

All smiles at Kamora Park

The season that had been dished up to most farmers in the SA Mallee in the previous 12 months up to the end of June gave little to smile about, but since then with a climatic change for the better, the outlook has improved dramatically. There were even more reasons to smile for Colin and Julie Boughen and family after their highly successful Kamora Park Poll Merino ram sale last Friday.

Buyer confidence, stemming from that climatic improvement and high sheep commodity prices, was expressed in strong bidding competition for the superb line-up of 182 rams penned for competition by the Boughen family.

57 registered bidders from four states actively competed for these big, plain bodied and soundly structured rams with bright, free growing, dense and well-nourished wools, particularly at the top end. That top end competition saw the first 30 rams average \$3450, twice topping at \$6200.

At the end of the main auction all 150 rams had cleared at an impressive \$1855 average, up 25% on last year's very strong result, while also selling 22 more rams.

In the mini auction that followed a further 22 sold to \$1000 and averaged \$645, producing an outstanding overall clearance of 172 rams at a \$1695 average.

Recent successes at the Bendigo ASBA show, especially in dual purpose classes, further enhanced Kamora Park's already strong reputation for producing high quality dual purpose rams. As a result, Landmark auctioneers Gordon Wood and Richard Miller had little trouble extracting bids from the large crowd.

Clinton Blight, Seymour Park stud, Highbury, WA, bidding via phone hook-up with John Dalla, kicked the sale off on a top note picking up lot 1, KP4 for \$5000, then added KP27 at lot 6 for \$4600. Both of these rams had outstanding free growing and bright fine medium wools of 18.7 and 20.2 microns; were well above average for Yearling Weight and Clean Fleece Weight and had Dual Purpose indices with Merino Select of 151 and 140 respectively.

Bill Walker, Classings Ltd, Murray Bridge purchased five rams on the day for three clients, including KP2 for \$3800 for Penrose Poll, Esperence, WA to round out the Western Australian purchases.

The top price of \$6200 was achieved twice, both rams heading to the eastern states. Neal and Andrew Rizzoli, 'Tooranga', Cape Clear, Victoria made the trip across to pick up KP358, a super impressive son of Roemahkita 'Big Joe'. With wool figures of 18.0 mic, 2.3 SD, 12.8 CV and 99.9 CF, plus impressive Merino Select figures highlighted by +4.8 for Ywt and +20 for Ycfw on top of an outstanding sirey phenotype, they had to battle hard to get him.

The Rizzoli family breed their own rams and this ram will go into service in their 400 ewe nucleus flock.

"He has great conformation, a sire's head and is so sharp and nourished in its wool. He is a son of 'Big Joe' and this sire's progeny seemed to be so consistent throughout the offering," Neal Rizzoli said.

“We saw him at the Keith Field Day, which we actually attended to follow up on another ram we saw at Bendigo, but felt this bloke was the better proposition for our flock,” he added.

The under bidders were Dallas and Helen Bright, Balaclava Station, Broken Hill, NSW. However they compensated eleven lots later when they bid successfully for KP505 by KP38, also for \$6200 to be equal top price. This ram was initially being retained but was put in as a late replacement when the original lot 19 ram had to be withdrawn.

Paech Bros, Callington picked up a top ram for \$3800, plus another at \$5000 for Shirley Willison, Modbury. Ulandi Park Props, Marrabel and JP & C Hein, Murray Bridge both purchased rams at \$4400, Paul Hendy, Belbourie stud, Melton, Vic purchased one at \$4200, while Ryan Kluske, Bordertown (\$4000) and Andrew Hall, Manoora (\$3600) rounded out the higher priced individual lot buyers.

Also significant at the top end was Alastair MacAllan, Red Creek who purchased three top rams for \$4000, \$3100, and \$2400, averaging \$3167. Regular top end client, Scott Dinham, Tailem Bend completed his five ram purchasing foray by lot 25, paying to \$3400 and averaging \$3160.

Two regular key buying accounts stood out in the volume buying stakes with a combined 27% of the offering. Andrew Wall, Wall & Neindorf, Langidoon Station, via Broken Hill purchased the highest number with 24 rams from \$500 to \$1000, 13 coming from the main auction and 11 from the mini auction. These were secured at an outstanding value of \$658. John and Paul Wegner, Wegner Bros, Karoonda purchased just one less, with all but two of their 23 rams coming from the main auction. They bid strongly up to \$3400 and averaged \$1896.

Ray Kowald, Kevradale Pastoral Co, Tailem Bend and Neville Smith, Loxton purchased eight rams each, averaging \$1225 and \$825 respectively to also be prominent volume buyers. Ian Symons, WhyGee Pastoral, with six rams to \$2500 and at a \$1583 average, and JK Pfitzner, Wanbi, also with six rams at an \$1150 average were both strong contributors to the sale’s success, also underbidding many other higher priced lots.

Brad Champness, Homevale, Kaniva was a prominent Victorian buyer with six rams from \$1200 to \$2000 and at a \$1600 average. Other key buyers with five rams each were David Crawford, Middlegrove Pastoral, Strathalbyn (\$1760 average), Richard Hein, Murray Bridge (\$1217 average) and NM & JN White, Cooke Plains (average \$960).

Sale Summary

	Main Auction		Mini Auction		Overall	
	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
Offered	150		32		182	183
Sold	150	128	32	18	172	146
Top	\$6200 (x 2)	\$5600	\$1000		\$6200 (x 2)	\$5600
Average	\$1855	\$1488	\$645		\$1695	\$1370

Agents: Landmark

Auctioneers: Gordon Wood and Richard Miller



Pictured with KP358, the \$6200 equal top priced ram at the Kamora Park ram sale are purchaser Andrew Rizzoli, Cape Clear, Vic, Landmark Karoonda's Cameron White, and Katelyn Boughen, Kamora Park holding the ram.



Wade and Katelyn Boughen, Kamora Park, Sandalwood are pictured with the ram KP 505 that was sold to Bright Graziers, Broken Hill for the equal top price of \$6200 at the Kamora Park Poll Merino ram sale.



Wade and Katelyn Boughen, Kamora Park, Sandalwood are pictured with the two rams purchased by Clinton Blight, Seymour Park stud, Highbury, WA for \$5000 and \$4600 via phone link-up with John Dalla, Warooka.



Volume buyers: Pictured after the Kamora Park ram sale are Paul Wegner, Karoonda, Ian Symonds, Karoonda, John Wegner, Karoonda and Andrew Wall, Broken Hill. Collectively they purchased 53 rams, being 31% of the rams sold.