FROM THE PRESIDENT
Brahman World Congress Australia, 9-21 May 2016

The privilege to attend The Brahman World Congress in Australia has certainly been one of the highlights of our lives. My advise to you as a Brahman Breeder, if it is not on your bucket list to attend one or more future events, make sure that you include it and mark it as a priority.

The first question asked on our return was, “What do you think of their Brahman” In short my comments are as follows:

- A large portion of Australia falls within the sub-tropical and tropical region with a further large portion in arid country. Brahman stud, commercial and Brahman crosses dominate the cattle numbers in these regions with big demand for genetics, stud and commercial bulls.
- Australia has 3% of the world cattle inventory, 26 million, versus South Africa 14 million.
- Australia produces 4% of the world beef supply and is the third largest beef exporter in the world. Steers are mainly grass fed up to the age of 30 months (600kg).
- Brahman cattle are strongly aligned to export markets. Large numbers are exported by ship to Asian markets.
- Participation in genetic and genomic programmes is a priority.
- We noticed strong focus on temperament, udders & teats, fertility and mobility.
- Substantial number of poled genetics established.

Pre Congress Property Tour. 9-15 May 2016

On the evening of 8 May the tour group of 24 international visitors from 6 different countries were entertained by ABBA President Shane and Sandra Bishop at our hotel in Brisbane. The Southern Africa group consisted of Leonie & Wessel, Hannes & Paula Liebenberg, Mecki & Brigitte Schneider and Leonard Morakaladi & Kenneth Makubate from Botswana.

The next day we took a flight to Prosepine 600km north of Rockhampton to commence our tour visiting stud and commercial Breeders. The tour also included a one day visit to the Great Barrier Reef with the group challenging their skills snorkelling the reef.

Highlights of the tour included mustering cattle by helicopter and on horseback, visiting 7 stud and 2 commercial breeders giving us the opportunity to experience their cattle and breeding objectives and opening their homes with Aussie hospitality. Every evening we were welcomed and entertained at our hotel by different groups of breeders.

18th Brahman World Congress, Rockhampton, Australia. 16-21 May 2016

The congress was well attended with 400 plus registrations from 12 different countries, each delegate received a copy of edition 1 and 2 of our Brahman Supplements. The congress programme included a conference, Brahman Show stud and commercial sale, visits to two AI collection centres, Led steer hoof & hook competition and a one day visit to nearby stud breeders.
During the conference Wessel presented an overview of Brahman in South Africa and Mecki an overview of Brahman in Namibia. Dr Michael Bradfield was one of the conference speakers delivering a presentation on: “The opportunities for and benefits of international collaboration in genetic evaluation and genomics.”

The congress social programme included evening entertainment with the gala farewell dinner being the highlight where we were given the opportunity to handover gifts to Shane & Sandra Bishop and to John & Nola Croaker. John Croaker one of the legends of the Brahman world announced his retirement at the end of the year.

**International Brahman Breed Improvement Forum meeting. 17 May 2016**

The forum established during the 2014 Congress in South Africa with Mr Mecki Schneider from Namibia as chairman is now working effectively with good progress being made to further genetic improvement for the breed

**International Genetic Evaluation**
- Preliminary reports on multi-country evaluation where produced during October 2015. The results, challenges and way forward where discussed with valuable input from the scientists Dr Brad Cook(ABRI) and Dr David Johnston(AGBU)

**International Genomic co-operation – BGP**
- Input and progress from all participants were given including a presentation from Mr Thys Meyer from SA
- All participants agreed to the exchange of genomic results to avoid duplication of tests
- We also identified and negotiated costs of 5 Australian Sires to be used as linkage bulls in our Brahman Genomic Programme. Wayne Porter instrumental in the selection process and will communicate further in due coarse

**World Brahman Federation meeting. 17 May 2016**

The above meeting was attended by all participants with a number of discussions to further the interest of Brahman.

The 2018 World Congress will be hosted by Columbia and the 2020 Congress by Paraguay.
Dr Stabler, Dr. M Bradfield, Mecki, Greg Fawcett & Wayne at Etna Creek Collection Centre

Wessel, Tok and Wayne at the Rockhampton show grounds
Group of cows & calves at Palmal Brahman Stud. David & Julie McCamley

Handing over of the gifts to John Croaker and Shane Bishop
David Deguara, Wessel, Hannes, Sterling Gardner (USA) & Guest at David’s Hamdenvale stud

Embryo donors at Hamdenvale stud
Group of Grey and Red cows at 2AM Brahman Stud of Andrew & Anna McCamley
Andrew McCamley and Leonard

Thys Meyer, Dr Bradfield, Wayne, Mecki and Brigitte at commercial steer sale
Stewart Nobbs receiving prize for winning group of steers

International visitors introduced to edition 1 and 2 of our supplements in the press