

## QLD REDS TEAM UP FOR SUCCESSFUL DORPER INFORMATION DAY

Former Queensland Reds players Chris "Buddha" Handy and Andrew King, came together to promote White Dorper & Dorper Sheep as an easy care grazing enterprise.

People came from near and afar to attend the Dorper Information field day held at Darling Downs Dorpers, "Artunga" with the objective to promote White Dorpers and Dorpers as an easy care commercial grazing enterprise last Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September.



The information day drew a crowd of over 130 people with some travelling from as far away as Dubbo, Blackall, Longreach and even Sydney.

The information day was hosted by former Wallaby and Reds player Chris "Buddha" Handy who kept the crowd entertained with his "enlightening" tales from rugby tours gone by and his own predictions for the current World Cup.

Also on hand was former Old Reds player and current Dorper breeder, Andrew King.

Andrew is building towards an 8000 head commercial flock and has been breeding Dorpers (Silverwood Dorpers, Longreach) for 7 years and featured as key speaker on the day. His pure bred Dorpers flock has been classed by South African judge, Rodney Rayner, who said, "The quality achieved is a great effort given the time frame Andrew has been breeding them."

"The Dorpers adaptability is tremendous in the dry conditions, you can turn lambs off at the end of a roaring drought at about 45kg", commented Andrew.

Lloyd Dunlop, recently retired DPI Goondiwindi, kindly agreed to MC the day and spoke on the economics of a self-replacing dorper flock verses a self-replacing merino flock.

His presentation showed the Gross Margin/DSE for the Dorper of \$17 verses 19 and 21

Micron Merino \$11.

Other speakers on the day included Greg Butler and Richard Apps (Meat & Livestock Australia), Toby Scales (Cleavers Organic Meats) and Geoff Duddy (DPI NSW)

"It's not very often that you see an owner and his family members, the staff and their family members, their friends, neighbours and business associates all with

the same intention and values to create a common outcome. To my way of thinking, it is a remarkable achievement, a true recipe for success", remarked Managing Director of TopX, Tony Mott.

On display were Edson 379, Supreme Exhibit, Grand Champion Ram and Senior Champion Ram at the National Dorper Show, Dubbo 2006 and his 6 month old grand-daughter, Supreme White Dorper Exhibit at the 2007 National Show.



With wool at 2.6% of the world's fibre market, it's time for some operations which have country most suited to the running of sheep to consider specialist meat sheep.

With 50% of Australian sheep meat for domestic markets and exports only limited by supply, Dorpers have an array of benefits such as unparalleled meat to bone ratio, no shearing or mulesing, hardiness and superior dollar per hectare returns.

Also benefiting on the day was Integrity Care, the non government, public benevolent organisation which builds capacity in people and empowers communities around the world due to generosity of the day's sponsors. Integrity Care provides short-term aid for those in immediate, desperate need but we also provide a permanent solution to poverty by helping the poor to start their own small business.

Also presented on the day was a door prize of a relaxing weekend for 2 at Caloundra on the beautiful Sunshine Coast, which was won by Derek Newton of "Bendee" Stanthorpe.

"The day was sponsored by Suncorp Agribank, XXXX Gold, DHA Rural, Southwest Water Services, CRT McDougalls, MHM Accountants and Top X, and without their support, the day would not have been as successful as it was" said Garry Waters of Darling Downs Dorpers.



For more information regarding Darling Downs Dorpers and the information day, please contact Garry Waters on 07 5492 4888 or Andrew Clark-Dickson on 0420 984 162 or visit [www.darlingdownsdorpers.com.au](http://www.darlingdownsdorpers.com.au)