



## Shutting the stockyard gate

AFTER 25 years in the industry, John and Joan Woodruff will oversee the complete dispersal of their renowned stud, Witherswood Angus, across a three stage process.

Beginning with a female herd sale on October 19, the Woodruffs will auction off all cows, cow and calf units, weaner heifers, recipient cows and embryos.

Following that, they will hold the final Witherswood Angus bull sale – where some of the best genetics in the country will be offered next March – with the sale of the property the final stage.

“This has been a very difficult decision,” John said.

“We have thought long and hard about it – but the reality is we are getting older, and there is no family to follow on.”

In their early 80s, John and Joan have dedicated almost three decades of their life to developing the best bloodlines in Australia – most notably, when Witherswood joined a consortium to buy Millah Murrah Kingdom K35 for \$150,000, the most ever paid for an Angus bull at the time.

“Our genetic base is second to none,” John said.

“Our foundations cows were purchased from Booroomoka Angus over 20 years ago - we were one of the first Victorian breeders to purchase from the very successful Millah Murrah Angus in NSW, and we also have Te Mania as well.

“These genetics, the best in the country, are all through our herd.”

Based at Taminick,



MOVING ON: Witherswood Angus will be completely sold over three stages, the first being a female dispersal sale on October 19. Although a difficult decision to make, stud principal John Woodruff (pictured centre) said it was time to move closer to family. Mr Woodruff is pictured with stud manager Ian Peake (left) and agent Kevin Sanderson (right).

Witherswood have a breeding herd of more than 350 registered cows - and developed a reputation for producing cattle with thickness, length, muscle and bone structure.

“We work hard to retain the Witherswood type of functional high fertility, soundly structured cattle that are in good working order, and not over fat,” stud manager Ian Peake said.

“We believe that in maintaining these traits, as the foundation of any breeding program, gives the breeder more options in targeting various markets along the supply chain.

“To put it bluntly, our success is the buyer’s success.”

Ideally, the Witherswood team would like to see their

hard work carry on through other studs.

“The sale of our property is the final stage, which will present a great opportunity for an opening in the North East for someone to set up and supply bulls to our loyal clients,” John said.

“A ready-made stud property, with facilities and viewing yards made for on farm selling will be offered when Witherswood goes on the market.”

After the dispersal is complete, John and Joan will trade the country for city life – keen to spend more time with their children and extended family.

For more information on the upcoming Witherswood sales, visit the website at [www.witherswoodangus.com.au](http://www.witherswoodangus.com.au).