

Our family operation has bred commercial hereford cattle at Curracabark since 1923 with the Curracabark Hereford stud commencing in 1950 and Myra Angus in 2000 ( now Curracabark Angus ). Curracabark and Myra are in a shale based valley with plenty of ridges and rocks and lower rainfall. Joining around 700 females on some fairly plain hills provides some challenges and first hand insight into the true worth of homebred and outside genetics with constitution and muscle, both vital for profit. About 50 bulls are offered for sale each year. Around 250 steers are annually sold to feedlots, 50 plus heifers are sold as future breeders, 150 heifers retained and the remaining heifers are fattened for MSA markets.

We feel that genomics is a step in the right direction and may improve some deficiencies in the EBV data system by eliminating the tendency of averaging raw data.

One of the difficulties with cattle genes is that the good performers and the underperformers share many of the same genes.

For example: if a sire has an EBV of -10 for docility, we don't know if many of his calves are nervous or an odd calf is really hot. With the odd culling, good genetic gain across the traits can be made with the second scenario only. Hopefully genomics will reduce the human factor of measurement as each operator varies in the recording of this.

Some people are questioning the current carcase scan data and considering that there is to date only about a 30% correlation of EBV data to chiller assessment it seems a valid observation.

Looking to provide better information brings up the possibility of using the American System (CUP) that perhaps doubles these correlations. It is early days yet and with slow turnaround times to get information back, it could take some time to get any uptake.

Therefore we continue to look for visual muscle along the spine, through the rump and hindquarters combined with softness and doing ability as a sure way to keep up muscle content in good doing cattle.

### OUR POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

- Robust doing ability to thrive in dryer times and tougher commercial grazing country
- Mid maturity frame size to suit both grass and grain fed markets
- Genetics in the parentage for consistency of progeny
- Mix of visual and measured trait selection
- Recognizing breed strengths and improving breed weaknesses
- Diligent stud sire selection
- Optimal fertility, adequate growth, higher muscle content carcasses for grass and grain fed beef production
- The presence of visual muscle and shape is a reliable way to increase muscle.
- Optimum growth and high carcass data helps profit a lot



### Health Treatments and Soundness

- Semen test and vet checked
- 3 day sickness vaccinated
- Tested negative pestivirus
- Vibrio vaccinated
- 5 in 1 vaccinated



Having travelled south to the central districts in Victoria, west to Broken Hill and north through the New England in the last few weeks, we've seen the enormity of the currently difficult season and the various strategies of management used to cope.

The upside has been the continual strength of the market if the upper levels of performance can be achieved. This is not so easy and has required plenty of management, market timing and better performing genetics. Thus there is pretty fair reason to feel that there would be a very strong market when the season decides it's your turn, and we are all good and ready.

We still believe in upgrading genetics and with this in mind we have added six bulls this autumn to our commercial and stud bull battery plus eleven last season.

Our extensive search through Southern NSW, Victoria and South Australia for elite stud sires with actual performance, structure and good data has resulted in us purchasing, Ravensdale Trust M248 from Holbrook and in conjunction with Dalkeith Herefords, Cassilis, Kerlson Pines Keystone M004 from South Australia for \$22,000 at the Dubbo National Show and Sale 2018.

Sires of this year's Herefords include the very consistent

breeder of length with muscle in Days Columbus G20 and son K102. There are also some calves by Poll Hereford breed leader Allendale Anzac E114 who still continues to top the sale circuit at 9 years of age with Ravensdale Guardian M222 by E114 making \$32,000 at Dubbo this year. Anzac's Curracabark sons M101 and N003 look smart with good data as well.

Angus sires represented include carcase sires Musgrave Big Sky and Pathfinder bulls Goldmark D189, Goldmark G497 and Complete K22.

Big Sky provides depth and growth with M49 and N6A perhaps the stand outs.

Pathfinder Goldmark G497 would be the thickest bull with size that we have seen and his son M30 looks outstanding.

Pathfinder Complete was used with total success on heifers and brings low birth weight, thickness and constitution - a rare combination in high calving ease sires. Bald Blair Frederick, who topped the New England Sales in 2014, again has sons with constitution, length and even temperament.

We also offer a pen of Angus composite PTIC heifers and plus 45 Angus composite, Black Baldy and Hereford heifers unjoined.

### Commercially relevant, profitable and consistent – It's the Curracabark difference.

<b>Stud Stock &amp; Bloodstock – Armidale</b> Mike Wilson Mob: 0418 960 036 	<b>Gooch Agencies – Gloucester</b> Ph: 6558 1205 James Gooch 0409 923 068 Bill Dwyer 0427 582 990 
<b>Wauchope Stock &amp; Estate Agents</b> Ph: 6585 2142 John O'Brien Mob: 0417 431 601 	<b>Paul Dooley – Tamworth</b> Auctioneer Livestock & property Agent Paul Dooley Mob: 0458 662646 
<b>Landmark Townsend – Scone</b> Ph: 6545 1377 Gavin Beard Mob: 0438 452 810 	<b>First National – Gloucester</b> Ken Maslen: 0467 589 077 Nick West: 0472 589 077 

**OPEN DAY**  
14th JULY 10.30 – 4pm  
or Inspection by appointment if required.  
Join us for a chat and refreshments.

**BULL SALE**  
28th JULY 1pm  
(Both at Myra sale yards)

James & Melinda Higgins 02 6558 7515 | Sandy & Susan Higgins 02 6558 7592  
2796 Curracabark Rd, Gloucester NSW

W: [www.curracabark.com.au](http://www.curracabark.com.au)  
E: [curracabark@gmail.com](mailto:curracabark@gmail.com)

Please e-mail address if you would like a catalogue mailed to you.

Online catalogue available at Angus, Hereford, Curracabark websites.



### 50 EU COMMERCIAL FEMALES FOR SALE

There will be a pen of 33 month PTIC angus black composite heifers and pens of 21 month hereford, angus composite and black baldy unjoined heifers.



## CURRACABARK GENETICS leading the way!



Kevin and Robyn Lowrey with their outstanding calves that topped the Gloucester weaner sale making \$960 per head.



John O'Brien had a terrific sale with his calves making \$960 at only 7 Months of age.



Nick West buys over 100 Curracabark client calves that are heading to the New England.



Congratulations to Tim and Margaret Vincent on a good sale. Our bull Myra Jacko J16 had some standouts with Booragul Jacko M143 topping the sale at \$16,000.



I have bought three pens of heifers and a bull from Curracabark. The first, bought in 2016, weaned calves averaging over 300kg as first calvers. They are extremely quiet, deep, thick cattle and appear to be the right cattle for my country. These cattle always grow on and I look forward to a bigger crop of Curracabark blood calves this year.

- John Barnett

◀ Cracking Curracabark sired calves of John Barnett- Kempsey

Well done to the Bush family that had their best sale at Wodonga with Kirraweena Murray M235 who sold for \$14,000, sired by Curracabark Junee J106.

## SALE BULLS



CRKM108

Sire - Glendan Park Hotshot H102



Lot 1

ESHM85

Sire - Bald Frederick H253



Lot 29

CRKM158

Sire - Days Columbus G20



Lot 2

ESHM30

Sire - Pathfinder Goldmark G497



Lot 34

CRKM135

Sire - Days Columbus G20



Lot 6

ESHM34

Sire - Musgrave Big Sky



Lot 39

CRKN003

Sire - Allendale Anzac E114



Lot 16

ESHN18

Sire - Pathfinder Complete K22