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Title: The Big Bull meets his maker
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The Big Bull meets his maker

After two decades of entertaining passing motorists, New South Wales' Big Bull has finally met his maker.

Infamous for a pair large swinging testicles, the 14-metre high, 22-metre long holstein has continued to draw tourists, even after he was closed to the public.

Dairy farmer Paul Eggert who had the bull on his farm at Wauchope, on the mid-north coast, says it's a bit sad, but the old bloke was causing problems.

"And that was one of the catalysts for actually removing the bull," he says.

"We had a lot of people coming onto the property taking photographs and wandering around and wandering into your house and people just wanted to come and look at the big bull and when we told them it wasn't open they'd get quite upset and you'd hear the kids crying 'I want to see the Big Bull mummy', and mum and dad wouldn't be happy because they couldn't see the big bull."

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WAUCHOPE BRANCH

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WAUCHOPE BRANCH

Bull built in dust as a punt for posterity

By KEN BRASS

WHEN dairy farmer John Eggert decided to go BIG, he knew he faced some tough competition.

Around Australia big things, crass but memorable monuments to local industry and ingenuity, had proliferated for years.

There were Big Pineapples, Big Strawberries, Bananas, Onions; there was the Big Orange in South Australia's Riverland, the Big Merino in NSW and even the Big Australian.

But John's bull had to be the biggest of all.

He wanted his Redbank farm to be known not for its cuddly calves, kittens, lambs, goats, pigs, its hay rides, hand-milking displays and collection of antique Australiana alone.

So, as he says, "We made a big mould out of dirt..."

His punt for posterity is fibreglass and five storeys high.

Passengers on the main northern line trains, which pass the property, near Wauchope in northern NSW, wondered what was happening.

Neighbours scratched their heads and watched a sort of Antipodean Sphinx arising from the green pastures, unaware then of the anguish it would cause their cows.

"We put pegs in the ground to the height we wanted and a frame around it. Then we started filling, right to the top of the pegs," said John.

"You can imagine, the hill of dirt came out here somewhere," John continues, describing an arc half the size of a football field.

"We shaped it by shovel and rake, covered it with plastic, then I dug as much dirt away as what I'd put in. That took days."

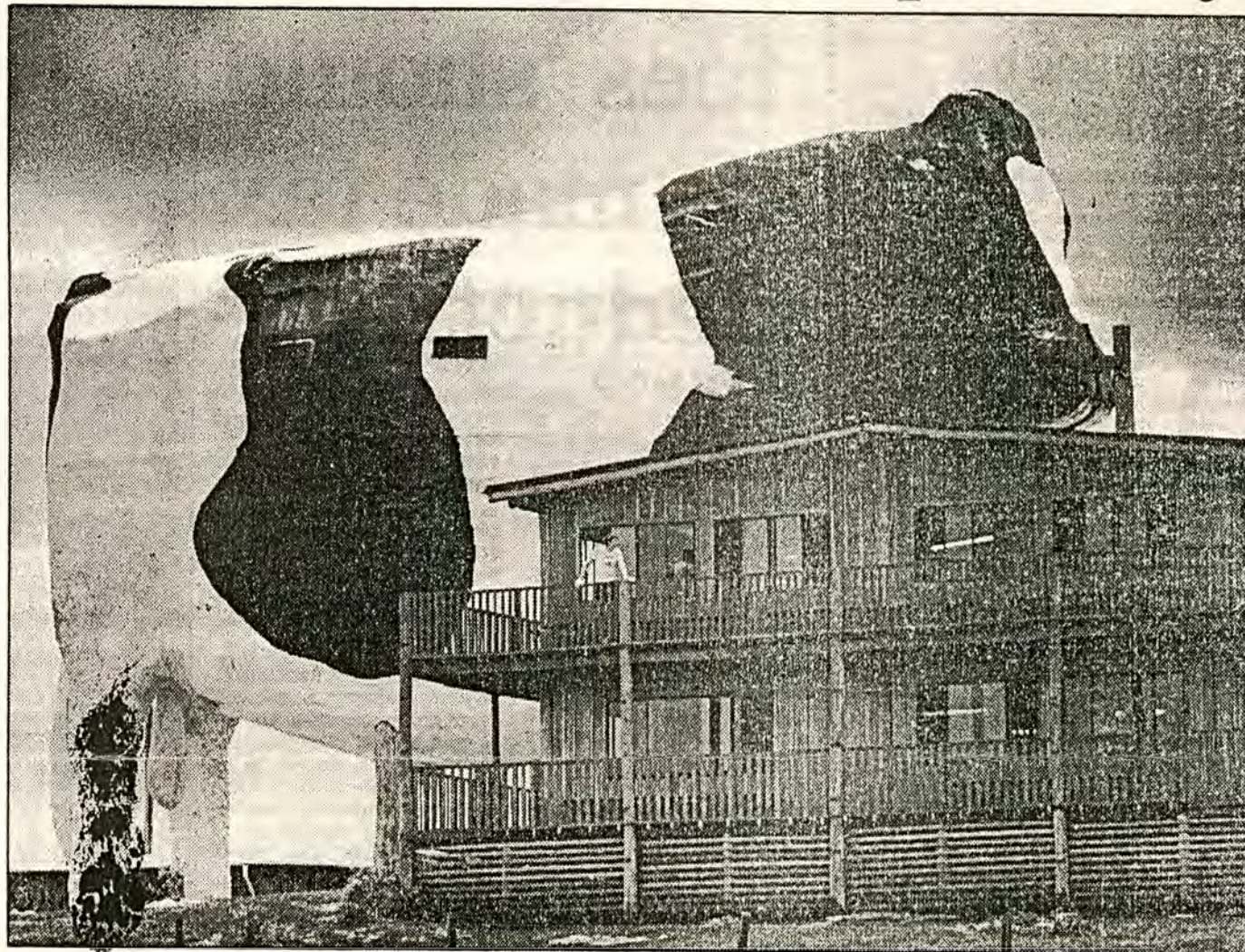
The legs were constructed from timber and wire netting covered with hessian. Low spots in the bull, where the soil wouldn't hold, were packed with hay. Then the fibreglass resin was sprayed on the plastic.

That didn't work.

By trial and error John discovered that hessian over chicken wire was the best base for the glass.

After two weeks of glassing and rolling, four tonnes of fibreglass each side, enough to build about 14 fishing boats, the fibre skin had taken shape.

Two huge cranes lifted the



When John Eggert (above) thinks big, he thinks bull, and contemplates his masterpiece's place among monuments such as Coffs Harbour's Big Banana, Nambour's Big Pineapple, and Adaminaby's Big Trout



"skin" off the mould. It was painted black and white. Then another crane lifted it into the air to be connected to the body skeleton.

However, the strongest wind ever to hit the valley, hit then.

The friesian skin waved from the crane like a flag at the passing trains for hours. The neighbours and their cows were mystified.

Then it all came together.

The idea came to John about 10 years ago when the family had a champion bull at the Sydney show two years running, but he didn't begin to put it into practice until three years ago.

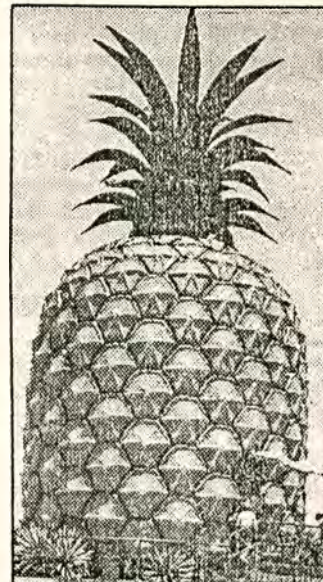
In September it was opened by dairy food publicist Peter Russell Clark.

"I did it for educational reasons," said John, whose father Jack Eggert is the long-time president of the Dairy Farmers Association of NSW.

"The intention was to have something for people to come and see."

The neighbours' cows were keenest to come and see, to the chagrin of the bulls, who eventually resolved their social problem by placing themselves between the cows and John's place.

The cows lost all interest, however, when bits came



loose between the legs of the structure, revolving like a windmill, and John had to climb up and cut them off. Hoots of derision from the train drivers forced him to put them back.

"If you're going to get people there's got to be an at-



traction," said John, who serves dishes such as bullburgers in the restaurant of his "tourist complex", where people come for the animal nursery, children's playground, the educational hay ride and sometimes for wedding receptions.

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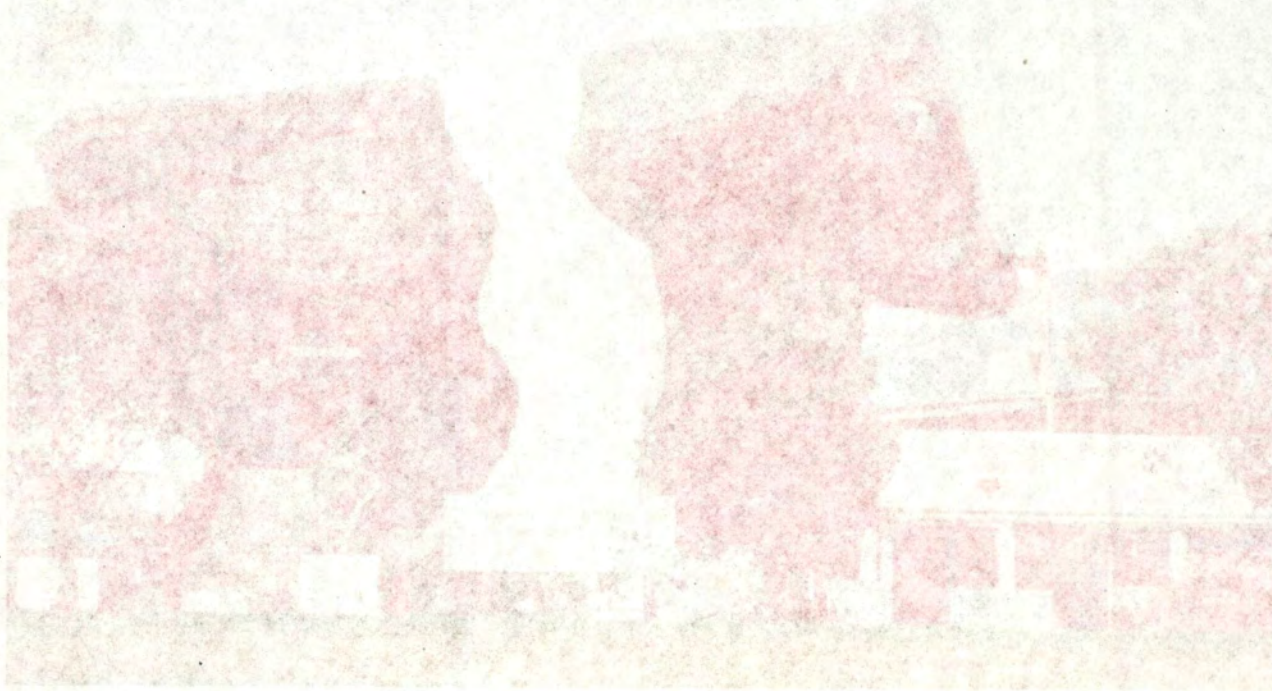
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