

## **Widespread support pushes Orrie Cowie to \$1966**

Celebrating 50 years since the registration of the Orrie Cowie Poll Merino stud, principals Heather and John Dalla presented a superb line-up of 119 Merino and Poll Merino rams for buyer competition last Wednesday (8<sup>th</sup> August), plus 40 of their Redwood White Suffolk and Poll Dorset prime lamb rams.

Despite the seasonal challenges faced by many from their widespread support base, they were rewarded with an overall 92% clearance. The severe drought conditions meant several regular clients were not able to attend this year, but 44 registered bidders from SA, WA and NSW did attend and actively competed for the high-quality rams on offer.

117 of the 119 Merino and Poll Merino rams topped at \$6200 and averaged \$1966. While this was \$320 down on last year's exceptionally good result, it was an outcome that pleased all.

Co-auctioneer for sale agents Elders, Damien Webb said, "It was a really high-quality offering with wool quality and nourishment right through, but the season has certainly taken its toll on regular buyers in many areas."

In line with trending demand in South Australia, Poll Merinos dominated the offering and fittingly topped the sale in this milestone year. The 15 month old OC 170451, sired by Pearler 980 was highly admired pre-sale for its sound structure and excellent white, nourished, well-defined and long stapled medium wool, which then converted to strong bidding competition.

It was regular Orrie Cowie supporter, Steve Koehler and his son Ben who outlasted other SA and WA bidding to be able to add the ram to their Radnor stud sire group at Brinkley. Its exceptional wool figures were 21.0 micron, 2.4 SD, 11.4 CV and 99.9 CF.

Long term and top end supporters, David, Pamela and Gavin Reade, Curramulka went to the sale's second top price of \$6000 for the very next ram offered, OC 170530, another very impressive Pearler 980 son, adding to their \$5000 purchase of OC 170575, a solid and heavy cutting Pearler son offered four lots earlier.

The first of the 15 to 16 month old horned Merino rams, OC 170042 and sired by 'Assassin' was equally impressive as the sale topper. With super crimp and long stapled 20.2 Mic, 2.6 SD, 12.9 CV and 99.7 CF wool, this 111kg and exceptionally well-balanced ram went for \$5200. Michael Voigt, Valley-Hi P/L, Wilmington is one who still actively chases the horned rams and outlasted the competition to add this very impressive young ram to his family's breeding program.

Underbidder on both this ram and the sale topping Poll was Peter Cummings from Esperence, WA. While he went home empty handed in the end, five other WA buyers were successful in their bidding, taking home a combined total of 17 rams.

In attendance, Robert and Braden Lange, Ockley Park, Narrogin got a steal with a successful \$2600 bid for OC 170442 later in the catalogue.

Josh Lay, Coolindown Farms, Esperence went to \$4000 for OC 170059, an Exceller 488 son.

Sending an order, but still leading the way for the WA buyers were long term Orrie Cowie regulars, Stan and Dorothy Kupsch, Geraldton. In their 20<sup>th</sup> year as Orrie Cowie buyers, they purchased six Poll Merino rams to a top of \$3750 and at a \$2658 average.

K Norman, Ravensthorpe with five rams to \$2000 and at a \$1480 average and M & H Lange, four to \$1600 and average \$1400 were others who sent buying orders through the agents and rounded out the WA buying.

Scott Thrift, Elders District Wool Manager and Stud Stock Officer, Dubbo handled several bidding cards for absent buyers, and amongst these was the most welcome new buying account of Lemon Grove, Merino stud run by the Thornton family Nyngan, NSW. He purchased six rams to a top of \$4400 and at a \$3533 average for Lemon Grove to significantly help replace missing regular buyers. He also purchased 11 rams for regular supporters, DR & YE Webster, Mannum, paying to \$1800 and averaging \$1145.

Bruce McCarthy has been an exceptional Orrie Cowie supporter for many years in both top end prices and volume buying. This year he added another eight select rams (two Poll Merinos and six Merinos), paying to a top of \$4200 for OC 161356, a Pearler son and the first ram offered. His top Merino 161236 was another top 'Achilles' son.

Kangaroo Island buyers have also been long term and regular Orrie Cowie supporters, with the bright, waxy and well-nourished wools being particularly important in this wetter climate area. Two regular buyers from that region were again the biggest volume buyers. Scott Thrift purchased for Robert Hams, Parndana, selecting 15 Merino and Poll Merino rams to \$1000 and averaging \$987.

Ron Hams, Parndana chimed in with six to \$1000 and averaged \$833, while Craig Eckert, Elders Regional Finance Manager, purchased 12 to \$1800 and at a \$1283 average for Calana Heights, Stokes Bay. He later added two Poll Dorsets at \$800 each.

Rounding out the higher volume Merino or Poll Merino buyers was the Rodgers family, Milang, SA. Also long term Orrie Cowie buyers, they are suffering more than many with the season, receiving only 100mm for the year, with the highest fall being just 9mm. However, the current wool and sheep meat prices have provided stimulus to hang in, "As long as we can keep them alive," Phil Rodgers said after purchasing six to \$3200 and at a \$2567 average.

Locally, the McSkimming family, Minlaton (four Poll Merinos and one White Suffolk to \$3200) and Alistair Keller, Landmark Minlaton and bidding for DJ McEvoy, Marion Bay (with four to \$2600 and average \$2150) were the most prominent.

The Redwood prime lamb sires that concluded the sale saw a modest result with 29 of the 40 clearing to \$1300 and averaging just \$916. The top priced ram was purchased by Elders Minlaton while Alistair Keller purchased for Landmark Scone, NSW, selecting seven rams, all at \$800, to be the biggest volume buyer.

This result was back on the previous year, indicating potential buyers were not yet sure of their ewe numbers, or there was a swing back to wool production, despite the current boom in prime lamb prices.

In summarising the sale, co-principal John Dalla said, "It was a good day with a lot of support despite the season in many of our regular clients' areas. It was the best run of rams we have ever presented, averaging over 100kg bodyweight right through the entire sale."

"With the current wool prices, buyers were definitely looking for more wool cut. Everyone likes quality nourished wools, which was very evident on which rams made the top money today, but people just want more of it," John concluded.

Sale summary	Orrie Cowie		Redwood	
Sale Summary	Merinos & Poll Merinos		White Suffolks & Poll Dorsets	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Offered	119	130	40	40
Sold	117	122	29	40
Top	\$6200	\$7250	\$1300	\$4200
Average	\$1966	\$2286	\$916	\$1600
Agents: Elders Minlaton				
Auctioneers: Tom Penna & Damien Webb				



Pictured holding the \$6200 top priced ram at the Orrie Cowie sale is Ben Koehler (right), Radnor stud, Brinkley with Elders auctioneer Tom Penna, and Elli Michelmore, Heather and John Dalla, Orrie Cowie.





(Front on) Pictured with the \$6200 top priced ram at the Dalla family's Orrie Cowie ram sale are Heather Dalla and Elders auctioneer Tom Penna (standing) and (kneeling) Elli Micheltmore (Orrie Cowie) and the purchaser, Ben Koehler Radnor stud, Brinkley, SA.



This terrific 15 month old Merino ram sold for the top Merino price of \$5200 at the Orrie Cowie ram sale and is with Elli Micheltmore & John Dalla, Orrie Cowie, purchaser Michael Voigt, Wilmington, and is held by Orrie Cowie's Heather Dalla.





Pictured post Orrie Cowie ram sale is co-principal Heather Dalla (2<sup>nd</sup> left) with long term buyers Gavin, David and Pamela Reade, Curramulka (two rams ave \$5500) and Bruce McCarthy, Clare (eight rams ave \$2146).



Orrie Cowie's John Dalla (2<sup>nd</sup> right) is with WA buyers at the sale; Josh Lay, Esperence and Braden and Robert Lange, Ockley Park, Narrogin.





John Dalla is displaying the \$2600 ram purchased by Braden Lange (right), Ockley Park, Narrogin on the tray of the old renovated Elders truck displayed at the Orrie Cowie ram sale.



Orrie Cowie's John Dalla and Bruce McCarthy, Clare hold the top two rams that Bruce purchased for \$2800 and \$4200. Overall, he purchased eight rams at a \$2146 average.





Scott Thrift, Elders District Wool Manager and Stud Stock Officer, Dubbo bids for new purchaser Lemon Grove Merino stud, Nyngen, NSW. He purchased six rams to \$4400 and at a \$3533 average for this account.



Elders auctioneer Tom Penna calling the bids on the first pen of Redwood White Suffolks offered that included the \$1300 top priced ram.



