to see them go, they came individually but as it seems quite common at Mulgathing they leave as a

The lucky last pen for crutching.



A few of the lamb marking crew... poor Amber had to stand!



grow in their roll as joint Overseers. I was lucky to recently take a few weeks off and they managed Mulgathing well in my absence. They admitted it was easier this time round than 12 months ago.

Happy festive season to all and fingers crossed the rain keeps coming.

Darren Wilson
Ω

loved-up couple. Good luck to you both and thank you for your time. I will miss you both.

We welcome Hamish Ducat another New Zealand pilot. He is finding out mustering is not as easy as it first looked but I am sure he will work out what a sheep looks like moving forward. Very unusual for a Kiwi not to know what a sheep looks like.

Codie Pengilly and Rosie Mahaney continue to

RAWLINNA

Well the season out here on the Nullarbor has really turned around in the last few months. We've had over 3 inches of rain all over since the start of September and over 4 inches down south near the highway. This, coupled with a half decent winter on the country south of Depot, has seen the spear grass really take off down there, especially in the Nightshade block. So much so it would carry a decent fire in the right conditions this summer. This is a first in the 4 years I have been managing Rawlinna, and certainly a return to the traditional seasons I can remember as a kid. I am absolutely stoked that Tallaya and I, and our ever faithful Jillaroots and Jackeroos, are getting the chance to see the Nullarbor turn around from a place of dust and skinny sheep to the great pastoral country it is.

While the rain and grass down south are an excellent good news story and I am over the moon about seeing grass in places I haven't for a long time, the season was not all that kind to us before September. Unfortunately, the 1.3 million acres of Rawlinna which lie north of Depot missed out on most of the winter rain. It was marginal at best on most of our breeding sheep country and very average up along the Trans Line. Remembering that we have only just been hanging in there for the last 4 years and are coming off a pretty low base, the country has a lot of rejuvenating to do to get the feed back up in front of the stock.



Resident crutcher and local legend, Jarrod Cox, gives Aishah Muir a crutching lesson.

Here comes the rain. Another storm rolls in over Rawlinna and drops another half an inch right after lamb shearing. Thank you!



We woke up to this one morning in October. It was a sight for sore eyes after many years of dry seasons.



Waddalyniya Lake - One of the many flooded dongas in Waddalyniya in October. This is the first time I have ever seen this one on the Phone Line full. Photo was taken a few days after the rain had fallen.



The dry conditions up north meant the ewes didn't get the good feed off shears, or while lambing in May and June, and that has certainly taken its toll on them. Our lambing as a whole was pretty ordinary, coming in at 52%. We ended up with just over 6,800 lambs, about 1/3 of what we should be getting in a good year here at Rawlinna. That is what a few years of drought and some dog predation will do to you, that said, things should be on the up for Rawlinna now. I feel as though we are done

with the tough times and are back on the road to once again be the mightiest sheep station in the world.

When our lamb marking started in June, the first few paddocks down the Phone Line gave us about 50% and both ewes and lambs were pretty scrawny. As we worked out towards the east, around Black Wattle where we have had a little bit of rain consistently for a few years, the Black Tags delivered a few paddocks at 80-90% but the ewes were still doing it pretty tough.

The lambing percentage and the condition of the lambs tapered off significantly as we moved north of the 20 Mile, so much so that I pulled up on the marking in August, having only completed about 60% of the circuit. I left the north west and western side of Rawlinna as handling the sheep out there would only serve to hurt the lambs. What was great to see however was absolutely no evidence of dog activity among the lambs up to that point. It has been some time since we have been able to say that!

Nightshade Grass - The spear grass at Nightshade is pretty impressive this year after a good winter down south.



Come September and we finally got an inch of rain over the whole place, I even gave the guys the day off in celebration. A promise I had made to them many years ago. "We get an inch of rain, you get the day off". We recommenced marking the western side when we started crutching, which began at the start of October. The figures out there were very lack luster with the old Blue Tag ewes delivering about 25% lambing and the maidens back to 15%. It was all very dry out the west even after the inch at the beginning of September, but the rain did mean there was a bit more energy in the stock.

Now, after some consistent falls through October we have a good body of feed all over Rawlinna and the sheep have been described by the best looking crutcher on Rawlinna (Jarrod Cox) as barrels on legs. They have a fair bit of kick in them too, sending some of our more slightly built Jillaroes and Jackeroos sprawling as they try and catch the naughty ones who get in the wrong pen. With a solid blanket of feed everywhere the ewes will be cycling and should give us a good chance of a decent lambing in 2023.



Poppy gets shorn - Ross Wood was the man for shearing Poppy this year. He did the business with hand shears down in the Margaret River. Thanks Dad.

The dingo activity on Rawlinna was all but snuffed out until a few roos breached the eastern netting recently and we had a dog or two get in. GNRBA dogger Teen Ryan has been keeping some pressure on the old resident

dingos down on the Distaff Line and has got two this year. That is a whole lot better than the 30 odd she was catching just a few years ago. It's a sure sign we are on the right track when we only get a sniff of dog activity here and there and I am proud of the work we have done to get our netting back up to speed.

As I write this, Damon Wade from Southern Ag Contracting and his men are laying 20km of new lapping on the eastern side of Rawlinna, immediately north of where the Arrubiddy northern netting comes up against ours. This is an area of immense roo pressure and the new netting will go a long way to keep them from punching holes in our 60 year old fence. The design of this upgrade is one we had success with in 2020, being 8/90/15 hinge joint netting which can be rapidly laid and strained against the tired old fence. The upgrade gives the old fence a new lease on life for a pretty good price, which I am sure the Directors are stoked about. The hinge joint forms a new lapping and a solid lower section coming up the old fence about 600mm – right where the roos hit it hardest.

Our staff have ebbed and flowed a bit since June. Tex Maas has been doing a great job as the Depot overseer since he arrived in April, but hasn't seen a whole lot of action during lamb marking since our breeding ewes are all north of Depot. He is in for a bit of hard graft as the crutching moves into his territory but I know the process is in safe hands as the operation moves south this week. Craig

Chandler has been great as the Homestead overseer and now knows a heap more about sheep, windmills, bores, bikes, jackeroos and everything else we deal with on stations. He even managed to grade the Carlisle Rd down to Black Wattle and make it into a super highway. It is probably the first time that road has seen a grader blade in about 60 years.

Chelsea Hansford (who arrived here just 13 months ago fresh from the city) has been a stellar Head Jillaroo and has learned a whole lot about leadership and responsibility in recent months. I was able to step away from the lamb marking cradle and crutching trailer and let her lead the guys when the overseers were elsewhere. Chelsea is backed up by Aeishah Muir (ex Arrubiddy), Russell (Rusty) Cannon and Heath Scanlon who now have a few runs on the board in terms of time at Rawlinna. New faces are Jonas Svensson from Sweden, Lennart Sannig from Germany and Jordan McQuie (another descendent of Murray and Marg McQuie). Governess Teish Keam has been keeping the kids in line during the week and showing off her mustering prowess on the weekends and last but certainly not least of all, Sam Faulkner from NZ has been doing a great job in VH-SKM. Sam started in August, right before we finished lamb marking and had a few solid days on the bike before he took to the skies for crutching. This is a first for me as I normally end up getting a pilot just before we start mustering and often struggle to give them any time on the ground before it is on like donkey kong.

Grass in Deluge - Good covering of spear grass out on the western side of Rawlinna



Girl's bathroom - Renovated bathroom in the girl's house. A big step up from the dingy, cramped and cluttered room it was.



On the subject of pilots, Tallaya Wood passed her PPL exam and flight test in July this year, exactly 2 years and a day after first embarking on her formal training in 2020. She is now fully qualified to fly anywhere in Australia, and for those of us living on the rocky Nullarbor, it's a good skill to have. Well done. Learning aeronautics, MET and air law, a 10hr round trip to town for lessons and studying for exams all whilst running a household and helping on the station is a truly mean feat and we are all really proud of you.

Alongside marking and crutching we have had a fair bit of maintenance happen in recent months. We got around all our mills, giving them a good service and got some much needed welding of spokes done thanks to Craig and Tex. I was tired of seeing an otherwise good piece of column worn out on just one side and instigated a program of turning each bore string every 12 - 24 months to mitigate it. This should ensure that the rods and columns wear a different spot wherever there is a deviation in the hole and hopefully get more life out of each string. The process is simple, just rotate the columns 90 degrees (anticlockwise as to not unscrew the rods) and add an elbow to allow the delivery to be reconnected. No need to set up rigging or lift anything, time will tell if this works.

A few tanks have been sorted out by plastering, namely Mull and Sir William, and of significance, the pipeline to Top Rock is back on line and the tank is full and watering sheep. This tank was empty and the pipeline cut when I got here in 2018 (the work of Ross Wood - but he had his reasons) and never watered a

sheep until Chelsea got it all sorted in September. It is great to see this piece of lovely country up and running again.

Katriona bore is now running on a timer. This is a solar setup which struggles with supply, simply not getting enough hours of pumping

each day to fill the tank. I have a generator which starts in the evening and turns off early morning, allowing the solar to do the job during the day. This will give us significant fuel savings and so far has been great at keeping the tank full, even overflowing a few times.

The new bore at Bullcamel, drilled in December 2021, has been equipped with a solar pump and panels and has been a great success. The setup has not yet been fully load tested in the peak of summer when everyone is watering hard, but I think it will be fine. We now have so much water at Bullcamel that we actually turn the other solar bores off periodically to stop the tank overflowing everywhere and have not had to start the diesel in anger since we set up the new bore.

Black Wattle was also converted to solar, giving the old faithful 25' Southern Cross which has been working there since the late 1980s and before that at Breakaway bore on Moonera, a well-earned rest. I pulled the bore in July and saw it needed a new rod string after 4 years of service. Not having the manpower on hand to deal with it on the day, I dropped a subby down the hole and to my surprise, it kept up ok. After a few dry winters to keep me on my toes, it has been great not to have to chase water on both the Bullcamel and Black Wattle pipelines this winter. Whether it is the solar/electrical submersible setups or just a normal damp winter is another question, but it is looking good either way.

We also have spent quite a bit of time and energy fixing up some of the quarters, renovating bathrooms and laying new floor in the cottage. Thanks to Gary Macnamara, these

buildings now look a whole lot better.

As always, I provide you updates on Poppy the Black Merino, who was exiled from Rawlinna in late 2021 after smashing one too many garden plants, including a cactus growing near the cookhouse. Poppy is living with my brother Daniel and his family down in Margaret River. Daniel tells me you can call her out of the mob of Whiltshire wethers she lives with and she comes running up to talk to you. In order to keep some routine in her life, she was due for shearing around this time of year, and since her normal shearer Jarrod Cox was busy here, long time Jumbuck man, Ross Wood had to do the business. He shored Poppy on location last month using a set of mulesing shears which he panel beated a bit to get them set to cut the wool nicely. Maybe not the neatest shear she has had, but not a bad job for a set of hand shears and the nostalgic value is impressive. Thanks Ross.

Another big thanks to Ross for grading the road from the homestead all the way to Bullcamel. This was a very worn out track, with decades of constant use and it had done its time. He has done a fantastic job on this and in time it will settle to be a great road much like the Phone Line which he graded up in early 2021 and is

now rock solid and smooth.

We can never tell exactly what the future holds, in any walk of life and certainly not in the pastoral business. We can however, reflect on what we have done, learn from our mistakes and plan for the future as best as we can with what knowledge we do have. Be it seasonal or economic outlooks, plans discussed as we drive around or just intuition. For us at Rawlinna we are very proud of what we have achieved in the past four years, doing plenty of hard work, late nights and setting out to achieve impossible goals on a daily basis in order to get the flock and infrastructure back into reasonable order. Our netting is in good order, our waters are in good order and we have enough internal fencing and yards back to make the place run reasonably well. Our flock is small but they are tough and in not too bad shape for the back end of a drought. The future for the animals looks bright in light of the change of the season and as such the future for the station should also be bright.

Jimmy & Tallaya Wood
Ω

Tallaya in Plane – Tallaya obtained her PPL in July this year and took me for a fly over Kalgoorlie as a celebration. Well Done



SPRINGFIELD

The old cow is doing a good job!



Annual Ryegrass pasture doing well.

Winter had well and truly arrived by July and saturation levels were finally on the rise. Daily temperatures were back into single digits and at this time of the year, those cows with calves at foot have generally lost about 100kgs. With the harsh conditions, growing calves without much available feed becomes difficult, so we look for top quality cereal or legume hay which is so important at this time of year. Surprisingly, we had a bit of a dry July with only 44mm in the gauge but it did allow us to finally free up some time to get out with the boom sprayer. Time was still limited between feeding and other jobs, but I managed to target a few areas with heavy variegated thistle. Whilst the conditions were still OK, Kym Sherwood was back to continue piling up stumps in the plantation and felled a big row of old pines by the stables.



At the beginning of August all cattle came back through the yards for calves to have their booster vaccine and record their first weight. We took the opportunity to move cows on to the silage crops to graze for a few days on the way out to

make the most of good nutrition. August was already shaping up to be another wet month with dry days becoming scarce. Callum continued to feed cattle whilst I took some



ABOVE: Wet conditions made getting around a boggy affair.

annual leave at the end of August.

Rain was consistent into September and we usually top up the crops with hay booster fertilizer, but we just couldn't get onto the paddocks at the right time. I also needed to spray for chick weed that appeared this year with the weather being colder than usual. Very minimal work was able to be done on the

tractor without making too much of a mess (and getting bogged). There was a small window of opportunity in mid-October to spray some nitrogen and fungicide on most of the crops except the gullies and managed get it done in not so ideal conditions.

All cattle are pregnancy scanned at this time of the year and then look at weaning calves early December. It's always a good opportunity to check weights from cows to see how they are travelling coming out of winter. All cows are certainly picking up in condition with most cows putting on an average daily weight gain of just under a 1kg. Colin Tregrove from the University of Adelaide Vet Clinic scanned the first 3 mobs, and then Mandi Carr came out for the remaining. This year we ended up with a slightly better result with 92.5% of wet cows out of 323 scanned.

We thought we had a wet Spring last year with having to cut hay and silage towards the end of November. This year, one of our wettest months has been November, and with 7 months of consistent rainfall I have recorded 200mm more for the same period. All the sown pasture has now gone to seed, and we are still unsure when we can cut. All hay contractors are so far behind in cutting this year and paddocks are still waterlogged with water seeping out of the soil. Hoping within the next week we can cut the majority and still produce some decent feed for the year ahead.

With the weather finally making a turning point

Rex cleaning the header tank.





and Summer fast approaching, Don Paelchen has returned with his crew (Dog & Tyson) to replace some tired fences around and behind the hay shed. It will be nice not to have stock break into the hay shed! Also, with pines removed behind the stables Don will be working on the front paddock for the next month or two building some smaller paddocks. Rex Hall has been busy up at the main header tank finally replacing the roof that had been collapsing for some years. Rex also cleaned out the tank which was getting very smelly from the algae in the dam water. The water from the main dam has been stirred up so much from heavy rainfall this year it's has burnt out the motor on the pump with debris and mud. Zac from Birdwood pumps has hooked up the pipe directly from the bore so we can finally have clean water for stock.

I think we are all ready for some sunshine here at Springfield after a long cold (WET) winter! Busy times ahead though, preparing for the dry season and the ongoing threat of bushfires will be on our minds with the increased fuel load from such a wet year. We can only hope for a mild Summer and even a bit more rain won't hurt.

Wishing everyone at Jumbuck a safe and happy Christmas and a fantastic New Year ahead!

Shannon Kunst
Ω

A mother's love.



WAVE HILL

As I write this, we have just farewelled our stockcamps of 2022. A particularly special bunch, being our "Wave Hill Originals". It is with some sadness that we see them off at the end of what has been, frankly, a heck of a season.

Since taking over in January a lot of water has gone under the bridge at Wave Hill Station.

We have just finished our second round of the breeders, finishing up weaning 13,000 head for 68% and branding 14,500 for 76%. This is ahead of expectations but inflated because it is the first full second round conducted in a long time. We have taken an aggressive approach to shaping the Wave Hill Breeder herd into what we want it to be. We have done a big cull of breeders that are aged or out of type, with nearly 1,500 spayed for the year and some 2,600 aged, unproductive or bad types trucked off. All lines of sale cattle weighed well into a buoyant market, with weights exceeding my expectations and giving



Cody and Brumby with pet donkey, Moses!

Heifers bound for the desert.



Heifers on their way out to the eastern desert.



an indication of what this country is capable of doing. As we move forward we look forward to improving the production and efficiency of our breeding herd. We go into the wet season with the least amount of cattle on Wave Hill in decades, which is a good thing for the regeneration of some persistently overgrazed pasture. The road to rebuilding the herd has begun.

New heifers in Vestey paddock.



It was a great thing in June to finish the development of the Eastern Desert, 1,500 square km of previously unused country and to stock four new paddocks with 4,000 head of heifers. We mustered, processed and loaded 26 road train loads of heifers out of Number 2 yard and trucked them to Kelmans Yards. The heifers were then walked out in three different mobs to their new homes in the eastern Desert. One mob did an 80km

Processing heifers in Number 2 yards.



march over 4 days, shifting panel yards up ahead each day. It was a finely run thing with fences not yet tied off, troughs still having wet glue and tanks still filling as the heifers rolled into their new homes. It will be great to have this country producing for us next year. A haul road has been opened up, and a new yard site is cleared ready for construction in 2023.

Walking sale steers.



A unprecedented amount of infrastructure development or replacement work has been achieved at Wave Hill in 2022. We have had several infrastructure contractors working here, but the lion's share of the heavy lifting has been done by the station crew in between rounds. A massive thanks to all those involved. It doesn't matter if you butchered a killer to feed the army, ordered, packed or delivered stores for a fencing contractor, unloaded road train loads of materials at the lay-down, carted these same materials hundreds of kms to sites across the station, poured concrete slabs, welded up rails, swung gates, erected solar arrays or plumbed up tanks, troughs and



Installation of new many new troughs in 2022.



Brumby Forrester re-plumbing a turkey nest.



New tank and enclosure at Nicholson bore.



Building new float guards.



New gates.



turkey nests, dug trenches by hand, skid steer or grader, or piled up all the rubbish to be buried - you all contributed. Thanks to you all.

Some of the things achieved in the infrastructure front in 2022 include:

- Installation and plumbing up to our standard of 12 new Rhino Tanks
- The erection of post rail and cable enclosures around 21 tanks
- The placement of 225 tonnes of rock ballast (three triple road trains) around new and existing Rhino Tanks to stop the pads eroding.
- Installation of 48 new troughs, on concrete new trough aprons, plumbed etc. Each apron is approximately 4 cubic meters of concrete, so that is nearly 200 cubic meters of concrete carted, mixed on site and poured at various

Pulling bores.



locations.

- 30km of new fencing erected.
- 12 new gateways and end assemblies on haul roads.
- Alterations to 8 sets of cattle yards (mostly draft gates and jacky rails), including installation of 2 crushes on scales, a hydraulic weaner cradle and a manual one.
- The changeover of 20 diesel Kubotas driving borehole monos to Lorenze Solar Systems. All fully plumbed to our standards and on float switches in tanks. This includes pulling bore, cutting down and dragging away existing towers, tripods etc and removing ending and mono base, sometimes re-concreting bore head.

Testing boreholes before installing solar at Halfway bore.



Then post and rail structures around the solar bores to protect them.

•The construction and installation of 80 steel float guards on existing steel troughs.

•The installation of some 70 odd 4 inch bungs into existing steel troughs to allow us to clean them easily.

•The re-plumbing of 14 Turkey Nests from delivery to trough in PVC and poly. Old Steel cut up for strainer posts, all rubbish dragged

Ross Wood inspecting new solar setup at Sunshine Bore.



Loading up, then carting gear out to site.



Crew processing breeders in portable yards.



Portable yard in Lingari Tank.



Boreman, Shay Thackrah, helping load a cleanskin bull.

of a start.

A massive shout out to the crew of 2022. Starting with boremen, Shay Thackrah and Graeme Bartlett, who not only kept the complex watering system of Wave Hill afloat all year, but got an awful lot of work done around the run, to improve the watering situation. In April/May they basically pulled and stripped a bore every two days for a month allowing the crew from Thinkwater Broome to install Lorenz Solar Systems behind them. Shay and Graeme have since installed 6 Lorenz systems by themselves. Shay also was responsible for the plumbing up of solars, tanks and troughs in the Eastern Desert as well as numerous overhauls on watering pressure points on Wave Hill and Cattle Creek.

Danny Ritchie who has been the main operator on Wave Hill in 2022, steering the 140H ahead of the madness. Danny also parked up grader

away and piled up ready to be buried.

- The re-plumbing of 24 existing tanks from delivery trough to PVC and poly.

All in all, a huge effort. Thanks to everyone for sticking with me on this, we have made a hell

Ben Carrick keeping things running smoothly.



Jess Radel on the tail.



Tom Carrick and Cody with a bush chook on camp.



top of materials to various sites every day for a month. Steel, cable, pipe, tanks kits, troughs, poly pipe, wire, pickets, aggregate and cement powder. Tiaarn Roelofse finished this delivery off when Ross moved on, and then was responsible for the delivery of the lions share of Dry Season lick to breeders and weaners, with over 800 tonne delivered via crane truck - a mammoth effort.

Ross Job ably led the weaner camp and picked up a few breeder paddocks as well as being on the coal face of delivery of cull cows and sale steers. Ross was also integral in the re-plumbing and clean-up of Gordys and Number 7 Bores. He was also largely responsible for the delivery of the ballast rock to tanks. Well done on his first year as head stockman and we wish Ross all the best for the future.

and jumped in the lick truck to help get the Wet Season lick (some 320 tonne) out in November. Other operators Ken Downey and Ronnie Rivers did some stints for us on the 12G grader, taking on the rocks! Thank you.

Ross Wood came up for 6 weeks in the thick of first round to assist with supervising and supplying contractors. Basically, he took a flat

A massive year by Breeder Camp Head stockperson, Jess Radel, taking on one of the biggest jobs in the North: the Wave Hill Breeder camp in her first year as head stockperson. Jess took up the challenge and did a first-class job in at times difficult



Crew attending the Katherine show looking sharp!



Connie, Jess and Harrison.

circumstances, putting big mobs of cattle through under constant time pressure but maintaining a very high standard of stockmanship and attention to detail. Jess and her crew did a lot of fencing work this year, getting some very tired fences back into a state of repair. She was also a key player in the development and improvement work at watering points and we look forward to having her back in 2023. A lot

of shifting of dry PTIC cows from areas that were overstocked into fresh country to alleviate grazing pressure. Lots of pregnancy testing and walking away. To our hardworking stockcamps of 2022, thanks for having a red-hot go, a sense of humour and not ducking for cover when things got busy. Gabby MacDonald, Zara Stenhuis, Suzie Koch, Emma Costello, Darcy Knight, Brumby Forrester, Tom Carrick, and Amy Gore (who completed her second year at Wave Hill), thanks for all your hard work.

Wood family at Mt Possum.



Connie and the kids in the Vic River.



A special mention to Amy Johnston, Tye Stewart, Cody Kitchen and Ben Carrick who have been long serving members for Connie and I in stockcamps over a long period of time. Thanks for your great heart, great humour and can-do attitude. We wish you all the best with your new endeavours and look forward to seeing you back again one day. Our door is always open.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Evie Neate, who cooked for us at Blina, then came across to Wave Hill. Nothing was ever an issue to Evie, who started each day with a smile on her face, great food on the stove and

willingness to help wherever she could. Enjoy your overseas adventures, Evie.

A big thanks to the staff in Head Office, who have tolerated some pretty lengthy delays on my part. In particular Emily Molnar who has been handling the Wave Hill requisitions and freight logistics in 2022. Trying to quote and procure so much gear, and freight it here in such quick time has taken some serious persistence and hard work, especially dealing with a manager who needed everything yesterday! Thanks Emily.

Thanks to our local mustering pilot, Zebb Leslie, who's in depth knowledge of Wave Hill and passion to do a quality job has made the mustering and planning of Wave Hill so much easier. Thanks also for helping two new Head stockman in their first year giving them and the crew great confidence and skill development.

A special mention to our road train drivers for the year, Johnny Nicholson in first round, and Josh Clarke in the second round. Of note the station road train clocked up over 30,000 km this year.

Thanks to our fixed wing pilots in 2022. Quinn Frost, Jessica Bellamy who have both moved on and now Jordan Beattie.

Carolyn Bee was our domestic gardener in 2022, and her efforts were noted. Thanks for being a mother figure for us all and keeping us on track. A big thanks to our Govvie Abby Connolly for taking on arguably the toughest gig on Waver Hill, keeping Harrison out of trouble and in the school room sometimes! And last, but not least, Connie Wood who has managed to keep everything on track (including myself when the pressure was on) at Wave Hill, despite a pretty absent manager and husband and a few kids swinging off her at all times, thanks for your support and enthusiasm on our new adventure.

At present we have enjoyed a fantastic start to the wet, with 3 inches in October and 5 inches in November. Let's hope that we can continue to be under a few storms. Most key staff are currently away on annual leave, enjoying a well-earned holiday. Plenty more to come at Wave Hill in 2023, when we turn our attention to undeveloped country to the South.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all.

Matt Wood
Ω

BELOW: Wave Hill crew, 2022 - thank you!



“Who’s going to drive the new Landcruisers to Killarney?”

This sounds like a job for Jumbuck’s Accountant!

The HR department wants a piece of the action too – Shane (I’ll do anything) Badman puts his hand up to drive the other. Together we set off for a trip up through the middle of Australia.

Even though there were some big stints of driving involved it was a great experience with lots of sights to see along the way.

Daly Waters and Mataranka thermal pools were highlights.

Capping it off was a visit to Killarney which is an event in itself – a big thanks to Alex and Michael for giving Shane and I a brief tour and their welcoming hospitality.

We’re on-call for the next deliveries...

P-J Mudie
Ω



Daly Waters pub - great feed!



Devil’s Marbles



We made it to Killarney with the new Cruisers!



Mataranka hot springs.