

Far Valley Dohnes sale reaches \$2800 top

By **TONY HUGHES-OWEN**

FAR Valley stud principal David Kain was well aware his 19th annual on-property sale at Arthur River last week wasn't going to see a similar result as last year.

He had done his homework, contacting his clients leading up to the sale and with the season as it is in many regions his clients come from, indications were that many would not be requiring the same, if any, numbers this season.

As such Mr Kain dramatically reduced the number of rams on offer compared to those earlier advertised and although the number of buyer registrations wasn't that far down on last year, some of the volume buyers of last year didn't attend this year or if they did, bought fewer rams.

As a comparison, last year 24 buyers took home 112 rams between them, last week 20 buyers took home just 65 head between them.

However on a high note



☐ Loaded up after the sale with the four Far Valley Dohnes purchased at up to \$2800 was return client Richard Creek (left), Boyup Brook. With him is Elders auctioneer Nathan King and Far Valley stud principal David Kain.

this year, the buyers of the top-priced ram last year also took home 11 rams and although they didn't pay the

top price this year, Arthur River clients David and Jarard Robinson were again the volume buyers, going

home with 11 rams.

The Robinson family has been buying rams for about seven years from Far Valley,

SALE SUMMARY

(Under the hammer results)
 Offered: 85
 Sold: 65
 Top: \$4500
 Gross: \$85,500
 Average: \$1315

running about 3000 ewes now up to purebred status.

The top price at this year's sale was somewhat higher than that of last year's \$2800 top price, and it was a ram about halfway through the catalogue which topped the sale at \$4500 when it was knocked down to a buyer registering as Cameron White, Woodlands Grazing Co, Mukinbudin.

Dohne ASBV's on the \$4500 top-priced ram as per the catalogue were of 1.1 MWWT, 5.0 WWT, 6.4 PWWT, 8.2 YWT, 0.7 YFAT, 1.1 YEMD, -0.6 YFD, 0.2 YFDCV, 11.2 YCFW, NLW% 13pc and a Dohne

Index Value of 182.3.

The operation also secured another sire earlier in the sale at \$1900.

Mr White was obviously keen to get home to Mukinbudin managing to quietly complete his paperwork with the office, get his ute backed up to the loading race and with his two rams on board hit the road for home before the sale had finished.

The second top price for the sale was \$2800, with this and another at \$2300 being two of four bought by Richard Creek, Creek Farms, Boyup Brook, who has been buying Far Valley Dohnes for more than six years running.

Mr Creek, who is running about 2000 Dohne ewes, said the figures on the four rams he bought were all above the average and he would have liked to have been able to take home the top price ram.

Also over from Boyup

Brook was another return buyer in Steve Thompson, trading as Tasman Farm, who went home with three rams up to \$2600, third top price of the sale.

Another return buyer and one also in from the Wheatbelt was Lindsay Marsh, RG & ME Marsh & Son, Karlgarin, who bought three up to \$2400 and more locally and also going up to \$2400 in an overall purchase of six head was Michael Martin, Jesse Martin & Co, Highbury, who were buyers of six rams at last year's sale.

Long-term clients of Far Valley Graham and Pat Riseborough, who run an elite Dohne flock on their Chittering property, were losing bidders on the second top priced ram of the sale which went to Richard Creek at \$2800, but they still went home with two rams, paying up to \$2300.

One of the volume buyers

on the day was local Sam Burgess, Burgess Contracting, who was back again looking for numbers and this year he went home with seven purchased from auction.

Prior to the commencement of the ram auction sale Elders auctioneer Nathan King offered a line of 370 April shorn, orange tag, ewe hoggets which at \$158 were knocked down to Elders Williams agent Graeme Alexander who purchased the entire line on behalf of Kurt and Clint Atherton trading as Caicos Pty Ltd, Arthur River.

Commenting on the overall sale Mr King said the quality of the offering was outstanding.

"The make and shape and their muscle and growth figures are indicative of the quality and type of the Far Valley Dohnes," Mr King said.