

## White River Excels

The Daniell family's White River Merino and Poll Merino stud again staged one of the highlight sales on the Merino calendar last Tuesday (19<sup>th</sup>). Another total clearance of 149 rams was achieved, selling to a top of \$10,200 and averaging \$1,277, which was up \$75 on last year. The Daniells have not passed a ram since Adam wore short pants; an achievement to be admired.

Such results do not come easily. It requires very astute and dedicated breeding knowledge, an ability to read industry signals, plus willingness to change breeding directions and philosophy when required and the Daniells have mastered these points.

A feature of the sale was the overall growth and evenness of the big, plainer bodied rams, carrying free growing and noticeably soft wools. With bodyweights up to 120kgs and eye muscle measurements up to 44mm on the 12 to 15 month old Merinos, there were a lot of incentives for commercial producers to operate.

Despite their long term Merino success, White River has recently moved into breeding Poll Merinos as well and this sale saw their first offering of 12 Poll Merino rams, with more coming up on the 26<sup>th</sup> August at their Minnipa based sale.

Competition came from all areas of the state, but naturally a majority of buyers came from the local Eyre Peninsula district. The top price of \$10,200 was paid by long time White River supporters, John and David Lindner, Wonga Pastoral, via Morgan. This was for lot 3, WR5, a terrific 15 month old ram with sire power, wonderful structure and balance and bright medium wool that displayed staple length and definition.

This ram was one of 19 sired by the famous Commonwealth, SA Merino Capital Ram of the Year in 2006 and sire of the top priced ram for the last 2 years. However, the sale also contained new Merino bloodlines. One of these was Lewisdale Magic, the 2006 WA Ram of the Year. His progeny were in the 12 month spring drop run and were strongly sought, with the sale's second top price of \$5,200 amongst these. This was paid by Kevin and Heather Hams, Broadoak stud, Whyte Yarcowie, who along with the Lindners, have been regular investors in the very best White River genetics.

While these 2 rams were the individual highlight sales, there was great depth of quality, with plenty of other options for under bidders on any particular lot. Nineteen rams sold for \$2,000 or better and a further 58 sold for over \$1,000 to give an indication of the depth of top quality on offer. However, there was also great value to be found, as 64 rams (43% of the offering) sold in the \$500 to \$800 range, fitting into many volume and more budget conscious buyers' range.

These included regular clients, Len & Joy Newton, Elliston who purchased 14 rams in total from \$600 to \$800 to be the volume buyer of the sale. Another Elliston regular buyer of White River rams was WL & MB Williams & Son who purchased 9 rams in this same price range.

Real top end buying strength was provided by repeat buyers, WG Fuss & Sons, Cummins. They purchased 8 rams, paying from \$1,300 to \$3,200 and at an average of \$2,325. Max and Brenton Jones, Eba Vale, Cleve purchased 7 rams from \$800 to \$1,800 to also be significant purchasers on the day.

A new purchaser of prominence was Jim Fischer, Yanac, Victoria who also purchased 8 rams; paying from \$800 to \$1,100 in top value buying through Elders Horsham area wool manager, Andrew Coombe.

Particularly strong bidders throughout the sale were Tintinara based supporters of White River, Newton Pastoral Co. Represented by Adam and Michelle Desmazures, they purchased 7 rams from \$800 to \$1,200 after selecting 5 last year. Also from Tintinara, Munro Nominees, were busy again and purchased 5 this year, to add to the 6 they purchased last year, paying from \$600 to \$1,000, while GW & SA Webb paid \$2,800 for a Commonwealth son at lot 5.

Another strong support area was Yorke Peninsula. Leading the way was the Maas family. They purchased 5 top rams from \$1,200 to \$2,000, selecting from the top end of each age group. Ern Parsons, Curramulka, paid

\$4,800 for lot 1, which was the 3<sup>rd</sup> top price on the day and later added one of the yearling rams at \$1,100. Charlie Newbold, Yorketown, operated on the Poll Merinos at the end of the Merino offering, picking up 3 of the 12, all at \$1,000 each, while Philip Gutshke, also from Yorketown, paid \$1,800 for his top selection. Rounding out YP support was Bellkanga Pastoral, Yorketown who paid \$1,800 & \$1,400 for 2 top Poll rams.

Other prominent buyers included Mark and Nigel Turnbull, Cleve (6 rams from \$900 to \$1,400); WJ & RL Harris & Son, Cleve (4 rams from \$800 to \$1,500); MM& GM Doudle, Cummins (4 rams from \$700 to \$1,200); AR & DM Mills, Tumby Bay (4 from \$800 to \$2,000); DR & CM Sheehan, Cummins (4 from \$800 to \$1,400); PP & DM Sheehan, Cummins (4 from \$800 to \$1,200); JK & JD Henery, Alpanna Station, Pt Augusta (4 to \$700); the Docking family, Edge Blue, Pt Lincoln (4 to \$900); Clark Brothers, Jamestown (4 to \$1,000); & Margaret & Doreen Scott, Mt Wedge (4 rams to \$600). In all, 46 bidders were successful, with Elders auctioneers Tom Penna and Craig Shearer conducting the bidding with relative ease.

<b>Sale Summary</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Merino rams</b>		
Offered	137	
Sold	137	
Top	\$10,200	
Ave	\$1,275	
<b>Poll Merino rams</b>		
Offered	12	
Sold	12	
Top	\$3,600	
Ave	\$1,308	
<b>Overall</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>168</b>
Sold	149	168
Top	\$10,200	\$16,500
Ave	\$1,277	\$1,202



*Pictured with the \$10,200 top priced ram from the White River sale are purchasers, John and David Lindner, Wonga Pastoral, Morgan.*



*Pictured with the \$10,200 top priced ram from the White River sale are purchasers, David (left, holding ram) and John Lindner (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), Wonga Pastoral, Morgan; vendors John & Wes Daniell, White River, Pt Lincoln; and Elders Livestock Breeding Services Manager and auctioneer, Tom Penna, Adelaide.*



*Providing strong eastern states support at the White River sale was Jim Fischer (right), Telopea Downs, who bought 8 rams from \$800 to \$1,100, buying through Elders area wool manager, Andrew Coombe, Horsham, Victoria.*



*Tintinara based buyers provided strong support at the White River sale with 3 buyers purchasing 13 rams in total. Marg Daniell (right), White River, Pt Lincoln is with the strongest of them; Adam & Michelle Desmazures, Newton Pastoral Co, who purchased 7 rams to \$1,200.*



*Yorke Peninsula buyers provided strong support at the White River sale, purchasing 13 rams in total. Pictured are White River regulars, Ken Maas, Yorketown (5 rams); Ern Parsons, Curramulka (2 rams); Philip Gutshke (1 ram); Charlie Newbold, Yorketown (3 rams).*



*Local Eyre Peninsula buying support was exceptionally strong at last week's White River sale at Pt Lincoln. Included were Max and Brenton Jones, Eba Vale, Cleve (7 rams); Mark and Nigel Turnbull, Cleve (6 rams); Michael Doudle, Cummins (4 rams); Trevor Puckridge, Wangary (3 rams); and Angus Mills, Tumby Bay (4 rams, plus 1 in partnership).*



*Kevin Hams (centre), Broadoak, Whyte Yarcowie, purchased the second top priced ram at the White River sale for \$5,200. He is with White River principals Wes & John Daniell, Port Lincoln.*



*White River regular supporters, Denny & Peter Sheehan, Cummins, were again prominent buyers at the 2008 White River sale, purchasing 4 rams each. They are pictured with their purchases, loaded and ready for transit.*