

LIVESTOCK

Wildcard from EP stud tops at \$21,000

SALE SUMMARY

	2017	2016
Offered	71	82
Sold	67	79
Top	\$21,000	\$16,000
Av	\$5142	\$4490

THE best was saved until last at this week's Classings Classic Poll Merino multi-vendor ram sale, with a wildcard entry from White River stud, Poochera.

The final lot from sale debutantes John, Marg, Wes and Jacqui Daniell made the \$21,000 top price at the Murray Bridge sale on Monday.

Sale organiser Bill Walker spotted the ram – WR558 – on display at the Australian Sheep & Wool Show in Bendigo, Vic, in July and invited them to be a vendor.

Despite a “a couple of substantial” offers on the 19.7 micron ram, the Daniells kept their promise to be a vendor. John Daniell said the April 2016-drop was a well-balanced ram with wool of “special quality.”

“It is nourished and very rich, deep crimp wool with terrific wool tests including a comfort factor of 99.9 per cent,” he said.

It was a grandson of Premier 302, a ram which made \$34,000 at the Adelaide Merino Ram Sale and was out of a ewe sired by Ridgway Kulkami – which White River bought for \$32,000 at the 2011 Classings sale.

The successful buyer was the Superior Wool Syndicate, which comprises eight commercial buyers and two studs, Lucernbrae, Callington, and SWM, Tintinara, who will undertake AI programs.

“It is beautiful on its feet with good density and length of wool,” SWS spokesperson



SYNDICATE: Penrose Poll and the Superior Wool Syndicate paid the \$21,000 top price. They are with Landmark's Gordon Wood, Marg and John Daniell and Bill Walker.

Chad Burbidge said.

The syndicate has been buying top rams from the Classings sale for more than a decade, including a Gunallo ram in 2015.

WA stud Penrose Poll, Esperance, also bought a semen interest in White River's sale-topper.

Pushing them all the way were Argentine buyers who had seen WR588 at Brecon Breeders AI Centre at Keith a fortnight earlier, where semen was being collected for the stud's in-flock use.

In the breakdown, 20 SA, Vic and NSW studs sold 67 of 71 rams for a \$5142 average – up \$652 on 2016.

Stud interest was much stronger than the previous year, with 11 rams making \$10,000 or more.

Ross, Robyn and Claire McGauchie, Terrick West stud, Prairie, Vic, sold the \$18,000 second-highest price ram at lot 18 to Peter Wilkinson, Challara stud, Badgingarra, WA.

The May 2016-drop twin weighed a massive 140 kilograms, with a 46-millimetre eye muscle depth and



GOOD WOOL: The \$15,000 ram with AWN's Dale Bruns, buyer Will Lynch, Boorana Merinos, and Peter Wallis.

7.5mm fat depth.

Terrick West also sold a ram for \$13,000 to John Lamb Pastoral, Deniliquin, NSW, to top the average table.

David and Karen Ridgway, Ridgway Advance, Bordertown, were the volume vendors, selling 21 of 22 rams, averaging \$4071. This included a 19.1M which made \$16,000 to John Lamb Pastoral.

Peter and Marianne Wallis, Glenlea Park, Pinnaroo, sold two top sons of Poll Boonoke 30040 for \$15,000 each, with one going to Boorana Merinos, Woorndoo, Vic, and the other to O'Brien Poll

Merinos, Kyancutta.

Fellow Mallee breeders, the Schroeder family, Gunallo, Pinnaroo, also had a great result, selling seven rams averaging \$6643.

Their \$14,000 top price ram sold to Angus and Will McLachlan, Rosebank stud, Mount Pleasant. The 18.5M ram had an ASBV clean fleece weight of 24.5 – in the top 5 per cent of MerinoSelect.

Two rams from Joe and Tracey Dahlitz's Roemahkita stud, Cummins, topped at \$13,000 and averaged \$9000.

– CATHERINE MILLER



WA-BOUND: Bill Walker, Ross McGauchie, Greg Wootton, buyer Peter Wilkinson and Claire McGauchie.

Wide interest in Classings' ram offering

NEARLY 100 registered bidders from across Australia converged on the 2017 Classings Classic ram sale at the Murray Bridge on Monday, with rams selling to SA, NSW, Vic and WA.

Multiple buyers at the sale included DR&JA Trethewey, Parndana, with three rams averaging \$2917 and Marrawarra Partners, Nynagan, NSW, with two rams at \$12,000 and \$2000.

A couple of studs set new records with Kevin Hynam, Hynam Poll, Longwood, Vic, selling a 17.5M ram to Brenton and Jane Smith, Calcoo-kara, Cowell, for \$12,000.

Late in the sale, Keith and Judy Paech, Lucernbrae, Callington, were thrilled to receive \$7000 for a son of Gunallo 55 to Sohnic Merinos, Vic.

Sale organiser Bill Walker described it as the “best lineup” in the sale's history, with less numbers this year but a tighter selection on rams with good constitution and exceptional wools.

He said the stud activity was very good, but the gap in the market was the top-end commercial support.

“With the amount of mon-

ey outlaid at on-property sales, people had run out of dough, although those that bought an extra one or two added to the support,” he said.

Mr Walker said there was confidence among commercial breeders with strong returns for meat and wool.

“I am getting two to three phone calls a week with people just wanting to talk about their results,” he said.

“The wool market is good, but when they get their wool cheque, they realise just how good it is.”

Mr Walker said breeders were enjoying higher fertility with the type of sheep being bred by their vendors.

“They are achieving weaning percentages of 110 per cent to 115pc, where once they would be 90-95pc or 100pc in a good year,” he said.

Elders and Landmark conducted the sale, with Tony Wetherall and Gordon Wood the auctioneers.

“It was pleasing that stud buyers from most states were showing the confidence and willingness to get the best genetics for their own stud's improvement,” Mr Wetherall said.

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