

\$5600 top in big lift at Kamora Park

This time last year, Colin and Julie Boughen and family, Kamora Park, Sandalwood received their best rain for the year. However, this year good rains through mid-winter created much brighter seasonal prospects for not just the Boughens, but also a majority of their clients.

That fostered improved optimism from the 45 registered bidders amongst a big crowd, resulting on a \$405, or 26% increase in sale average compared with last year's result.

In the main auction of 200 rams, 194 sold to a top of \$5600 twice and averaged \$2023, then seven more were cleared at \$600 each in the mini action that followed to make the overall average \$1974 for 201 rams.

Kamora Park's reputation for producing ideal easy care Poll Merinos has spread widely, with four states represented in the buyers' list.

Roger Polkinghorne, Charinga stud, St Arnaud, Vic was one very prominent interstate bidder. He was impressed enough with the Kamora Park team at the recent Bendigo ASBA show to warrant the trip across to this sale.

He started his buying with a successful \$3200 bid on KP150, a well-balanced and big barrelled son of Old Ashrose 445, supported by strong Merino Select carcase traits. However, it was KP1385, sired by KP333 and offered ten lots later that required an equal sale topping bid of \$5600 to win the bidding against strong competition. It was +6.2 for yearling weight and +10 for yearling clean fleece weight, with its well defined and long stapled wool measuring 18.5 micron and 99.8% for comfort factor. It cut a very impressive 11.48kg for six months wool growth.

"This ram has a big barrel and quick growth, plus he is a positive wool cutter with rich and heavy cutting wool," Roger Polkinghorne said.

"We saw their team at Bendigo and as we'd used their rams before and they'd done a very good job, we decided we needed to make the trip across," he added.

It was not until lot 71 that this \$5600 top price was equalled. Ashely and Kingsley Morrell, Bowhill were pushed to that level before being able to purchase KP941. Sired by Western Plains Majestic it was +15 for yearling clean fleece weight of 19.7 micron and 99.7% comfort factor wool.

"We were looking for frame size, carcase traits with soft handling, bright and white wool and this ram had all that. It is a very good all round, true dual purpose ram," Ashley Morrell said.

The Morrells mate about 1500 ewes and purchased five rams at this sale at a \$3020 average.

Giving a strong indication of the lift in buyer confidence, there were 11 rams that made \$4000 or better, while just six reached that level last year.

Scott Dinham, Tailern Bend, who regularly buys a handful of top Kamora Park rams including last year's top was again a strong bidder, purchasing four rams to \$5000 and averaging \$4100.

The MacAllan family, Red Creek were again strong bidders, including being underbidders on the equal top ram purchased by the Morrell Pastoral. They were successful on three top rams, paying to \$5000 and averaging \$3700.

Ian Symonds, Why Gee Pastoral, Karoonda is a long term Kamora Park regular buyer, this year going to \$5200 in purchasing four rams at a \$3150 average. DA & HMM Shepley, Clover Downs, Corny Point was the only other buyer to pay \$5000, purchasing two rams at a \$3550 average.

Another buyer who travelled from Eyre Peninsula was DG & KJ Daniell, Coobowie and buying through Quality Wool. They purchased 3 rams at a \$3467 average, this including KP 772, the Junior and Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino at the recent Bendigo ASBA Show at a bargain basement \$3800.

Clinton Blight, Seymour Park stud, Narrogin, WA connected to the sale by phone to Elders Stud Stock's Tony Wetherall, successfully bidding \$4000 to purchase KP870, an 18.5 micron son of one of his own bred rams, SP23. This sire was purchased by the Boughens for \$25,000 and is one of three Seymour Park rams successfully used by Kamora Park in recent years.

Having by far the biggest impact on the sale clearance were the two biggest volume buyers.

George Verco, Marcollat Pastoral and buying through Adam Bradley, Platinum Livestock, Keith took the overall volume buying honours. They purchased 11 rams for the first time two years ago, increasing that to 21 rams last year and in a huge vote of confidence in what Kamora Park rams are doing in their breeding program, this year ramping that up to 41 rams. Thirty nine came from the main auction, paying to \$1600 and averaging \$1056 to put a huge floor in the sale. They then added two from the mini auction at \$600 each to bring their overall buying average down to \$1034.

John and Paul Wegner, Wegner Bros, Karoonda are almost part of the furniture at Kamora Park and were as strong as ever in their long term buying support. They purchased 25 rams from \$800 to a \$4600 top and averaged \$2324. This was up \$176 on average from last year when they also purchased 25 rams.

Andrew Wall, Langidoon Station and last year's biggest volume buyer was restricted this year by the very poor season they are enduring, but still picked up 11 in the main auction and a further five in the mini auction; his 16 averaging \$694.

Brian and Alex Ling, Kingston were strong and consistent bidders, picking up 10 rams from \$1800 to \$3800 and averaging \$2730, while David Cox, Spence, Dix & Co, Keith also purchased 10 rams from \$800 to \$1800 and at a \$1400 average.

Other prominent buyers included MH & NE Falting, Loxton with four rams to \$4200 averaging \$3000, CS & GD Schubert, Murray Bridge with four rams to \$4600 and averaging \$2875, and the Kowald family, Kevradale, Taillem Bend with seven rams to \$4200 and averaging \$2571.

Colin Boughen was delighted with the sale result, saying post sale, "We are really pleased with this result. While that gives a vote of confidence in our breeding program, we never take it for granted, so we're again very thankful to all our clients for their terrific support today."

Sale Summary

| | Main Auction | Mini Auction | Overall | |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------|--------|
| | | | 2019 | 2018 |
| Offered | 200 | 9 | 209 | 240 |
| Sold | 194 | 7 | 201 | 216 |
| Top | \$5600 x 2 | \$600 | \$5600 x 2 | \$5200 |
| Average | \$2023 | \$600 | \$1974 | \$1569 |
| Agents: Landmark Karoonda – Keller Livestock | | | | |
| Auctioneers: Gordon Wood & Richard Miller | | | | |



Kamora Park's Katelyn Boughen (right) holds KP1385, the \$5600 equal top priced ram, pictured with Landmark Karoonda – Keller Livestock's Keven Keller and the purchaser, Roger Polkinghorne, Charinga stud, St Arnaud, Vic. Roger also purchased KP150 for \$3200.



Pictured with KP941, the other \$5600 equal top riced ram after the Kamora Park Poll Merino ram sale are Katelyn Boughen, Kamora Park holding the ram, and purchasers, Ashley and Kingsley Morrell, Morrell Pastoral, Bowhill. They purchased 5 rams in the sale at a \$3020 average.



George Verco, Marcollat Pastoral (right) and buying through Adam Bradley, Platinum Livestock, Keith was the biggest volume buyer at the Kamora Park sale, purchasing 41 rams at a \$1034 average.