

BEEF AUSTRALIA 2012

7-12 MAY 2012

ROCKHAMPTON



INNOVATION • COLLABORATION • INSPIRATION • CELEBRATION

 **Agribusiness**

Pelican Lagoons

Wednesday 09th, May 2012

Half day tour - \$80.00pp

Pelican Lagoons, owned by Mike and Michelle Price is 600 acres, beautifully situated on the edge of the Fitzroy river flood plain, bordered by spectacular lagoons on two boundaries, before rising to brigalow belah and quality downs soils.

Pastures vary from paragrass and couches near the lagoons, then rising to thick stands of leuceana with well-established Rhodes and Bissett blue grasses between the leuceana rows.

Mike and Michelle have a moderate size breeding, growing and sometimes fattening operation north of Aramac whereby, out of necessity, they stock conservatively which they believe has influenced their grazing management at *Pelican Lagoons*.



Slashed leucaena



New leucaena

BEEF AUSTRALIA 2012

7-12 MAY 2012

ROCKHAMPTON



INNOVATION • COLLABORATION • INSPIRATION • CELEBRATION

Approximately three hundred acres of irrigation made leuceana based pasture establishment much easier and demonstrated its high nutritional value when very young weaners from drought years were brought in from Aramac. Drought effected and orphan calves flourished on the leuceana based pasture which is a sure indication of palatability, digestibility and its overall goodness. Weaner bulls grow very well and seemed to make the transition to Aramac quite easily.

They have utilised *Pelican Lagoons* to grow weaners to feedlot weight and have sold them at both Gracemere and through private sales. Mike and Michelle have also sold euro cross bullocks direct to meatworks. They make blue grass hay within the leuceana rows at times also.

Their irrigation system is primarily a three-phase electric bore pump which does not attract any charges apart from the licence fee and electricity. Mike and Michelle employ the use of low pressure lateral irrigators with 90 to 115meter swathes. A gun irrigator is used where trees have been left near sensitive lagoon edges.

Their development strategy was initially to install irrigation and cultivate brigalow sucker areas and plant to forage sorghum. After recultivation and planting leuceana, Rhodes grass was introduced which made it a long term project. The Introduction of Rhodes grass occurred after the leuceana had established itself. The Prices' second development was the establishment of more irrigation and planted leuceana and Bissett blue grass at almost the same time.

A picturesque *Pelican Lagoons* is fenced into 14 paddocks and watered by 12 troughs as well as having access to lagoons.

