

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 28 September 2018

WHAT: Cattle Muster “Smoko” with Wally Lewis
WHERE: Queensland Cricketers Club, 411 Vulture Street Woolloongabba
WHEN: 9:30am, Wednesday 3 October 2018
WHY: To raise funds for support children and young adults living in rural and regional Queensland

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW:

Wally Lewis (Patron, Epilepsy Queensland)
Cartwright family (Roma) and Harms family (Yeppoon), Kenny family (Charters Towers) - Rural families affected by epilepsy
Dave Bunker (Chairman, Epilepsy Queensland)

Wally Lewis joins cattle producers mustering support for kids with epilepsy

Living with epilepsy can be difficult for teenagers, but it is even tougher when you live in remote Queensland. For 17 year-old Paige and her parents Garry and Amanda Cartwright from Roma, the isolation and the distance from specialists has been a major challenge.

The Cartwrights were one of 20 cattle producers to donate livestock for auction with the proceeds going to Epilepsy Queensland. Their generous donation of the 410kg Santa steer returned \$1300 at the Roma Saleyard, with the main auction at CQLX in Gracemere.

When they heard about The Great Elders Cattle Muster, the Cartwrights were pleased to throw their support behind the project initiated by two other families of teenagers living with epilepsy in the bush, the Harms and Kenny families. Thanks to these wonderful families and the support of many cattle producers, \$105,778 was raised which will enable Epilepsy Queensland to establish a service on the ground in regional Queensland.

The idea for The Great Elders Cattle Muster, kicking epilepsy out of the bush, came from a conversation around the dinner table of the Harms family in Yeppoon. Epilepsy Queensland Patron and Rugby League legend Wally Lewis, had been a significant support to the family while their son Charlie was preparing for epilepsy surgery at the age of 14.

Lewis explained: “As Patron of Epilepsy Queensland, the most satisfying thing for me is speaking up for those who have epilepsy and helping others who are dealing with epilepsy or their family members.”

When the Harms family approached him with the idea of The Great Elders Cattle Muster, Lewis was thrilled to be involved. Cattle producers donating to the Muster would go into the draw to have ‘Smoko with Wally Lewis’.

The Cartwrights were the lucky winners of the prize and have been eagerly awaiting the chance to meet Wally and share their experiences of living with epilepsy in the bush.

Elders Rockhampton were key supporters of the project. Virgil Kenny explains: “Elders as a company are very proud to be associated with such a good cause. Their involvement with the rural communities around Australia extends for over 176 years and heavily support the need to

help and assist families in the bush to have an equal opportunity in having essential services for foundations such as epilepsy , men's and women's health , Flying Doctor etc.”

Epilepsy Queensland Chairman, Dave Bunker said: “We are thrilled to have the support of Elders, Llanarth Feedlot, CQLX, Queensland Country Life, Great Keppel Island Hideaway to name a few plus the generous cattle producers across the State. Many rural and regional communities are doing it tough with the drought, so the donations are extremely generous.”

“A regional service is desperately needed with many young people living with epilepsy in the bush not knowing others in the same situation. We want them to know that they are not alone by connecting them with their peers and supporting them with information about local services.”

“Many people have already contacted us as a result of the Cattle Muster, but we ask others young people living with epilepsy or their parents to come forward to help us shape this new program. You can also register your interest so you will be the first to know once the service is up and running.”

Epilepsy affects over 100,000 Queenslanders so there is a good chance you know someone who is living with it, but you may not be aware that they have the condition.

END

MEDIA: If you would like further information or are interested in attending please contact Leigh Gilbert at Epilepsy Queensland on 07 3435 5000/0417 645 027 or pr@epilepsyqueensland.com.au. Photos will also be made available.

[Epilepsy Queensland Inc.](#) was founded in 1969 and provides vital services and support to the 100,000 Queenslanders diagnosed with epilepsy. Through information and counselling services, guided workshops, and community advocacy Epilepsy Queensland is dedicated to improving the quality of life of people with epilepsy, their carers and families.