Around the Traps 2018

Allawah | Argyle Downs | Auvergne | Bunda | Carlton Hill | Comely
Dungowan | Isis Downs | JJAA | Kirkimbie | Manbulloo | Mimong | Newry
Newcastle Waters | Ucharonidge | Wrotham Park
A FEW WORDS FROM TROY

Another year has come and gone once again in a flurry of activity and I’m proud and thankful to all of you for continuing to run the business in a successful and professional manner despite a few added pressures this year with the sale, dry conditions and at times, tough trading conditions.

Our collective health and safety has continued to be top of mind throughout this year, and attitudes continue to improve in this regard. This year, I’ve personally encouraged you all to consider your mental health and that of your colleagues. I’m honoured to be on the board of advisors for Dolly’s Dream, along with Bernadette, and CPC’s support of this worthy cause will continue for many years to come.

Whilst it is encouraging that LTI’s have reduced compared to last year and near miss reports have increased, more can be done. There have been several people hurt this year which could have been avoided. Please ensure that you and all visitors abide by safety protocols and continue to take care of one another.

The welfare of our cattle is very important to all of us at CPC. This year, we have continued to focus on improving animal welfare and we will again in 2019.

In February, the CPC sales process officially kicked off with advertisements in national newspapers and an international marketing program. Thank you to everyone for your professionalism and your stints as investor tour guides. Our guests, the Board and Terra Firma are very appreciative of your efforts and have expressed how impressed they are with all of you.

We said goodbye to Nockatunga in October and wish Andrew and Amy all the best under new ownership.

The sales process has taken most of my time in 2018, with much travelling to stations, JJAA and around the globe promoting CPC and the opportunities available to investors. All made possible by your hard work that ensures that CPC is an investment worth having. The sale process is continuing and as always if you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out. Thank you also for hosting a raft of other visitors as well, from politicians to students, the feedback as always, has been excellent.

Proudly, JJAA was recognised again as the Feedlot Steer competition winner by MLA, cementing their position as Indonesia’s premier feedlot.

Whilst the CPC corporate generated a bit more press than usual this year, individual stations and people were also featured for their hard work and tenacity. Some of the coverage included Spell Bore, that was the topic of a Landline episode, Dave reflected on a day in the life of a Station Manager in the Rural Weekly, Krucksey presented his learnings from a year as a Nuffield Scholar, Nyoman spoke to the ABC about the benefits Live Export provides to local economies in Indonesia, Jimmy was featured in the Outback magazine, Wrotham showed some best practice mustering in a Live Corp video, Emily chatted to the NT Country Hour following Auvergne’s win as CPC Business of the Year and CPC promoted its intentions to begin cropping on a bigger scale with Dougall’s appointment.

As always thank you for taking the time to talk about your personal experiences working with CPC and making us look so good. Thank you also to those of you that represented us professionally at various events and conferences around the country, in addition to your membership and participation with numerous industry associations.
A FEW WORDS FROM TROY

Cooperation between JJAA and CPC continued to be fostered through the exchange program. Ketut and Rapael spent a month visiting a couple of NT/WA stations, seeing first hand where their cattle start out. Jimmy and Jen similarly went to JJAA, returning very impressed with the operations there. Lampung hosted part of the NTCA Indonesia Australia Pastoral Program, which saw CPC employees travel across to Indonesia, experiencing the full extent of the supply chain.

Culinary talents were on show throughout the year with the release of the official CPC cook book, Kaddie cleaned up at the Longreach show garnering a number of blue ribbons, Jacqui’s rocky road got highly commended at the Ekka and the Spell Bore damper cook off was hotly contested this year. Many thanks to Haylee for collating the recipes and Ali for designing the cook book.

Investment in projects and properties has continued throughout the year with numerous developments taking place. The EWP had its first full year at Carlton Hill and Newcastle Waters, showing great results across the board. There were numerous renovations and constructions at several stations including a new kitchen at Ucharonidge, new quarters at Argyle Downs, installation of the six Tree Lodge outstation at Newcastle Waters, a new 6-way crush at Carlton and numerous water points being completed, along with a few older ones cleaned out/de-silted during the dry ready for the rains to come.

The Newry mortality project kicked off this year, monitoring the condition of some expectant mothers. The Brisbane office was quite excited by the satellite tracking technology and seeing some very fresh calves captured from automated video footage at watering points. The JAA breeding program continued to supply cattle for local farmers and assist in meeting government sustainability objectives. The fruits of the genetics program can be seen across our stations with a lot of diversity being seen in this year’s calf crop. Allawah continued to introduce new genetics including Ultra black Wagyu cross, pure Boran and Brangus, all of which will help to continue our success. The productivity improvements in the Allawah stud are very impressive.

Newcastle Waters, Ucharonidge, Wrotham Park, Dungowan, Auvergne, Newry, Carlton Hill, Bunda, Comely, Isis Downs also introduced new external genetics to increase productivity.

As a back drop to this we saw challenges to the Indonesia-Australia free trade agreement, drought across southern and eastern parts of Australia, live export troubles for our compatriots in the sheep industry and yet another tumultuous year in Australian politics.

Throughout all of what has been thrown at us this year I continue to be impressed by the strength and resilience of our team at CPC and your ability to keep focused on the task in front of you. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and perseverance in 2018.

Have a great Christmas and holiday season, keep safe and I look forward catching up with you in 2019, for another ride on this beast we call CPC.
A FEW WORDS FROM JIM

2018 has been another busy, challenging, rewarding year for the finance team! With well-developed processes and a hard-working, capable and stable team, this year seemed relatively calm despite the challenges of providing endless information to the Terra Firma exit process.

Achievements this year:
• Budget and forecasting processes and functionality are now better than ever, and further improvements are being developed for the FY20.
• The FY18 year-end went very well, despite the time pressures when, due to the exit process, the audit signoff was brought forward by three weeks from last year.
• Raquel has identified and developed Anaplan reporting improvements and improved JJAA’s database management. All of CPC’s financial reporting and systems have benefited from ongoing improvements through Raquel’s good work with the whole team, including the JJAA finance team.
• Devin continued to provide the team with opportunities to broaden their skills, strengthening the team by providing backup across other roles.
• As always, Naree has kept payroll well under control, and maintains constant contact with each station to keep up with any staff changes. Having rolled out Concur for credit card processing in FY18, Naree has continued to improve the Concur system.
• Sue is our main point of interface with most suppliers, she manages them well to keep them all paid and happy.

8. Natalie continues to successfully manage all livestock related finance processes, transaction banking relationships, and cashflow monitoring.
• In addition to reviewing all of CPC’s asset records and improving processes and data in the Fixed Asset Register, Salesi continues to manage capex and insurance processes, as well as taking on more and more month end tasks.
• Craig managed the IT requirements of the exit process and is managing the JJAA security and network upgrade and the delayed Sharepoint rollout. He has done a lot of planning for the implementation of improved livestock recording and data management throughout the group.
• Graeme was again a steady hand through most of the year, we have benefitted from his vast experience and persistence.
• Greg Quinn has stepped into the Financial Controller role, and immediately fitted into the team, reshaping several team roles and sharing his experience to improve efficiency and structure.
• The whole team has stepped up to provide data in support of the TF exit process.
We had a few staff changes during the year:
• Pak Jenly joined JJAA as Head of Finance and Admin, replacing Pak Nanang in June, immediately taking charge of the JJAA finance functions, which allowed Jim to travel to Indonesia a lot less this year.
• Devin Watson left the team in August to take up a new role as CFO of a small listed oyster company based in Batemans Bay, NSW – this is a great role for Devin, and a great lifestyle opportunity for him and his young family. Devin implemented and developed Anaplan to replace CPC’s previous forecasting tools, which has become the “single source of truth” within CPC and is an invaluable improvement to the finance functions.
• Graeme joined us in FY18 to backfill for Devin during the TF exit process, bringing his wealth of experience in other large cattle businesses. Graeme was a tremendous support to Devin, Jim and the team, always available when required, before finally leaving us in September to enjoy some time travelling with his wife.
• Greg Quinn joined us in August to replace Devin as Financial Controller and proved his worth immediately with a visit to Isis Downs, then completing his first month end ahead of schedule without Devin or Graeme (who had both already left the team) or Jim (who was sick through the month end week). This was a great endorsement of Greg’s capability and calmness under pressure, and also reflected the development of the finance team around him, who really do all the hard work anyway.

We continued to get finance staff out to the station “coal face” this year - many thanks to all the station managers and the General Managers who welcomed finance staff onto their stations or to their events throughout the year:
• Jim visited every station (except Mimgong) at least once showing potential investors around. Many thanks to Jade Andrews for providing regular assistance with the laundry service at NCW on my extended travels. Jim also visited JJAA several times and met with TF in Milan in March and Berlin in October. The transition straight from Milan to Medan provides an interesting perspective.
• Craig has been to many stations again resolving IT challenges and implementing improvements.
• Greg Quinn spent a few great days at Isis Downs to get a first-hand experience of the coalface of CPC’s business.
• Salesi presented training to the JMC at Manbulloo in July re Capex and Budget, and recently visited Nokataunga to facilitate the handover out.

The Finance team joined with most of the Brisbane office for the Tough Mudder event in May – varying levels of fitness were on show, there was no shortage of mud, but the whole team worked well together and had a great day out.

Another frantic year, improving the way we work, and provide information to the business to support good decision making. I am again very proud of every member of the finance team for their achievements, their support for each other and for maintaining their sense of humor through every challenge. Bring on 2019!

Jim with Elders valuer and JJAA team in Medan for cattle valuations at end of March 2018 – the lady on the left is the auditor, who’s grumpy because she’s just realised that she’s an auditor

Most beautiful photo I have ever taken – at Uchiharongidi in June

Around the Traps 2018

Jim a Bunda in Feb

Most beautiful photo I have ever taken – at Uchiharongidi in June

Raquel and Jacqui’s spectacular raspberry, pistachio and white chocolate damper at Spell Bore. Should have won, we were robbed, but already gearing up for next year

Went to Berlin in October to update TF and seek feedback, this is what we found

Newry smoko selection in June. I may have proposed to the Newry cook on the basis of her Rocky Road, which did not go down well with my wife or her husband

Raquel in the Lampung board room, working on reporting and system improvements with the JJAA finance and IT team

Morning at Auvergne in June

Around the Traps 2018
2018 has been a busy year for us, with the announcement of the sale, several us have spent a lot of time flying between stations with potential investors.

The CPC team gathered in Darwin in February for the annual conference. Once again, Nigel thrilled us with his unique MC style and our speakers included croc farmer Mick Burns, Gary O’Hearn (Passapaly), Matt George (Bovine Dynamics), Doug Avery (NZ Farmer), Colonel John Papalitsas (Australian Military), Mick Colfit (Sudoko team Australia) and the NT Chief Minister Michael Gunther. Whilst the ladies enjoyed some pampering in the form of hair and makeup, the men gathered together in teams to carry out a team building exercise that involved an egg catching device with a sales pitch. We toured the Humpty Doo Barra Farm and Dan Richards explained how their team work around the clock to produce fresh, saltwater barramundi.

We celebrated the successes of our team at the annual CPC Gala Awards Dinner. Attending the annual celebration included CPC’s Australian and Indonesian managers and board, as well as special guests The Hon. Michael Gunner MLA (Northern Territory’s Chief Minister), Minister David Littleproud (Minister for agriculture and water resources), Mohammed Hanifa (Acting Indonesian Consul/Consul for Economic Affairs) and many of CPC’s customers and suppliers.

In April, Anita Broad joined us as an Assistant to Troy to cover Ali’s European adventure. The original plan was for her to stay a month, but it’s coming close to December and she has her feet firmly under the table having worked alongside the HR team since May.

A group of brave individuals from the Brisbane office took on Tough Mudder in May. Tough Mudder is 9+ miles of mud and obstacles built to test your mental grit, camaraderie and all around physical fitness. It is a team orientated challenge with no winner, just a good day spent outside in lots of mud. Everyone escaped relatively unscathed... apart from a few scratches and bruises.

Several CPC employees travelled to Rockhampton in May for Beef Week. During the week, the CPC team spoke about CPC, our people, cattle and properties to the many visitors at Beef week. The virtual reality goggies were a real hit with people enjoying a VR experience, mustering and loading cattle at Wrotham Park. It was a great opportunity to speak to students and other people interested in working for CPC. From the week the HR team received over 30 potential applicants for jobs at CPC.

Two employees from JJAA carried out an exchange at CPC for four weeks from 10 May – 10 June 2018. During the JJAA exchange program, the JJAA employees visited Auvergne, Biunda and Carlton Hill stations.

In June, we wished Tracy Chan (our WHS and HR Advisor) well as she head off to get married to her partner, Dan. One thing you can guarantee with our food fanatic Tracy, is that the catering would have been top notch!

The Junior Managers Conference for 2018 was held at Manbulloo on 10 – 12 July. Middle Management including Head Stockpersons, leading hands attended Manbulloo for the three-day workshop. Jill Rigney from the Right Mind facilitated a two-day leadership workshop that covered information followed on from the first JMC held in February earlier this year. On the third day lead attendees presented on a range of topics, which included, WHS, Operations and value creations. These presentations developed presentation skills and confidence while also covering a range of topics and showing expertise.

Having missed the chance to attend the McDonald’s Beef Supply Chain Tour last year, Natalie, Raquel, Tracy and Sue head to a tour around McDonald’s in the City, a beef production facility tour, followed by a tour of the beef grinding plant Keystone Foods Australia. An eye opening and enjoyable day was had by all in learning about the pasture to plate process.

In August, Jim, Raquel and Jasmine hit the road and made their way to Spell Bore at Newcastle Waters. Raquel gave it all in the Damper cooking challenge – but much to the dismay of the team back in Brisbane, didn’t bring any back for us to sample.

CPC was present at the Royal Queensland Show (EKKA) with a Marquee promoting career opportunities from 7 – 10 August 2018. A competition was facilitated with the prize winner receiving an all-expenses paid two-week placement at a CPC Station. The competition was well supported and a good way to connect with young people interested in Agricultural Careers.

We bid farewell to Devin Watson as he made the move to NSW to start a new role at an Oyster company and we welcomed our new Financial Controller Greg Quinn. You may be forgiven for thinking he’s a mini-me of Jim.

In mid early October, Troy and Jim set off for the twice-yearly Terra Firma portfolio business conference, this time in Berlin.

19 Ladies from the Territory and Queensland gathered together in Darwin for the second Women’s Leadership Ladies Conference (WLC). The WLC is held to recognise and support equal opportunity and diversity of women in the agricultural industry. The conference was facilitated by Jill Rigney with workshops included Leading Self, Unconscious Bias and Redesign – Purpose and Goal Setting and conflict resolution.

There were presentations from CPC team members, including Naree Bryce (Payroll and accounts), Sue Hughes (Accounts Payable), Tracy Chan (enableHR) and Tammy Kruckow (Recruitment).

In October, we printed our first official CPC cook book, with contributions from the Brisbane office, Station Managers and cooks. We hope that you love the book and you’ll all enjoy making the recipes for your friends and families.

In November, we bid farewell to Tracy again as she head off to China for her second wedding - you may be forgiven for thinking it’s so soon after her last wedding, but we can assure you, it’s the same guy.

2018 was a big year for 50th Birthdays at head office, so the team celebrated with a meat feast at NaVala. The meat sweats were had by all in the following days, but it was worth it.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas and New year - see you on the other side in 2019!
Firstly, I would like to thank all the CPC team for their support and hard work for the 2018 season.

It is always a pleasure to visit our stations and the Brisbane office to catch up with the team to discuss our operational activities and continual improvement processes, seeing the improvements take shape is always satisfying and motivating.

The wet season started well but unfortunately finished far too early, most of our properties had good early effective rainfall which allowed for good early pasture growth. The early finish to the wet has caused some issues with early dry back on our surface waters particularly in the west Carlton, Bunda, Newry, Auvergne and Mandbulloo, however the pasture growth was very good. The Barkly Uchronidge and Newcastle Waters properties were on the very edge of the better rainfall and have managed to maintain current herd numbers. With the completion of the capex development of 50 new watering points the properties were able to maintain the current stocking rates. Without these new watering points the story would have been different with an approximate number of stocking rates would be reduced by 30% or 20,000 head.

Argyle enjoys the benefit of a light wet season by allowing for pasture growth around the Lake as it dries back. Dungowan received the best rainfall patterns as it had the earliest start and latest finish.

This year, all new CPC stock-staff attended Induction Week, which was held at the Katherine Rural College CDU campus. Throughout the week the new recruits were given an introduction and training in the core aspects of their new roles through the CPC skills framework. CPC Head Stockpersons and Leading Hands with the help of two external trainers delivered an excellent program for the week. Overall the week was successful and using the college facilities worked well for the larger numbers of new staff this year.

Other training that has been rolled out to staff on the NTWA stations this year has been, First Aid Training, Cattle Handling, Horsemanship, Nutrition Edge Courses, CPC Managers Forum, Women’s Leadership Conference, CPC Junior Managers, Head Stockpersons Forum, Spell Bore and Preg Testing Training. The newly purchased Preg Testing Scanners were put to good use throughout the season.

CPC was well represented at this year’s NTCA conference held in Alice Springs in March, and the KPCA conference held in Port Headland was attended by Peter and Judy.

Welcome to CPC’s resident veterinarian Jack O’Donnell who has commenced full-time employment to assist with all animal health programs and animal welfare issues.

Congratulations to James Beale and Dave Young on completing their helicopter licenses this year, to Steve Pocock on completion of his fixed wing license and to Andrew O’Kane who is in the final stages of completing his fixed wing license.

Thank you to Montie Lester for managing and supporting the pilots and aircraft fleet for CPC on their stations.

Dougall Miller has joined the company as Cropping Development Manager and is currently implementing potential programs for pasture improvement.

The Early Weaning Program (EWP) is working well and now an integral part of CPC operations. Since the commencement of the EWP there have not been many days when cattle have not been in pens on feed. A big thank you must go to the staff who implement the EWP programs on both Newcastle and Carlton Hill, it is a very constant and busy role for everyone involved.

CPC is now a business that operates continually throughout the full 12 months of the year with cattle activities being constant throughout the year. Last year 13,000 head of cattle moved during the months January to March to sale and 18,000 weaners were in the EWP. This has created some challenges in terms of having staff to do these roles during these periods, going forward the business planning is better prepared for this coming wet season on the back of last years’ experience.

Previously the industry slowed down over this time frame and maintenance work was completed and stations ran with minimum staff over this time frame. In preparation for stock movements and a good wet season the teams on the stations have done an excellent job in planning for the upcoming seasonal change with gravel carted for roads and bunks, commodities in before the wet begins and enough people in place to carry out the necessary cattle movements and day to day activities.

As we look back on the year there are plenty of areas that have been part of the continual improvement process, rangelands, weed control, land condition, pasture improvement, plant and equipment retirements and purchases of new plant, capex development, herd genetics, herd segregation and stud performance.

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work, commitment and support throughout 2018, and I look forward to working with you all on further achievements and challenges in 2019.

Keep Safe and remember safety is no accident.

HB
2018 has been a mixed year for the Queensland team. In relation to the season we experienced extremes of having a cracker of a season at Comely where leg’s were coming by the plenty, to Nockatunga having to back up for another year with next to no rain and further destocking.

With tragedy striking the Wrotham Park team early in the year, it was a real blow but credit to the Wrotham team for sticking together and it shows the strength of the Wrotham team. Rest in peace Peter White.

Both cattle markets and commodity prices have been on a rollercoaster throughout the year which has offered up differing challenges to manage around. One of these differences was the highest recorded number of QLD CPC cattle to be loaded onto boats out of Townsville.

Just a few of the highlights from QLD as the year rolled on:

January
- Looking at Leucaena establishment and production with Billy Joe Rea in Central Queensland with Emma, Jason and Lester (pictured with heavy offset plough)

February
- Property Valuation Trips – Allawah and Comely looking spectacular, Wrotham Park was looking a picture but limited rain. Isis Downs, Mimong and Nockatunga were quite the opposite and looking ordinary
- First calendar month for the company where cattle were trucked off Nockatunga as a destocking strategy. This continued every month until the point of the Nockatunga sale handover with the exception of June and July
- The conference in Darwin and JMC at Manbulloo was a good opportunity to catch up with the rest of the company and what was being planned for the coming year. There was also an interesting field trip to Humpty Do Barramundi farm

March
- The next level of drought risk management was about to occur at Isis and Mimong, but we were extremely fortunate to receive good volumes of rain which was enough to completely change our plans of destocking back to restocking
- Meeting with MLA for a co-innovation workshop plus a guided tour around Emus Nest the newest addition to CPC (pictured)

April
- Cobby, Jonesy and I went for a look at Strathmore Station near Georgetown with Scott Harris. We visited Strathmore to see how it had been developed in the last 10 years moving away from a straight cattle station to a mixed dryland cropping and livestock operation. It is an absolute credit to Scott for what he has achieved and the direction he is heading with this station. This visit was a highlight for me this year and a station such as this really opens your mind to what is realistically achievable when developing the North in a tight timeframe with the right equipment. (pictured standing in dryland Cotton crop)
- Started purchasing some good quality British heifers from drought affected NSW to be rehomed at Isis Downs

May
- Mimong welcomed ACBH and Ellerston Cows on agistment for the rest of the year. Not sure the Black Baldy’s from Scone appreciate Kynuna weather!
- Attended the protest outside the Brisbane Parliament House in relation to Vegetation Management and the new land clearing laws (pictured with Troy on the back of the Toyota)
- Beef Week in Rocky with Emma, Andrew and Anna, Troy, Jen, Jacqui, Jason and Haylee
- Cattle absolutely powering along at Comely (pictured - No.7 Wrotham Steers with the lead already sold off)

June
- Property inspections were in full swing – thanks to all the team for the efforts and enthusiasm

July
- Wrotham had a crack at trying to drill for bores which proved to be difficult and achieving a strike rate less than the Australian cricket team (pictured)

August
- Few days at Ekka for Emma and Jas to see what young cattle enthusiasts we could meet and encourage to apply for future employment

October
- Nockatunga was sold and we said goodbye to the Petersens and their team. We wished them all the best for the future. (photo – leaving the red landscape of Nocka for the last time in the Mooney)

November
- With branding, sales, bangtail targets getting hit across the group, it is a credit to all the crew for a good year’s work

Future
- We wish Emma good luck as she heads off to get married
- We wish Stacey and Lester all the best with producing Jack a little sibling (this kid will need to be tough to hold its own against Jack)
- Thank you all for the hard work throughout the year and I personally have thoroughly enjoyed it.

Please have a safe and Merry Christmas and I am looking forward to working with you all into the bright future.

Carl
ALLAWAH

2018 is almost done, as much as I hate to say it the years are seeming to go by much quicker, I guess it’s a sign that we have plenty on and heaps to do, or it takes us longer because we are getting old. We have had yet another lower than average rainfall year, we have been more fortunate than many but would still like to get back to regular good seasons.

The biggest change for Allawah since this time last year is the purchase of Emus Nest, which has more than doubled our land area and cattle numbers. We have stocked EN with Ultra black / Wagyu heifers, Ex Isis Downs Angus heifers, Ex Isis Downs Angus heifers, purchased Angus cows and heifers and due to the dry we have 340 head of Brahman heifers over there due to the Allawah side being very low on feed, EN has saved our butts this year and was a great bolt on acquisition that made perfect sense.

We responsibly cleared a large portion of the timbered country that we thought we could increase production on and the ROI was much higher than the money spent and was immediate with a lift in property value even before we have a chance for the production level to rise on the cleared land.

The other major shift is a Genetic shift from Brahman Sire bulls two years ago to some Borans and 45% Brahman and 50% Angus bulls last year to Angus and Boran Sires only for our 2018 December joining. One thing we have noticed already is the much lower mortality rate on the crossbred calves, less calving issues. Our calves born this year are the first Brangus A.I calves we have had for many years, the most pleasing part of this is a total stoppage in calving issues with the Brangus calves born from A.I. What used to be a stressful period was basically drama free.

We are doing two A.I. programmes this year Ultra black / Wagyu done to Boran Bulls, and Brahman heifers done to Angus Sires from USA and Australia. We have Boran / Angus calves here on the ground now which look great and if the season breaks we will bring more Angus cows and heifers over from Comely that were also joined to mainly Boran with some Brahman bulls also used over them.

There are now several hundred Embryo recipient cows at “Nindooinbah” as part of our ET programme breeding Brangus and Boran progeny, this will continue to play a very important role in the CPC genetic plans to fast forward our Genetic improvements.

We are again selling Boran semen in the USA for Boran semen from Australia, and we have Australia’s biggest Boran herd, so we are jumping at the opportunity. We have our last child Sarah finishing School currently so two kids at University at the same time will not be great for the savings but something we always were going to do for them.

From the Allawah team we would like to thank the Head Office team for their ongoing support and help throughout the year and look forward to working with you next year.

To all of CPC we wish you a safe and happy festive season, enjoy your break and time with your families.

Best wishes and regards
Jason, Haylee, Bree and Sarah.
I guess like us, you are all wondering where 2018 went!

I see that as a good sign as we must have all been busy and productive.

Unlike 2017 we had a very mediocre wet with only 500 ml of rain.

Kellie returned to Argyle as did Olly. Will came across from Newry and our two newcomers were Maddy and Emily.

By the end of March everyone was on deck and their most favourite job was on - fencing, flood gating and more of the same.

Just after start of season Kellie left us and headed to the States for about six weeks to do her horse dentistry. Congratulations to her! We were glad to see her back, especially Pete.

This year the Argyle camp has been shared around which has been good for them being able to have different experiences. Certainly, was great from a social aspect as we can be quiet at times. And this year was a little quieter than normal.

Easter weekend was the first weekend off and where everyone had the opportunity to meet staff from a few other stations as they gathered in town.

Their first posting was in May to Auvergne for two weeks. They have also been to Newry, Carlton Hill and Manbulloo.

In June, the whole Northern premise of Argyle was coacher mustered, with the help of the 12 new horses, and walked back home. We trucked off the last of the cows and heifers. All up, Argyle trucked off some 6,500 head. This was the first year everything has been inducted onto Argyle via electronic reader which will be helpful in tracking weight gains etc.

Capex money this year went towards some new quarters, a four-man unit to match the one already here. With the addition of a tropical roof, decking in between, and a new laundry area it sure makes for a better sight and living for the staff.

In addition to that, we got two new solar bores and two new holes drilled at Limestone and May Creek.

We had a contractor gravel around the station area, sheds etc which will make for eases of movement and less mess in the wet. He also graded new roads all through Argyle so we can now get lick out to all areas.

This year, Olly attended the shoeing school, Will the housebreaking school and Brooke the Ronnie Wall school. Tom Shephard also came through which everyone enjoys.

I am sure you will agree that the highlight of the year for Argyle was being the overall winners at Spell Bore. The excitement and pride were palpable. I am sure you all know that this was the first year we have had our own team.

The highlight of the cook’s year was her chicken pen finally being snake proofed. Two years of broken promises, 25 strangled chooks later and lots of cussing thrown in, it’s done.

Thank you to all the staff who have made for a good year. We wish you a great break and hope to see some of you back in 2019.

Peter and Judy
As always, the Around The Traps write up seems to sneak up on us every season as we wonder where the year has gone!

The camp is on the downhill of second round with only a couple more breeder mobs to process before they finish up the season mid-December.

It was set to be a challenging year, with only 450mm falling for the wet season, with a hand fall of dams not receiving any top ups and rivers stopped running quite early. These areas proved challenging, however, recent development helped drastically with the management of these areas as it gave us room to move as waters dried up very early in the season. The only positive from the drier than average wet season gave us the opportunity to catch up on maintenance and de-silt the likes of Riley dam.

With the short wet, this gave us early access to the majority of the property, getting straight into first round at the beginning of April. Thanks to Kellie and the Argyle camp for helping us get through first round by early June, with the Argyle camp looking after the Police Hole end and helping out where they could throughout the year.

First round tied up, this made for a busy month of preg testing dry cows through the month of June, setting our segregation program up for the remainder of the year. This then led into the camp venturing down to Police Hole to sort and segregate heifer paddocks just in time for them to enjoy some down time and get to a few campdrafts, Costello, Halls Creek, Kununurra. In the horse theme, we were fortunate enough again to host a two-day Ron Wall horseman ship school, this is always a fantastic school for the staff and is thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Before we knew it, we were into second round on our first round wet cows, which kept the camp busy and the excitement at the end was definitely the trip over to NCW to compete in the annual Spell Bore event. The team returned to Auvergne with overall second after numerous placings throughout the three days. Thanks to the entire NCW crew for putting on such a great event and congratulations to all the other place getters.

The final draft of the season was Timber Creek, once again we supplied the cattle for the draft, and yet again, Timber Creek always seems to kick off the warmer weather and before we knew it we were into build up season! With late September and early October letting us catch up on some maintenance, we were soon into our second round on our August calvers which has seen very high calving rates and has kept the EWP at Carlton busy with us sending close to 3000 weaners over within a couple of weeks.

2018 has been a very busy year with finishing up the remainder of the 2017 water development and also getting started and hopefully finalising (pending wet season) the development in the Amanbidji lease area. The year has shown great teamwork within the Auvergne team and throughout the company also.

On behalf of myself and Wayne, we would like to say a big thank you to all of our hard-working staff, contractors and alike that have made a successful and enjoyable season.

We look forward to another exciting and challenging season in 2019. All the best to all staff moving on to new adventures and we look forward to doing it all again with returning staff. May the next few months bring plenty of rain for all and a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Auvergne 2018 team
A few early storms around, good brandings, turn-offs and a team that is going well, 2018 is coming to an end but has kept us on our toes with a few small wins here and there.

The year started with a wet January, that petered out into below average rainfall, however enough to get us through the year. With Butsey coming back running the camp, Charlie and Bill keen to show the rest of the team around and Laurie again on the grader we were off to a good start. With the team ready to start mustering after Easter we got started in the first week of April, from then on it was busy through until the first Kununurra Rodeo before finishing most of the breeders by the end of June.

We had some training held at Bunda again this year with Tom Shephard and Ron Wall dropping in to help out with all things livestock, first aid and chemical courses to keep everyone safe and the weeds subdued before getting stuck into some maintenance that fitted in well between the social season.

The team made it to several drafts bringing home a few different coloured ribbons between them. This year we also took Francis and Georgia, both Bunda bred Brangus stud animals in the lead male and female section at Katherine show for a change of routine.

In August we headed across to Spell Bore, where Butsey and Charlie battled it out for the honour of top barrel racer, as seen on Landline (congratulations Butsey, you are the best barrel chaser). A big thanks to Jak, Jade and the Newcastle Crew for again hosting a great event and congratulations on the Argyle team for a well-deserved win.

With the introduction of the Early Weaning Program removing the need for us to wean in September the camp went to Carlton Hill for four weeks to help with breeders and floodplain cattle. This was a good change of scenery for the camp and by all reports everyone enjoyed themselves, however the weather is a bit warmer closer to the coast.

We again continued with development work across the station with Yellow Water Hole Yards, O Yards and Bunda Creek Yards having a face lift. A new camp shed has gone into YWH and old tanks, troughs and fencing has continued to be replaced throughout the year. The last of the Capital development program from last year was also finished off.

With weaning for second round beginning at the end of October resulting in some good branding numbers and an even line into the EWP, we are getting close to finishing cattle work and only have a few paddocks to go.

This year should see branding numbers above budget, a first in CPC’s ownership of Bunda as well as good turn off weights in sale and transfers animals.

A big thanks to those who came back from last year to show the way around, Butsey, Laurie, Bill and Charlie, and to all the rest of the team - Jess, Shannon, Sarah, Jack, Mark and Ali for a job well done.

To the team that is coming back bring on 2019, I look forward to working with you again, to those moving on, I’m sure they will be bigger and better things and bring many exciting new adventures.

From all at Bunda we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Jimmy and Shannon
As 2018 draws to a close, here we are again with another Around The Traps! We started the season with over 800ml of rain, two well rested stock camps including a few returning faces, a couple of transfers and a few freshies.

The season started out well with lots of grass, fat cattle and plenty of calves to brand. This year was our third bangtail year and we hope to see an increase in numbers with the final tally not yet complete.

We have seen a few improvements at Carlton Hill this year including a Grader, road train, side tipper, pneumatic crush and six-way draft, station yard upgrade, extra poddy pens.

Social events were a bit on the quiet side this year with only a few campdrafts and rodeos attended. A few of the team went to the coast of Carlton Hill - Cape Dommet during the long beautiful cool dry season and enjoyed a few days camping, fishing and crabbing. The Kimberley’s really is the place to be!

Spell Bore was a huge hit as usual and the crew had a great time. Most recently the whole crew took a few days out to head to Lake Argyle and relax for our end of year Christmas party (thanks to the Argyle crew for holding the fort).

The Early Weaning Program so far has been a success with weaners averaging a daily gain of .85 across the board. We will end the year with approx. 10,000 head - all pens full and a very busy Mike and Jeremy!

A massive thank you to Auvergne, Argyle, Bunda and Newry crew for your help during second round with the early weaning program.

Freya is as cheeky as ever and took part in her first campdraft this year on her new Pony - Archie. Beau had to find a new home after he collected Glen in the face, he was no longer welcome in the family! Freya is almost 4 and will start Kindy in town next year. Baby Brooker number two is due any day - I’m certain we will have a busy wet season.

As we start to get a few drops of rain, the early weaning commodities shed is about to get built and Lisa starts nesting we are excited to see what 2019 brings for us all and Carlton Hill station.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the Carlton Hill crew for their hard work during this season, without you the business can’t go on.

We look forward to welcoming returning staff and seeing a few new faces for the 2019 season and wish those pursuing other avenues all the best.

Wishing you all a wonderful wet season, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Cheers to CPC!

Glen, Lisa, Freya and all the Carlton Hill crew.
2018 started pretty dry, we got good rain in February then it just shut off again so nothing to finish the summer off. We were lightly stocked due to the dry finish to last year so went into winter with a good body of dry feed. We were loaded up with bigger steers from Mimong and Nockatunga after Easter to try and finish and spelled 1100 cull cows from Wrotham, Ucharonidge and NCW on their way to the meat works at Rockhampton so got to nearly 10,000 head pretty quick it turned really cold late June and July and were still getting frosts in August, this is the coldest winter for a few years here so the feed disappeared pretty quick in these cold months.

The cattle held on ok until August/ September then hit a wall. We still managed to turn off some pretty good feeders and a few bullocks.

The Angus stud cows are segregated and dropping calves have one mob calving to Boran and Brahman bulls. Most of these calves are really sleek coated so hopefully will handle the north.

We have had some good early storms and all cattle are going ahead again now. Hopefully the storms keep coming!

On the development front, we put down a new bore on the edge of the forest country so it has permanent reliable water in both paddocks and to put more water in some of the better country. We have nearly finished setting it all up. It has the capacity to put another stage on it and get water a bit further out as well in the future. Did some new fencing so we can keep the stud cows segregated and put out another $200k of graslan pellets on regrowth. Baby Jack is growing up fast and keeping everyone on their toes. He should be able to open gates in another few months which will be handy.

We have really struggled to find staff this year and we never got to a full team at any stage but the ones that were here during the year put in a pretty good effort to get the work done and we would like to thank them for their efforts.

Merry Christmas to everyone

Lester, Stacey and Jack
Our introduction to Sunny Dunny was fighting fires for a month and as I sit down to write this we are on fire patrol again! Hoping the rains not far behind.

January 2018 was very wet and then we started February with Dave in hospital with Appendicitis, followed by CPC Managers Conference, Induction Week (Dave and Suzie there as Trainers/Supervisors), Dave back in hospital, Nutrition Edge and a First Aid Course.

The all new crew arrived in March and mustering began in April. With our small team and the assistance of a few helicopters we navigated the Lancewood, Bullywaddy and the wattle to get cows walked to Yards and managed to finish Preg Testing and segregating breeders by end of May. Second round focused on completing our bangtail (tag) muster, turning off aged cows and pulling off weaners. An old portable loading ramp was salvaged from the sand and resurrected, and an old caravan trailer was converted into a panel trailer and the trapping began. We all had quite a bit of fun with some animals that had probably never even seen a yard. As expected the trapping process progressed slowly but has been extremely successful.

It has been a few years since the Company have had permanent staff here so there was quite a bit done to set up again. Our vehicle plant grew from one to three Toyotas; Dave got the horse truck back and working again, along with the Grader, and the old Mack and Kenny and trailers which were transferred across. A plane came too and the purchase of a second-hand camp van, a Polaris Buggy and a Bob Cat were very much appreciated. The horse plant was reinstated again with some plant horses transferred from Manbulloo and later some of the horses purchased from QLD. The compound also had some work done with a full facelift for the main House with a new kitchen and bathroom and painted inside and out. A facelift also for the quarters bathrooms with new showers and the additional of an en suite in one room. A dry store room was added to the kitchen and a new water tank was installed at homestead bore.

The whole crew headed into Manbulloo a couple of times for training – a first aid course and Ron Wall Horsemanship. Thanks so much to Krucksey and Tammy for your hospitality. We were very lucky to have Tom Shephard visit us for training on efficient cattle handling and we learnt so much – firstly about cattle behaviour but secondly a lot of useful and interesting history on Dungowan as well. Thank you Tom!

We got away to a couple of campdrafts for the year - Costello and our local Pussy Cat but Spell Bore was the highlight! With crew all new to CPC none of us really knew what to expect but it was a brilliant weekend. The camaraderie amongst staff was amazing and the friendly supportive have-a-go attitude encompassed what CPC is all about. For the first time in a long while Dungowan Station had a team participate and we did alright – Jane came 2nd in the Jillaroo Poddy Pursuit, Suzie 3rd in the Flutter and Runners Up in the Team Tug of War. Thank you Jasmine Boswell for Joining us.

Thank you to Jak, Jade and all who made the event possible – we are so looking forward to next year. Thank you to all our staff and contractors for all your hard work throughout the year. It was a challenging year and very rewarding and a pleasure to work with you all.

For Dave and I it has been delightful to join the CPC family and thank you to everyone for making us feel so welcome. Most of our crew have moved on and doing different things next year so we wish each of you all the best on whatever path you take.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Suzie and Dave
We are just going to start by saying eight inches of rain in March. I know we’ve skipped two months of the Year which is an unusual way to start – but January and February were nothing if not depressing. It was hot and dry. Andrew and Carl made a plan to totally destock Isis by June and we were worried about how we were going to retain our wonderful team. We pulled in the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Queensland Health to work with our staff to manage their mental health in the face of bogged cattle, dust, dirt and relentless heat.

And then we heard the wonderful sound of rain on the roof and it fell like a grazing land management textbook. Three inches, then 20 days later, another four inches and then another inch in early April. We pinched ourselves for weeks afterwards, worried that the green grass was just a hallucination!

The year moved quickly – Manager’s Conference, JMC and Micha’s Induction at Manbulloo became memories as we participated in the MLA Genetics Week at Comely and Allawah; the team officially became pig breeders in their spare time and Kent Saddlery came and went, making a substantial profit! We welcomed a couple of the families from the Brisbane office and we were pleased to be able to show city kids what we do on station.

As always, our team enjoys the opportunity to learn from others and we willingly travelled to Mimong and Nockatunga to help the other stations and learn different ways of doing things. Mushy from Bunda showed the team how they do it in the west and we welcomed team members from Wrotham and Allawah to Isis in April to go through the Repro Scan Training Program with Andrew and Pete Bear.

Andrew and Anna were thrilled to be able to help man the CPC stand at Beef Australia. We returned to receive 1000 head of black heifers from NSW which was the beginning of a seemingly never-ending supply of first and second round weaners from Wrotham Park. They sure how to breed them up there.

We’ve had a fabulous year of learning and community involvement. The team enthusiastically continued to support the local Isisford Community with great participation at the Isisford Sheep and Wool Show, the Fishing Competition and the Isisford Races. We were proud to walk away from the Fishing Comp as the top scoring team with the best shirt despite the fact that none of us caught a fish! We held a Grader Day where we learnt a new method of grading to assist with environmental flows of water and erosion, and participated in not one, but two MLA LPA Audits. Andrew started studying for his Pilot’s License. We have welcomed four work experience students to Isis this year and are proud to support the next generation of Station Hands even if it is trying at times. In any case, it is always a good lesson in patience and risk management. We hosted a fabulous Royal Flying Doctor Day where we invited neighbours and staff to participate in a timely reminder about sun safety.

We want to thank Carl and Emma for their tireless support this year. We want to especially thank our team. We have a fantastic team at Isis Downs. Each of us have had various personal challenges this year and Andrew and I are very proud of how everyone has worked together to find solutions and offer support to each other. The team give 100% every single day and not a week goes by that we do not appreciate it. Peter Bear and his partner Hayley have made a great contribution to the success of Isis Downs this year and we want to thank them for their leadership and good humour. Matt Patterson (2017/2018) and Micha Bradnock (2018) have been integral members of our team and we wish them all the best as the move on from Isis. We welcome everyone else back with open arms and look forward to 2019.

Wish the whole CPC team a very happy Christmas, and we look forward to seeing or speaking to you in the new year.

Andrew and Anna
Another year has gone so quickly and kept everyone busy with more cattle on feed than the previous two years. May to August were busy months with much higher sales than expected before and after Ramadan. This was followed by a few very busy months of importing to refill the feedlots. An extended dry season this year has meant delays in planting and tough supply of green chop from both our internal farming and external suppliers. The rain has started now so the farming team is busy planting, and we should see smooth supply by January.

Lampung staff ventured to Pahawang Island in January for the Celebration of 2017. Although it was pouring rain for most of the day, the team didn’t let that some very entertaining games and fun! Independence Day was celebrated in August with competitive games, music and food. Watching the managers vs the cattle team in a tug-a-war was most impressive, good to know they are still stronger than the younger team members.

JJAA Lampung took home first place in the MLA Indonesian Feedlot Steer Competition for the second year running, with an ADG of 2.27 on a pen of Charbray steers from NCW, Medan Feedlot. We welcomed to the team Pak Jenly as the Head of Finance and Administration division. Pak Eddy and Pak Zaini have moved positions this year, with Pak Eddy now taking on Purchasing and Feeding Manager in Lampung and Pak Zaini taking over Management of Medan. Employee of the month was awarded to celebrate the hard work and dedication of the following staff: Pak Jumri, Pak Sai’un, Pak Hadi, Pak Ibrahim, Pak Atin, Pak Rafael, Pak Dapit, Pak Ketut, Pak Agus and Pak Dedi.

Pak Rafael and Pak Ketut went to Manbulloo, Bunda and Carlton Hill stations, they had a great time and learnt a lot about the discipline, team work and culture at CPC. Pak Ketut also learnt to quit smoking, winning! Thank you very much Tammy and all the stations for your great hospitality.

During this year JJAA has made a new farmer partnership program, where the senior farmer partners in the program are recruiting, teaching and monitoring new farmers coming through in the program. We now have 40 farmer partners and 120 breeders out with them, we hope to continue the expansion of this program next year.

Pak Asep one of our long-standing farmer partners, along with Pak Ihsan and Pak Miko visited Indonesian breeding programs and Australia as a part of the Commercial Cattle Breeding Program with the Indonesian Australian Red Meat Partnership. They learnt many things about different breeding systems, genetics, bull selection and the value in data recording. Ihsan also spent a week at Smithfield feedlot, where he learnt new ideas to bring back into JJAA.

Bu Neny is going to Australia this November to participate in a leadership program with the Australia/Indonesia Awards.

From all the JJAA team Selamat Hari Natal dan Tahun Baru to everyone at CPC.
MANBULLOO

A note from Lily
With the end of 2018 approaching quickly, we look back and reminisce on what has been another busy year here at Manbulloo.

The year kick-started with March sales into JJAA and external PTIC cow sales to Tipperary, where cows performed exceptionally well, averaging 0.8kg ADG. We were faced with many challenges regarding weather and process this year, however we managed to overcome and deliver required outcomes.

In early March, Head Stockperson planning and preparation for CPC induction training was completed here at Manbulloo. Here, they learnt how to breakdown everyday tasks in order to teach the first years coming in the following week. This may have seemed like a simple ask, however proved to use a lot of brain power!

This year, Shifta took on the role of Head Stockperson with a whole new camp behind him to assist with the fast pace year which was about to begin. By the end of March, we had received 18mm of rain which made juggling incoming cattle, pulling off weaners and fitting in some sales. It was a solid effort by our new team to make this sale quickly and efficiently due to congestion of smaller mobs from across the company.

By mid-August, time was spent fighting fires which burnt around a third of the station. Fortunately, help was offered from all over - Bunda, Ucharonidge and Dungowan all came together with the Manbulloo team to put a stop to the fires after eight long days. Massive thank you to everyone for their support and assistance given throughout this period.

After a few days of mopping up the fires, we made it down to Newcastle Waters ten minutes before the commencement of Spell Bore Station Challenge. Although feeling a little unprepared, the weekend ended up being a great success and lots of fun. The highlight being a first place in the Ringer’s Got Talent comp, with gun-shearer Louis only leaving Jack (ram) with a few nicks… Shout out to Jak, Jade and all of NCW for yet another successful year of Spell Bore.

Second round commenced immediately after the completion of fires to move cattle off burnt country onto available feed. This proved to be a challenging process, as one paddock had small calves at foot. It took huge commitment by the whole team to mother up calves and get them to safety. Big thank you to Ucharonidge for assisting over this two-week period.

With the fires burning out paddocks that were planned to be used for incoming transfers, we required to source an agistment block to keep the sales program rolling. While writing this, our final breeders are coming through, pulling off weaners to be paddocked up for the wet.

Agistment cattle sales to Austrex and Frontier are well underway and will continue throughout November and December. We are continuing to learn and challenge ourselves every day to maximise our opportunities.

We celebrated the year with a weekend spent fishing in Darwin. Although there were more hangovers than fish caught, it was a fun weekend and a great way to hangover the year and challenge ourselves every day to maximise our opportunities.

As the 2018 Season comes to an end, we would like to make a special mention to our Team – Shifta, Mick, Louis, Bodie, Jack, Aimee, Anna, Sophie, Jen and Lily. We would have not been able to get through the challenges that we have been presented with this year without the passion, dedication and positivity that you have all displayed during this time.

Also, to our girls – Dakota, Kadence and Billie May for your continuous support and assistance.

“Above all, the best part of life is when your family become your friends and your friends become your Family” – Robin Robert

Wishing Everyone a Safe and Merry Christmas!

Krucksey and Tammy
MIMONG

The start to the year at Mimong was rather bleak with very dry and hot conditions making destocking highly likely. Fourteen and half inches of rain for the year, that came mostly in a rush at the end of February and into March put an end to those plans. The warm weather brought plenty of pasture growth and Mimong went into the agistment game in May taking on cows from NSW and the Barkly.

The good pasture conditions has also allowed Mimong to turn off plenty of good fat cow sales that weren’t expected when the budget was hatched.

Ben Nichols has been the mainstay in the staff department this year, with Joe, Danielle and Simon doing shorter stints during the year. While others from Wrotham Park, Isis Downs, Dungowan and Bunda have chipped in to help Mimong through their workload and keep waters going. Jamie Zammit from Wyreema has also helped out to keep the agistment program on track.

Ben’s highlights have included finishing off the Ranch water project and completing the Cecil Plains water project that started with the new bore drilled last year. He has headed off overseas to see the year out and have a well-earned break!

NEWCASTLE WATERS

A note from Jade

As another year passes at the Castle, Jak and I look back on our year. There has been a lot of changes for Newcastle and our family.

The EWP has brought on new challenges like getting feed out of the trucks, dust and birds. But with this we have had more staff, we have enjoyed Jana joining the NCW crew for the year.

The Ribeye project has been interesting, both the people and the process. The conversation often is very interesting, we have met some great people. Doing the weekly food order makes for a very full fridge, and the kids never want leftovers again. With the increase of staff numbers, there have been some interesting nights in the kitchen trying to get everyone fed.

We have been keeping busy with skiing, Hawaiian weddings, beer pong and campdrafts.

The Brood are producing healthy foal this year. The introduction of Jess Munro breaking in this year’s colts added new and fun dynamic to the station. She helped create a great quiet line of horses ready to go out to the station.

Jak and I were happy with Spell Bore. The introduction of new events worked well and brought new skills.

It was also great to have Kristy from ABC Landline there. Thank you to all our staff who made it a great weekend.

The kids have had a great year in and out of the school room. Rhianna has enjoyed her time in the stock camp and with Jess. She did very well at Spell Bore on her colt. The boys have built a new secret cubby. They enjoy swimming, fishing, and cooking snags. They always enjoy walking cattle away for the camps. With the EWP, there is always weaners in the yards.

Finally, I would like to thank Steve, Simon and Paige for their support. Tim, DJ and Bex for their hard work and persistence. Koz, Hannah and Bridget for keeping the kids entertained, happy and on track. And Jana for keeping everyone honest.

We wish everyone the best for 2019.

Jade, Jak, Rhianna, Ian, Justin and Aaron
A note from Paige

Newcastle Waters Station has been packed to the rafters for most of 2018. The year started out with four camps; two commercials camps, stud camp and Farrcombe contracting, the contractors finished up after first round.

This year has seen many new faces at NCW, however Jana Leppien an old CPC face joined the NCW crew this year to run the Early Weaning Program. She has fed and ran the induction and exiting of 10,298 weaners to date. A big thank you to the camps that rotated through the EWP to process and to those who assisted with feeding. After 11 years with CPC, Jana is moving onto a new opportunity and we wish her all the best.

Stud welcomed its new manager Steve Pocock who moved across from AACo, and our 2015 British back packer Bex moved into a Head Stockperson role. Stud has continued its cross-breeding objectives by purchasing more Angus bulls this year, and has semen tested approximately 1300 two-year-old Brahman bulls. The Stud development project has seen new fences erected, bringing additional lane ways and new smaller paddocks, as well as further water points being installed.

The building of six tree lodge commenced this year, which will give the camps a flash version of ‘camping out’ in 2019.

Commercial welcomed overseer Simon Everingham this year. Together with Head Stockpersons DJ Wall and Tim Allport, they have sent 8,575 head to the flood plains for agistment, 2,073 head to JJAA, 1,122 head to external boat sales, and 8,016 head to UCH, DUN and MAN for internal sales. The guys are right on track to meet their brandings target in this next month.

CPC also welcomed its very own veterinarian Jonathon O’Donnell in August this year. Doc Jack or Doc for short, is based here at NCW, but has been to Ucharonidge, Dungowan and to Carlton Hill. He has helped with diagnosing and treating issues in the EWP, preg testing breeders, and learning the ropes of semen testing stud bulls from Peter Letchford.

Although it has been a busy year there is always time for play, we have attended many campdrafts, and hosted the Spell Bore team games. Argyle took home the trophy, but it was a great weekend had by all, there were even more laughs added with ringer has talent. And how lucky were we to have the ABC Landline capture it, and to be featured on ABC Landline in October.

Special thank you to Rob our Bore Runner who has been here for three years, he has the most important job of keeping the water to the cattle. Rob is looking for a change of scenery with in CPC next year, and we wish him all the best.

A massive thank you for everyones efforts here at Newcastle Waters, we could not have done it without you. Enjoy your wet season break.

Paige
A short wet season saw a quick start to the new year at Newry. With Logan, Jaye, Burnie, Dianne, new Head Stockperson Jacob Dunn as well as five more fresh faces in the camp and the arrival of our first daughter, Lacey Louise in January, Newry was underway for another year.

First round saw plenty of thrills and spills. Newry is hosting Sydney Uni’s Mortality Project to try and get a better understanding of what the contributing factors are for livestock losses in the north, be it dogs, nutrition, disease etc. Armed with satellite tracking collars and implants to alert us of deaths and births, this made it a hectic time to search the trial paddock for a “needle in a hay stack”, however having Christie here for most of the calving period gathering data for the project saw plenty of km’s walked and dung samples taken. The trial will be held over a five-year time frame, with the first few months raising lots of questions but also finding a lot of answers.

July brought an end to a busy few months and was the beginning of the social events for the year. Costello Yard, Katherine Show, Kununurra and Derby campdrafts kept everyone busy training horses and getting bruised by rough stock events. Dig and Mum were back to have everyone’s horse’s feet sorted and Ronnie Wall teach the controls to everyone, it ensured a run of consistent wins and placings for all who competed.

Then the competition got real with Spell Bore coming up. Damper recipes getting tested left, right and centre, horses getting worked and groomed, new hats and outfits coming out to try to gather as many points as we could. 1000km, 15 horses, goosenecks and swags made the trip down to Newcastle. Unfortunately, just out of the winning top three stations, Newry had plenty of wins and fun along the way. A massive thank you to Jak, Jade and the Newcastle team for hosting, Rob Teague and his side kicks for judging and Carlton Hill for carting everyone’s horses down.

Second round kicked off after Spell Bore and work got busy again. The camp did a stint at Carlton for three weeks then back to Newry to finish off the season. With some early storms around and the weather getting somewhat ordinary, it was time for our Christmas party at Lake Argyle, a lot of wet season supplement to be distributed and the end of another big year in the north. 2019 will no doubt bring more changes, it will be the end of an era and the start of new beginnings for us.

NEWRY

For everyone who has made Newry 2018 a year to remember Dianne, Burnie, Jaye, Logan, Grace, Nina, Jacob, Heidi, Chad, Charlie(pilot), Christie (Syd Uni), thank you for all of your hard work.

Merry Christmas!
Dave, Ellie and Lacey
The start of 2018 saw our little family moved out onto the Barkly in our first management role on Ucharonidge station. We hit the ground running on this beautiful station, with paddocks being dry enough for bore runs in February so were able to get stuck into mustering as soon as our new crew had assembled.

The station buildings got a little bit of a makeover this year with almost all buildings getting a fresh lick of paint inside and out, what a difference that makes!

We also received approval to turn the large storage shed into a new kitchen, office and training room. No more Barkly breeze cutting through you while you’re trying to eat smoko, not to mention the odd python living in the pantry. It was a big job cleaning out the storage shed but everyone pitched in and soon the big old shed was starting to look like something promising. Walls started going up and soon we were ordering benches, tables, sinks and a new stove. Building a new kitchen while mustering at the same time would be a challenge for anyone but we got there in the end. We had our first dinner in our new surrounds in September, just before it started getting really hot, our English cook Dave really appreciates a kitchen with air con and no snakes! Yet.

Dougall Millar visited us a few times during the year looking at the exciting prospect of cropping and improved pastures around the station and we look forward to seeing what comes next in that area.

Northern Stockwater installed 25 new water points around the station this year which has been a great improvement and allowed us to shut off some bores that have been running for the past 80 years. Seeing cattle grazing out further and utilising the paddocks that they are in has been excellent to see.

Then it was Spell Bore time again which is always a highlight on CPC social calendar. This year didn’t disappoint with many great laughs and everyone getting into the team spirit and giving it a red hot go. The talent night was particularly fun, and I think everyone should be proud of their efforts! We were very proud of our team having placed in several events and managing to win the tug-of-war. Big thanks to the Newcastle Waters team for doing such a great job!

I was fortunate enough to attend the Women’s Conference up in Darwin this year and meet Jill Rigney. It really was a great week full of information and so many useful conversations with Jill and the other ladies about their day to day lives on their stations, some of the challenges we all face and the tools we need to move forward. Thanks so much to everyone who put this together and I can’t wait for next year’s conference.

It was a year of firsts for much of crew and ourselves but we all came together, worked hard, enjoyed our down time and made it a great year, so thank you all very much.

To those that are returning for 2019 we look forward to having you back and to those that are leaving we wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavours.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all and we look forward to seeing you all around the traps.

Des and Em
Well 2018 where did it go...

This year at Wrotham Park started off on the back of a decent wet season, with good grass growing rain not so much dam filling. In March the team started to arrive back, with some newcomers. Katie Williams, Amber Grieve, Joe Fisher, Jake Tabone and our new Bore Runners Errol Gilbo and Damien Andrews (based at Gamboola). So, when it came time to fix some fences before mustering you could say it was quite the learning curve for those people trying to find their way around in 10ft grader grass and pea bush!

We also had a lot of returning staff this year, Jonesy running the camp again, Dale Watson taking on the leading hand and weaner camp role in first round, Claudia Stokehill who was our preg tester and chief tallyer for the bangtail muster, Justin Bell who took on the role of weaner camp for second round, and Chase Teague returning for his second year. Suzie Parry-Okeden returned as the cook doing an excellent job once again, and Michaela Biggin took on the role of the Govie.

We were lucky enough to be able to host a Ronnie Wall horsemanship school before mustering commenced in mid-April, this still did not stop fresh horses doing what fresh horses do best, (getting rid of first years) but everyone got through the early stages of mustering and wore the buck out of their horses.

First round at Wrotham this year would be best described as hectic to say the least, with a Bangtail and Singvac year just thrown in as an added extra to the thousands of weaners being sent back to the station to be processed and moved on. Dale did an excellent job in what was quite the juggling act for yard space at times.

The old hand contractors played their usual big roles around the place again with Walchy doing battle with weaners and clean-skin cows in the rivers in his helicopter. Bruce and his Kenworth doing all the paddock carting and coordination of trucks coming and going from the place. Jock Ross and whatever machine he can get his hands on plus fixing the odd mechanical problem in the workshop. Robbie and Robyn White with their team of ringers helping to get the Gamboola side of the place done. Would like to say a huge thank you to those people once again.

The year brought the usual social events Normanton Rodeo where a few drafted and rode bullocks, Laura rodeo, Eureka Creek Campdraft, and Chillagoe rodeo. Also, in the mix was the crowd favourite Walsh Office races held at Wrotham park, it was a big weekend to say the least, with all the parents of the people that work here making the trek up here for the occasion and people coming from far and wide to enter a horse in the race. Would like to thank Walchy and his committee once again for a great weekend (and the week-long hangover).

Water or lack thereof has been a bit on an issue at Wrotham this year, keeping our bovine friends hydrated has been a real team effort, with Jonesy and Cobby in the air, Damo and Errol on the ground making sure everything is running smoothly. The dry dam situation saw us put down two new bores and set up 2 new large storage tanks. Jock has been spending countless hours on the loader in the later months digging out dams to make sure we don’t miss a drop in the coming wet season. Also, some new fencing has been completed by Kade Ryan and his team with the replacement of one fence line and an upgrade to mouthorgan yards (including sprinklers).

Second round brought the heat, the flies and the calves (thousands of calves). Jonesy and his team were camped out for a bit over a month, whilst Bones (Justin Bell) took on the role of weaner camp.

No weaner cattle were retained at Wrotham second round, so Bones had his hands full loading trucks nearly every second day to Isis and Newcastle Waters, and to his credit did an excellent job.

Jonesy will be leaving us at the end of the year after being a part of the team since we moved here. We will miss him greatly but am happy for him to go and learn something new and have a look at some new country. Chase also going home to do his electrical apprenticeship so wish him all the best as well.

A big thanks to everyone in head office for their support again and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Cobby, Kirsty, Grace and Boys, Jonesy and all the Wrotham Park crew.
SPELL BORE
Cattle at Boab Yards by Ellie Young