



OBITUARY

Brahman breed loses member

THE Brahman breed lost one of its much admired members on July 25 with the passing of Arnie Kirk, Rockley, Bajool.

Arnie was born on February 28, 1918, and was raised at Yenda, Gayndah, the property settled by his parents in 1901.

In 1941 he bought Rocky Springs at Eldsvold, marrying Isabel Fletcher two years later.

Possessing a strong love of horses, Arnie bred, broke, trained and rode all his own horses, representing the Burnett district at the Brisbane Exhibition. A keen campdrafter, his prowess in the saddle earned him more than 30 campdraft wins.

His first Brahman bulls, bought from Waverley, were used over polled Shorthorn cows, thus starting the base for the famous herd of "Rockley Reds".

After moving to Rockley in 1963, Arnie bought and sold numerous properties including The Valley, Nebo; Devlin and Glenrock, Marlborough; Enfield, Westwood; Buneru, Wowan and Nine Mile, Gracemere.

But it was at Rockley that his reds became legendary, holding the highest red herd bull average for a phenomenal 22 out of 27 years at the Rockhampton Brahman Week sale. In 1989 the sought after Rockley draft of 22 imported blood stud and herd bulls sold for the hard to beat record average of \$9866. High prices came early for the stud, which in 1970 sold Wairuna Image De Manso for \$33,000.

However, Rockley's highest price was in 1987 when the imported red bull Rio 109/2 sold for \$45,000.

Arnie is survived by wife Isabel, children Peter, Suzanne, David, Christopher, Sally and Kate and 17 grandchildren. His love of the bush was passed on to his children who have all made their home on the land.