

# Koobelup Dohne reaches top of \$3000

By **TONY HUGHES-OWEN**

WITH a couple of last year's top-priced buyers not requiring rams this year, it was still a pleasing result for Koobelup principals Ian and Julie Hanna at their annual sale at the Narrogin ram shed last week.

The 119 rams offered, well-backed with Dohne ASBVs, saw 103 sell at auction to a top of \$3000 and an overall average of \$1144.

The top price came with the sixth ram in the offering with a number of clients bidding until at \$3000 Elders sale auctioneer Nathan King knocked the ram down to first time buyers to the stud at last year's sale, Wemyss Estate Pty Ltd, Gnowangerup, when 20 head were purchased.

Back again this year, Wemyss Estate farm manager George Hams assisted by David Halleen, Elders Jerramungup, was active throughout this year's catalogue purchasing 16 rams in total, including two others at \$2200 and \$1800.

Their top priced ram IH 18 0110, an April 2018 drop, has Dohne ASBVs of 6.5 WWT, 8 PWWT, 1.4 PEMD, 0.1 PFAT, 10.3 YCFW, 0.2 YFD, -1.3 YDCV and Dohne Index Value of 177.5

Mr Hams said that the Dohne breed was introduced to the Wemyss breeding flock four years ago and currently 3600 ewes are being joined to the breed and it is intended to continue on this basis increasing Dohne breeding numbers.

Another volume buyer, as with last year's sale, was the Buller family, Darkan.

Chris Buller last year went home with 16 rams, but as he was overseas for this year's sale, son Tim was bidding on behalf of the family and purchased 15 head up to \$1400 twice.

Down from Dowerin and back again this year, Gavin



□ With the top-priced ram at last week's Koobelup Dohne ram sale at Narrogin which sold for \$3000 were Koobelup stud principal Ian Hanna (left), Katanning, Elders Jerramungup agent David Halleen his client Wemyss Estate farm manager George Hams and Elders auctioneer Nathan King.

## SALE SUMMARY

(Under the hammer results)  
 Offered: 119  
 Sold: 103  
 Top: \$3000  
 Gross: \$117,800  
 Average: \$1144

Hagboom, WR Hagboom & Co, was another volume buyer going home with 13 head up to \$1600.

Also from up north, were the losing bidders on the top priced ram John and Lindy Grant, Grant Contracting, Dandaragan, who were first time buyers to Koobelup two years ago and returned to this year's sale to go home with five up to \$2000.

Running just over 2000 ewes, they take the opportunity to move around most of the Dohne sheds to make their selections for their breeding program.

There was a noticeable lift in bidding and therefore

values being paid when it came to the final 20 rams penned.

Younger by about three to four months than those earlier offered, competition intensified to the extent that Simon Chitty, Goomalling, who was accompanied by his father Dan went to \$2600 to secure the ram of his choice, this being the second top price of the overall sale.

Dohne ASBVs for this mid-July 2018 drop ram were 5.5 WWT, 6.8 PWWT, 1.6 PEMD, 0.2 PFAT, 9.6Y CFW, -0.7 YFD -1.1 YDCV and Dohne Index Value of 179.8.

Mr Chitty said his flock of 800 purebred but unregistered Dohne ewes were based mainly on Koobelup bloodlines having first purchased rams from the stud about 10 years ago when the stud used to offer rams at Beverley.

He said they were easy maintenance sheep, very good doers and the ewes

were very fertile and their small flock worked in well with their cropping program.

Another of these youngsters slightly earlier in the catalogue sold at \$2500 to Jesse Martin & Co Highbury.

Buyer registrations were slightly down on last year, which may be a trend this selling season due to seasonal conditions however the 16 buyers who did register this year all made purchases during the sale.

And give the season as such, Koobelup studmaster Ian Hanna said it was a very pleasing result overall with buyers getting the rams they wanted at the prices they wanted to pay and met his sale expectations aware that potential buyers of 10 rams weren't attending because of the season.

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Daniel Gill and father Kevin, Sandhurst stud, Northampton, recorded \$2200 when major buyer Callum Scott, Lyndhurst Grazing, Eneabba, set his sights on one particular ram that had a combination of staple length and wool cutting ability.

The Sandhurst team had a full set of ASBVs and the top price ram was double the breed average for both traits.

ET15 had +26.5 yearling clean fleece weight and +11.6 yearling staple length.

It also had a 162 Merino Production Index and a 163 Dual Purpose Index.

Mr Scott was a young wool producer success story for the Merino industry switching to Merinos when he returned home to the farm after he finished school about 10 years ago.

The family had tried Dorpers and had run cattle but they returned to Merinos

because it was what they knew best.

It had helped that he had a good rapport with Daniel and they were now running up to 4000 ewes all of which they intended to join to Merinos to set up for the time when it rained again.

He bought 11 rams and along with Nigel Moffat, Moonyoonooka, who bought seven for up to \$1700; AJS Hulme & Co, Ajana, who bought four for up to \$1800 (2); and Ninan Farm, Wongan Hills, who bought seven for up to \$1500 accounted for most of the Sandhurst team.

The Gill family was the only stud to record a jump in average prices and finished with a solid \$1167 average, up \$78 on the \$1089 achieved last year.

The absence of some past clients left Allaneena principals Alby and Bridget Pullella and Mary Ash, with rams to take home.

Seven of the 12 Polls

offered had a regulation March shearing and displayed bright sappy wools with stalwart Don Nairn, East Binu, paying \$1100 and \$600 for two rams.

A third ram with an April shearing date was sold to Tom Otley, Northampton, for \$500 but the rest of the 12-ram team was unsold.

It was a reversal of fortunes Allaneena that had a solid 2018 sale when 10 rams averaged \$950 but this year posted \$733 for the three sold.

#### **Poll Dorset**

The sale finished with a small but tidy draft of 14 Poll Dorset rams presented by Terry Frank's local stud Kainga.

Demand was good with

only two rams failing to sell at auction but values declined as several annual buyers opted to focus on multiplying their core Merino flocks.

Dave Williams, Moascar Farming, Walkaway, set the \$1200 top and bought three of the first four rams paying \$900 and \$800 for others.

The rest of the offering was firmly in buyers' favour, fetching values in the \$600-\$900 range.

The main buyers were DV & ME Simpson, Northampton, who bought four and AJS Hulme, who bought three.

Consequently, the \$750 average for the 12 rams sold was down from the \$1000 achieved last year.

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**Commenting on behalf of the selling agents Elders, Mr King said it was a quality line up all with exceptionally pleasing white wools supported by very good figures which is what the**

#### **Dohne breed is all about.**

**Mr King said the Koobelup sale was well supported by the stud's long-term clients and to clear more than 100 rams at auction was a very good result given the season, including the imminent water situation.**



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*We would like to thank all of our clients who played a part in making our sale a success and remind everyone that **PRIVATE SELECTIONS** are now available.*

Ian & Julie Hanna  
**Koobelup Dohne Merino Stud**  
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