



The Australian Agricultural Contractors Association Inc, visited Queensland in July, 2009, in the quest for knowledge.

We visited Cubbie Station at Dirranbandi. Cubbie Station is the largest cotton farm in Australia. Cubbie Station was developed by the late Des Stevenson, with a total size of 96,000 ha of which 40 percent has been left as remnant vegetation. Cubbie Station has a water storage capacity of 462,000 Megalitres but has not had an intake for eight years, as the Queensland Department of Natural Resources regulates all water in the state.

Des Stevenson was a mining and earthmoving entrepreneur. With this background, Des concentrated on building dams and channels and maintaining the earthworks.

The job of preparing, planting, and harvesting the crops on Cubbie Station is all done by contractors. By doing this, Cubbie Station does not have to find capital for farm equipment or source seasonal labour. Each contractor is assigned specific areas to work, provided with a work site and fuel for running equipment.

For further information www.cubbie.com.au

Gessna Industries was also on the itinerary. For a relatively small engineering business, Gessna does a large range of work from remaking blades for D10 bulldozers to specialist farm machinery for cotton, sugar cane, and disc and tyne seeders for broadacre farming.

The 30 members of our group, and in some cases their accompanying partners, participated in the trip, all had a very good time, a very informative and entertaining. Thanks go to Len and to the Queensland hospitality for a great and memorable trip.

In 2012, we plan to travel to the Ord River in the Northern Territory on another fact finding mission – hope to see you with us on that trip.

Membership application on page 15.

Malcolm Munro