

WELCOME TO THE McCARRON CULLINANE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Feb - March 2010

WEATHER

At last the skies have delivered, bringing excellent falls of rain to large areas of NSW and QLD. Falls of 50-100mm were common, but Narooma on the South Coast drowned with 393mm. It was great to see areas west of Parkes and Forbes finally get their share, experiencing falls from 90-120mm. Locally the Orange area has been lucky to benefit from weekly falls of above 50mm, boasting pasture growth and replenishing ground water supplies. Some pockets around Molong have been on the lower end of the rain, but are still way in front of the Western Riverina who missed out again.

An indicator of how dry the ground was before the rain event is mirrored in the small rise in dam levels, with most only rising 1-2%. Follow-up rain in the autumn is therefore vital for significant run-off and many western graziers would be aware that a couple of weeks of hot dry weather without rain would quickly burn-off the abundant feed before winter.

Weather watchers who follow the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) would be scratching their heads at the moment, with the index currently at below -20, yet parts of the state have received their best rain for more than a decade. Although no one is game to say the drought has broken, the present outlook is much brighter.

CATTLE

The widespread rain across NSW significantly reduced numbers at most major centres, with falls between 45-75% at Forbes, Wodonga, Wagga and Gunnadah. The drop in numbers set the stage for improved competition especially for young cattle and with the anticipation of a further tightening of supplies a number of feedlotters and processors lifted their rates. Restockers have also returned to the rail and created extra competition for young cattle and plainer lines of cows. At the close of Wednesday's markets the Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI) was up nearly 11¢ on last week to settle at 334.75¢/kg cwt. Trade steers rose 7¢ to average 175¢/kg, whilst feeder steers gained 4¢ to 180¢/kg. The Jap OX remained static at 169¢/kg, but the US cow finished 3¢ higher at 128¢/kg.

PRIME CATTLE: Following good rain in the supply area, numbers fell by 800 for a yarding of 2230 fair to good quality cattle. Good numbers of yearlings were available, along with handy lines of feeder steers and a good offering of cows. Vealers were once again scarce, with plainer light cattle being snapped up by restocker orders. The best of the limited numbers of vealers sold from 190-205¢/kg. Yearling steers rose 9¢ with extra competition from feeders and restockers, selling from 174-189.6¢/kg. Heifers in the same category sold from 156-176¢/kg to feeders, whilst trade heifers to processors topped at 189¢/kg. Medium to heavy feeder steers rose by 7¢, depending on quality and condition to top at 178¢/kg. Most sales were between 165-175¢/kg.

Feedlot rates in the paddock have also risen sharply with prices of 190¢/kg delivered, available for a minimum 2 deck lots of vendor bred Angus steers 380-500kg. Export steers and heifers rose 3-4¢/kg with steers ranging from 160-175¢/kg and heifers from 150-166¢/kg, (the higher prices for milk and two tooth cattle). Cows also lifted with the best gains on the plain lightweight pens selling to restocker orders rising by 8¢, but the better finished cows remained firm to 2¢ dearer. Heavy bulls sold from 130-148¢/kg, with the better yielding Euro bulls topping the market.

STORE CATTLE: The monthly store cattle sale at CTLX on Friday 12th offered an excellent penning of 3500 local Tableland cattle. With the smell of rain in the air, and many areas of the state already wet a large contingent of buyers eagerly competed on all lines, much to the delight of local vendors. Weaner steers were \$50-\$60 dearer on the previous month and pens under \$400 were very scarce. Weaners from 180-280kg sold from \$400-\$560, the heavier end up to 330kg from \$560-\$610. The heavy yearling steers sold from \$600-\$690/head. Weaner heifers were \$30-\$40/head dearer with most selling from \$270-\$475. The yearling heifers sold from \$420-\$600/head. Lines of PTIC females were scarce, along with quality with the few pens on offer selling from \$600-\$660/head. Good lines of cows and calves were on offer and they sold to a dearer trend. Most lines sold from \$700-\$1210/unit with the better prices for cows with older calves and PTIC.

Store cattle sale at CTLX Carcoar Fri 12th March 2010.

SHEEP & LAMBS

Lamb prices have rebounded over the past couple of weeks following the widespread rain and producers opting to hold back secondary lines, as feed becomes more abundant and the confidence grows in lamb prices holding through the winter. With less secondary lines available, quality lifted at most centre's, with good lines of shorn lambs and heavy lambs attracting the strongest competition. A dramatic fall in sheep numbers kept mutton prices dearer, despite the forced closure of one processor.

Markets: Numbers dropped by 3,000 this week with a yarding of 9,500 at CTLX Carcoar. A higher percentage of plainer lightweight lambs (12-16wks) were offered at CTLX, and they rose by \$7-\$8, selling from \$69-\$88.50. Prices for trade and heavy trade lambs were similar at both centre's with 18-20kg lambs selling from \$90-\$115 and 22-26kg lambs from \$123-\$138 to average 508-534¢/kg cwt. Forbes were the king when it comes to heavy export lambs with a top of \$175, while the best at CTLX made \$147 or the equivalent of 540¢/kg cwt. Trade lambs were quoted \$8-\$15 dearer.

Sheep numbers were low with a yarding of only 2500 head. Values improved \$3-\$4 with 2 score merinos selling from \$55-\$69, 3 score from \$68-\$99 and heavy weight merinos to a top of \$110/head. Crossbred ewes sold from \$75-\$102/head, and overall mutton averaged 320 to 340¢/kg cwt.

NLIS sheep tag colour for 2010 is ORANGE

FORBES LIVESTOCK

A general rainfall in the area of up to 5" caused a light yarding last week for both sheep and cattle. The lamb Market remained very strong with trade lambs from \$110-\$120/hd, heavy trade lambs from \$120-\$145/hd and heavy export lambs from \$150/hd to a top of \$175/hd. Mutton averaged 300-330¢/kg cwt, store lambs (30-35kg) to restockers were in high demand making up to \$90/hd for 2nd cross lambs.

With a light yarding of cattle, trade values lifted 6-8c/kg, feeder steers 360-400kg making \$180-\$185/kg, bullocks 600kg+ pending age, made to \$1.60-\$1.65/kg, light cows to restockers \$1.20-\$1.30/kg, and heavy cows were \$1.35-\$1.40/kg.

We currently have cattle **Agistment available** in the Warren district if you are interested please give Tom Tyson a call on 0429 611 639.

REAL ESTATE

Residential Real Estate

7 Noonameena Drive - \$549,000

Stunning home in highly prized area

- Superbly renovated three level home
- 4 spacious bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and multiple indoor and outdoor living areas
- New designer kitchen featuring 900mm Smeg oven, dishwasher, soft closing drawers, outdoor balcony and amazing northern views
- Professionally landscaped backyard, paving, bbq area and drought proof garden
- Separate downstairs living area serviced by 3rd bathroom ideal for the kids, guests or for the home based professional
- Large double garage with separate workshop and ample under- house storage

Adam Savage 0419 232 416



10 Benelong Place \$276,000

Whisper quiet cul-de-sac

- This immaculate 3 bedroom home is a home truly loved
- The lounge has a sunny full northern aspect with gas heating
- The kitchen and dining area overlook the lovely established garden
- The double sized bedrooms give you the room you need
- The single garage has internal access for your convenience
- A delightful home in a well regarded area with lovely neighbours

Lucy Eccleston 0427 624 755



Rural Properties

Compared to 6 months ago the market is starting to move in areas - and the feeling is that people are gaining confidence and once again prepared to invest in land. However, this does not mean that property prices have or are going up. The price pressure is still there. For properties that have been on the market for some time, price adjustments are generally still needed. McCarron's rural property department has seen some good sales occur since Christmas with some excellent sales still awaiting exchange. Congratulations to those vendors.

One of note is "**Mundawora Park**" Bowen Park Road, 548 acres of prime fattening country with substantial improvements and excellent 4 bedroom home. Congratulations to our vendors Kerry and Narelle Farrelly. McCarron's will be conducting a clearing sale on the 13th March at Mundawora Park. A full list of sale items is on our website.

Other recent sales include

- "Destiny Springs" on Giles Road – 25 acre registered horse facility.
- "Tandarra" Giles Road – 4 bedroom 2 bathroom home on 5 acres
- "Iluka" Cargo Road – 4 bedroom on 3 acres just 1km from Orange,
- "Byrnes" Davy's Plains Road Cargo – 119 acre building block
- Lot 3 Wombiana Lane Blayney – 44 acre building block

Lindsay 0428 104 132
Darren 0439 663 732
Brian 0418 637 338
Tom 0429 611 639

Peter 0427 026 306
Adam 0419 232416
Ken 6362 2671

Lucy 0427 624 755
Mark 0427 668 800
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.

GENERAL

We have three **Clearing Sales** coming up: Coolalie Pastoral Co, Cudal on the 27th Feb, Mundawora, Cudal on 13th March if anyone has anything they are wishing to sell outside vendors are welcome, we also have another sale in the pipeline for later in March. Visit our website www.mccarrons.com.au for details of listings.

Special Cattle sales scheduled at CTLX to add to your calendars include:-

Beef Week Sale 19th March,
Midwestern Angus Sale 26th March,
A Special Weaner Sale 23rd April.

Please contact our livestock team if you have any stock you wish to enter in these sales or if you wish to purchase any.

Don't forget the **next horse sale** scheduled for Sat 1st May, at the February sale the top price for a riding horse was \$2500, if you are in the market for extra gear or horses mark this day on your calendar as it will be the last sale prior to winter with the next one set down for October.

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 9:00am

Midstate Sale Yards Forbes Sheep & Lamb Sale

Every Tuesday 11:00am

CTLX Carcoar Store Cattle Sales

2nd Friday each month – 12 Feb and 12th Mar

CTLX Carcoar Horse & Saddlery Sale

Saturday 1st May 2010.