

SPOTLIGHT ON SANTA GERTRUDIS ADVERTISING FEATURE

Tilley is a Western Downs sale fan

BY ALAN WELBURN

ALL things being equal organisers and vendors can expect Mark Tilley to be among attendees at the fifth annual Western Downs sale in a few days time.

Mr Tilley, Allan's Creek Cattle Company Bromelton, likes the sale, which will unfold at the Dalby Saleyards on September 10.

But more to the point he likes the bulls offered there by such producers as Ian and Felicity Shaw, Glen Leigh, and also Swan Hill.

"I'm a fan of them and been a regular buyer," he said while also noting his dad has purchased at Western Downs in the past.

"I picked up one of the Glen Leigh bulls at the first sale and was so impressed with the one we got back then. We don't run a big operation but I have never had a drama with any of the Glen Leigh bulls and I have bought a few of them over the years."

Mr Tilley was first lured to Western Downs in pursuit of bulls from Swan Hill, which he discovered was consigning stock to the Dalby auction.

"When we first got into this sale I'd been buying Swan Hill bulls and they started selling at Western Downs so I started going there," he said.

"I have picked up a few of their bulls at Western Downs, too, then I took a liking to the Glen Leigh bulls and haven't looked back."

His first acquisition from Glen Leigh was Kidman K202 (P). A son of Watasanta Big Banana (P) and Warena Penny P129 (P), he was the youngest in Glen Leigh's draft for the 2016 sale.

"I am no expert but we have a commercial operation and I liked the look of him," Mr Tilley said, adding they run a line of 200 breeders across two properties.

"Like all the Glen Leigh bulls he was quiet and with kids it's great to have bulls as

quiet as they are. You don't need a second set of eyes when you're working with them and I can take the kids out in the paddocks without a worry in the world."

In subsequent forays, Mr Tilley bought Glen Leigh Lancelot L168 (P), an AI son of Watasanta Big Banana, a Royal Brisbane Grand Champion along with another from the same family, Wilgaroon Jester.

Last year he bought again from the Glen Leigh draft, taking home Playmate P124 (P), a bull said to have plenty of looseness and volume.

"Where we are at Bromelton it's predominantly breeding country but is hilly. There are some very steep bits so we need cattle that are mobile and these ones graze everywhere, not just down along the creek bank," Mr Tilley explained.

"Years ago the family were running Herefords, then changed and really all I've only ever known are Santas.

"I have an off-farm job which takes me away from home a fair bit, so we needed easy-care cattle that were fertile and without the issues that affect some other breeds.

"The bulls do their job. The numbers are right when we preg test and they sire good calves.

"We find they throw good females and those are good mothers.

"We keep most of our heifers for self-replenishing but if there are some left over they might go into a feedlot or if the market wants them as breeders then we sell them as such.

"Pretty much all of our steers get sold privately.

"In fact they don't get much of a chance to hit the market because a lot of them are sold even before they hit the ground."

Mr Tilley said he would not miss the sale given past successes and will have his eye peeled for another recruit.



ALL CLASS: Glen Leigh Kidman was an early buy for Mark Tilley.