



# RED MEAT UPDATES

## T A S M A N I A

28 July 2017

# Building a resilient beef business

Chris McQueen with Ed Archer

# Background





# Background



# Background

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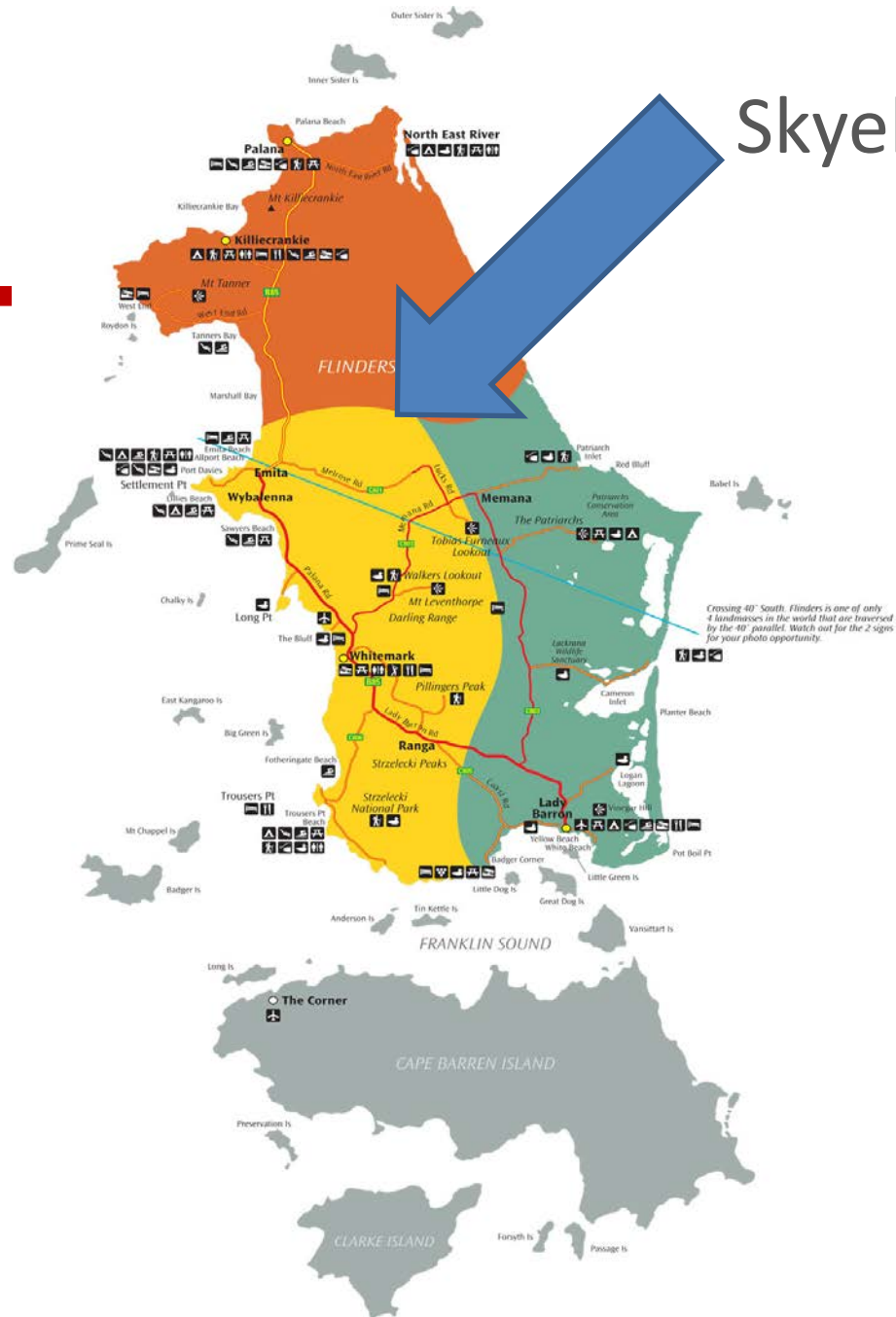


# About the farm

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- Location — Emta Flinders Island
- Rainfall — 650mm(450–1000mm)
- Soils — Sandy loams to heavy clay
- Area — 922ha grazing
- Stock — 950 breeders, 830 followers and 30 bulls

# Skyehaven Farm





# Farming system

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- Target markets
  - Feedlot steers
  - Fatten dry cows and empty heifers (if possible)
- Breeding strategy
  - Self replacing
  - Medium-frame angus cow
  - Highly fertile
  - Low birth weights and high growth rates
  - Grass only

# Cow herd





# 2–3 year olds



# Calves





# Performance (and price adjusted)

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Stocking rate (MW)	13.7	12.6	14.8	14.7
Beef production(kg/ha)	383	355	331	386
LUE (DSE/FTE)	10,700	12,139	12,800	17,900
Profit/ha (\$)	97	190	376	560
ROC (%)	2.1	5.1	5.9	8.8

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Profit/ha	356	381	3.76	336
ROC	3.5	4.3	5.2	6.1
Beef price	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66

# Growth

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	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Area (ha)	640	818	885	922
Cattle numbers (hd)	1,170	1,374	1,746	1,810
Equity (%)	32	27	34	39



# Development process

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- Soil fertility
- Wallaby fencing
- Internal fencing and water
- Pasture renovation
  - Stomp, chomp, shower of shit
  - Cultivation (brown top and Parramatta grass)



# From this...





# Via this...





# To this...





# Wallaby fencing critical



# Management strategies

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- Target cow condition score
- Target liveweight heifers
- Average pasture cover targets
- Pasture monitoring
  - Leaf emergence rate
  - Growth rate
  - Intake rate
- De-stocking and early turn-off
- Limited supplements



# Measure



# Nitrogen





# Where to from here?

Everything is  
bigger and  
better on  
Flinders.





# Top three take-home messages

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1. Keep it simple — don't over complicate
2. Use the support of your peers and invest in professional development
3. Don't procrastinate — make and implement decisions in a timely manner

# Tools, resources and training

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- Pasture Principles
- Any available training opportunities that come your way
- Peers



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