

WELCOME TO THE McCARRON CULLINANE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2009

WEATHER

Good falls of rain in November and December 2008 created a big body of feed in the Orange district. Areas of NSW to the north are similar, although southern NSW continues to remain hot and very dry. Queensland is experiencing excellent widespread monsoonal rains over vast areas, and looks to be in for a very wet summer. Those lulled into a mild summer in 2008, have been quickly reminded of the Aussie summer, as the first few weeks of 2009 saw temperatures exceed 40°C in some areas of the state. The recent burst of hot weather has caused the local feed to hay off, but there is still abundant quality feed to be utilized. The predicted storms this week have been welcomed and the chance of a major rain event for early February is showing up on some forecast models. Already some long range forecasters are predicting above average rainfall for 2009, although one wonders if this is the lingering effects of too much Christmas cheer. Two good years in a row – we can only hope as we may need all the help we can get, as the world economy struggles to avoid recession.

CATTLE

PRIME CATTLE: markets have commenced in 2009 on a cheaper trend, with prices tumbling as saleyard numbers continue to increase. Adding to this is the persisting hot dry conditions in the southern states, forcing many producers to keep offloading stock and adding to the already abundant numbers. These price falls could be greater but thankfully numbers have been restricted in the north due to the recent monsoonal rains in Queensland, slowing down movement of cattle traveling to saleyards and processors. Although the Australian dollar has dropped again, it has had little effect on stopping the slide of export prices, as overseas markets are still under the effects of the global credit crisis.

CTLX Carcoar yarded 1800 cattle this week, 300 less than the previous week, but with bigger runs of heavy steers and cows. Yearling cattle made up the bulk of the yarding and although there were some excellent pens of heifers yarded, they felt the brunt of the price falls. All grades were 10-15¢/kg cheaper, with least effected being restocking light calves and cows, down by 5-10¢/kg. The lightweight steer and

heifer calves still met good restocker demand to sell from 180-197¢/kg. Most yearling steers went to feedlot orders at 160-175¢/kg, with older heavy 0/2 tooth feeder steers from 155-162¢/kg. Biggest falls on the day were in the heifer section, with those to slaughter making 145-152¢/kg, feeder heifers 145-160¢/kg, while the older export lines sold from 135-145¢/kg. Export heavy steers were also hard hit falling 8-12¢/kg to sell from 150-158¢/kg. Stronger competition on the cows helped prop prices up, but they still eased 4-6¢/kg. Heavy cows sold from 122-135¢/kg and lighter plain cows from 100-118¢/kg. Best of the heavy bulls sold from 145-160¢/kg.

STORE CATTLE: sales have begun strongly in 2009, boosted by good feed in central and northern NSW and the beginning of a very wet season in Queensland. Annual weaner sales in Southern NSW and Victoria have benefited from this being \$50-\$80 dearer than the previous years sales. The first sale for 2009 at CTLX attracted 2500 excellent quality cattle from around the region, with the yarding consisting of 1700 weaner and yearling steers, 500 heifers and 300 cows and calves. Weaner steers met strong demand to sell from 180-210¢/kg or \$350-\$580/hd, but the heavy yearlings lacked the competition and sold from 165-180¢/kg or \$550-680/head. Yearling heifers sold from \$400-\$540/head, weaners from \$300-\$450/head. The cow and calf market varied depending on the breed and age of the unit and the size of the calves at foot. Young Angus cows on there 1st and 2nd calves sold from \$900-\$1180/unit, older lines of cows and calves were generally from \$750-1100/unit.

Expect store cattle prices to ease over the next month as numbers increase and the decreasing prime cattle prices drag the overall market down. The next store sale at CTLX is 13th February 2009.

SHEEP & LAMBS

After a strong start in 2009, **lamb prices** dipped this week to finish \$6-\$12/hd cheaper. Trade lambs slipped to range from \$70-\$90/hd or eased 27¢ to average 396¢/kg cwt. Heavy lambs experienced the biggest falls of up to 32¢, back to an average of 413¢/kg or \$85-\$96/hd. Competition for store lambs remains very active and restocker lambs eased slightly by 2¢ to finish at 395¢/kg cwt.

Mutton prices, which held their high levels from 2008 into the first couple of weeks of 2009, eased \$2-\$5/hd this week at all selling centres. Heavy mutton sold from \$45-\$55/hd, medium from \$25-\$40 and light weight sheep sold from \$15-\$25/hd. Overall mutton slipped by 15¢/kg to average out at about 185¢/kg cwt, with the heavy end selling for around 200¢/kg cwt.

Amid all the global economic slowdown, Australian lamb exports to South East Asia and China rose by 4% during 2008. This sector looks to be one of the key areas for continued growth for lamb exports in 2009, especially if the Aussie dollar remains low. Other contributing factors are a high population growth and reduced supplies from New Zealand to this region.

The NLIS sheep tag colour for 2009 is WHITE.

REAL ESTATE

Adam Savage joins the team -McCarron Cullinane is thrilled to have Adam Savage join our dynamic real estate team. As many of you would know Adam and his family are lifetime residents of Orange and he is passionate about the area. Adam originally completed his Real Estate certificate in 1989 and growing up in a Real Estate family has always had a keen interest in the industry. After 13 years in media, Adam now brings his years of sales experience and enthusiasm to assist our real estate clients.

If you want an Agent working for you with extensive local contacts, committed to quality customer service and getting results **phone Adam on 0419 232 416**, he would love to hear from you.

Rural Property

The emergence of the New Year seems to have brought with it improvement in the rural property sector for larger farms. Prior to Christmas, we listed 'Fernhill' 733 acres at Blayney for \$1.4 million.

Enquiries were very strong and we are pleased to say that contracts have been called for with exchange to occur very shortly. Interest in other larger properties has also been strong with a number of inspections and further inspections booked.

Another smaller property 'Jannani' 100 acres at Burnt Yards was sold over Christmas and the new owners with a quick settlement have moved in. A great little block of rich creek flats tending to gently undulating country, improvements included a three bedroom home, large sheds, excellent steel cattle yards and a creek running through the property.

Residential Real Estate

14 Maple Avenue - \$299,000



A little bit country and a little bit rock n roll

Totally unique 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home, main bed has an ensuite and walk-in robe. Parquet flooring in the northern family room. Sunken formal lounge with feature open fireplace. Spiral staircase down to underground wine cellar. Separate formal dining area can easily convert to 4th bedroom if required. Set amongst prestige homes and priced to sell.

11 Kileys Run, Clifton Grove - \$549,000



On Golden Pond

Delight yourself every time you come home to this very special haven on 5 acres, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and office. Formal lounge, dining, and family area. Central kitchen with fabulous induction stove top, Asko dishwasher and gallery oven. Year round comfort with ducted air conditioning, wood heater and electric heating. Enjoy relaxing in the glass conservatory overlooking the magnificent gardens. Attached double garage, separate double garage with 3 phase power, 2 paddocks, orchard, town water and bore

GENERAL

Regrettably Brendan Connick has advised McCarron Cullinane of his plans for a career change and will be leaving the business in mid February. Deciding on a sea-change, Brendan and Catherine have purchased a small business on the coast at Nelson Bay. Brendan has been a valuable member of the McCarron Cullinane livestock team for the past 5 years, and more recently was an integral part in the move to selling at Forbes. We all wish Brendan, Catherine and family the very best of luck in their new venture.

A replacement for Brendan will be found soon, and we would like to reassure all our clients that the same level customer of service will be maintained. Those clients, who have any queries or issues, please don't hesitate to contact Lindsay, Peter, Brian or Darren.

Our next **horse sale** will be conducted at the CTLX Carcoar Cattle Complex on Friday 6th February, **Saddlery** commencing at 11:00am and **Horses** at 1.00pm. A good selection of saddle horses will be available, along with a section for meat horses. Please be aware that anyone wishing to ride a horse in the complex will need a helmet and proper footwear. For further details, contact Heather Fryer at this office or 0428 623877.

CONTACTS

Lindsay	0428 104 132	Peter	0427 026 306	Lucy	0427 624 755
Darren	0439 663 732	Adam	0419 232416	Mark	0427 668 800
Brian	0418 637 338	Ken	6362 2671	Heather	0428 623 877

Best regards, The McCarron Cullinane Team

In producing our newsletter, our agents obtain information from many sources including but not limited to: MLA, The Land, Queensland Country Life, Weekly Times and ALPA.

NEXT SALES

CTLX Carcoar Prime Cattle Sale

Every Tuesday 8:30am

CTLX Carcoar Sheep & Lamb sale

Every Wednesday 11:00am

CWLE Forbes Prime Cattle Sale

Every Monday 9am

Midstate Sale Yards Forbes Sheep & Lamb Sale

Every Tuesday 11:00am

CTLX Carcoar Store Cattle Sale

2nd Friday each month (Fri 13th February 2009)

CTLX Carcoar Store Sheep Sale

Wednesday 4th February 2009

CTLX Carcoar Horse & Saddlery Sale

Friday 6th February 2009