

Seasonal confidence lifts Orrie Cowie average

There is little doubt the greatly improved seasonal outlook through virtually all sheep producing regions of the country has given producers a much needed lift in confidence. This and very good current commodity prices and outlook for both wool and sheep meat has stimulated more producers to loosen their purse strings when investing in their future breeding genetics.

That was certainly reflected at the Orrie Cowie ram sale on Wednesday 10th August, which saw increased averages in the different lines by 10% to 49%. Through their Merinos, Poll Merinos and Redwood White Suffolks and Poll Dorsets, the Dalla family sold 145 rams to \$7000 and averaged \$1799, well up on last year's very good 'Golden Anniversary' sale result.

The increased confidence was reflected in the very strong middle ground bidding rather than the top end. At last year's celebratory sale, in the Merinos and Poll Merinos 14 sold for \$4000 or better including six above this year's top and up to \$16,000. However, while the top this year was only \$7000, 18 rams sold for \$4000 or better.

44 registered bidders from three states drove that middle ground upwards, including some prominent new clients. However it was repeat stud client, Steve Koehler, and son Ben, Radnor stud, Murray Bridge who purchased this year's \$7000 top priced ram. This was for OC 150069Tw by renowned sire OC 'Silky'. Carrying a 20.9 micron, 2.7 SD, 12.9 CV and 99.7 comfort factor white, crimped fleece on a big well-filled body, this young Poll Merino attracted good pre-sale interest. The Koehlers then invested in OC 150731 by OC 'V8" eight lots later for \$6000.

Purchasers of last year's \$16,000 priced ram, David and Gavin Reade, Curramulka struck less competition than from two New Zealand breeders last year and were able to pick up their three selections at a \$5083 average. This included OC 150135, a big, powerful hogget son of OC 'Titan' for \$6750, the sale's second top price.

Western Australian buyers have long supported this sale and again three buyers from west of the border collectively purchased five Poll Merinos to \$5250 and at a \$3510 average.

Robert and David Lange, Meltrac Enterprises, Narrogin, WA paid \$5250 for OC 140698, a big upstanding full-woolled 21.8 micron ram with real stud sire potential.

Stan and Dorothy Kupsch, Geraldton, WA didn't make the trip across this year but still sent their order, picking up three top Poll Merinos to \$4000 and at a \$3500 average. Rounding out the WA purchasing was IC Cumming, Wagin who was able to pick up a long and tall 21.2 woolled hogget for just \$1800.

After missing out last year because of the hot top end prices, long term regular Michael Vogt, Wilmington was determined to get his preferred selections this year. He purchased one Poll Merino, three Merinos and one White Suffolk ram. In doing so he paid the top two Merino prices at \$5000 and \$4000, the fifth top Poll Merino price at \$5250, and the top White Suffolk at \$1700.

Prominent volume buying honours went to three buyers, two long term regulars and one first timer. Ben Stark, Stark Grazing, Naracoorte and buying through Elders Naracoorte's Tom Dennis purchased 12 Poll Merinos to \$4250 and at a \$2088 average, being a major contributor to that middle ground

strength in this sale. Ben inspected the Orrie Cowie sheep at Keith field day and liked what he saw. Their bright, long stapled high quality wools with volume wool cut, plus their natural nourishment were points that particularly impressed him. The fact that Orrie Cowie rams have been so successful and admired by Kangaroo Island high winter rainfall clients convinced Ben to make this trip. He found the line-up matched their description and a majority suited his purpose, allowing him to bid with confidence. He also added one Poll Dorset at \$1400.

Pushing the top bidders all the way was Bruce McCarthy, 278 Securities P/L, buying through Elders Burra's Peter Rolestone. He was underbidder on five of the higher priced rams, but also had bidding success, picking up six Merinos and three Poll Merinos to a \$4250 top and at a \$1994 average to be one of the most prominent buyers.

One of the KI regular buyers was the overall biggest volume buyer, Calana Heights, Stokes Bay. They purchased 12 Poll Merinos and one Merino to a \$1300 top and at a \$962 average, plus three Poll Dorsets at \$1000 each in value buying, with Elders Craig Eckert doing the bidding.

Four KI buyers purchased, with John and Rosalie Bell, Spring Hills purchasing nine White Suffolks at \$1200 each being the biggest volume buyer of prime lamb sires. Pat Florance, Kingscote purchased four Poll Merino/Merino rams to \$2400 and at a \$2125 average, while JF, JA, KB and RM Trethewey, Penneshaw picked up two Poll Merinos at \$1000 each and four prime lamb sires at \$800 each.

Other prominent buyers included LR Noll & Son, Pt Augusta (6 Poll Merinos to \$1400, ave \$1117, plus two Poll Dorsets at \$1300); DR & YE Webster, Mannum (7 Poll Merinos to \$1200, ave \$1086); Knagg Family Trust, Gogeldrie, NSW (5 White Suffolks to \$1300, ave \$1240); LT & VS Honner, Elliston (5 Merinos ave \$1200); Simon Schmidt, Eudunda (5 Poll Merinos ave \$920); Jim Downer, Mt Beevor, Nairn (3 Poll Merinos to \$4750, ave \$3183); RK & SA Mumford, Minlaton (3 Poll Dorsets to \$1800 top in that section, ave \$1633); and the Rodgers family, Milang 4 Poll Merinos to \$3800, ave \$2350).

The White Suffolk and Poll Dorset offering had the biggest lift from last year. Twenty six to \$1000 and averaging \$796 last year lifted up 49% to 38 rams clearing to \$1800 and averaging \$1184, far more reflective of their quality.

Sale Summary

	Poll Merinos & Merinos		White Suffolks & Poll Dorsets	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
Offered	124	173	46	40
Sold	107	128	38	26
Top	\$7000	\$16,000	\$800	\$1000
Average	\$2018	\$1893	\$1184	\$796

Agents Elders Minlaton
Auctioneers Tony Wetherall & Tom Penna



Pictured with the \$7000 top priced ram at the Orrie Cowie sale are Orrie Cowie's John Dalla, purchasers Steve and Ben Koehler, Radnor stud, Murray Bridge and Elders Yorketown manager Adam Pitt.



Western Australian buyers again gave strong support to this Orrie Cowie sale, purchasing five rams. With the \$5250 top priced ram to go to that state are Orrie Cowie's John Dalla (centre) with purchasers Robert and David Lange, Meltrac Enterprises, Narrogin, WA.



New and very strong buying support at Orrie Cowie was provided by Stark Grazing, Naracoorte, purchasing 12 Poll Merinos and one Poll Dorset ram. Pictured are Craig Altmann and Ben Stark, Stark Grazing and their Elders Naracoorte agent, Tom Dennis.



Regular Orrie Cowie client Michael Vogt (centre), Wilmington was determined to purchase his choice rams at this year's sale. He purchased these three rams for \$5250, \$5000 and \$4000 with the two Merinos being the two top prices in that section of the sale. Orrie Cowie's John and Dennis Dalla hold the other two rams.



Bruce McCarthy was again a very strong bidder at the Orrie Cowie ram sale, purchasing nine rams to \$4250 and at a \$1994 average, plus underbidding five of the other top lots. Bruce, Dennis and John Dalla hold three of Bruce's purchases, at \$4250, \$4250 and \$2750.



Dennis Dalla welcomes the crowd at the start of the 51st Orrie Cowie ram sale, with Elders selling team of Tony Wetherall, Adam Pitt and Miles Cockington ready to commence the auction.



The Elders selling team in action calling the bids at the Orrie Cowie ram sale.



Orrie Cowie is renowned for the quality of its white, bright, well-nourished and heavy cutting wools. Dennis Dalla stands behind this impressive display of their wools.