

Far Valley on-property sale tops \$7900

By KIERA BRIDCUTT

THE Far Valley on-property ram sale at Arthur River last week signified the close of one chapter and the start of a new one.

The 25th annual sale for Far Valley stud, run by Elders, was the last under the ownership and management of David Kain, who has spent 26 years breeding Dohne rams.

Mr Kain sold his stud to the Applegate family, Mollerin Rock Dohne stud, earlier this year due to ill health.

In a pamphlet provided on the day, Mr Kain reflected on the sadness involved with parting from his stud.

However, he looks forward and has confidence in Mitch Applegate and his family to keep improving the Far Valley stud flock.

Mr Kain's dedication to the stud over the years was rewarded with strong bidding from customers, seeing a top price of \$7900.

The sale had a clearance of 98 out of 99 rams, averaging \$1942, up \$618 from last year's sale result.

Last year, the stud offered 101 rams and sold 72 for a high of \$4000.

The top-priced ram from lot eight, had Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) of 4.77 weaning weight (WWT), 7.44 post weaning weight (PWWT), 8.79 yearling weight (YWT), 1.29 yearling eye muscle depth (YEMD), -1.04 yearling fibre diameter (YFD) and a Dohne index of 167.9.

Mr Kain said the ram had unbelievable wool, with good, all-round figures.

"It was out of one of my best wool families," Mr Kain said.

The ram was sold to Fiona and Darren Cameron, Nurcoun, Victoria, who run Koonik Dohne stud, Hamilton Run Dohne stud and Jag Dohne stud.

They run 2000 ewes in



□ With the \$7900 top-priced ram and the third top-priced ram were Elders auctioneer and WA stud stock manager Nathan King (left), buyers Darren and Fiona Cameron, Koonik Dohnes, Nurcoun, Victoria, and vendor David Kain, Arthur River.

addition to their cropping program, which includes wheat, barley, oats, lentils and chickpeas.

In addition to purchasing the top-priced ram, the Victorian-based stud purchased a second ram for \$7200, the third top price, with ASBVs of 5.59 WWT, 7.74 PWWT, 9.7 YWT, 1.31 YEMD and a Dohne index of 164.84.

Ms Cameron said they were focusing on meat and eye muscle at the auction.

"When we saw lot eight, we couldn't not take him home," Ms Cameron said.

"He'd be the best wool sheep in this shed, that's why I ended

up purchasing the two of them.

"Lot six is probably the best dual-purpose we could find, with really excellent wool, high muscle and fat, and great weight.

"A good all-rounder."

The Camerons have previously purchased from Far Valley and came across this year to say farewell to Mr Kain.

TG & RC Browne, Nyabing, paid the second top price of \$7300 for a ram from lot 96.

The ram had ASBVs of 4.87 WWT, 6.69 PWWT, 8.14 YWT, 2.08 YEMD, -1.51 yearling fibre diameter coefficient variation (YFDCV)

and a Dohne index of 178.11.

It is ranked in the top five per cent for EMD, YFDCV and Dohne index.

"Why I bought this ram was for his high muscle and his fat," said Rachel Browne, Chirmiminup stud principal.

"He was the highest or one of the highest fat and eye muscle rams in Dave's sale today, which is what I was chasing."

The Browne's also purchased a ram from lot 47, taking their average to \$5150.

Ms Browne plans to use the rams over her Dohne ewes.

"We sell around about 200 rams at auction every year and

SALE SUMMARY

(Under the hammer results)

Offered: 99**Sold:** 98**Top:** \$7900**Gross:** \$190,300**Average:** \$1942

run about 12-1300 stud ewes," she said.

Ms Browne also has a cropping program, consisting of the "standard" grains such as canola, wheat and barley.

The volume buyer on the day was Jesse Martin & Co, Williams, securing 17 rams, averaging \$2329.

Michael Martin said they were previously 100 per cent cropping but changed to sheep.

He said they have been running Dohnes for 10 years.

Jesse Martin & Co was also the volume buyer at last year's Far Valley sale, purchasing 15 rams.

Other volume buyers included CE & WR Watkins, Arthur River, which purchased 12 rams, averaging \$1267, and WW Farms, Arthur River, which purchased nine rams, averaging \$1344.

Mr Kain said he was very happy with the sale result, with a lot of repeat and loyal clientele showing their support for his final sale.

❑ RIGHT: With the \$7300 second top-priced ram were stud principal David Kain, with buyer Rachel Browne, TG & RC Browne, Nyabing, and Nathan King.

"I really hope that we get the rewards, those that stayed in the (sheep) game, that they get the rewards now and over the next four or five years," he said.

"The previous three have had a huge drain on our finances.

"It's looking good at the moment."

Elders WA stud stock manager, Nathan King, said it was pleasing to see the ram values way up from last year.

"A good crowd of buyers kept the competition consistent throughout the catalogue," Mr King said.

"There were a lot of good sires here today, highlighted by their ASBV figures."

Mr King said the Applegates had bought the Far Valley stud because of its excellent genetics and genetic diversity and he hoped it went well for them in the future.

"And it was really good to see David (Kain) rewarded today as he closes his breeding chapter," he said.

A full clearance was achieved with the final ram sold privately after the auction.



❑ Lindsay Marsh (left), Karlgarin, with his father, Robert.

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Chirniminup Dohne ram sells to \$6400 high

By JODIE RINTOUL

BUYERS had to be on their game at last week's Chirniminup on-property Dohne ram sale at Nyabing, as competition was red hot from start to finish, pushing the prices to a high of \$6400 and a record average of \$2028.

The very even line-up of 192 rams, backed by some very good Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs), was well appreciated by a long list of return and new buyers, as they chased the wool and carcase attributes offered by the Chirniminup rams with gusto.

From the first to last pens, the buyers kept the Nutrien Livestock selling team, led by auctioneers Mark Warren and James Culleton, on their toes as they fielded bids from right round the shed, ensuring an unexpected outcome for all involved.

The strong buying competition right through the catalogue, which included multiple bidders operating on most lots, meant the heat never came out of the sale and there were rams still making more than \$2000 in the last few pens.

By the end of the sale, 35 different buyers from as far north as Badgingarra and Esperance in the east, had cleared 188 of the 192 rams offered under the hammer at an average of \$2028, a new record for the stud.

The four passed in rams also quickly found homes after the sale, giving the stud a complete clearance.

Last year the stud offered 221 rams and sold 189 under the hammer at an average of \$1574 and to a high of \$2800 on three occasions.

Mr Warren said it was an extremely strong sale and the final result was well up on expectations.

"The offering was of outstanding quality and was very even," Mr Warren said.

"The rams all showed outstanding size, condition and wool quality and this helped attract strong buying support



Prices hit a high of \$6400 at last week's Chirniminup on-property Dohne ram sale at Nyabing when this ram sold to the Parsons family, Jarramongup Farms Pty Ltd, Jerramungup. With the ram were buyer Rex Parsons (left), Chirniminup stud principal Rachel Browne and Nutrien Livestock, Katanning agent and sale auctioneer Mark Warren.

right through the catalogue.

"We saw strong buying from a long list of return clients plus a number of new buyers which is a credit to the Browne family on their dedication to their breeding program.

"Bidding was strong from start to finish which showed the evenness in the quality of line-up from lot one to lot 192.

"Buyers that didn't buy last year or bought reduced numbers due to a lack of confidence in the industry at

the time returned this year and purchased strongly which was pleasing to see and I think this will be a trend we continue to see throughout the ram selling season going forward."

Equally as happy with the strong result was Chirniminup stud principal Rachel Browne, who said it was a great sale result in their 19th year of offering rams.

"I would like to thank all those who attended the sale for their particularly spirited

bidding and support," Ms Browne said.

"I say it every year, that without our clients there is no future for the stud, and for their continued support I am truly grateful.

"It was fantastic to see so many young people in attendance and displaying a keen interest.

"This is a very encouraging sign for the future.

Continued on page 88

SALE SUMMARY

(Under the hammer results)

Offered: 192**Sold:** 188**Top:** \$6400**Gross:** \$381,300**Average:** \$2028

"It also pleased me to see that many clients came with a shortlist of rams based on information I provide prior to the sale, setting their breeding objectives on paper, then visually assessing that short list on sale day.

"It arms them with the knowledge that using ASBVs can really assist with ram selection, however, I cannot state enough that visual appraisal is also very important.

"I commend our clients on their understanding of Sheep Genetics Australia's ASBVs, the merit in using data and their ability to pick out the higher performing rams for their breeding objectives; with this being displayed with hot competition right throughout the sale."

The \$6400 top price was set early when Mr Warren stood over a deep-bodied ram with good wool and carcase traits in lot three.

He took an opening bid of \$2500 and from there the price raced up, before he finally knocked it down at \$6400 to first time buyers Rex, Tracy, Trent and Tina Parsons, Jarramongup Farms Pty Ltd, Jerramongup.

Rex Parsons, who picked the



□ With the \$5400 second top-priced ram of the sale were Nutrien Livestock, Katanning agent and sale auctioneer Mark Warren (left), Chirniminup stud principal Rachel Browne and buyer Patrick Smith, DB & KA Smith, Pingrup.

ram out on the morning of the sale, said it showed very good breed traits.

"He has a good straight topline, good figures for both carcase and wool traits and a very nice white wool," Mr Parsons.

"It was his quality wool traits we were chasing particularly.

"We have been breeding Dohne for 25 years and I think

this ram is a very good example of the breed and is a credit to the Browne family."

The upstanding ram (243061), which showed depth and length in the pen, has ASBVs of 6.6 weaning weight (WWT), 8.1 post weaning weight (PWWT), 0.8 post weaning eye muscle depth (PEMD), 0.0 post weaning fat (PFAT), 13.9 yearling clean fleece weight (YCFW) and a Dohne Plus index of 168.5 to go with raw wool test figures of 18.0 micron and 66.8 per cent yield when tested at the beginning of May.

At these figures the ram is ranked in the top five per cent for WWT, top 10pc for PWWT and top 20pc for YCFW and the Dohne Plus index.

Mr Parsons said the ram, which will be a new bloodline for their flock, will go over 60 to 70 ewes in their nucleus flock to breed rams for their own use.

"All up we join about 3000 Dohne ewes to Dohne rams for

a July lambing and generally we sell most of our wether lambs and surplus ewe lambs as stores in February/March," Mr Parsons said.

"But we also do get a small percentage off as suckers in the late spring."

In addition to the top-priced ram, the Parsons also purchased a second ram from the catalogue at \$2800.

The second top price was \$5400 bid by third year buyers, the Smith family, DB & KA Smith, Pingrup.

The deep, square, 17.5 micron ram ranks in the top 5pc of the breed for WWT (7.6), PWWT (11.1), PFAT (0.7) and the Dohne Plus index (188.0) and top 20pc for PEMD (1.3).

Patrick Smith, who farms with his parents Doug and Kerry, said he liked the ram as it had a very good set of balanced figures across the board and a very high index.

"Physically he is a well rounded ram with good depth of body, a clean head and a strong wide stance," Mr Smith said.

"We want rams with a good rump, a large frame and good figures, especially for carcase traits and this ram ticks those boxes."

Along with purchasing the second top-priced ram, the Smith family also purchased two other rams at \$3400 and \$3000 which had indexes of 152.2 and 157.1 respectively.

This year the Smiths will join 150 Dohne ewes and 750 Merino ewes for an April lambing.

Mr Smith said since changing to using Dohne rams about three years ago, due to the uncertainty of the live export trade, they have noticed their lambs are quicker maturing but still maintain their fine lambs wool quality like Merino lambs.

"We are now selling our Dohne sired lambs in October to processors which was something we couldn't do previously with our Merino lambs," Mr Smith said.

The next best prices paid were \$4400 and \$4100 and bidding to these values was Tim Pyle, Millstream Pastoral, Manypeaks, who was the losing



□ The volume buyer in the sale was the De Landgraft family, Kuliup Farms, Dunn Rock, purchasing 23 rams to a top of \$2600 and an average of \$1848. Making the family's selections prior to the sale were Rhys and Vicki De Landgraft.

Mollerin Rock Dohne sale peaks at \$3100

By KYAH PEETI

A COMBINATION of top-quality Mollerin Rock Dohne genetics and strong support from clients, ensured another strong, positive sale result for the Applegate family at its on-property sale at Cadoux on Monday.

The even, true-to-type line-up consisted of a 108-head team, supported by impressive Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs), which were a true testament to the Applegate family's commitment to the Dohne breed and its stud.

The dual-purpose traits of the stud's rams, which saw them boast impressive white wools and excellent carcase characteristics, ensured there was a ram to suit all buyers breeding objectives and orders.

The line-up attracted buyers from far and wide and when the action got underway, they were not afraid to bid up on their catalogue favourites.

As a result, 99 of the 108 rams sold under the hammer to a top of \$3100 and an average of \$1445, which was up \$361 on last year's sale result.

Elders auctioneer and WA stud stock manager, Nathan King, said he was rapt for the Applegate family.

"In terms of clearance and price, both were up on last year's sale which is great to see, given the investment the Applegate family has made to the Dohne industry and buying the Far Valley Dohne stud," Mr King said.

"I was really pleased with how the wool was presented.

"There is lots to look forward to in the next five years at Mollerin Rock."

Taking out the sale's \$3100 top price honours was a ram from lot 44.

Three generations of the Hagboom family, Colin, Gavin, and Ashton, WR Hagboom & Co, Dowerin, paid the sum for the ram,



□ With the \$3100 top-priced ram at the Mollerin Rock on-property Dohne ram sale on Monday at Cadoux were Elders auctioneer and WA stud stock manager Nathan King (left), who also classes Dohnes for top price buyers Colin, Gavin, and Ashton (right) Hagboom, WR Hagboom & Co, Dowerin and Mollerin Rock stud co-principal Mitchell Applegate.

which weighed 86 kilograms.

It has ASBVs of 6.5 weaning weight (WWT), 10.6 post weaning weight (PWWT), 13.7 yearling weight (YWT), 1.3 eye muscle depth (EMD), 13.3 yearling clean fleece weight (YCFW), 0.1 yearling fibre diameter (YFD), -0.8 yearling coefficient of variation (YCV) and a Dohne index of 196.4, along with raw wool figures of 18.4 micron and 99.7 per cent comfort factor (CF).

The Hagboom family was one of two volume buyers, purchasing nine rams at an average of \$1722.

Gavin Hagboom said he was pleased with the rams.

"We were looking closely at fleece weight, growth and eye muscle depth in the rams we purchased," Mr Hagboom said.

"On top of looking at the figures we were looking for well-rounded rams with good overall conformation."

The Hagboom family has been breeding Dohne rams since they were introduced to WA in 1998, and currently put Dohne rams over a breeding flock of 2350 ewes.

Coorow account, Hakea Farming, paid the second top price of \$3000 for a ram from lot 20.

The ram weighed 82kg and had raw wool figures of 17.2 micron and 99.99pc CF.

It has ASBVs of 5.5 WWT, 8.4 PWWT, 9.0 YWT, 1.4 EMD, 20.0 YCFW, -0.4 YFD, -0.7 YCV and a Dohne index of 175.2.

Hakea Farming purchased another three rams from the catalogue to finish with a

team of four at an average of \$2350.

Returning sales supporters AN & E Tunstill, Kalannie, bought three rams from the line-up for an average of \$2100.

Included in the Tunstill's team was the third top-priced ram which they purchased at \$2900.

The 90kg ram was the second to be offered on the day and its has ASBVs of 5.3 WWT, 9.2 PWWT, 10.6 YWT, 1.7 EMD, 15.0 YCFW, 0.5 YFD, -1.7 YCV and a Dohne index of 195.8, as well as raw wool figures of 19 micron and 99.9pc CF.

The other volume buyer in the sale securing nine sires was W Emmott & Sons, Dowerin.

LR & MJ Smith, Carnamah, were also strong

SALE SUMMARY

(Under the hammer results)

Offered: 108**Sold:** 99**Top:** \$3100**Gross:** \$143,100**Average:** \$1445

sale supporters, eager to secure genetics, purchasing eight rams to average \$2200.

The Carnamah clients paid a high of \$2800 for a ram that weighed 74kg with raw figures of 15.8 micron and 99.9pc CF.

MO & MY Sims, Beverley, purchased seven rams for an average of \$1414 and to a top of \$2000, twice.

Three generations, Maxwell, Graeme and Elliot Sims attended the sale.

Graeme Sims said he selected his rams based on fleece weight and bodyweight.

"We are trying to get

moisture back into the stock and reduce contamination content," Mr Sims said.

"We are also looking for a finer micron, about 17.

"Length is also important, we want sires that are as long as possible."

Also buying seven rams were Grass Valley producers M & M O'Driscoll.

The O'Driscolls paid a high of \$2100 on two occasions and averaged \$1386.

Assisting with the sale clearance and average, were four accounts that each bought six head each.

NP Burges & Co, Meckering, paid a high of \$2600, averaging \$1983, while RW & CI Crombie, Corrigin paid an average of \$1850, reaching \$2600, MJ & TL Downsborough & Sons, Merredin, paid a high of \$1200, twice, averaging \$1067 and IJ & AR McRae, Geraldton, paid a high of \$1400, averaging \$1033.



Three generations of the Sims family were in attendance at the sale, Graeme (left), Maxwell, and Elliot Sims. In the sale the Sims purchased seven rams to a high of \$2000 twice and an average of \$1414.



The third top price ram in the sale was bought for \$2900 by the Tunstill family, AN & E Tunstill, Kalannie. With the ram were Elders auctioneer and WA stud stock manager Nathan King (left), buyers Mirrante Tunstill, with her son Archie and father-in-law Andrew, and Mollerin Rock stud co-principal Mitchell Applegate.



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Thank you to our new and existing clients for your support at this year's Mollerin Rock Dohne Ram Sale.

We really appreciate it considering the uncertainty in the sheep industry and we will continue to be committed to improving our breeding objectives for our clients.



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