

## Three state support for Orrie Cowie

Dennis and Heather Dalla and family presented a wonderful line-up of big, highly productive rams at their annual ram sale last Wednesday; a sale that celebrated the Orrie Cowie stud's 40<sup>th</sup> year of producing Poll Merinos.

A feature of the Orrie Cowie Merino & Poll Merino offering was the support from most areas of the South Australia, plus interstate competition from Victoria and Western Australia.

With particularly strong seedstock support, it is clear that Orrie Cowie continues to be regarded as one of the premier studs in this state, with the quality on offer clearly matching that reputation. The rams had great size, clearly visible strong carcass attributes on noticeably plainer bodies, plus outstanding free growing, bulky, white wools.

Despite the Poll Merino celebration, it was the Merino rams that came through with top price honours. Bruce McCarthy, buying through Elders Clare manager Peter Rolestone, outlasted competition from two states to pick up lot 1; OC 04523 for the sale top of \$7,800. Besides his bulky, free growing 21 micron and 99.2% comfort factor wool; this huge ram (weighing 150 kgs) also had significant bare breech tendencies.

Bruce McCarthy also purchased lot 3 for \$5,250 which was the second top price. This was probably the equal of lot 1, featuring white wool, a deep barrel and massive hindquarter, topping the scales at 156 kgs. He also bought a third ram @ \$1,600 later in the catalogue.

Eventual underbidder on the top ram was Alan Growden, Gleninga Park, Jamestown. He was later able to purchase lot 12 for only \$2,000; a ram by the same sire and with very similar measurements, so he had a considerable saving.

Also strong on the top rams were Robert Lange and son Braden, 'Montrose', Narrogin, WA. While missing out on the top two sales, they were successful in purchasing lot 4 for \$2,750, plus 2 other cheaper rams later in the catalogue. They liked the size and bulk of the rams, especially their heavy wool cuts of long stapled, white, bright wool; something they are really chasing.

In the Poll Merinos, bidding was dominated by 2 regulars; locals, DY & PM Reade from Mt Rat, and Western Australians Stan and Dorothy Kupsch, Geraldton. While they were both prepared to go higher for their pick sheep, it turned out they operated on different sheep each time. The Reade's purchased 3 to the Poll Merino top price of \$2,400. The Kupschs averaged \$2,000 for 3 rams, having to go to \$2,200 for their top ram. Stan & Dorothy's top ram fitted the 'modern easy care Merino' description very well, being very plain, bare pointed and having absolutely massive carcass attributes and growth, but also still having a lot of free growing medium wool.

Eyre Peninsula support was again strong with 3 repeat buyers. Nigel and Debbie May, Elliston purchased 6 rams on the day to \$2,000; Larry Honner, also from Elliston

purchased 6 to \$1,800; and Ross and Yvonne Borlase, Penong picked up a top ram for \$2,400.

Kangaroo Island buyers have always appreciated the productive capacity of the Orrie Cowie sheep and two repeat buyers again bought well this year. RA & YG Hams purchased 11 rams in total on the day, from \$365 to \$425, while Calana Heights, buying through Elders Wool Area manager Craig Eckert, purchased 7 rams from \$365 to \$600.

Besides the Reade family, best Yorke Peninsula support came from the McSkimming family, also Orrie Cowie regulars, purchasing 3 from \$1,000 to \$1,400.

JE, JF, PJ & RA Rodgers, Strathalbyn were also strong buyers, purchasing 3 rams from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

The Dalla family also penned prime lamb sires from their Redwood Park White Suffolk and Poll Dorset studs. Two buyers who also purchased Merino or Poll Merino rams took advantage, purchasing 5 rams. However, it was clearly too early in the buying season for specialist prime lamb breeders to be operating, with only one, JP & A Gregor, Curramulka, operating. They purchased two, including the top of \$900 for a particularly impressive first lot in the White Suffolk offering. The 7 that sold averaged \$757.

## Sale Summary

Merino & Poll Merinos		Auction
Offered	66	(80 in 2007)
Sold	55	(61 in 2007)
Top Price	\$7,800	(\$13,000 in 2007)
Ave Price	\$1,460.91	(\$1,941 in 2007)

### Private Selections

23 rams sold to \$425 and averaged \$391.30

### White Suffolks

7 sold to \$900 and averaged \$757



*Bruce McCarthy, Clare (right) holds the ram that he paid the sale top of \$7,800 for at the Orrie Cowie sale, while Orrie Cowie co-principal Dennis Dalla holds the \$5,250 2<sup>nd</sup> top priced sheep, also purchased by Bruce.*



*Stan Kupsch, Geraldton, WA is with the top young Poll Merino he purchased for only \$2,000 at the Orrie Cowie sale. This was 1 of 3 he purchased. The ram is held by Orrie Cowie co-principal Dennis Dalla.*



*David and Gavin Reade, Mt Rat, Yorke Peninsula were again top supporters of the Orrie Cowie sale. They purchased 3 Poll Merinos, including this one at \$2,400, which was the top Poll Merino price in the stud's 40<sup>th</sup> year of breeding Polls.*



*Pictured with their \$2,750 top purchase at the Orrie Cowie sale are Robert and Braden Lange, 'Melrose', Narrogin, WA. This was one of three rams they purchased on the day.*