

# Bond shakes up Classings Classic

By CATHERINE MILLER

**A**RAM from the Gunallo Merino stud, Pinnaroo, with bold crimping wool and carrying two copies of the poll gene, fired up the 2015 Classings Classic sale at the Murray Bridge Racecourse on Monday, making the \$30,000 top price.

The Schroeder family reached new heights for the 36-year-old stud with their late March-drop ram, Gunallo 140007 – nicknamed Bond – outselling his sire Gunallo 008 Pride who made \$22,000.

The upstanding 18.9-micron top-price ET-bred ram, which made nearly double last year's \$18,000 high, had a top carcase shape and terrific wool figures, with 2.7 standard deviation, 14.3 coefficient of variation and 99.7 per cent comfort factor.

These raw measurements were in line with the ram's impressive Merinoselect figures that had an MP+ index of 158 – among the highest in the catalogue.

Stud co-principal Ray Schroeder said the ram was structurally correct but had "special wool" on a large frame, weighing 119 kilograms.

"He has long-stapled, white, well-nourished wool which is almost lustrous – the type that suits both high and lower-rain-fall environments," he said.

Bids flew after the opening \$10,000 before being knocked down to two fellow Classings vendors David and Karen Ridgway, Ridgway Advance stud, Bordertown, and Jed and Craig Keller and families, Ramsgate stud, Tintinara.

Many, including the buyers, have held the ram in high regard, closely following its progress at numerous Merino field days earlier in the year.

"He is a very safe and correct ram. He is very well balanced with carcase and beautiful

## Sale summary

	2015	2014
■ Offered	56	85
■ Sold	54	75
■ Top	\$30,000	\$18,000
■ Av	\$4569	\$3208

### How the studs sold

	Offered	Sold	Top	Average
■ Gunallo, Pinnaroo	7	7	\$30,000	\$10,286
■ Glenlea Park, Pinnaroo	4	4	\$14,000	\$10,063
■ Ridgway, Lameroo	8	8	\$17,000	\$5031
■ Roemahkita, Cummins	3	3	\$5500	\$4500
■ Ridgway Advance, Bordertown	6	5	\$5000 (x2)	\$3550
■ Wallaloo Park, Marnoo, Vic	2	2	\$3500	\$3375
■ Kamora Park, Karoonda	2	2	\$5000	\$3250
■ Ramsgate, Tintinara	4	4	\$4500	\$2813
■ Sohnic, Marnoo, Vic	2	2	\$3000	\$2500
■ Ella Matta, Parndana	2	2	\$3000	\$2250
■ Lorelmo Keyneton, Keyneton	2	2	\$2400	\$2200
■ Lucernbrae, Callington	5	5	\$3000	\$1650
■ Hynam Poll, Hopetoun, Vic	3	3	\$1250	\$1083

■ Rices Creek, Saddleworth, sold a ram for \$3100; Borung, Loxton; Woodoona, Borrika and Mernowie, Marrabel each sold a ram for \$3000, Flairdale, Cookes Plains, sold a ram for \$1000 and Kamarooka, Bendigo, Vic, offered one ram

white wool," Ridgway Advance stud principal David Ridgway said.

"He also has a proven pedigree with KP37 and Pride."

Ramsgate stud principal Jed Keller said Bond was a "complete package".

"He has tremendous fibre, a very pure muzzle and great back end and the double poll was a big attraction," he said.

Semen shares in the sale topper have been sold to four studs, and in a real coup for Gunallo, there has been interest from South Africa.

Numbers were down for the multi-vendor invitational sale organised by Bill and Rose Walker but the quality remained high, with 19 studs from SA and Vic reserving top rams from their annual drop.

This resulted in a top price of nearly double compared to last year and a \$1361 increase in average.

In the breakdown, 54 of 56 rams sold to a \$4569 average.

Mr Walker's opening remarks

were that he had concentrated on a catalogue of rams with good conformation, wool density and good back ends apart from the usual plain breech and easy-care animals.

Six rams made \$10,000 or more with 83 registered bidders from SA, Vic, NSW and WA recognising the top quality. The underbidders on the sale topper, Superior Wool Syndicate, was successful two lots later on another true dual-purpose son of Pride for \$16,000.

SWS spokesperson Chad Burbidge said the Gunallo ram was a "standout" for growth, muscling and structure but also had very good wool.

Gunallo also topped the stud averages, with seven rams making \$10,286.

Later in the sale, the Schroeders reinvested in a new stud sire from Ric and Gail and Matt Ridgway, Ridgway stud, Lameroo, for the sale's \$17,000 second-top price.

Ridgway 721 was a son of influential Leahcim 858 and had exceptional ASBV figures with a yearling weight of 8.8 and yearling clean fleece weight of +26.

At the March shearing, he was the heaviest-cutting of the stud's 220 rams with 1.8kg more wool than average at 5.5-months growth.

Continuing the success of the Mallee studs, Peter and Marianne Wallis, Glenlea Park stud, Pinnaroo, also had two rams make five figures.

Darren O'Brien, O'Brien stud, Wudinna, secured an 18.3M ram for \$14,000 and Boorana



**GUN BUY:** Ray and Brad Schroeder (front), Gunallo stud, Pinnaroo, topped the Classings Classic selling their \$30,000 ram Gunallo 140007 Bond to Craig and Jed Keller, Ramsgate stud, Tintinara and David Ridgway, Ridgway Advance stud, Bordertown. Also pictured is sale organiser Bill Walker (left), Classings Limited, Murray Bridge.

Merinos, Woorndoo, Vic, paid \$12,000 for an ET-bred son of GP 455.

Volume buyers included Glencorrie Pty Ltd with four rams for a \$2938 average.

Landmark stud stock manager Gordon Wood said it was great to see the Schroeder family rewarded for their dedication to Merino breeding.

"They are hard working, honest people so it is great to see the sort of sheep that they are breeding which are also no-fuss sheep doing well," he said.

"They have the visual appeal but also ASBVs so buyers have options in having the data but also assessing sheep which stack up with wool and meat traits."

Elders stud stock manager Tony Wetherall said although numbers were down the standard was certainly what people had come to expect at Classings.

"Like the other on-property and multi-vendors sales the very best rams met very strong competition," he said.

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08 8667 2295

Landmark Melrose  
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LANDMARK

Light luncheon available

**RIDGWAY'S RISE:** With the \$17,000 second top-price ram from Ridgway stud, Lameroo, are Landmark stud stock manager Gordon Wood, Bill Walker, Classings Limited, Murray Bridge, buyers Ray and Brad Schroeder, Gunallo, Pinnaroo, and vendors Ric and Matt Ridgway (front), Lameroo.



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