

## Outstanding Value at Woolumbool

A line-up of 189 Poll Dorset and White Suffolk rams was offered by Phil and Sharon Clothier and family, Lucindale to a gallery of loyal repeat buyers, plus several significant new clients.

Described by auctioneer Malcolm Scroop, representing joint sale agents Landmark, as a great quality and well-presented line-up of young paddock raised, high performance rams, they offered everything most producers seek.

They had sound conformation, rapid early growth, muscling and worm resistance, all verified by highly accurate measured performance through Lambplan. It is unlikely there are any prime lamb sires offered in this country with more objective data than the Woolumbool rams, this being their 25<sup>th</sup> annual sale. Considering that, it is not surprising that the buyers' list has so many familiar names year after year.

However, it is a little surprising that more prime lamb producers, other than the ones who added their names to the buyers' list this year for the first time did not join them and take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Clothiers. Overall, in an 80% clearance, 152 of the rams sold to a top of \$2100 and averaged \$836.

Similar to last year, competition was strong in the first drafts from both breeds, but the volume buyers were able to pick up cheaper rams in the second runs and average out their buying accounts to very affordable levels.

Four Poll Dorset and 10 White Suffolk elite rams were offered first with the sale's three top prices coming from these drafts. Dale and Ruth Price, Majardah Poll Dorset stud, Glencoe paid \$2000 for W117285, an exceptional late August drop son of W105329. With a 14.6 post weaning weight, a 2.1 eye muscle EBV and a Carcase Plus index of 200 he was a great value buy. The four Poll Dorset elite rams averaged \$1575.

In the White Suffolk elites, Mike Newton, Miller Whan & John, Kingston bid \$2100 to purchase W116610 for AC& JL England who also bought last year's top priced ram at \$2300. With even more impressive Lambplan figures including 16.2 Pwwt, 1.6 for Pemd and a C+ index of 202, this ram has been used by Woolumbool and semen has been retained for future use in the Woolumbool flock and in the Superwhites program.

Patterson Investments and buying through agents Shute Bell, Orange NSW paid \$2000 for W116659, another terrific young White Suffolk with performance figures only marginally below the top ram. The 10 White Suffolk elites averaged \$1380, with the balance being snapped up by appreciative commercial producers.

The Considine family, Corinna Park and buying through O&G, Mt Gambier paid to \$1400 for one of four elite rams they bought in their seven purchases on the day, at a \$1043 average.

The volume buying honours went to family member Graham Clothier, buying for GW & CL Clothier & Sons. He paid to \$1300 for a White Suffolk elite ram in the 16 rams purchased. With five late purchases at the \$600 base, he was able to bring his buying average down to \$812.50.

Four buyers purchased 10 rams each, to make a significant impact on the buying list. John Cooper, Struan Research Centre purchased 10 Poll Dorsets from \$600 to \$800. Landmark's Will Nolan, Naracoorte also purchased 10 Poll Dorsets for new clients, Simon and Francis Tate, Coronary Park, at great value from \$600 to \$700.

In the White Suffolks, II&PE Hocking and buying through Landmark Lucindale paid from \$600 to \$1200, selecting some of the highest performing rams on Lambplan.

Hamish Ellis and Rob Handbury, TDC Penola and Rob Handbury Livestock purchased 10 White Suffolks for Tom McWaters, Rosedale Pastoral Co, paying from \$600 to \$900.

Morris Oliver, Oliver Nominees, Kingston and buying through Mike Newton, Miller Whan & John, Kingston was not far behind with nine rams; one Poll Dorset and eight White Suffolks from \$600 to \$1000. Mark Bruce, Boonoonar Partnership, Keilira was another new client and he chimed in with eight quality Poll Dorset purchases to \$800.

The White Suffolk flock rams suffered most in the clearance stakes, the second draft of these being offered last when most buying orders were filled. Only six Poll Dorsets failed to find buyers.

Overall 84 Poll Dorsets sold and averaged \$842, while 68 White Suffolks sold at an \$828 average.

Overall Sale Summary	2012	2011
Offered	189	193
Sold	152	161
Top	\$2100	\$2300
Average	\$836	\$1038

Agents: Landmark & Elders

Auctioneers: Malcolm Scroop (Landmark) & Tom Dennis (Elders)



Key participants in the Woolumbool ram sale were (back) Mark Bruce, Keilira (eight rams), Hamish Ellis, TDC Penola (10 rams for Rosedale Pastoral Co), Woolumbool principals, Aaron and Phil Clothier, Morris Oliver, Kingston (nine rams) and Wayne Hancock, Kingston (three rams). In front are Graham Clothier, Lucindale (16 rams) and Mike Newton, Miller, Whan & John, Kingston.



Woolumbool's Jason Clothier holds the \$2100 top priced White Suffolk ram purchased by Mike Newton, Miller Whan & John, Kingston for the England family.