



NCC Zambesi, the new \$145,000 record priced Red Brahman bull and record priced all breeds auction record holder at this week's annual Big Country Brahman Sale with vendor, Brett Nobbs, NCC Stud, Duaringa, along with buyers Steve Lamb, Abbottsford Stud, Biloela and Lee Wallace, Cha-Walla Stud, Pentland.

Zambesi sets new record

By KENT WARD

SPENDING money has never been a problem for wags, but when you're parting with \$145,000 for a bull and in the process creating new Australian records there's more stress than in a simple off-the-cuff "splurge".

Comburse with that in all probability that it's three to four years before there is a return on your outlay and this investment becomes a critical business decision.

On Monday at Charters Towers, Steve Lamb, Abbottsford Stud and Lee Wallace, Cha-Walla Stud, Pentland hatched a long term plan investing a whopping \$145,000 to secure the bull of their dreams.

Their focus was NCC Zambesi, a full South African blood Red Brahman bull at the Big Country Brahman Sale, Charters Towers.

Vendor Brett Nobbs, NCC Stud, Duaringa, (pictured right) is no stranger to high achievements in the cattle business, but this time there was no holding back his excitement.

"The result was far beyond my wildest dreams and expectations. I'll probably never see this again in my lifetime. I'm stoked," Mr. Nobbs enthused.

This record breaking sale, which eclipsed the \$140,000 paid for a Droughtmaster bull at the Rockhampton national sale last September, was the culmination of a brilliant yet risky cattle breeding venture based on the import of embryos from top Red Brahman genetics in South Africa.

After dispersing his top achieving Congealia and Swan Droughtmaster studs in 2000, Mr Nobbs looked around for new Red Brahman genetics and found the new and exciting outcross potential he wanted in South Africa.

This meant running the gauntlet of import



Lee Wallace

Ken McCaffrey

protocols designed to keep out a raft of virulent African livestock diseases including the dreaded Rift Valley fever.

Unable to secure protocols to import semen, Mr Nobbs settled for the import of embryos from 30 to 40 Red Brahman mated donor cows, with the red genetics he sought on both sire and

FACTFILE

Name: NCC Zambesi
Age: 26 months
Colour: Red
Weight: 840 kg
Scrofal measurement: 40.5cms
Dentition: 2 teeth

dam sides. From this nucleus he now has built up his Red Brahman stud herd to around 100 cows on the family's home base property of Inverrio, Duaringa.

Based on his wide knowledge of the cattle industry in northern Australia - to which his family has made an enormous contribution - Mr Nobbs considered that good lines of Red Brahman bulls, especially those with bloodlines not previously tried in the Hudgins dominated Brahman breeding of Australia, would be keenly sought by the industry.

How keenly sought, he could not have imagined until Monday's record smashing sale.

Co-purchasers Steve Lamb, Abbottsford Stud, Biloela, and Lee Wallace, Cha-Walla Stud, Pentland, now are stitching together the complex strategy for using a \$145,000 sire to breed lines of cattle that will not only help recoup their investment but develop a nucleus on their own studs from which the bull's genetics can be distributed through their stud herds for maximum long term benefits.

● **Agents for the record sale were McCaffrey's Australian Livestock Marketing, headed by Ken McCaffrey, and Geaney's, headed by Jim Geaney.**

