

White River's Whopper

Unlike Mr Wisdom's Whopper crosswords, there was no puzzle involved in why this year's annual White River ram sale result at Poochera was such a huge success.

179 big, bale filling and budget balancing rams were penned by the Daniell family for a record White River sale crowd of over 300. The rams were paddock reared, yet still wonderfully presented despite over 350 mms of rain on them. The crowd's appreciation of the quality was obvious, as at the sale's end all 179 rams had cleared to a record White River average of \$2097, selling to a top of \$20,000 which was also a record White River on-property top price, as well as being an Eyre Peninsula auction record.

Pre-sale predictions were such that any one of the top three White River Merino rams could have claimed the top price but it turned out that WR horn brand 3, sired by Majestic 111 attracted two heavyweight White River regulars who locked horns. Eventually Kevin & Heather Hams, Broadoak Merino & Poll Merino studs, Whyte Yarcowie won over the Lindner family, Wonga Pastoral, Morgan with the \$20,000 bid.

With a wonderful balanced structure and terrific carcass conformation, topped by a heavy cutting and free growing 20.1 micron, 3.3 SD, 16.4 CV and 99.7 CF wool, this ram is set to have a big impact within the already impressive Broadoak flock and sire pool. With lot 1 being Wonga Pastoral's second choice and lot 2 being the Hams family's second choice, the results could have been quite different with a different penning order.

Very happy as a result of this bidding duel was Rob Macartney, Corowa, NSW who was able to pick up WR Magic 202, the recent Eyre Peninsula ram of the year for only \$8500. He first bought at White River two years ago and was so impressed with the results he got that he was back and prepared to chase the very best.

The sale opener went for \$6500 to Bill Carey, Parla-Peak Pty Ltd, Streaky Bay while Peter Parsons, buying through Landmark Minlaton grabbed lots 4 and 5 for \$6500 and \$5500; great buying value in the context of the overall sale result. This first run of the eleven top Merino rams averaged a fantastic \$6073.

The top draft of 13 Poll Merinos followed and without the benefit of a sale topping ram price, they averaged an extremely healthy \$3031, topping at \$6400. The successful bidders of the top Poll Merino were Stacey & Donna Bradtke, Bradfield stud, Peterborough. This big and very long son of Leahcim 609, the \$24,500 purchase in partnership in 2009, has wonderful free growing and well defined 21.9 micron wool and terrific carcass attributes.

The major buyer in this run was Kaira Pty Ltd, Wirrulla, repeat White River buyers. They purchased rams at \$4000, \$3400 and \$4600 in this run and later added another Poll Merino at \$3000 from the second run of Poll Merinos.

Beyond these two top drafts there was still very animated bidding throughout the sale that Elders' auctioneers Craig Shearer and Damian Webb simply had to referee. The last eight late addition rams all sold for over \$1000, indicating the buying strength.

There were 46 successful bidders from the 70 registrations with the volume buyers' list being made up of White River regulars.

Mark, Nigel and John Turnbull, Cleve have increased their holdings and sheep operation and were chasing 20 select Merino rams. They were duly successful to be the volume buyers of the sale, paying to \$1600 and averaging \$1325, highlighting that value was still prevalent.

Adam & Julian Desmazures, Newton Pastoral Co, Tintinara and buying through Spence Dix & Co's Luke Schreiber made their trip well worthwhile, purchasing 12 rams to \$2800 and at a \$1964 average.

Jim & Jay Fischer, Yanac, Victoria were again very solid buyers, purchasing ten rams from \$1400 to \$3000, while Len & Joy Newton, Elliston also purchased ten at a \$950 average.

Brenton and Max Jones, Eba Vale also bought ten top rams through Elders' Charlie Rowe, paying to \$2800 and averaging \$1750.

Always strong buyers, WG Fuss & Sons', Steven and Graeme Fuss, Tumby Bay purchased six of the best, paying to \$6000 and averaging a very solid \$3133.

WL & MB Williams & Sons, Elliston (eight at \$1150 average), SE & DJ Wright & sons, Charra (six at an \$1833 average), JM Michael & Co, Wudinna (six Poll Merinos at a \$2800 average), the Docking family, Edge Blue P/L, Pt Lincoln (five at a \$1540 average), DF & EM Best, Wudinna (five at a \$980 average), Kappacoola Park, Wudinna (four at a \$2250 average) and Lairg Station, via Cummins (four at \$800 each) were some of the more prominent Eyre Peninsula buyers.

Good northern support came from JK & JD Henery, Hawker (five at a \$1240 average) and PL Searle, Wilmington (four at a \$1200 average).

Yorke Peninsula buyers were also very prominent with Ken & Harry Maas, Yorketown selecting seven top rams at a \$2200 average being the biggest volume buyers from that region. Leith Daniell, Belkanga Pastoral, Minlaton was very strong on the Poll Merinos, selecting three Leahcim 609 sons to the second top Poll Merino price of \$5400 and at a \$3600 average. Charlie Newbold, Yorketown also purchased three Poll Merinos to \$2600 and at a \$2400 average, this being the 49th year he has bought from the Daniell family.

As invariably happens at successful sales, the average price does not accurately reflect the value within the sale. 65% of the rams sold under \$2000; 42% sold for \$1500 or less, and 19% sold for \$1000 or less.

At this sale each year, donations to the Jane McGrath Foundation are requested in lieu of a charge for the delicious luncheon provided and prepared by the hard working ladies in the district. This year the amount donated and sent to the foundation totalled a wonderful \$585.

Sale Summary

116 Merino rams sold to \$20,000 and averaged \$2038

63 Poll Merino rams sold to \$6400 and averaged \$2206

Overall	2011	2010
Offered	179	173
Sold	179	173
Top	\$20,000	\$5400
Average	\$2097	\$1395

Agents: Elders Ltd

Auctioneers: Craig Shearer & Damian Webb



Pictured with the new White River on-property record priced ram at \$20,000 are Wes Daniell, White River, Poochera & Minnipa (holding ram), purchasers Heather & Kevin Hams, Broadoak stud Whyte Yarcowie, John Daniell, White River & Elders auctioneer Craig Shearer.



Wes Daniell, White River, Poochera & Minnipa holds the Eyre Peninsula ram of the year that sold to Rob Macartney (centre), Corowa for \$8500 and White River's eastern state representative Bill Mildren.



Wes (holding ram) and John Daniell (right), White River, Poochera & Minnipa are pictured with Stacey & Donna Bradtke, Bradfield stud, Peterborough who paid \$6400 for this top priced Poll Merino at the White River sale.



Pictured are the two biggest volume buyers at the White River sale. They are Adam & Julian Desmazures, Newton Pastoral Co, Tintinara and their buying agent Luke Schreiber, Spence Dix & Co (11 rams), and Mark, Nigel and John Turnbull, DH Turnbull & Co, Cleve (20 rams).



Pictured after the very successful White River sale are John Lindner, Wonga Pastoral, Morgan who was underbidder on the \$20,000 top priced ram, Ken Maas, Yorketown, who with brother Harry bought seven top rams at a \$2200 average, and Leith Daniell, Yorketown, who bought three top Poll Merinos to \$5400.



Wes Daniell, White River is with long time clients Craig and Gary Wright, Charra, Ceduna. They bought 6 rams at this year's sale.



This is the huge crowd of over 300 at the beginning of the White River Merino and Poll Merino ram sale when the \$20,000 lo3 was being offered.



Jim & Jay Fischer via Horsham were back at White River and purchasing strongly. They purchased 10 rams again this year, paying to \$3000.