

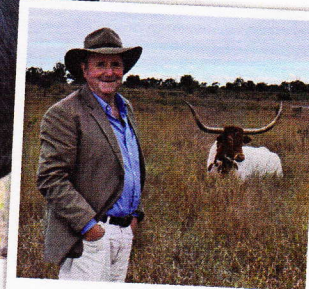


Dr Harry visited Charters Towers earlier this week, filming for Better Homes and Gardens TV show on Michael and Lynda Bethel's Texas Longhorn property.

Picture: SOPHIE KESTEVEN



Michael Bethel, Dr Harry Cooper and Lynda Bethel.



Dr Harry checks out the longhorns..

# Dr Harry Cooper grabs longhorn bull by the horns and pays region a visit

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TV vet Doctor Harry Cooper jumped on the wagon and shook horns with Texas Longhorn cattle when he visited Charters Towers this week.

Filming for *Better Homes and Gardens*, Dr Harry and his crew visited Michael and Lynda Bethel's Texas Longhorn property, witnessing the historic breed of cattle in the flesh.

Not even the famous Texas Longhorn, JR, who holds the Guinness World Record for having the longest horns, could deter the seasoned vet from getting a closer look.

He said any given person walking through a group of horned animals would normally be pretty terrified, but he felt perfectly safe because they are one of the quietest breeds of cattle around.

"It blew me away because animals are my world and I have grown up with animals all my life," Dr Harry said.

"My parents surrounded me with animals from the day I was born and it has never been any different, so to come and see something new like that, to me, is fascinating.

"I have seen pictures in magazines, and you see the RM Williams ad everywhere with the longhorns, so you come to think that's what they are all like.

"But then when you get out there you think, wow the colours are amazing, the coloured pattern is very much

like an Appaloosa horse."

Michael Bethel said Dr Harry seemed to have a wealth of knowledge about everything and it was great having him in town because it will raise awareness about Charters Towers in general.

"He is a personable sort of fellow, all in all you can see why he is so well liked," Mr Bethel said.

Lynda Bethel said to have someone of his standing and so well known visit them was just "super exciting".

"He is full of knowledge that's for sure," she said.

"I think the best thing for us was to be able to show somebody the animals that we see every day and for them to be so excited about walking among the steers, especially with the big horns was good."

Dr Harry said he thought Michael and Lynda's property had been presented terribly well.

"This is a great venue. It's classic Australia, which most people would never come and see.

"What would they do, get off a plane in Sydney and Melbourne and have a look at that, then whiz up to the Great Barrier Reef, then they bugger off home again.

"What have they seen, nothing, because this is the real Australia, it's what Australia is all about, country home-stead, big property, cattle grazing, billy boiling all of this sort of stuff."

Following their Charters Towers trip on Tuesday, Dr Harry and his crew headed to Townsville and Magnetic Island to continue filming for *Better Homes and Gardens*.

## Army ammo goes missing on road

MILITARY ammunition has been lost near the high range military exercise training area at Hervey's Range east of Charters Towers.

The Department of Defence has confirmed that a box containing three cartridge 81mm illumination M853A1 (mortar illumination round) is believed to have gone missing on Monday.

A Defence spokesman said the cartridges contain pyrotechnic and propellant that does not present a high explosive hazard under normal transport, handling and use, including rough handling.

However, the cartridges do present a safety risk if the round is disassembled or tampered with.

Police understand a military truck containing the ammunition was travelling north along Mingela Road, before turning east on Hervey's Range Road and heading back to the exercise training area.

Upon returning to the training area, military personnel discovered the green box containing the ammunition was missing and it is believed to have fallen off the vehicle around the Mingela Road area.

"The ordnance was being supplied to the 3rd Brigade's Combined Arms Training Activity for their main live-firing activity at the High Range Training Area," a Defence spokesman said.

"Defence's priority is the public's safety and anyone who locates a dark green metal box that is approximately 36cm by 15cm by 74cm size is urged to contact police on triple zero immediately.

"For safety reasons do not attempt to move the box."

Asked whether there were any suspicions that the box was stolen, or whether it has been relocated, the Defence spokesman declined to speculate further on the circumstances.

The cartridge provides night time illumination to the battlefield.



**DR IAN SAYS...**  
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