

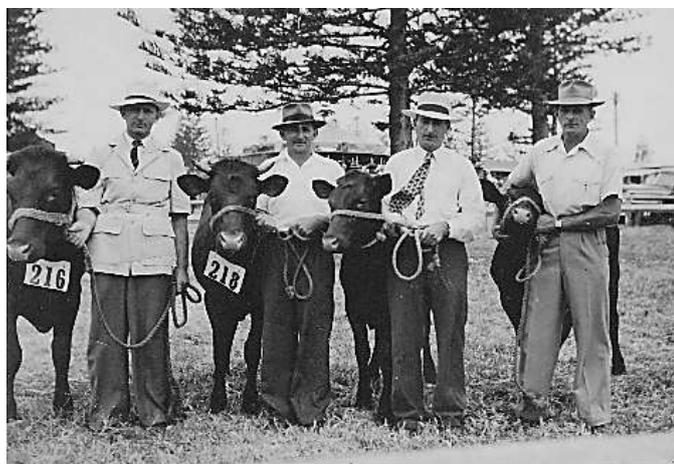
# TABBAGONG

*(Compiled by Lloyd Peters) (My apologies for any errors or mis-statement)*

My first visit to the Tabbagong property at Jamberoo was about 55 years ago. My anticipation of that visit could be likened to "letting a group of 10 year old boys loose in a lolly shop". Jamberoo was really the centre of the Illawarra "universe", with what we termed as the "big" 5, TABBAGONG, LEMON GROVE, ROO VIEW, PARKVIEW and MEADOWHAVEN all showing large teams at Kiama and Sydney Shows. Meadowhaven moved to Jamberoo in 1967 from Berry to the farm that was previously the "Hillcrest" Illawarra stud operated by the Noble family. Parkview was 10 minutes from Jamberoo at Albion Park, while the other four were virtual neighbours. Add to these other studs like HILLVIEW (Ernie Swan), KURRROO (King Bros), MIRVONA (Irvine Sisters), CURRAMORE (Dr Geoff McFadden), EASTBURN (John East). My apology to "Jamberooites I have failed to mention. Travel up Jamberoo Mountain to another world of Illawarras around Robertson and Moss Vale, while going south to many more Illawarra herd en route to Nowra. North of Jamberoo was another cluster of herds. I would think there would have been more Illawarra herds in this area than you would find in all of NSW today.

Tabbagong was situated amongst the rolling hills with limited views to the ocean, on the Jamberoo to Albion Park Road about two kilometres west of the Princess Highway and Pacific Ocean. It appears that the area would have been fertile virgin scrub country.

Tabbagong was established in 1921 as a member of Illawarra Milking Shorthorn Society by JE Richardson in Croome Vale, a northern "suburb" of Jamberoo. In the amalgamation of kindred societies in 1929 Tabbagong became a member of Australian Illawarra Society. By the mid-thirties Tabbagong was operated by Richardson Bros. JE Richardson had four sons, Neil and Alan were certainly involved from the start, how involved the other brothers were I do not know.



The Richardson brothers, with Alan and Neil in the middle at a local show in 1952.

Prior to my first visit to Jamberoo, I knew very little of what to expect. I had certainly herd of Tabbagong as Sunny View were then showing the first daughters of super sire,



Tabbagong Royal Standard (below)

About the same time, Mark Lester (father of Bill and Bob) St Andrews stud had a period of winning milking competitions

at Brisbane Show with daughters of Tabbagong Victory. This gave me a very limited insight into Tabbagong prior to visiting the stud. After that first visit to Jamberoo, Tabbagong was not my most favoured herd. A few years later I purchased a bull calf from Lemon Grove, ex Lemon Grove Ruth 3, Supreme Champion Kiama (Supreme championships were based mainly on production in those days) Ruth 3 had set a NSW production record which attracted my attention. However her dam was a Tabbagong Ruth cow.

Tabbagong first showed at Sydney in 1924, winning class for cow in milk, pen of 3 cows, and bull calf. Tabbagong next showed at Sydney in 1926 with success. From mid 30's on Sydney and Kiama Shows were on Tabbagong calendar of events. They also showed regularly



at Albion Park, and also at Dapto.

KIAMA SHOW 1949

In a 1966 Sale Catalogue of heifers and young bulls held on Tabbagong the foreword stated that "the stud had been most successful exhibitor at Sydney 8 times over recent years." A further heifer sale was held in 1968 where one of the buyers was Reg Cochrane who purchased 3 heifers, this the beginning of one of our major herds today, "Kangawarra". A daughter of one of these heifers was the first Illawarra shown by Geoff Cochrane winning Reserve Champion Heifer at Kangaroo Valley, nearly 50 years on Geoff in now our Federal President.

This 1966 sale was the first auction sale held by Tabbagong with an offering of 45 heifers and 5 bulls. It attracted a large crowd of 400, with competition from South Australia, Victoria, and all areas of NSW. Top price of \$1,100 was paid for Tabbagong Beauty 207, purchased by local breeder, Doug King. The sale average was just under \$400. The sale report that this was the first Hedley Johnson sale conducted in the newly introduced decimal currency, and early in the sale this caused some hesitancy.

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Neil Richardson died November 1969, aged 61. In the early 70's the Tabbagong farm and herd was split into two with Neil's son John forming the Tabbagong Park Stud., with Alan and Joy retaining the balance.

Alan had health issues for many years, and in 1976 sold the dairying block and milking herd to Stan Meredith. Alan and Joy retained property west of the Jamberoo – Albion Park Road.

They built a lovely home with magnificent views to the coast on this portion of the property. Alan and Joy had two daughters, Sandra and Kaye. Sandra married into a HF dairy herd at Albion Park when she married Peter Finch. Sandra and Peter now farm at Wagga Wagga growing mainly lucerne hay for the dairy farm back at Albion Park, which is now run by their son, Michael, who also runs a token Illawarra Stud, "Tabbawood". Joel Dorries works for Michael.

Kaye is married to Warwick Rayner, live at Cowra where they operate a mixed farming operation.

Alan died 13 November 1979, aged 66 years.

As indicated in last year's herd book, Joy died in November 2013. Some years after Alan's death Joy married Ray Auld who also predeceased her.

Joy was an integral part of Tabbagong as a great hostess to many visitors to the stud.



*Entertaining visitors from USA in 1978, Melba Foreman, Dr Fred Foreman, Alan, Mrs Krause, Walter Krause, Joy.*

Longevity is not a feature of the men of Tabbagong with John dying with cancer in May 1995, aged 55.

John was married to Rosemary, and one of their sons, Michael carried on the stud for a few years before deciding there were other things in life apart from milking cows. Rosemary still lives in the house she built with John, but has leased out the farm.

Stan Meredith operated as Lightwood Park stud for a number of years before dispersing the herd in 1983.

## **TABBAGONG – A BREEDER'S HERD**

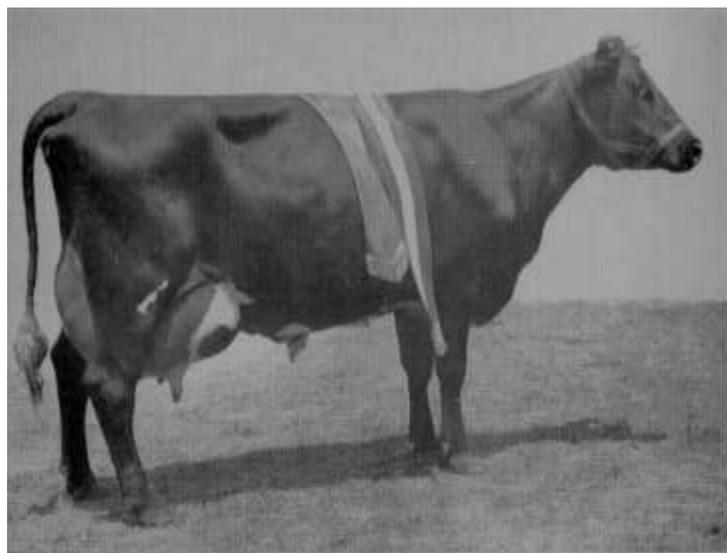
With this article in mind I contacted a number of breeders or ex-breeders to get some thoughts for this Year Book. Generally, to my surprise most seemed to want to talk about the great bulls that Tabbagong bred. This got me analysing the substance of the Tabbagong herd, not many new bloodlines were introduced, and then it was related to bloodlines already in the herd.

I have already mentioned on the exploits of Tabbagong Royal Standard (mainly in the Sunny View

supplement in this Year Book, but I am told the best bull to go to South Australia from Tabbagong was Tabbagong Airman, who is from the same dam as Royal Standard. Another bull of note from this cow was Tabbagong Beauty's Design.

Also in SA another bull of note was Tabbagong Nomad a very successful sire in herd of Neville and Ian Mueller, "Glenhaven". Through private semen sale Nomad had a good line of daughters in other states. Also in south Australia conversation will turn to Tabbagong Criterion as an above average bull at the Naldene stud..

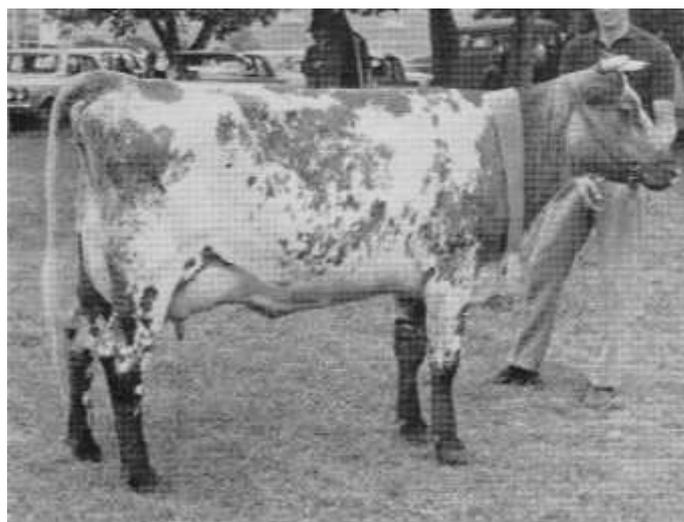
Tabbagong Beacon, 5 times Melbourne Champion, and sire of nearly every animal Ovensdale showed in that period. Another Tabbagong bull in Queensland leaving his mark was Tabbagong Beauty's Don in the Navilloween herd.



**Tabbagong Beauty 86, dam of Beauty's Don**

This bull was sire of probably our greatest show bull, Navilloween Tenor, 7 times Champion bull at Sydney. He also sired the two top priced females at the Navilloween Dispersal Sale.

On a visit to Tabbagong, due to a cancelled order Alan offered me Tabbagong Redpath. Knowing who had him on order I eagerly accepted the offer, as I was a great admirer of his dam, T Scarlet 52, first 2 yrs dry at Sydney. I thought she had potential to be a great cow, but she was virtually crippled by 3 day sickness, and never saw the showing again. I also highly regarded her dam, Scarlet 37



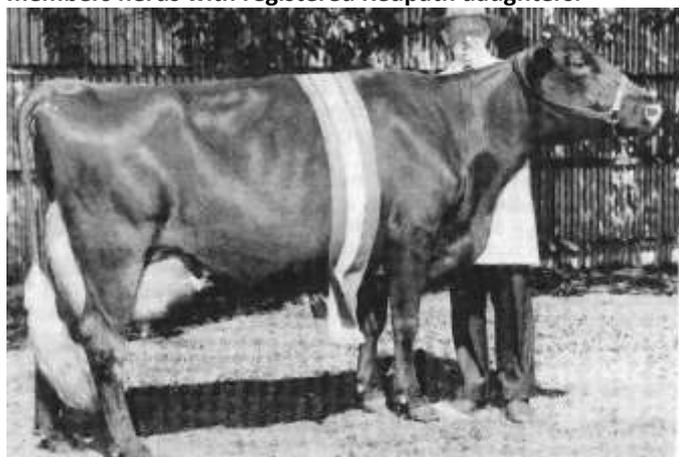
**Tabbagong Scarlet 37 as a 3 yr old**

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Tabbagong Redpath proved to be highly successful bull; after proving himself at Wilmington, because of general demand he entered AI at Wacol, and later on at Tongala Vic. In 1990 Redpath was the highest Illawarra ABV bull for milk production with a rating of +830, together with fat and protein rating of +17 and +19 respectively. He was also Illawarra's highest rated bull for type, highlighting in udder ratings. (However Redpath did have some negatives, he did lower stature a little, but his main negatives were lowering fat %, and also milking speed rating could have been better in some daughters.)

In 1990 Redpath sired 4 individual Royal Show Champion cows.

Such was his popularity the database has listed 168 Illawarra members herds with registered Redpath daughters.



**WILMINGTON BUTTERCUP 14** by Redpath  
Champion All Breeds Dairy Cow, Melbourne 1988, Adelaide 1989, Res Champ All breeds Dairy Cow Melbourne 1989.  
Won Best Udder class Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide.  
Another cow in same class was Lemon Grove Buttercup 204

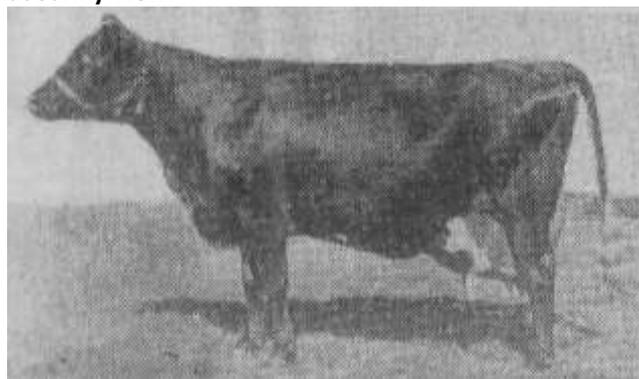


Redpath daughters in the Wilmington herd at Finley Space will not allow me to elaborate further on bulls, except to mention a few whose progeny impressed me. At the Broughton Dispersal Sale at Lismore, I was most impressed with daughters of Tabbagong Beauty's Chieftain; T. Grenadier went to English's on Atherton Tablelands, not only used in that herd but semen was used in several other herds, as was the case with T Cadet 2 on the Darling Downs.

## TABBAGONG FEMALES ALSO SUCCESSFUL

In a recent telephone conversation I had with Tom Walsh of Meadohaven fame, he said that he will be forever grateful for two heifer calves that Alan Richardson selected for him. One of the earliest Tabbagong cows to leave its mark was Tabbagong Beauty 30, Champion Cow at Brisbane in the 1940's, also Reserve Champion another year. One of her daughters was Sunny View Beauty 6, Champion Butterfat cow at Brisbane twice. Her lactation production also broke

the record for all breeds. Many top Beauty cows were bred at Sunny View.

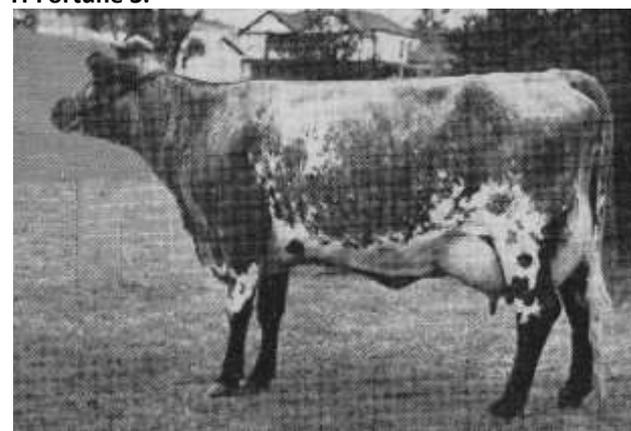


**Tabbagong Beauty 30**

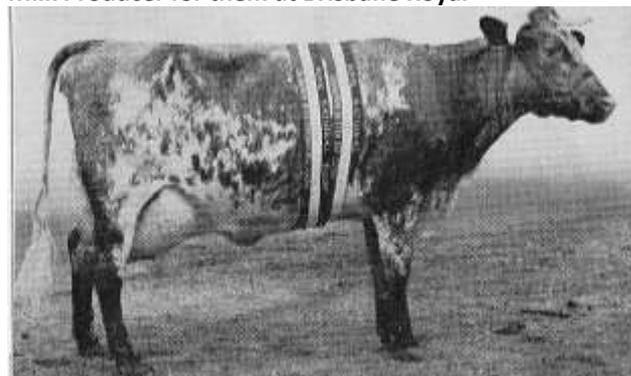
If we take a little time to check out the Beauty family within the Illawarra there is no doubt it would be one of the best cow families ever in the breed, and credit for developing this family goes with Tabbagong.

Wilmington Beauty 30 – Champion Real Australian 3yr old Has founded a top family at GLENBROOK.

Top production cow at JONDENE for 2014 was a Beauty. Lemon Grove Beauty family seemed to be developing well Wilmington Beauty 11 won best udder at Toowoomba for WENHAM family. The Wenhams purchased Tabbagong Park Fortune 3 from Wilmington in 1978. She was the best producer recorded at Fairview, and built a good cow family; Tabbagong Fortune 28 (below) was the grand-dam of TPFortune 3.



Tabbagong Fortune 28 – Bellringer Jamberoo Spring Fair ST ANDREWS STUD purchased Tabbagong Topsy 44 (below). She won Champion Butterfat Cow, and Senior Champion Milk Producer for them at Brisbane Royal



The Topsy family is a large family now at St Andrews. They also have a Flora family from Tabbagong. with St A Flora 68

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being one of the best framed cows I have seen. As most locals know she is impossible to parade in a judging ring.

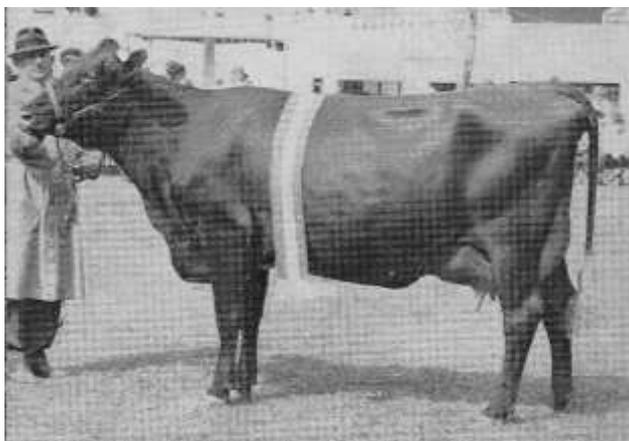


Roseview Flora 7, twice Champion Cow Sydney, dam of Tabbagong Flora's Prince used AI in many herds.

.OVENSDALE STUD at Wangaratta introduced TABBAGONG SCARLET 17 to their in mid 1970's. They have now registered more than 300 Scarlets. In my regular visits to Ovensdale the Scarlets have always impressed.



Tabbagong Scarlet 25 - Champion Cow Melbourne



However, the most outstanding feature of these Tabbagong Tabbagong Mayflower 30 – 1<sup>st</sup> 3 – 4 yrs in milk, Res Champion Cow Sydney. Alan and Denise Whatman are showing Mayflowers currently only 4 generations away from this cow. PANORAMA have a strong Mayflower family.

TABBAGONG HAD A MAJOR INFLUENCE AT WILMINGTON  
Wilmington purchased their first Tabbagong heifers in 1972 with six heifers selected by Alan. Four of them were regular in-milk members of our Toowoomba and Brisbane show team, Dove 28, Jean 44, Beauty 313, Gracie 117. The other two, Scarlet 20 and Virgin 43 excelled in production. However, the progeny they left us was their main legacy.



Tabbagong Gracie 87, possibly Tabbagong's most decorated cow ever. She was a ¼ sister to aforementioned Gracie 117, she also featured in pedigrees when Wilmington took the opportunity to select a further line of heifers when Tabbagong sold the dairying farm and milking herd.

The most outstanding in this line would have been Tabbagong Virgin 63 (pic below)



Res Champion cow Brisbane; twice Ch Cow Melbourne; twice Res Champion Cow Adelaide; All Breeds Type and Production Champion Melbourne Show. Calved every 12 months for 12 lactations. Others that featured in showing included Virgin 62, Ruth 219, Gracie 131, Gracie 148, Gracie 155. There is so much more one could write, but space precludes me here.

Alan Richardson, well known as an Illawarra judge created history in 1973 by being the first Australian invited to judge a major show in USA.



ALAN RICHARDSON – SMALL IN STATURE BUT A GIANT OF A MAN