



**siba ships**  
SOCIETÀ PER AZIONI



**Wellard**

MEDIA RELEASE  
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### US\$135,000 for Northern Territory and Indonesian charities

One hundred and thirty-five thousand US dollars has been raised for charities in the Northern Territory and Indonesia from a charity auction held at a livestock export industry function to mark the creation of a world record cattle shipment set in October last year.

Siba Ships, the owner of the world's largest and most modern livestock fleet, donated 1000 square metres of space aboard the first Asian voyage of its new livestock vessel under construction, the m/v Stella Castor, to raise the funds.

Livestock exporter Northern Australian Cattle Company paid US\$135,000 for the m/v Stellar Castor space, amid frenetic bidding from the gathered live cattle exporters under the expert auctioneering skills of Richard Bond, Northern Territory Land and Livestock Sales.

The money raised will be donated to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the School of the Air and the Isolated Children's Parents Association in the Northern Territory and the local community affected by the mud eruption and subsequent mudflow which devastated communities around the town of Sidoarjo in the Porong district of East Java, Indonesia.

The m/v Stella Castor, which cost US\$40 million to construct, is expected to join the Siba fleet later this year.

Siba Ships Managing Director Mauro Balzarini said the m/v Stella Castor would set new standards for livestock transport and animal welfare.

"I am proud to be able to use the first Asian voyage of this great vessel to raise money for such important charities in the Northern Territory and Indonesia," he said.

"The role the Territory-based charities perform across the vast expanses of the Top-End is as important as it is often unheralded, so anything we can do to help we will. I would also like to thank the Northern Australian Cattle Company and the under bidders for their generous support."

The auction was held in Darwin where pastoralists, transport operators, government representatives and exporters involved in creating the world record cattle shipment of 22,184 cattle aboard the m/v Stella Deneb in October, 2007, gathered to celebrate their achievement. The vessel sailed from Darwin to Indonesia.

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Mr Balzarini said the live cattle export industry was important to both top-end pastoralists as a source of income and for the people of south-east Asia as a source of employment and food.

“The livestock export industry has changed a lot, it has improved a lot, it has done a lot and it has invested a lot to make sure it can be sustainable and will continue to provide Northern Territory, Kimberley and Queensland cattle producers with a reliable market for their cattle and the people of south-east Asia with a quality source of protein from the best cattle industry in the world,” he said.

“For Siba Ships, and the rest of the live export industry, animal welfare is not about slogans or press stunts, but spending time working on new technologies; visiting receiving countries to offer expertise; and spending tens of millions dollars on new ships and equipment to improve our customers’ facilities.”

Siba Ships is an associated company of Wellard.

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**Background – Wellard Rural Exports**

Wellard Rural Exports has supplied quality Australian dairy and beef cattle and sheep and goats to the world for more than 25 years. Based in Fremantle, the company’s operations cover every aspect of the export chain, including feed and high fibre milling, road transport, feedlot facilities and modern shipping.

Wellard has priority access to the most modern fleet of livestock carriers on the ocean through its association with Siba Ships. The company’s flagship carrier, the MV Becrux, is a purpose-built livestock carrier capable of carrying 75,000 sheep or 18,000 cattle from Australia to major markets around the globe. She was commissioned in 2002.

For more information visit: [www.wellardgroup.com.au](http://www.wellardgroup.com.au)