



Final chapter begins for Witherswood Angus stud

AFTER 25 years in the Angus cattle breeding industry, John and Joan Woodruff oversaw the first stage of the complete dispersal of their renowned Taminick stud, Witherswood Angus, on Friday.

The 400 plus lot female herd sold for \$2,026,500 with a sale average overall of \$4658 with \$38,000 the highest price paid for a cow by Bannaby Angus stud NSW.

The 248 cows sold made an average of \$5721 and apart from the top price of \$38,000 also included single lots reaching \$22,000 and \$20,000.

The 133 heifers sold averaged \$2921 with a top price of \$7000 and 18 bulls sold at an average of \$4750 with a top price of \$7000.

The auction included all cows, cow and calf units, weaner heifers, recipient cows and embryos.

The female dispersal will be followed by the final Witherswood Angus bull sale, which will be held next March.

The Taminick property will then be sold.

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 foundation 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.”

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

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

“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,” he said.

“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.



HEY GOOD LOOKIN': One of the highly fancied cows at Witherswood Angus Stud sale.



CHECK THIS OUT: Potential buyers flocked to the sale.



IT'S YOUR'S: Auctioneer Justin Keane spots a bidder.



BITTERSWEET SALE: Joan and John Woodruff at Friday's sale of their complete female herd at Witherswood stud. The iconic angus bulls will go up for sale in March before the couple sell their renowned property to move to Melbourne.
PHOTO: Mel Guy