Melanoma – Qld researchers developing a cure

At a Christmas luncheon with popular Member for Gregory Vaughan Johnson, we met up with Regina Tucker. Regina, development and alumni manager at Griffith University, brought us up to date with the continuing fight against melanoma cancer. They have the utmost support from Vaughan Johnson.

As Regina pointed out, melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer. It is caused by UV light exposure, primarily from the sun. UV levels are high in Australia and consequently melanoma is one of our most significant cancers. Queensland holds the horrific record of the highest rates of melanoma in the world. It affects younger people and those in their later years and 5-10 per cent of Australians will be diagnosed with melanoma by the age of 85. Overall, 80-95pc of people with stage IV advanced melanoma die.

Established in 2000, the Institute for Glycomics has rapidly expanded to become an internationally recognised, world leader in developing next generation drugs and vaccines for cancer and infectious diseases. The focus of the institute’s research is to discover the role carbohydrates play in disease and ageing.

Using this knowledge, the institute is developing novel drugs and vaccines to interfere with the carbohydrate-related biological processes of disease. This approach presents an exciting therapeutic platform for the control of a wide-range of medical conditions such as cancer, diabetes, infectious diseases, inflammation and immune disorders. The institute is the only one of its kind in Australia and one of only six in the world.

The Institute for Glycomics has a number of cancer research programs already established. Through these programs, the institute has made several major discoveries. The institute has an outstanding research program that focuses on the interactions of sugar molecules and the proteins that interact with those sugars on the surface of malignant melanoma cells. However, to truly accelerate drug and vaccine discovery and to broaden the institute’s excellent cancer research program, it requires additional specialised cancer experts and state-of-the-art equipment.

The Institute for Glycomics is committed to developing new treatments for melanoma and other cancers. This is only made possible by the invaluable donations they receive from individuals and organisations to continue the groundbreaking work.

To donate: https://app.secure.griffith.edu.au/glycomics-donations/info.php
Chick's new book
CHARLE 'Chick' Olsson is a farmer, animal science researcher and devoted father. Despite having degrees in economics and business, his passion is working with animals. Now he's written a book. He currently raises Merino sheep for fine wool production in Australia. Chick loves to explore the planet with his family, marvelling at the wonder of wildlife balanced alongside mankind's progress.

Chick told me, "I wrote this book for my boys Daniel and Josh, who, like most young people, have a deep fascination for wild creatures such as white sharks. "Recently, I was made aware of the terrible shark fin trade that is decimating ocean shark populations around the world, in the name of a cuisine delicacy soup. "Surely people can eat something else. I am not saying that we shouldn't net our beaches to make people safe from sharks, just use some common sense in ensuring ocean eco systems are alive and healthy," Chick said.

"Crunch is a book that tells a story about a young shark’s adventures in a dangerous ocean, with a few wonderful facts about these amazing creatures. Kids seem to love the pictures and begin to ask many questions once the book is being read to them, which is the perfect way for parents to communicate with their kids."

Books can be ordered from Little Steps Publishing, orders@dennisjones.com.au

Jacobs Well cane belt
LAST weekend we had cause to visit my dear friend and regular QCL Beef Study Tour participant Ron Huth at his Jacobs Well property, which includes a large belt of sugar cane country.

I must admit I was surprised how dry the season is there, considering it is east of Beenleigh and Yatala and almost adjoins the coast. Even in this favoured position, the summer rains have been very scant, and Ron took us for a drive through the district on our way to a pleasant family birthday luncheon, but the story was much the same, with the country crying our for a good break in the season. Otherwise the yields on cane crops will be very low.

Vale Arthur Moody
MY old mate Tony Bloodworth advised me of the death of Arthur Moody. 78, of Longreach and formally Gundoo Station, Yaraka, in Brisbane on February 3. Arthur is survived by his wife Beryl (nee Lynch), sons Anthony and wife Sue, Paul and wife Angela, daughter Peta and husband Peter D'Arcy and their extended families. As Tony said, Arthur was an excellent pastoralist and ran quality lines of both sheep and cattle.

Roma store sale
A TOTAL of 4650 head of cattle were penned at Roma's store sale on Tuesday. Prices continued to improve slightly for most classes of heavier steers, with increased feedlot buyer competition. In some early sales, Gwengoorn Farms, Gwengoorn, Roma, sold 455kg Charolais-cross steers to make 185c/$841.

John York, Taunton, Roma, sold 376kg Simmental-cross steers to make 184c/$693. Mt Rourke Pastoral Co, Mt Rourke, Winton, sold 381kg Droughtmaster-cross steers to return 180c/$687.

Bill Roberts Partnership, Ridgelands, Injune, sold 389kg Charolais steers to make 178c/$693. W Proud and Brumpton, Ridgelands, Injune, sold 347kg Simmental-cross steers to return 178c/$693.

Seawright Investments, Reben Downs, Injune, sold 315kg Santa-cow steer to return 175c/$552.

Warwick sale
DAVID McIvor, McDougall and Sons Warwick, advised that Geoff Fennell, Glenwood, Mungindi, recently sent a consignment of Angus and Charolais-cross cattle to Warwick Salesyards. Despite the tough seasonal conditions at home the cattle presented well, the top pen of cows making 144c/$801, with a deck of cows averaging 123c/$695. Feeder weight cattle in the Glenwood draft included Charolais-cross steers weighing 416kg, they sold to Downs feedlots at 165c/$688.

Dalby sale
RYAN Deliti reported this week that Graham Henderson and Co yarded cattle drawn from Dirranbandi, Talwood, Moonie, Millmerran and the local area.

A large reduction in numbers this week at Dalby resulted in a combined total yardsing of 1879 head. Only a small supply was offered in all areas of the sale. In the export grades all export processors were present and operating.

Heavy steers and bullocks gained ground, with average prices 20c-25c/kg dearer than the previous week’s levels. Cows to processors and returning to the paddock also averaged 20c-25c dearer. Feeders operators remained active on suitable feeder cattle with medium and heavyweight steers gaining 5-10c. In the second round store cattle sold in a mixed market, Prices increased in areas due to stronger restocker support. Highlights: Russell and Kim Stevens, Wallona, Millmerran sold Charolais-cross steers to return 183c/$1301; Santa steers 180c/$1303; and Angus cross steers 181c/$1277.

Steve Potter, Clenleigh, Talwood, sold Brahman cross cows to make 150c/$761.

Charters Towers sales postponement
KEVIN Curie, Ray White Rural, advised that due to the insufficient number of suitable cattle sale and present lack of feed, the agents have decided to postpone the Charters Towers prime and store sale until Wednesday, February 19 and they are also Counling on suitable grass growing to freshen cattle.

Tenterfield sale
A YARDING of 207 head of cattle was recorded at the Tenterfield sale on February 3. Numbers decreased this week in an overall mixed quality yarding. Crown steers sold to a top of 157c cents, while bullocks lacking condition and finish sold to return 141c. Heavy cows reached 115c to be firm, medium and lightweight cows were both dearer, topping at 112c and 105c respectively. Well finished heavy heifers reached 145c to be dearer. The trade section received restocker competition, with Angus steers returning to the paddock for 167c, while quality heifers to the kill sold to return 151c. Bulls sold to return 143c.


Emerald sale
A YARDING of 950 head of cattle was recorded at the Emerald sale on January 30.

Possibly in anticipation of some worthwhile rain, numbers were divided at the weekly sale. Noticeable were some better drafts of younger cattle this week, which helped fuel improved competition, lifting values for most categories, the best quality weaner steers up to 20 cents stronger.

Bullocks over 550kg topped at 173c/kg for a 157c average. Steers weighing 500kg-550kg peaked at 174c to average 169c; 400kg-500kg steers reached 171c, averaging 158c, while 320kg-400kg steers were too few to reliably quote.
Steers in the weaner weight ranges made as much as 185c to average in the early 160c range, a gain of around 20c on last week. Heifers were generally from 4c–8c dearer with 400kg-plus heifers averaging 142c, 300kg–400kg heifers returning 145c and averaging 135c, and the weaner weight ranges peaking at 139c for an average of around 123c. Still tough going for cows and calves, the best sold to a top of $460/unit.

**Highlights:** Rob and Kylie Cunningham, Myrtle Park, Comet, sold 580kg Santa bullocks to return 156c/$905. Lawrence and Pat Hack, Rocklea, Alpha, sold 457kg Brahman-cross heifers to make 148c/$678. The Bulger family, Carniyah, Willows, offered both heifers and cows with the 507kg heifer portion reaching 147c/$747 and 546kg cows returning 142c/$763.

**Moreton sale**

AGENTs Boyd O’Brien Bartholomew reported a yarding of 881 head at Moreton on Tuesday. Competition was strong with all buyers in attendance. Values for all descriptions improved across the board with export cattle showing the most improvement. John Kynoch, Toowoomba, sold 320kg yearling heifers to make 138c/$441. Denis Sexton sold 284kg yearling steers to make 144c/$409. A & W McLean, Femvale, sold 415kg pasture heifers to 170c/$706. Mark Humphries, Ashwell, sold 555kg pasture ox to make 163c/$1016. C Wainwright, Rosevale, sold 355kg grain accredited heifers to return 174c/$618. Mal Freeman sold 465kg grain assisted steers to make 177c/$823. C Wainwright sold 557kg grain accredited Santa steers to 190c/$1361.

**Wool Report**

JASON Thomson, Schute Bell, reported 18.5 micron and finer types surged on the first day of sales this week with rises between 15c and 45c reported. They second day of sales witnessed a slight reversal of fortunes, with 10c being given back. It was still a positive week for the market and with all the movement taking place on the finer types the balance of the market was relatively unchanged. It was a small offering of just over 35,000 bales with 32,322 sold and 8pc passed in. Buyers included Chinatex, Tianyu and Techwool.

The Northern region indicator has closed the week at its second highest level in the past 20 months although on a year-on-year basis Superfine types remain behind whilst Crossbreds are outperforming. Bales on offer over the next three weeks are creeping up with 45,000 bales next week, then jumping to around 50,000 bales for the following fortnight; however, these offerings will fall below the same period last year. Forward market prices are holding firm with current physical levels out until at least April, hopefully indicating a solid market looks like prevailing for the time being.