

Douwana tops Chapman Valley at \$3400

By COURTNEY WALSH

DRIVING past lush crops on the way to the Chapman Valley Breeders ram sale last week, it should have been no surprise there would be plenty of confident bidding on the Poll Merino, Poll Dorset and Dorper rams up for grabs this year.

Positivity in both the wool and lamb markets equated to strong demand throughout the catalogue of 198 sires from five studs, which saw a 97 per cent clearance and a shed average of \$1436, up by \$331 on the 2017 sale result.

The Poll Dorset offering of 115 rams met with a total clearance and a firm result on last year, while the smaller yarding of Poll Merinos saw their top price value and average jump considerably.

But it was the run of quality Dorpers that started to raise eyebrows when the sale top price of \$3400 (up by \$1200 on the 2017 top) was fetched, bolstered by a final average which represented a \$718 jump on the previous year.

Elders auctioneer Gary Preston said the line-up of rams in the shed this year was outstanding.

"There were tremendous carcass figures throughout the catalogue and a good selection of rams to suit a range of buyer needs," Mr Preston said.

"Once again the sale was well supported by local producers returning to buy



□ Pictured with the \$3400 top-priced ram at the Chapman Valley Breeders ram sale last week from Douwana Dorper stud, Yuna, were Landmark Carnamah representative Tom Page (left), Landmark auctioneer Tiny Holly and Douwana Dorper stud principals Kim and Jason Batten, Yuna.

again, but we also saw new clients which is always pleasing to see.

"Overall, it was a fantastic result for all involved."

Landmark auctioneer Tiny Holly agreed, saying the quality of the rams offered at the Chapman Valley sale improved each year.

"We saw a lot of strong demand, some of which was a little bit above expectation but there is certainly some justification for those prices, given where the wool and lamb markets are at," Mr Holly said.

"The presentation of all the

rams was a credit to the vendors and the number of returning clients demonstrates these genetics perform in the paddock."

Mr Holly said all lines offered on the day sold very well but he was blown away by the Dorper result.

"There were four or five buyers on each pen and it was clear they all wanted and were willing to pay for quality," he said.

□ Dorper

Douwana Dorpers stole the show this year.

The Batten family entered 45 Dorpers for sale, up slightly on last year's offering, all of which were snapped up quickly by buyers at a hefty average of \$1833, up by \$718 on last year as mentioned earlier.

When the second and fourth pens of Dorpers sold for \$2900, it seemed like the top price was set, but the bids just kept on coming as Mr Holly made his way down the line with the sixth and 15th pens selling for \$3300, before the top price of the sale was finally locked in at \$3400 – 19 pens in.

There were a few murmurs of surprise at the high values being paid as the first 10 pens of Dorpers averaged \$2450 and the next 10 averaged \$1980, but there were a few bidders in the buying gallery who were willing to go the distance for quality Douwana genetics.

The top priced ram went to Kilkerran Agriculture, Mingenew, who also went on to buy four more Douwana rams to spend an overall average of \$2640.

A representative from Kilkerran said the operation liked the easy shedding, easy maintenance type sheep at Douwana.

"The base flock we have is from Douwana so we know their type of sheep work well in our environment and within the mixed enterprise we run," they said.

Landmark Carnamah representative Tom Page deals with Kilkerran and said their top-priced selection had everything you want in a Dorper.

"The figures, especially the growth rates, on this ram are really good," Mr Page said.

CHAPMAN VALLEY BREEDERS' RAM SALE (Under the hammer results)

	offered	sold	top	gross	average
Poll Merino					
Wynarling	22	22	\$3100 (2)	\$47,400	\$2155
Willigullli North	16	10	\$800	\$6600	\$660
Total	38	32	\$3100 (2)	\$54,000	\$1688
Poll Dorset					
Tipperary	65	65	\$2200 (3)	\$90,300	\$1389
Woodgrove	50	50	\$1600	\$49,000	\$980
Total	115	115	\$2200 (3)	\$139,300	\$1211
Dorper					
Douwana	45	45	\$3400	\$82,500	\$1833
Overall total	198	192	\$3400	\$275,800	\$1436

“He’s got that muscle where you want it and is basically a quality all-rounder Dorper ram.”

The April 2017 born ram tipped the scales at 95kg and had group estimated breeding value figures including 7.57 WWT, 10.84 PWWT, 10.32 YWT, -0.73 PFAT and 0.83 PEMD.

The volume buyer in the Dorper catalogue was return buyer Jeremy Wasley, Mingenew, who landed a team of 10 at an average of \$1880, including a top of \$2900.

Other big buyers operating on the Douwana catalogue were last year’s top price buyer and long-time client of the Batten family, James Raffan, Badgingarra, who bought one of the equal second top price rams of the sale at \$3300, along with a further four to average \$2540 and Bradelli Farm, Moorine Rock, who tallied up six Douwana rams at an average of \$2233, including a top of \$3100.

□ Poll Merino

With bales of wool paying what they are, it’s no surprise Merino sales this year have started off strong, and the opening two lines of rams at this year’s Chapman Valley Breeders ram sale didn’t deviate.

A total of 38 Poll Merinos were offered to a gallery of new and returning buyers, who between them cleared 32 under the hammer to an average of \$1688.

This year’s average marked a \$691 increase in average on the 2017 result where 37 Poll Merinos were sold.

The top price in this portion of the catalogue was set at \$3100 (up from last year’s top of \$1900) which was paid twice as the Landmark team hammered through the Sutherland family’s offering of 22 rams from their Wynarling stud, Perenjori.

The Wynarling rams were in strong demand, with many buyers only landing one or two, setting the average for the stud at \$2155, which was up by a whopping \$877 on last year’s average.

Top price buying rights were shared between Teakhill Holdings, Northampton, and PJ & AJ Clohessy, Dongara.

Mr Holly got six pens in before the top price was achieved the first time when Teakhill landed it for \$3100, then went all the way to the end of the Wynarling line-up before \$3100 was paid again by John Clohessy.

The ram bought by Teakhill tipped the scales at 101.5kg, had a micron of 20.4, a

comfort factor (CF) of 99.7pc and a greasy fleece weight (GFW) of 5.1kg.

Mr Clohessy’s selection weighed in at 91kg, with a micron of 16.9, 100pc CF and 4.3kg GFW.

Mr Clohessy said it was good strong sheep with a low micron and good cutting ability.

“This was my second time at the Chapman Valley sale and I’m happy with the rams I’ve been able to buy today,” Mr Clohessy said.

Mr Clohessy bought another Wynarling ram during the sale at \$1500, as well as a few Poll Dorsets later in the day.

Though few buyers managed to secure multiple lots of Wynarling rams, Teakhill was one of those, tallying up a team of five rams at an overall average of \$2360, and GR & RJ Bowman, Walkaway, was another, finishing the sale with four Wynarling rams averaging \$1975.

Willigulli North Poll Merinos followed the Wynarling line-up with 16 sires presented, of which 10 sold at auction for an average of \$660.

Though the stud sold less under the hammer than last year, a couple of determined buyers ensured a positive

result for the stud, achieving a top price of \$800 (up from \$700 last year) and an average increase of \$73 on last year.

The top price of \$800 was set for the very first ram offered by the stud which weighed in at 86kg.

It also had wool test results including 19.6 micron, 99.9pc CF and 68.3pc yield.

It was bought by George and Elizabeth Barnettson, PE & MH Barnettson, Chapman Valley, who bought a further five Willigulli North rams to be the volume buyers, paying an average of \$683 per ram.

The Barnettsons were buying from the stud for the first time and said the Willigulli North rams were “some of life’s last bargains”.

“They are good sheep with good wool and were keenly priced – what more could we want,” Mr Barnettson said.

The Barnettsons run about 1200 Merino ewes on their property and said they’ve seen good lambing results this year and look forward to seeing the Willigulli North rams make a difference in their flock.

The remainder of the Willigulli North catalogue was divided between MW & M Hatch, Geraldton and MH Flanigan, Geraldton.

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□ Poll Dorset

Once again, the Poll Dorset line-up was the largest presentation of a breed at the Chapman Valley sale with a total of 115 rams offered from two studs, achieving a total clearance yet again.

This year, the top price of \$2200 was achieved on three occasions during the Tipperary stud's portion of the sale, matching the top price value set last year.

Overall the Poll Dorsets averaged \$1211, up by \$71 on the 2017 average.

The Tipperary offering of 65 rams was first up in the Poll Dorset line-up, selling the entire offering for an average price of \$1389, down by \$8 on last year, to be a firm result for the stud.

The Poll Dorset top price of \$2200 was once again paid by last year's top price buyer Hamersley Fairfield, Walkaway, for both lots 27B and 38, while another return buyer, the Chapman family, Yarrabin Enterprises, Boyup Brook, paid the same amount for lot 40B.

The Hamersley Fairfield selections were June 2017 born lambs and had figures of 7.7 WWT, 12 PWWT, -0.8PFAT, 2.4 PEMD and 190.4 CarcasePlus and 9.1 WWT, 14.4 PWWT, -1.1 PFAT, 1.8 PEMD and 196.9 CarcasePlus respectively.

The two equal top priced rams bought by the Hamersley Fairfield operation were joined by a further six Tipperary rams at an overall average of \$1800.

The equal top priced ram headed to Boyup Brook had figures including 9.1 WWT, 13.3 PWWT, -0.9 PFAT, 0.9 PEMD and 181.5 CarcasePlus.

Des Chapman, who attended the sale to bid on behalf of his son Darren, finished the sale with a total of seven Tipperary Poll Dorsets, for which he paid an average of \$1771.

"We're familiar with the Tipperary sheep, having bought from the Levetts before so we know we'll see results," Mr Chapman said.

"I was looking for good,

thick, meaty sheep with enough scale to do what we need them to in our commercial operation."

The volume buyer of Tipperary sires was Neil Johnstone, who tallied up 13 for Elders Geraldton accounts at an average of \$977.

Mr Johnstone said he was looking for big stretchy rams which had the capacity to produce quality crossbred lambs for producers in the local Northampton area.

Other major buyers in the Tipperary catalogue included Gabyon Pastoral Co, Dongara, and Graze N Grow, Geraldton, who tallied eight and six respectively for averages of \$1437.50 and \$1383.

Wrapping up the Poll Dorset offering was the Hosking family's Woodgrove Poll Dorset stud offering which consisted of 50 rams.

These once again achieved a total clearance, averaging \$980, up by \$225 on the 2017 sale result, and fetched a top price of \$1600, which was up substantially from the \$1000 top last year.

The top priced ram in lot 68B sold to Trevor Smythe, Landmark Mingenew, who was bidding on behalf of Adamus Pty Ltd, Geraldton, and had figures including a bodyweight of 115kg, eye muscle of 43 and back fat of 5.6.

Mr Smythe said those figures stood out in the catalogue.

"I was chasing good bodyweight and eye muscle figures and the back fat was within the range I was looking for as well," Mr Smythe said.

Mr Smythe also bought another Woodgrove sire at \$1400 for Adamus.

"The buyer is a return client of Woodgrove genetics and will use these Poll Dorsets over Merino ewes to produce quality crossbred lambs," he said.

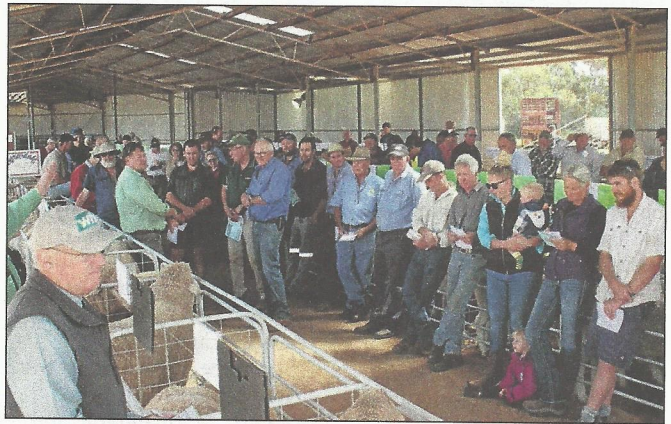
In the Woodgrove portion of the sale, one volume buyer stood out, with 13 sires going to Frank Clune, Newmarracarra, Bringo, at an average of \$823, including a top price of \$900 paid twice.



□ Top price and volume buyers of Willigulli North Poll Merinos were George and Elizabeth Barnetson, Chapman Valley.



□ Volume buyers in the Tipperary and Woodgrove catalogues were Neil Johnstone (left), Elders Geraldton and Frank Clune, Bringo.



□ The Chapman Valley Breeders ram sale was well attended last week, where prices peaked at \$3400 for a Douwana Dorper.

Mr Clune is a long time client of the Hosking family.

"I like the Woodgrove Poll Dorsets because they're nice, consistent sheep," Mr Clune said.

"I know they'll do the job and the lambs I see on the

ground each year are proof of that."

The remainder of the Woodgrove catalogue was divided among buyers from the local area, stretching between Dongara, Walkaway and Northampton.