

Ridgway Shows The Way

After returning from the Hamilton Sheepvention where they sold five rams to \$4250 and averaged \$2700, the Ridgway family staged a very impressive offering of Poll Merino rams at their on-property sale at Kulkami (on August 11th).

Ric, Gail, Matt and family should be congratulated on the evenness in quality of the 128 rams they offered in their main auction. The 13 to 14 month old rams had outstanding growth for age, were plain bodied and carried excellent free growing wools with great definition and density. They were backed up by full ASBVs for wool and carcase traits.

These qualities were well appreciated by the prospective buyers in attendance and although there were less registrations than in the last few years, the ones who were there were active in their bidding. Twenty nine buyers from three states were successful in purchasing from one to fifteen rams, and collectively they purchased 114 of the main auction rams, plus eight from the mini auction that followed.

Thirteen more rams sold, but the top price of \$3600 was down \$400 on last year's \$4000 top. The average of \$1214 was \$90 less, but the middle ground bidding to buyer budgets was very solid. Fifty percent of the rams sold in the \$1000 to \$1900 range, while only 11 sold from \$2000 or better.

Ridgway's lot 1 offering was simply outstanding in almost every aspect, just carrying a little scur. Once again those willing to jump in early were rewarded, and Brett Woods, Trundle, via Parkes proved the adage that lot 1 is often the cheapest. He bid \$2800 for R129, a son of R1137. Having come that far to get this top young 106kg ram, he was ecstatic to be successful at that value.

The top price came seven lots later when Brian Martin and Wayne Sheriff, McLaren Vale bid the \$3600 to secure Ridgway 27, a superb son of R92 with wool figures of 18.9 micron, SD of 2.8, 14.8 CV and 99.9 comfort factor. It was +22 for yearling clean fleece weight and when combined with good carcase figures, its merino production (MP+) index was an impressive 160, the second highest in the catalogue. They will use the ram to breed flock rams for their Keith property.

Alastair and Deb Mac Allan, Woodchester were back again chasing top rams, and purchased the second top priced ram for the second year in a row. This was for R9, a son of Wallaloo Park 904 with 100% comfort factor wool and a MP+ index of 159. They paid \$3300 and the three rams they purchased averaged \$2600.

S & Y Brady, Rhymney, Vic are regular supporters of Ridgway and after purchasing one of the Hamilton sale rams, they purchased four more to \$2100 and at an average of \$1775. These included R454, the highest MP+ indexed ram at 160.

The strength of the middle ground was on the back of support from seven volume buyers who collectively purchased 73 rams, or 64% of the main auction offering.

Tim and Matt Brown, GNB Investments and buying through Landmark Lameroo purchased 14 rams in the main auction to \$900 and at a \$794 average, plus one from the following mini auction.

Lynton Barrett, Lameroo was the volume buyer last year with 12 rams and purchased the same number again, paying to \$1600 and at an \$1117 average.

Kangaroo Island was well represented by Mitch Willson, Willson River Partners, Penneshaw who purchased nine rams to \$1800 and at an \$1144 average. The Johnson family, Mt Boothby Pastoral, Tintinara chimed in strongly to purchase eight rams to \$1700 and at a \$1263 average.

Rob and Sharon McCarthy, Yalpara Station, Orroroo made their first buying trip to Ridgway a good one. They purchased nine rams to \$900 in the main auction, then added four others from the mini auction and privately.

Steven Paech, Callington is a long term Ridgway client and was back again, purchasing seven rams to \$1700 and at an \$1129 average.

Landmark's Steve Davidson purchased for Classings Ltd's Bill Walker who was unable to attend this year. Steve purchased nine rams for three buying accounts.

Eight rams sold in the mini auction to \$700 and averaged \$544. Other key buyers included NF and J Loechel, (three to \$2700), Glen Hampel, Loxton (three to \$2900), and RL and C Micken, Coonalpyn (three to \$2000).

The high quality rams Ridgway has reserved for the Adelaide Royal and Classings Classic and on display justifiably attracted very strong interest.

Sale Summary	Main Auction	
	2014	2013
Offered	128	128
Sold	114	101
Top	\$3600	\$4000
Average	\$1214	\$1304

Agents: Landmark

Auctioneers: Malcolm Scroop and Gordon Wood

See photos on next page



Pictured with the \$3600 top priced ram at the Ridgway sale are Landmark auctioneer Malcolm Scroop, joint buyers Brian Martin and Wayne Sheriff (right), McLaren Vale and Ridgway principal Ric Ridgway.



Brett Woods (centre), Trundle, via Parkes, NSW made the long trip to Ridgway and purchased this very impressive lot 1 ram, Ridgway 129 for \$2800. Also pictured is Landmark auctioneer Gordon Wood and Ridgway's Matt Ridgway holding the ram.



Key buyers at the Ridgway sale are Alastair Johnson, Tintinara (eight rams), Matt and Tim Brown, Lameroo (15 rams), Peter Brady, Rhymney, Vic (four rams), Lynton Barrett, Lameroo (12 rams) and Mitch Willson, KI (nine rams).



Rob and Sharon McCarthy, Yalpara Station, Orroroo and their children Oliver, Annie and Charlotte are pictured with Ridgway principal Ric Ridgway after loading the 13 rams they purchased.