

# BEEF AUSTRALIA 2009 ROCKHAMPTON



# Nonda & Granville

Westpac Property Tours – Friday, 8 May 2009

**Nonda** is Alan & Jocelyn Austin's 2,000 acre property at Baralaba. As a committed cotton grower at heart, Alan's love of farming set him in



**Granville Charolais and Charolais cross cattle**

good stead to manage the pastures and leucaena he planted at **Nonda**. Since moving from *Harcourt* seven years ago, Alan & Jocelyn have scaled down their operations to focus mainly on dryland leucaena and background cattle.

Jocelyn has also taken advantage of the rich, fertile soil at **Nonda** to create a shady

oasis of trees, lawn and garden surrounding their home. The property's previous owners transported a 1920's slab hut cottage from Banana, adding a beautiful and historic touch to the grounds. There is an added attraction near the house which is planted with native trees, some complete with nameplates.

Gavin & Diane Arneil's **Granville** is a 5,000 acre property at the lower end of the Dawson Valley, 20km east of Baralaba. It is a highly successful commercial cattle operation now venturing into seed-stock production, and Gavin & Diane's focus for the last 25 years has been



**Cattle in the yards at Granville**

to produce heavyweight bullocks at a young age from crops such as sugar-based forages, oats and leucaena.

Gavin & Diane sell 60 Charolais and Charbray stud bulls annually through their purpose built **Granville** selling complex.

Recently downsized from a larger commercial breeding herd, **Granville's** breeders now number 350: 100 Charbray, 100 Brahms and 150 purebred Charolais are used to produce bulls and Jap Ox bullocks. They are fed with 1,200 acres of cultivated crops including forage sorghum, dolicos lab lab, oats and leucaena. Gavin & Diane cultivate another 300 acres of forage and oats on a property at Thangool, which they use to finish their **Granville** herd.

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**Nonda's Historic Banana hut**

**Nonda** is the first stop of the day. When you disembark from the bus you will enter an oasis of shady trees and green lawn surrounded by fields of leucaena and native pastures.

Alan & Jocelyn will introduce you to **Nonda** while you have morning tea in the shade and gaze at the surrounding pasture paddocks.

You will have a chance to explore both the historic Banana Hut and Jocelyn's array of native trees before embarking on Alan's tour of **Nonda's** front paddocks.

Next you will make the short drive to **Granville**, where a hearty lunch will be served at the impressive sale complex. Get a close look at Gavin & Diane's prize-winning Charolais from the tiered seating and take the chance to ask the Arneils about their tips and tricks.

For a true sense of **Granville**, you'll explore the paddocks with Gavin and observe first-hand how Charolais and dryland leucena produce a winning product.

The Beef Australia 2009 tour to **Nonda** and **Granville** will let you meet the owners of these two outstanding properties and see first hand some of Central Queensland's most celebrated Charolais and Charolais cross cattle.



**Cattle graze at Nonda**

