Antoine

DSC0633—you can see this bulldozer pulling down trees bc they don’t have enough grass.

I saw three diff ways to pull down trees.:

1) Single bulldozer to knock down the trees.

2) Or have two bulldozers pull very long chain, prob 100 meter. They will drive through the bush and knock down the trees

3) One guy with a smaller property. He would spend maybe 10 to 20 hours a week just cutting down trees with a chainsaw.

Would cut down Mulga Trees. The cows can eat the leaves. They call this area Mulga Country.

0223- Tamanick. (near St. George, Queensland) That places was owned by Jeffrey Blackett. It was his grandfathers cattle station. He bought it maybe 5 or 6 years ago. His other places, called Marlee Downs, in a very bad drought, so he moved most of the cattle from Marlee Downs to Tamanick.   
(Marlee Downs is about 100 km south west of Mitchell and Tamanick is right between St George and Mitchell.)

In Marlee Downs usually would have 3K head of cow. Now less than 300 cows. He moved the cattle to Tamanick. At Tamanick, when there is grass and rain, there would be 3K cows. Now about 1500

0549 Jeffrey Blackett. He is filling up the barrels with fuel for the bulldozer to knock down the trees. (Have a portrait of him as well… St. George 0667).

0633 in St. George. Jeffrey Blackett driving the bulldozer. At Marlee Downs

0776-2 Chains to pull down trees. In Tamanick. On Jeff Blackett’s land

1073: Wild dogs. Crossbreed btwn dingos and domestic dog. It’s a problem bc right now the dingo gives birth once a year. Now bc bred w domestic dogs, they would give birth twice a year. Instead of two or three puppies, have 5 or 6. More and more wild dogs around. This tree is a trapper, who kills the dings for the farmers. He got $200 AUSD per dog. The county gives him $50 AUSD for each dog.

They kill sheep and calves especially. They can bite the cows and wound the cows. If they are wounded, they wont sell at a full price.

{Not rel to the drought}

there is more wild dogs and kangaroos as well bc basically all fo the ranchers opened the land and they put bores and dams for the water—more water for the animals—have to kill kangaroos as well. The kangaroos… one kangaroo eats as much grass as 1 sheep. 10 kangaroos eat as much grass a 1 cow. Can be 10K of kangaroo on one prop.

Kill kangaroos at night and sell the meat. The meat goes esp to S. America and Asia as well.

1422… Halton. Fits with the guy on the chain on the ground… this is attached to a chain.

Guy on left is Scott Sargood. The other guy is Greg.  
Halton is the cattle station owned by Scott and Adma Sargood. It’s 50 km east of Charleville on the way to Mitchell.

1427 Halton. They were about to pull down trees. Can see the chain again. The guy, his name is Greg. Don’t know last name. This guy has a cattle station up north in Longreach where the drought is even worse. He brought about 500 heads of cattle to Scott’s property. This pic is when the cows just arrived. Greg pays Scott to house the cattle. About $5-10 AUSD per day per head of cattle.

Cattle station = Australian term for Ranch.

1570 more dead wild dogs. There were 60 to 70 dogs. The trapper puts them on the tree or polls to show what he killed and how much the farmer owed it. He has to eb paid by the shire, the county, has to rup the skin of the dingo, from the head to the tail to sow he killed it.

1595 I don’t know his last name. Rory. Works at Southampton Downs (close to Augathella and Tambo). He is the manger of the place. Lives there w his wife. I met that guy thanks to Scott and Adma. That’s the guy that took the place. He worked for a guy named Scott Harris, who has different cattle stations in Queensland and has the biggest cattle station up north in Queensland. 3M something acres.

That is a pet goat. He wanted to show me a trick. This goat loved biscuits.

1788 At Southampton Downs. This is Tom. I don’t know last name. He bought 1K heads of cattle. He was there to take them from Southampton Downs to his own cattle station which was in New South Whales (on his property near Coonamble)

Price for one cow went up bc so few.

He put them on trucks. About 10 trucks to load the cattle. “Road trains” huge trains. Caravan.

In Australia, a lot of people selling and buying cows to move them. On the international market the price of meat went up.

Heard the prime minister of Australia just stopped selling cattle in Indonesia. She did that two years ago? Did this bc they weren’t treated very well so it was difficult situtaoitn for the ranchers bc Aus had sold so many cows to Indonesia. That’s when the rpice fell bc there were too many cows that couldn’t go to Indonesian market. Not the case any more, so now sell cattle to Indonesia

1797 Tom. Same guy.

1831 butts. Same moment. In the cattle yard. When they are “drafting” the cattle, they’re checking them out. In the morning they muster all of the cows. They round them up on the yard. In this yard they check to see if all of the cows are good. They decide which to take because they don’t want bc too skinny or wounded or sick.

1838 same place. Same moment. That’s a guy was with Tom. Named David Orr. He’s livestock agent….

1864 They are loading the cow in the trucks. Were about 10 of these. (other pics show how many there are)

1910 Truck driver. Still part of Tom’s purchase. Behind him is the ramp for the cows to get on the truck

1945 this is the mailbox in Halton. (Sorgood).

1957 Halton. Old tractor.

1965 Halton. Tractor. I was amazed by the structure… forgot what it is for.

1988 fixing a leak. That was a pipe to fill up a bore. It was leaking. At Halton Station.

Mitch Sorgood is on the right. Son of Scott and Adma

Other guy is german guy working there.

Bore: holes with water. Pump water into the

2151 Bulldozer. The guy on the bulldozer. That is Scott and the other guy is the German guy again. They were about to knock down trees again.

2189 some rain on the screen. At Halton Station. Early in the morning. Just a few drops. It was very little.

2357 Scott. Getting ready to muster/round up the cattle. Was going to use a gyrocopter. Flies above to round them up. He goes very close to the ground to push the cattle. People on motorbikes go behind the cattle to push them.

They were still working with the cattle of Greg from Longreach. They were going to change them from one paddock to another. Longreach, where Greg comes from, is very open land. Only grass no trees.

Greg moved them to Scott’s place. But the cows were not used to eating the leaves. So moving them to make sure they were eating the leaves.

2406 Greg is on the bike. In the background, Mitch Sorgood, the son, is on the bike in the back. This is after they wound up the cattle. The put them in the yard to put them in the paddock.

2408 same moment. At the end when they put them back in the yard.

Looks like a helicopter but can’t hover. Gyrocopter

2599 a sheep property. The fuel tanks for all of their vehicles. A cattle station would be the same. It shows that all of tehse places, they ahveto be really independent for everything, including fuel. Stock every few weeks a truck somes to fill them up.

McFarlane = property name

Sheep… other problems like dingos. Also eagles. More vulnerables.

3691 at Cannington Station near McKinlay. This is owned by a guy known as Pip. The manager is named David Lyttle. They were rounding up the cattle to move them from Cannington Station to another of Pip’s properties near Augathella. This guy Pip has different cattle stations. The further north it is, the worse it is in terms of the drought. They were moving the cattle from one place to another.

3820 David Lyttle drafting the cattle to know which would stay and which would move. They were going to move the cattle 1,000 km away. Bc they don’t have enough to eat. They are weak. 1K km in the truck can be exhausting so they are checking which are able to make this they move-- the stronger, healthier ones. Will keep the weakest ones on the property.

3906 still in Cannington Station. The next day in the morning, loading the cows in the truck. It was just one truck. One truck with two levels. About 200 cows.

4011 Mustering. Cannington Station. More cows to send down south.

4154 Frank Blackett. Cousin of Jeffrey Blackett. He has a cattle station near Boulia. Named Alderley Station. That is the biggest cattle station I went to. About 1.4 million acres. This picture is filling the helicopter tank to check the water on the property—dams and bores—to see if cows are stuck in mud and the pumps at bores were running.

Dams are just a big hole in the ground. Filled with rainwater.

The bores they drill a hole in the ground to access the artisan basin.

The Great Artesian Basin—the biggest artesian basin the world which covers most of queensland south of new southwhales and SE of South Australia.

Pump the water out of the ground and put it in the bores.

4162 Frank Blackett—taking the helicopter out of the shed so he is getting ready to take off

4193 Frank Blackett again. Checking the pump at a bore. The pump was broken. It had an electrical problems. He couldn’t fix it so had to come back later.

Use fuel to power the pump.

Used to use windmill but now using pumps which need fuel

They can pump anything they want. Right in the middle of nowhere. Properties are huge. No one could check. No regs that I know about.

4326 In the helicopter with Frank. Dry dam.

Most of the dams had water… he said it wont be much more water in a few weeks.

More like a desert. Usually most of the rain comes during summer. Didn’t happen for the last four years.

4460 another dam

4481 another dam

they dig a whole in the ground and wait for the rain to fill it up.

They can get help from the govt. easier for the smaller places to get financial support. But harder for the bigger places. There is one rule, if you didn’t sell any cows for the last three months, your place can be declared in drought and you can get financial support. In bigger places, even thought they are in the drought, they still keep selling cows and taking some in.

They would sell 100 cows and try to buy maybe 20 or 30 cows which have a calf to keep their herd moving

4506 cows from Alderly station. You can see how dry it is.

No grass but they give them cowlick—a big block of minerals and nutrients. It makes the cows hungry and they start eating bushes and spinifecs and the vegetation there. (make them desperate to eat thing they normally wouldn’t eat)

4528 one more damn. Cow tacks.

4585 Back at Kennington Station. Those are termites nest.

4719 two ranchers at Charters Towers during the auction. Don’t know much about the people. That is where they were selling cattle.

Right now, most places are really dry. Most of the properties are selling their cattle. Destocking. They are selling the cattle to be sent… someone else would buy the cows to go where there is more grass. New SouthWhales or closer to the coast.

4850 Charters Towers

fences… sell them a group at a time. Sometimes one bull. Could be seven cows.

Guys at the top of the pic, the people on the ramp, are the ones selling the cows. That’s the livestock agent. They know who owns the cows and they work for them… in charge of the auction.

They can have about 1K to 1.5K cows at at time.

Places in Roma, near Charleville and St George, a very big sell yard w up to 10K head of cattle and they organize twice a week.