Cold and blustery weather didn’t deter the crowd that flocked to “Derwent Park”, Mullaley, NSW, for the “Better Bull Buying” workshop hosted by Lachlan and Kate James on Saturday, June 16th, 2007.

Co-Principals of Wallawong Murray Greys - Lachlan and Kate - were the first to stage a workshop of this kind being offered by SBTS under the package titled “Closer to Your Clients”. The James’ viewed the workshop as a real opportunity for commercial producers to benefit from gaining a better understanding of cattle genetics. With their bull sale being held soon after on July 19th, the workshop was a timely event to ensure their bull buying clients understood and knew how to make effective use of the BREEDPLAN data being presented on their bulls.

Conducted by SBTS in conjunction with the Tamworth Murray Grey Breed Promotion Group, the practical nature of the day fostered excellent learning opportunities and interaction between participants and presenters. Both seedstock and commercial cattle breeders attended the day, which involved them in discussion about Estimated Breeding Values and how to interpret them, as well as hands-on sessions in the yards appraising cattle with the aid of EBVs. A selection of the Wallawong herd was also on display for attendees to look over, including cows and calves and all 2007 sale bulls.

The SBTS team wish to commend the James family on their excellent facilities and warm hospitality, which contributed to making the day a great success.

SBTS will again be offering members the opportunity to host a “Closer to your Clients” workshop in 2008. Members interested in hosting a workshop are encouraged to contact staff at SBTS to register their expression of interest. Further information is also available from the SBTS website http://sbts.une.edu.au.

*Article compiled by Andrew Byrne for The MGBCS Annual 2007*