

# Far Valley Dohne ram fetches \$11,000

By **CAITLYN BURLING**

BUYERS came from far and wide to attend the Far Valley Dohne on-property ram sale this year, including an interstate buyer phoning in their interest on one very exceptional Dohne ram.

By special request, a particular June 2020 born ram initially bound for the Far Valley sire life, was instead a late inclusion in the sale as Lot 121, but offered first under the hammer to light the fuse and send prices skyrocketing.

Interest from two studs instantly got the bidding underway at a cracking pace once Elders auctioneer Nathan King opened the sale, but eventually it was Alex and Georgia Mattschoss, Clover Downs Dohne stud, Barrabba, South Australia, who placed the final \$11,000 bid with assistance from Elders Williams livestock agent Graeme Alexander.

It was quite the 21st birthday present for Far Valley stud principal David Kain, who welcomed plenty of new and existing buyers to the stud's 21st annual on property sale at Arthur River last week.

The exceptional \$11,000 ram was the first of 108 Dohne rams to be offered at this year's sale, selling 100 under the hammer to gross \$158,400 and average \$1584.

Without the \$11,000 stud ram in the mix, the rest of the commercial offering grossed \$147,400 and averaged \$1474.

Buyers knew what they were after and pursued rams that fit their requirements, with the majority of the 22 registered buyers purchasing multiple rams and ensuring plenty of competition on each lot.

After the initial lot was knocked down to the Clover Downs account for \$11,000, Elders livestock representative Graeme Alexander purchased a travel



Far Valley stud principal David Kain (left), was thrilled when this outstanding ram was knocked down for \$11,000 by Elders auctioneer Nathan King, assisted by Elders Williams branch manager Sarah Hyde and purchased by Elders Williams livestock agent Graeme Alexander. Mr Alexander secured the ram on behalf of Alex and Georgia Mattschoss, Clover Downs Dohne stud, Barabba, South Australia.

companion for the trip across the border to South Australia for \$3000.

Both rams were exactly the type the Mattschoss family were chasing to add to their stud breeding program, with the dual-purpose nature of the Dohne providing both top wool and meat characteristics.

The stud ram was Grade AA with a Dohne Value Index of 159.79, sired by 183054 and out of 183345, with ASBVs such as 4.5 YWT, 5.5 PWT, 0.7 YFAT and 1.6 YEMD, plus fleece values of 0.4 YFD, -0.7 YCV and 6.8 YCFW.

Clover Downs stud principal Alex Mattschoss said it was the ram's

optimum combination of carcass traits and wool traits they were impressed with and the reason they were so keen to secure it.

"We were looking for ram with nice white, bright wool, but we also wanted to make sure we had the deep round carcass to match," Mr Mattschoss said.

"Meat prices are exceptional at the moment, and this ram had such good early growth figures, presenting the thickness in carcass and fantastic wool traits that are such a great combination.

"He will be used in our stud to create a new bloodline over here and we are really excited about him.

"We have plenty of confidence in him and what he can do.

"We've had experience with Far Valley genetics before and are very happy with the progeny."

That brand of enthusiasm flowed through to the numerous buyers congregated in the Kain family's shearing shed, and a volume buyer emerged in the early lots, securing the majority of her eight sires from the first half of the catalogue.

Williams producer Jesse Martin, Jesse Martin & Co, was front and centre with a hand regularly shooting high in the air to make her intentions known, pursuing

## SALE SUMMARY

(Under the hammer results)  
 Offered: 108  
 Sold: 100  
 Top: \$11,00  
 Gross: \$158,400  
 Average: \$1584

and purchasing her eight rams with a dogged determination.

Ms Martin paid a top of \$3600 for one of the last rams on offer, averaging \$2325 for the other seven rams purchased in the early runs of the sale.

Meanwhile Chris Buller, CM & EJ Buller, Darkan, was chasing 12 Far Valley sires for breeding purposes, topping at \$1600 and averaging \$1292.

Elders commercial sheep manager Michael Curnick saved the Dunkeld family a trip from Newdegate to secure the latest in Dohne genetics, purchasing a total of

nine rams to a top of \$1200 and averaging \$922 under the Dunkeld & Co account.

David and Ian Muir, DI & CJ Muir, Boyup Brook, returned for a fourth year to purchase their Dohne requirements, loading a total of eight sires into their trailer after paying a top of \$1200 on four occasions, averaging \$1050.

The Muirs are keen on the dual purpose of the Dohne, as they enjoy still bundling up a wool cut and sending it off to market, but also being able to turn off early maturing and well-grown lambs.

Another buyer chasing eight sires was DL & KL Robinson, Arthur River, who spent a top of \$1600 on three occasions and averaged \$1388.

Elder auctioneer Nathan King said the sale was very successful and Mr Kain had presented an excellent and very even catalogue of rams



□ Ian (left) and David Muir, DI & CJ Muir, Boyup Brook, were one of the numerous volume buyers at the Far Valley on property sale, purchasing a total of eight rams for a top of \$1200 on four occasions, averaging \$1050.

for buyers to choose from.

“Buyers know they can come to Far Valley and find a good consistent type of ram that is great in the eye muscle, great fleece weight values and excellent growth rates,” Mr King said.

“It’s a well-established

Dohne stud that you know you can come and find what you need quite easily.

“There was a very even line of rams offered today, buyers knew what they were chasing and were willing to pay good values for what they wanted.”