

Ridgway's passion rewarded with lift in records

The Ridgway family's passion for outstanding wools with long stapled, white, crimped wool on a big dual purpose body was clearly evident through their wonderful offering at Kulkami on Monday. They offered 128 Poll Merinos in the main auction, plus a further 33 in the mini auction.

With 47 registered bidders from three states actively competing for this offering, 10 more rams sold than last year; the quality was well rewarded with a 96% clearance; and the average price also increased by 11%.

123 cleared in the main auction to a top of \$4600 and averaged an impressive \$1737, then 14 mini auction rams also cleared to \$750. The total sales of 137 averaged \$1627.

While the top price was down \$400 on last year's Ridgway on-property sale record of \$5000, the main auction average increased by \$167, mainly on the back of increased confidence in the industry, the improved seasonal outlook, and the very solid middle ground bidding that resulted.

Duane Simon, McPiggery and buying through Landmark Lameroo sustained strong bidding competition before placing the winning \$4600 bid on lot 1, Ridgway 643. This very impressive ET born ram had outstanding wool figures of 17.1 mic, 2.3 SD, 13.9 CV, 100 CF and a Yearling Clean Fleece Weight of +23, while it was also positive for fat and muscle and had Yearly Weight EBV of +8.3, with a Multi-Purpose index of 160 resulting.

A full ET brother is the lead ram in Ridgway's Classing Classic sale team next month, while another two were penned in this sale at lots 2 and 5. Lot 2 sold for \$3400 to Dopen Pty Ltd, through Landmark Mt Pleasant. Lot 5, Ridgway 670 was ultimately the sale's second top priced ram when it sold for \$4400 to WF Ryan Pastoral, through Elders Hay.

Also buying through Elders Hay, NSW was Doug Comb. He purchased lot 3, Ridgway K508 for \$4200 (the 3rd top price) and later added another at \$2800.

The only other ram to make \$4000 was R602. With the highest clean fleece weight EBV in the catalogue of +27, it was purchased mid catalogue by Narilla Pty Ltd, Milang. They also invested in two other top rams for \$2800 and \$3000 and averaged \$3267 for their 3 top purchases.

Three repeat buyers with 10 rams each, played a huge part in the overall result. Lynton Barrett through Quality Livestock, Lameroo paid to \$2000 and averaged \$1590; Rob and Sharon McCarthy, Yalpera Station, Orroroo averaged a great value \$880; and Tim and Matt Brown, Mallee Produce, Lameroo averaged \$1000 for their 10, including three from the mini auction.

Victorian buying strength was significant and came from four repeat clients purchasing a total of 19 rams.

Kelvin Shelley, AWN Wool Technical Manager, Highton, Vic purchased seven rams to \$1100 for KD & G Fagg, Mt Mercer and three at \$750 each for GG, GM & TG Philp, Maroona. Simon Brady, Rhymney purchased one of Ridgway's Hamilton Sheepvention sale team, then added four at this sale to \$2400 and at a \$1700 average, also through AWN. Simon Allen, through Rodwells Horsham rounded out the Victorian buying with five to \$3000 and at a \$1780 average.

Steven Paech, through Landmark Murray Bridge was another regular strong bidder with seven rams to \$1800 and at a \$1200 average, while Chris and Andrew Johnson, Mt Boothby, Tintinara and buying through SAL averaged \$1885 for the seven rams they purchased.

Bill Walker, Classings Ltd, Murray Bridge, picked up six rams to \$2800, with four of these going to Chalk Partners, Keith. Other prominent buyers included Glen Hampel, GMR & J Nominees through Landmark Loxton (five to \$3200, ave \$2400), Michael Altus, Altus Pastoral through Landmark Lameroo (five to \$3000, ave \$2160), GL & SL Auricht through Landmark Pinnaroo (four to \$3800, ave \$2525), and Walkerville Pastoral, through Landmark Lameroo (four to \$2700, ave \$1950).

Sale Summary

	Main Auction		Mini Auction		Overall	
	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
Offered	128	128	33	33	161	161
Sold	123	113	14	14	137	127
Top	\$4600	\$5000	\$750	\$900	\$4600	\$5000
Average	\$1737	\$1570	\$657	\$607	\$1627	\$1464

Agents Landmark Lameroo
Auctioneers Gordon Wood and Richard Miller



Pictured with the \$4600 top priced ram at the Ridgway sale are Landmark auctioneers Gordon Wood (left) and Richard Miller (right), Ridgway principals Ric (holding ram) and Matt Ridgway (2nd right) and purchaser Duane Simon, McPiggery, Lameroo (centre).



Pictured with Ridgway's Matt Ridgway (left) are prominent repeat buyers at this year's Ridgway sale, Andrew Johnson, Mt Boothby, Tintinara (seven rams averaging \$1885), Rob McCarthy, Yalpara Station, Orroroo (10 rams averaging \$880), Tim Brown, Mallee Produce, Lameroo (10 rams averaging \$1000) and Steven Paech, Murray Bridge, (seven rams averaging \$1200).



Prominent Victorian buyers at the Ridgway sale were Kelvin Shelley, AWN Highton (10 rams for two clients), Peter Brady, Rhymney, Simon Allen, via Horsham (five rams average \$1780) and Simon Brady, Rhymney (four rams average \$1700). They are with Rachel Ridgway (centre).