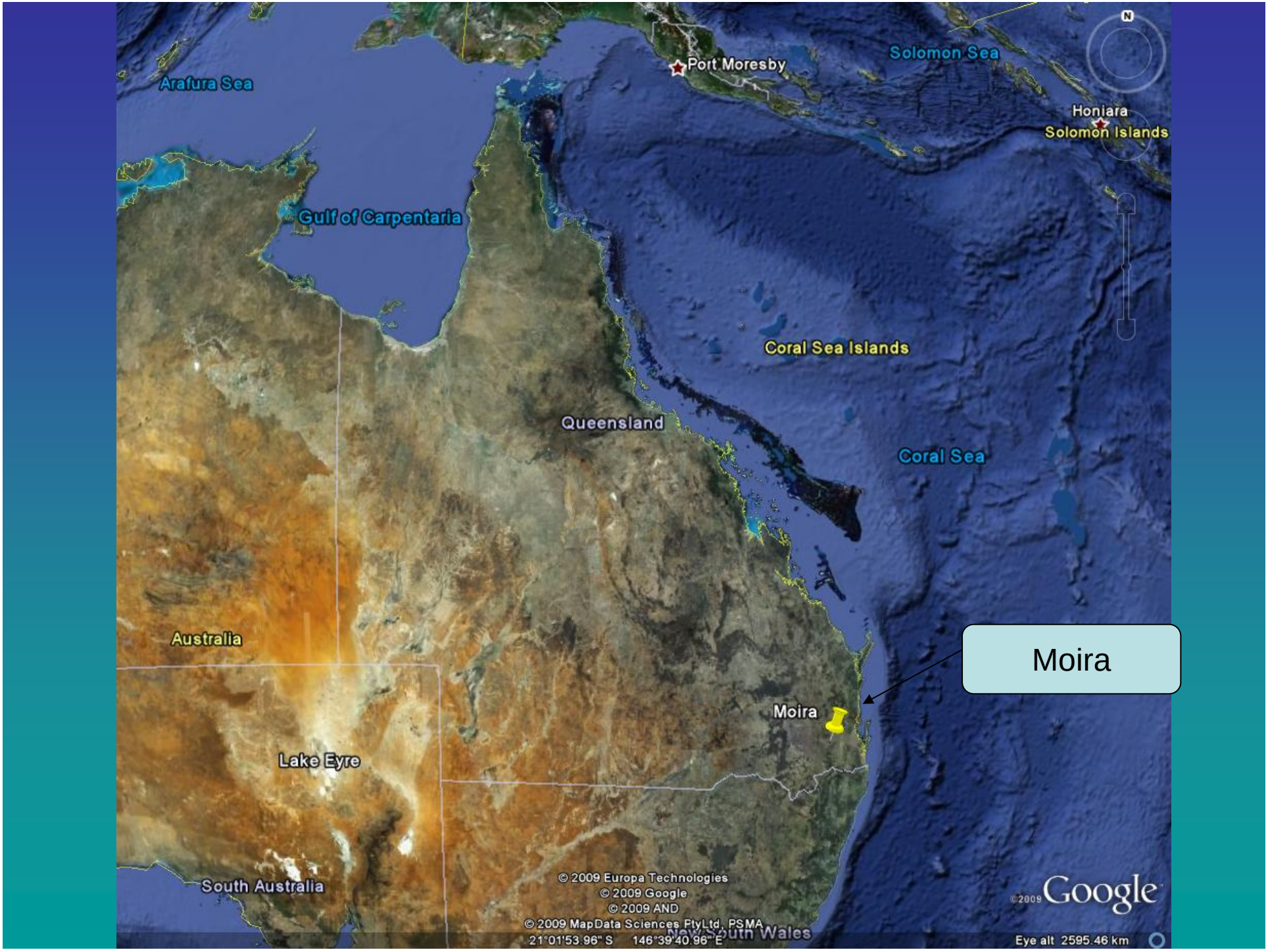
17th INTERNATIONAL FARM MANAGEMENT CONGRESS – Illinois State University, Bloomington/Normal

IFMA17 2009 – Farm Management Case Study Panels

Linton and Melinda Brimblecombe

Moira Farming P/L Queensland Australia


Moira
Yarrowville
Moira
Yarrowville
Lake Eyre
Sydney Olympic Site, Australia
Parliament House
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
© 2009 Cnes/Spot Image
Image © 2009 TerraMetrics
26°05'25.21" S 137°19'50.78" E
©2009 Google
Eye alt 4017.70 km


Arafura Sea
Port Moresby
Solomon Sea
Honiara
Solomon Islands
Gulf of Carpentaria
Coral Sea Islands
Queensland
Coral Sea
Australia
Moira
Lake Eyre
South Australia
New South Wales
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21°01'53.96" S 146°39'40.96" E
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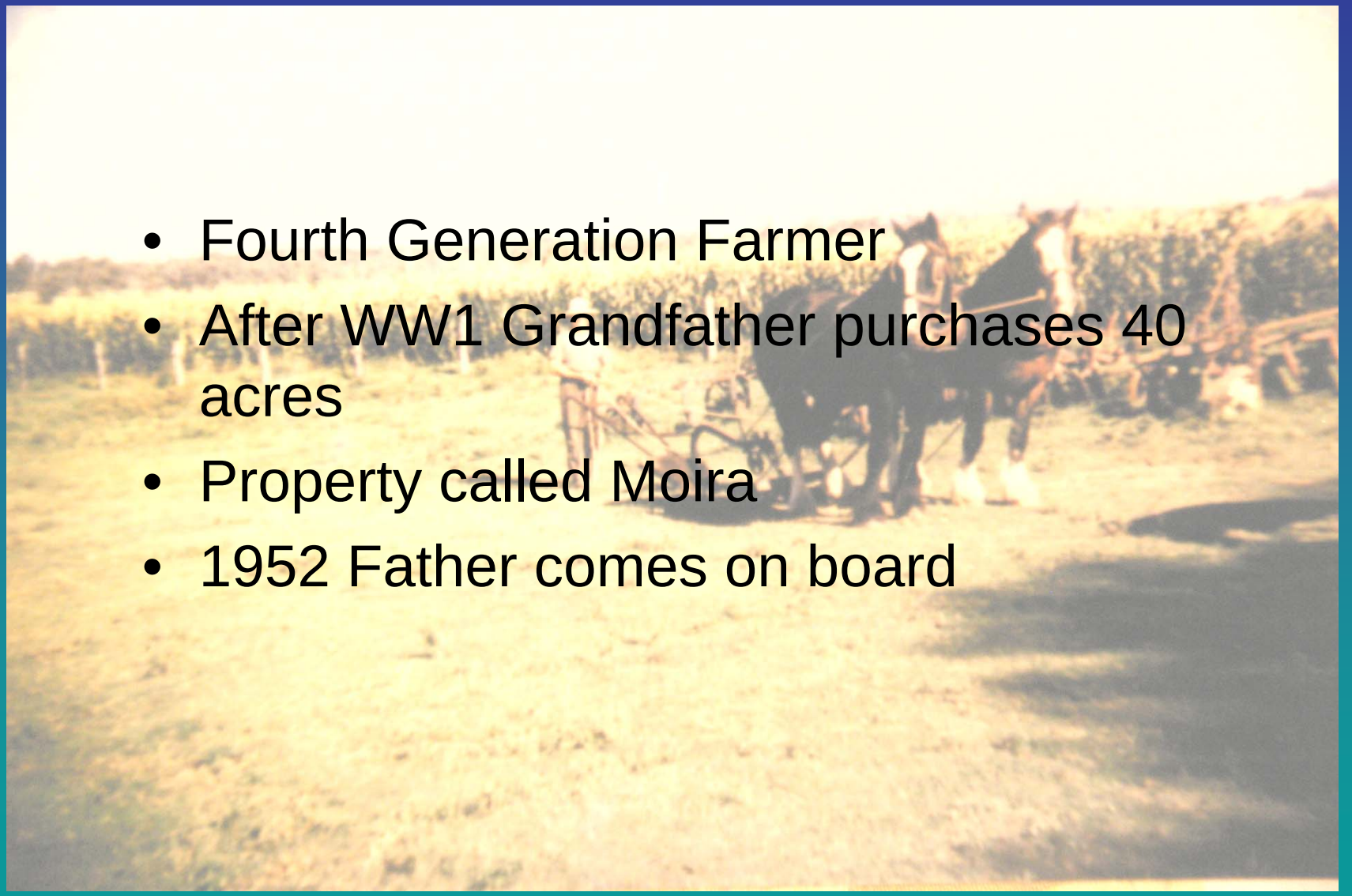
IFMA17 2009 – Farm Management Case Study Panels

- Farm History
- Challenges
- Change
- Current State of Play
- What of the Future

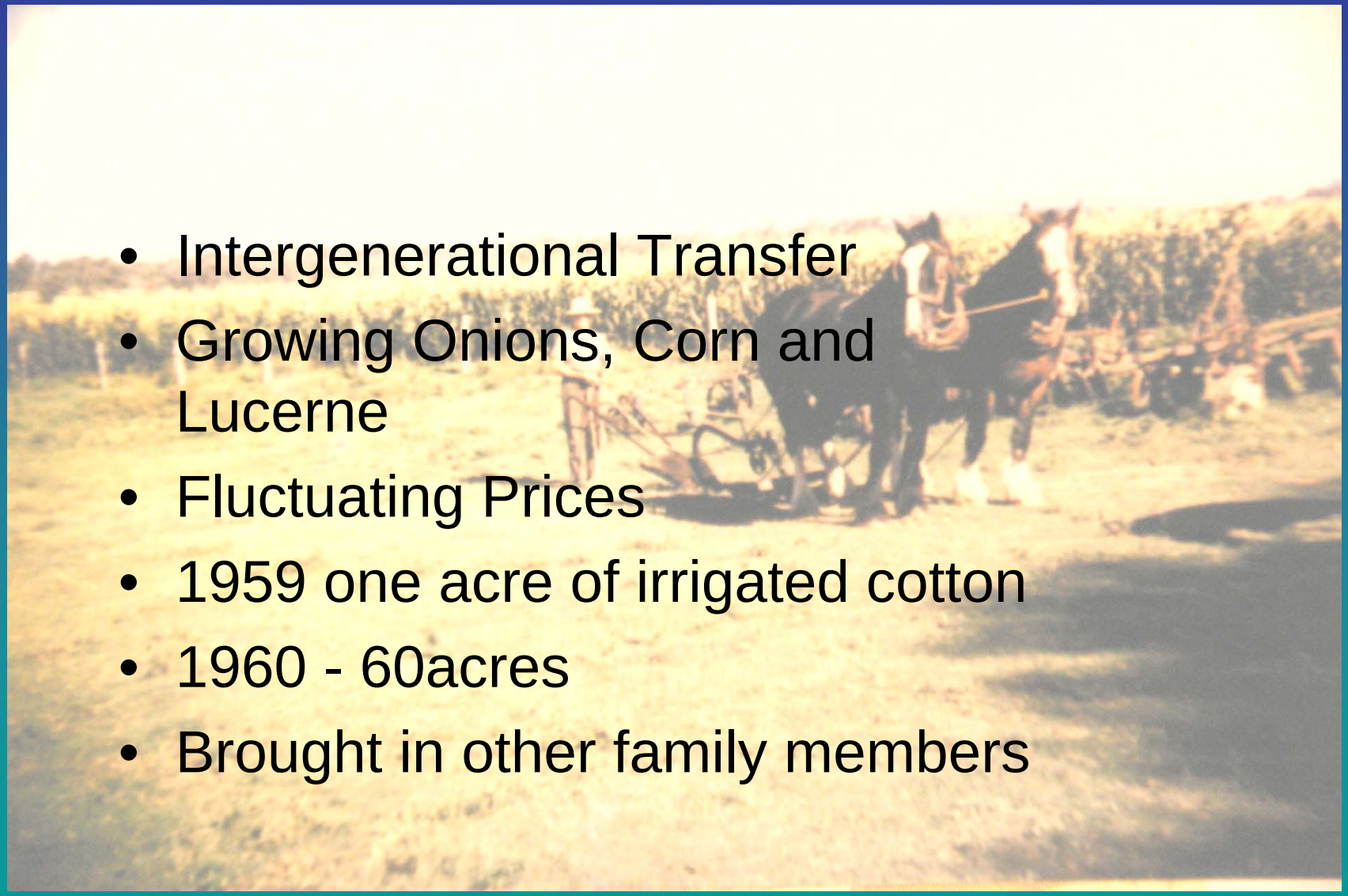
Farm History

Farm History



- Fourth Generation Farmer
- After WW1 Grandfather purchases 40 acres
- Property called Moira
- 1952 Father comes on board

Farm History



- Intergenerational Transfer
- Growing Onions, Corn and Lucerne
- Fluctuating Prices
- 1959 one acre of irrigated cotton
- 1960 - 60acres
- Brought in other family members

Brother’s in law Rob Armstrong and Alan Brimblecombe “Moira” 1964

Brother’s in Law Rob and Alan Moira 1964

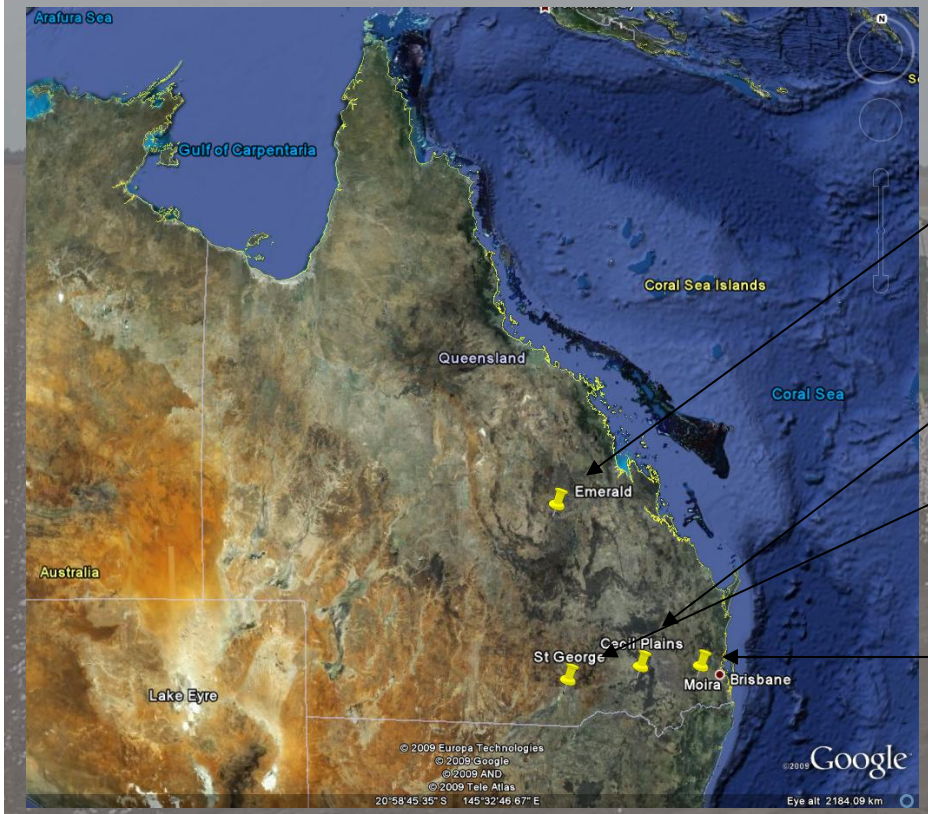
- Brother in Laws Joined business
- Grew Business
- 1972 – 10% of State Production
- Home Farm 320 acres
- 1984 – Split Company
- Brother and Brother in Law Joined Company to take on Alan’s share.

Mechanisation
Cotton Harvest “Moira” 1968

Mechanised Cotton Harvest St George “Burgorah” 2009

Family Growing Regions

Cotton Growing in Queensland



Emerald – Extended Family

Cecil Plains – Cousin

St George – Brother/ Sister/Cousins

Moira – Home Farm

Farm History

- 1998 25 male relatives on Cotton Farms
- Late 80’s cotton under pressure on home farm
- 1989 Brother in Law and I Joined Company at Moira
- Four out of Five Children on the Farms

My Story

Further Challenges

- “Moira”
- 1989
- Issues for Growing Cotton on home farm
- 1. Coastal Climatic influences
- 2. Production Costs Increasing
- 3. Use of Chemicals/Application

Challenges

- Two questions posed
- To keep the original home farm
- 1. Finances right
- 2. Water supply right
- Did not wish to sell family farm
- Entered into development stage
- Benchmarking

Benchmarking

- We have to ask ourselves the questions
- Can we do it
- Can we do it better than it is now
- Is it profitable
- Is it sustainable
- Why do it

Change

- Purchased Beetroot Farm with Contract to supply Golden Circle
- Expanded Home farm to 2000acres
- Built Water Storages to hold two years of water – 3500million Liters
- 2005 – Achieved Life long goal and split farm
- Two viable enterprises

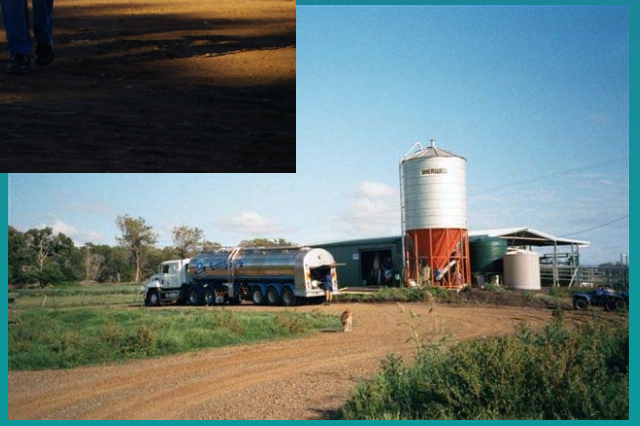
Red Beet Harvest Moira 09

Moira Ring tank

Our Farm

- Currently Farming with my Wife Melinda
- Profitable enterprise
- Employing 5 men
- Growing – Lucerne, Onions, Beetroot, Mung Beans, Soybeans, Sorghum, Wheat and Seed Sunflowers
- Currently purchasing half share in Melinda's family dairy

Change



Current State of Play

- Adopted Efficient Irrigation Techniques
- Changed what we grew
- Adapted new technology
- Change in mind set
- Cost
- Challenge

Life is Good

The Issues

- Diesel Price Doubled
- Fertilizer Price Tripled
- Labour Price Went out of this world

Current State of Play

- So we needed a different response
- Use less of those commodities
- Using less diesel
- Less hours on tractors
- Labor costs down for those crops
- Soil Carbon Increase

Current State of Play

What of the Future

- Main issue – Water and CETS
- Lobbied for 10 years
- Chairman – Lockyer Water Users Forum
- 2 projects
- 1. Management of existing water
- 2. The South East Queensland Recycled Water Project

Group Achievements

- Water Agreement with State Government for take of Supply of Water
- Issue – Price
- Lobbied for a Co-Management system of resource protection
- Community working with Government to manage a resource
- Outcome – Communication Strategy

What of the Future

- Tired of Fighting Governments for support of Farming sector
- Currently “going alone”
- Maybe should have all along

Challenges

- Climate Change
- Changing in Temperature
- Change in Rainfall

What is changing - and by how much?

Changing Temperature Trends

Changes in Temperature (°C) & No. of Heat Stress days from 1957 to 2005.			
	Minimum Temperature	Maximum Temperature	Days above 30°C/year
Mareeba	+ 2.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.5
Bundaberg	+ 1.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.65
Gatton	+ 0.7	+ 1.4	+ 7.2
Toowoomba	+ 1.3	+ 0.7	- 0.16
Stanthorpe	+ 2.3	+ 1.1	+ 0.14
Mildura	- 0.05	+ 0.8	+ 3.94
Hay	- 0.15	+ 1.0	+ 1.9
Bairnsdale	- 0.8	+ 2.7	+ 4.3
Forthside	+ 1.5	- 0.4	No Change
Manjimup	+ 0.7	+ 0.4	- 0.19

Horticulture and Climate Change
What Does It Mean?

- Changes in Planting Dates
- Changes in Seed Population
- Changes in Varieties
- Changes in Harvest Dates
- Loss of Competitive Edge

The Big Issues

- Intergenerational Change
- Empowerment of the individual
- Involving the workforce in decision making
- Good physical infrastructure
- Secure Market
- Working with and through the Community To improve the wellbeing of the community and the individual

Future Challenges

- Climate Change
- Already Here
- Carbon Emissions Trading Scheme – Cost Impost
- Seeing what will be in 10 and 20 years time
- Leaving workable enterprises for the next generation
- Keeping in mind the responsibility that has been given to Self, Family and the Community

Thankyou