

Buchanan Downs information

We are 380 kms south west of Katherine. Buchanan is 330,000 acres.

The famous Murrarji Track "Ghost Road of the Drovers" runs through Buchanan. It was initially developed with 4 bores, holding paddocks, traps and 1 set of yards by the Beebe family in the 1950s.

Later it was sold to Allan Myers who trashed it.

Buchanan did not exist in 2005. No sheds, no houses, trashed fences, 3 broken down bores and no cattle.

Now we run about 5,000 head of cattle. The rated Carrying Capacity is 5000 cattle units.

There are 26 bores to look after and over 80 watering points.

There are many kilometres of fences and poly pipe to check and maintain.

There are documented procedures to look after cattle, country and us. Please read and follow these.

Procedures are to maximize animal welfare and minimize damage to humans, equipment and our land.

Operating in remote areas is potentially hazardous so it is important procedures are followed.

No one likes fixing damaged stuff or dealing with injuries to humans or animals or trying to fix erosion.

You can operate lots of machinery but only if you can fix it too. If you can't fix it best you don't drive it.

This is not a school room or an office. It is fast moving and physical industry- accidents can happen fast.

It is very important you follow instructions to keep you safe.

Our cattle are quiet and gain weight fast. They are quiet if handled correctly. If you handle them incorrectly then they will not be quiet. You have to take responsibility for the way they behave.

Cattle gain weight if good grass, good water, adequate lick and correctly handled.

So we have to look after our grass and make sure they have good water.

To control their grazing and to pump water to areas with good grass means maintaining waters and fences.

To cart the lick (salt phosphate sulphur and urea) we must have good roads and reliable vehicles.

So we have to look after the vehicles and roads.

The cattle are walked up to 50 kms over several days in to yards.

This is done with one person along laneways and holding paddocks. We use kelpies to help us.

The cattle are then drafted and branded and walked to fresh paddocks.

Working cattle must be done in the most efficient manner possible. Low stress stockhandling means teaching cattle to handle maximum pressure without getting upset.

Cattle must move briskly through the yard and mother up quickly to minimise weight loss.

There are many skills required- stock handling, fencing, poly pipe fixing, mechanical repairs and loads of maintenance, welding, irrigation, cooking and cleaning.

Everyone's job is important to make life good for cattle and us.

We take satisfaction every day in jobs well done.

This may be a neatly repaired fence, a well graded road, a clean engine with new filters, walking cattle with all cows and calves mothered up, a tidy green homestead area or a good meal in a tidy kitchen.

So mechanics, housekeepers, fence fixers, welders, lawn waterers, cooks, builders, electricians and plumbers are all very important people to keep the wheels turning smoothly.

We are generally a happy bunch because we do jobs as well as we can.

We are "different" because we want to make our cattle happier, our grass better and care for our country.

It is important that you fit in to this culture. We welcome those who do.

Anthea Henwood Buchanan Downs



Big house

Cook and mango thieves

Mustering



The crew after hard day

Dining room and rec area

Heading to yard

Workshop