

# Kintail Park Dohnes sell to \$4700 top

By **LYNETTE CAREW-REID**

IN just two sentences Nutrien Livestock auctioneer Mark Bradbury set the scene for the Kintail Park Dohne sale at Jerramungup last week where prices soared to a \$4700 high, driven by commercial producers.

Speaking before the sale, he said the Kintail Park sheep go anywhere and stand up and perform then he told buyers there was a reduced offering, so don't muck around.

The response was immediate.

The 26 successful buyers knew exactly what they wanted and what they had to do to get it.

Lot one was a standout ram that rocketed to \$4500 under competition from a stud breeder but it was commercial sheepmen Ray and Justin Edwards, RM & TF Edwards, Ravensthorpe, who were determined to finish off a plan implemented at last year's sale when they bought the top price ram.

This year they bought two rams including pen 16 which topped the sale at \$4700 and in doing so they turned the negatives of recent poor seasons to their advantage.

Justin Edwards said they normally bought about five rams, but after three bad years they had reduced their ewe flock by about 70 percent to 800 ewes.

It was only after good rain in August that filled three dams and topped up others, that they could consider rebuilding to 1800-2000 head.

In the meantime, while numbers were low, they had embarked on a plan to lift flock quality via better sire genetics.

"It was a chance to keep the best ewes and up the quality with better rams," Mr Edwards said.

The two rams they bought last week was a continuation of that plan.

Mr Edwards said they still placed a big emphasis on

wool production and, although they had not paid much attention to figures in the past, the two rams had good Australian Sheep Breeding Values for wool weight.

Both rams were twin born and the top price ram had high +5.2 weaning weight, +6.6 yearling weight, +0.9 eye muscle depth and +13.3 yearling clean fleece weight figures contributing to a 175 index.

The buoyancy continued throughout the offering, with buyers enthusiastic for rams that had the right combination of figures and phenotype and as a result this year's sale average bounded by \$207 to be \$1618 with 97 rams sold.

This compared with 2019 when 98 rams sold for a \$1411 average.

The sale was marked by a number of bold buyers who were prepared to start the bidding on value with some rams falling in a single tactical \$2000 bid designed to stifle competition which proved successful in most instances.

There also were plenty of rams that attracted sustained and spirited competition, but buyers were equally adamant they wouldn't take home rams that didn't measure up.

Consequently, of the 107 rams offered, 10 failed to attract a bid but buyers had deep pockets for those they wanted.

LF & JM Bridger, Ravensthorpe, paid \$3600, \$2400 (2) and \$2000 to get four of the highest price rams; MA & MF Plunkett, Albany, paid up to \$3000 for a single ram; I & C McCallum, Esperance, paid up to \$3000 for three, and NWE Harding, Boyup Brook, paid \$2700 and \$2600 when buying three rams.

Two studs were successful in their bidding including Noorla at Williams that bought at \$2000 and Denvale from Denbarker that bought at \$3000.

Denvale studmaster Robert



Top price buyer Justin Edwards (left), Ravensthorpe, with Nutrien Livestock auctioneer Mark Bradbury and Kintail Park studmaster Rhys Parsons, holding the \$4700 ram at last week's on-property ram sale at Jerramungup.

Sounness wanted the outcross of Glenholme, South Australia, genetics represented in the ram's pedigree and it was accompanied by a good set of figures.

Most significantly was the high 175 index (in top five percentile band) that featured well above average yearling fat, eye muscle and weight components.

One other buyer, Wemyss Estates Pty Ltd, spent up to \$2600 and bought a big team of 12 rams.

Gnowangerup-based property manager George Hams and consultant David Halleen had been gradually phasing out a Dorper flock in favour of Dohnes and settled on Kintail Park as one of two studs from which to source genetics.

The five-year program was

completed after the last of the Dorpers were sold in October.

At Kintail Park they were looking for rams with good wool type, but more importantly they wanted good carcass traits to achieve a true dual-purpose objective.

Carcass traits were also of high concern to Ashley, Michael and Margaret Lester trading as RE & ML Lester & Sons, Jacup, who paid up to \$2800 and \$2600 for the best of six rams.

The family went to the sale with a smaller buying order than usual, not because they had cut ewe numbers but because they had finished regenerating a tree plantation and had stabilised their flock size.

They sought plainer types with higher EMD breeding values and a wool that was

## SALE SUMMARY

(Under the hammer results)  
 Offered: 107  
 Sold: 97  
 Top: \$4700  
 Gross: \$156,950  
 Average: \$1618

suiting to their higher rainfall area and they were successful on some of the highest indexing rams offered.

Kintail Park spokesman Rhys Parsons said the sale result was a pleasant surprise.

With poor seasonal conditions they had decided to reduce ram numbers and found those sticking with sheep were valuing high performance genetics.

“Those still in the industry are making good money and find the Dohne genetics come into their own in tough seasons,” Mr Parsons said.

“They are knowledgeable clients and like what they are doing.



Volume buyer Wemyss Estates Pty Ltd consultant David Halleen (left), Elders Jerramungup, Nutrien Livestock Jerramungup representative Neil Foreman and Wemyss Estates manager George Hams combined to buy 12 Dohnes for up to \$2600 at the Kintail Park sale.

“Today they wanted rams with a high index because they are finding they are breeding true.”

Roy Addis from Nutrien

Livestock Breeding reiterated his words saying with the number of sheep that had gone out of the Jerramungup region as a result of the

season, it had been a solid clearance with prices showing that buyers selected strongly on fleece weight and EMD figures.