

# Merinos to \$2700

GLENWOOD, Merinos, NSW, released details of an industry-leading client code of ethics at its on-property sale on Friday which saw 53 rams sold at an average of \$1004.

A good roll-up of buyers from across the State saw spirited bidding with the top-priced ram purchased at \$2700 by David Pullen of Wellington, NSW.

Fifty-five ex-stud ewes were sold afterwards for a healthy \$195 a head.

Stud principal Norm Smith said he was pleased with the result overall given the current climate.

"It was great to see so

many new and repeat buyers at the sale who are achieving excellent results with Glenwood genetics across diverse environments," he said.

"A total of 15 rams went to Tasmania across all of our sales, which shows the versatility of our sheep."

"Our client's success is our number one priority, which is reflected in the code of ethics we released at the sale.

"There is no smoke and mirrors when dealing with Glenwood, which is why we don't show feed or shed our rams," he said.



Shellal co-principal Tania King and auctioneer Andrew Sloan with the top-priced stud ram.

# Shellal rams to \$3000

## SHELLAL POLL DORSETS

■ Stud rams to top of \$3000, av \$1786

■ Flock ram to top of \$1300, av \$674

■ Stud ewes to top of \$400, av \$302

By STEVE HYNES

THE slump in lamb prices was reflected in the results of the Shellal Poll Dorset Stud on-property sale at Hawkesdale last Thursday.

Principals Geoff and Pam Ralph and daughter Tania King offered drafts of stud rams, flock rams and stud ewes at their 33rd sale, all presented in good condition

following ideal lead-up conditions.

"We had a fantastic season leading into the ram sale calendar," Tania King said.

However, buyers took away some real bargains as top prices and averages were well down on last year's figures and didn't reflect the quality or genetic value of the offering.

"Unfortunately the bottom dropped on the lamb prices the week prior to our sale, but we are very happy to have our repeat clients return and get great value," Ms King said.

The sale cleared seven of the eight stud rams to a top of \$3000 and an average of \$1786. The top-priced lot went to K&C Wedding of

Naracoorte, SA, through South Australian Livestock.

The top price was half of last year's figure and the av was down by \$857.

The sale cleared 99 flock rams to a top price of \$1300 and av \$674.

The top-priced lot went to Tarra Park Partnership, Minjah.

The figures were again well down on last year's top of \$3000 and av \$1234.

Eighteen stud ewes sold to a top of \$350 and av \$302, which was closer to last year's figures of \$400 top and \$362 av.

The sale was jointly conducted by agents for Landmark and Saffin Kerr Bowen Wilson under Landmark auctioneer Andrew Sloan.

# Tasmanian Dohnes to \$2100, av \$1300

## TASMANIAN DHONE

■ 36 of 39 rams sold to \$2100, av \$1300

DOHNE rams sold to \$2100 in the multi-vendor Tasmania Dohne ram sale at the Campbell Town showground on Thursday.

Out of the 39 rams offered 36 rams sold with an average price of \$1300.

The top price ram was sold by Craig and Janet Robertson from Havelock Park, Bairnsdale, and was purchased by Nigel Webb, Webb Industries, Colebrook, Tasmania.

The ram was lot number 40 and had a final grade of AA and an index reading of 129.06.

Mr Webb and Webb Industries farm manager Clinton Stokes purchased five Dohne rams on the day.

The rams will be used over Mr Webb's 500 Dohne ewes.

Another volume buyer was Gilbert Davidson, Roberts Evandale, Tasmania, who purchased eight rams for Thule, Flinders Island.

The eight rams were from the one vendor, Pine View, Evandale, Tasmania with the stud principle Neil Watson saying he was pleased with the sales.



Stud principle Craig Robertson with the top-priced ram, which sold at \$2100, buyer Nigel Webb and Clinton Stokes, Webb Industries, Colesbrook, Tasmania.

Mr Davidson paid to a top of \$1100 with an average of \$1000.

Overall, Macquarie, Warren, NSW, sold rams to \$1700, Kardinia, Corowa, NSW, to \$2000, Uardry, Hay, NSW, to \$1500, D D Dohnes, Moama, NSW to \$2000, Pine View, Evandale, Tas to \$1400, Glenaroua, Kilmore to \$1000 and Havelock Park, Bairnsdale to \$2100.

- SHANNON TWOMEY



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# Sheepvention 2012 preview



■ Neale Holt, Wedderburn, with some of his first-cross Dohne ewes due to lamb in August.



■ Dohne-cross ewes bred on the Holts' property. They first introduced Dohnes in 2009 to help increase the fertility in the flock.

change in wool quality or cut in terms of measurements but it might be slightly visually different," he said.

"Our Dohne-cross ewe hoggets averaged 18.5-19.5 micron with a 4-5kg cut last year, which was on par with our Merino hoggets in the past, which were based

on Collinsville bloodlines."

But going forward as the Dohne influence increases in the flock, Mr Holt believes it will not only benefit their self-replacing ewe flock, but also their prime lamb operation in terms of growth rates and performance of the White Suffolk-sired

lambs they produce.

The operation has not yet dropped any White Suffolk-sired lambs out of Dohne-cross ewes but Mr Holt said based on the performance of the first-cross Dohne lambs he expected the results to be better than they were currently achieving.

While the Holts may have only had three joinings so far with Dohnes, they are more than happy with the results they are achieving and believe they will certainly see improvements in both the profits of their self-replacing and prime lamb flocks as the Dohne influence in their

ewe base increases.

"They tick all the boxes when it comes to the profit drivers of an operation," Mr Holt said.

"They have good fertility and mothering ability, good growth rates and top carcass traits."

■ **Dohnes will be on display and for sale at Sheepvention**



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## Mallee and Hamilton Field Days 2012

Combi Clamp Stock Handling equipment, from New Zealand, will be on display at Mallee Field Days, and Hamilton Sheepvention, where farmers have the opportunity to meet and talk to Peter Roe, the new Australian Agent for Combi Clamp.

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# Sheepvention 2012 preview

## Dohnes tick all the fertility boxes

By JODIE RINTOUL

**W**ITH fertility the main catch-cry of Victorian producers Neale and Katherine Holt, a change to the Dohne breed was inevitable.

The Holts, who run 1200 breeding ewes on 900 hectares at Wedderburn in the eastern Wimmera, made the switch to using Dohne rams in 2009 after more than 100 years of breeding Merinos.

The aim for the Holts is to breed a low maintenance, non-mulesing, highly-fertile flock and it appears with Dohnes, they are achieving this.

There were a number of reasons why the Holts decided to switch breeds but the major factor was the Dohnes' fertility traits.

"Fertility was the major factor when we decided to change breeds because it is the key profit driver," Mr Holt said.

"With our Merinos, we just weren't getting the lambs on the ground and keeping them alive."

So with a lambing percentage sitting at an 85 per cent average for their Merino flock, the Holts decided to bite the bullet, and in 2009 made a change to using Dohne rams in their 700-head, self-replacing flock.

"We decided to mate all our ewes in the self-replacing flock to Dohnes and I was amazed the difference it made in the lambing just by using the Dohne rams over the Merino ewes," Mr Holt said.

"Our lambing percentage lifted 5-10pc in our first mating, which was quite impressive."

Mr Holt believes this lift in percentage was a combination of two things.

The first was the Dohne lambs appeared to be smaller when they were born compared to Merinos and therefore the ewes had less lambing issues.

"The second is once they hit the ground they are up and going and have a will to survive," he said.

The switch also coincided with a decision to increase flock numbers and Mr Holt said the higher fertility of the Dohne breed would help achieve this goal quicker.

"We could buy in ewes but we believe it is better to increase our numbers by breeding more lambs than buying in because you can then breed the type of sheep you want," he said.

"With Dohnes it appears you don't need to run as many ewes to breed a lot of lambs because they can achieve lambing percentages between 100-120pc."

Along with noticing the better survival rates at lambing, Mr Holt said there appeared to be more twins in the Dohne joinings.

With this improvement in lamb-

ing percentages only coming from the use of Dohne rams over Merino ewes, the Holts are eagerly awaiting their first drop of lambs by Dohne rams and out of first-cross Dohne ewes this August.

"Given what we have seen with just the Dohne rams over the Merino ewes and what I have heard about how Dohne-infused ewes perform as mothers we're expecting our lambing percentages will improve even further and be well over 100pc as we continue to upgrade the flock," Mr

have seen some considerable differences," he said.

The Holts have observed in the first two matings the first-cross Dohne-Merino lambs grow out faster and are much heavier than the Merino lambs they had been producing at a similar age.

This observation is clear when you look at the results of their first drop Dohne-cross wether lambs when they sold them in July 2011 at 11 months over the hooks compared to what their Merino wether lambs had previously been achieving.

The Holts' first-cross Dohne lambs averaged 21kg carcass weight, which was up about two kilograms on the average of their Merino lambs, which was usually 19-20kg.

Mr Holt said the Dohne-cross ewe lambs also appeared a lot more mature and ready to mate at an earlier age than the Merinos had previously.

"This season I did consider mating our 2010-drop Dohne-cross hoggets earlier than our normal mating because they were more mature than our ewe hoggets in the past but in the end I decided to stick with our normal mating program for ease of management," he said.

The Holts join their ewes annually on March 1 for a spring lambing starting in the last week of July for two reasons.

The first is to better match the ewe's feed requirements to feed availability and secondly to cash in on higher lamb prices in summer when lamb numbers traditionally fall away.

When it comes to a mating ratio of the rams, Mr Holt uses a simple formula of one ram to 80 ewes plus one as he believes it is better to have more ram power in the ewes to ensure they are all covered, especially when you have the rams available.

To give their lambs the best possible chance to grow they receive the best summer feeds on the property which includes the property's lucerne pastures that the family started establishing 20 years ago.

"We finish the lambs on lucerne pastures, supplemented with grains in the summer months and because space is an issue the ewes are confinement-fed grains and hay in a feedlot situation," Mr Holt said.

"This means the lambs get the best of the pastures but we can also keep the ewes in good condition going into our March mating."

When it comes to wool quality, Mr Holt said they had not noticed any major differences in the first two drops of lambs compared to their Merinos.

"We definitely haven't seen a

"We decided to mate all our ewes in the self-replacing flock to Dohnes and I was amazed the difference it made in the lambing just by using the Dohne rams over the Merino ewes."

- NEALE HOLT,  
Wedderburn

Holt said.

It was not only the fertility traits of the Dohne breed which influenced their decision to make the switch, the breed's carcass and growth traits were another appealing aspect.

"Because we run a prime lamb flock of 500 head of ewes mated to White Suffolk rams and turn our wethers off as lambs, these traits are also important to us and already in the first two matings we

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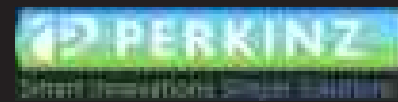
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# Dohnes a perfect fit



■ The Nicolson property at Campbell Town is two thirds bush country, which they utilise as part of their commercial sheep program. These recently-shorn F1 Dohne ewes are part of their long-term plan to build flock numbers.

By TAMARA HOOPER

**F**OR Tasmanian brothers Peter and David Nicolson, the doing ability, easy-care attributes, high reproductive rates and resilience in drought conditions of Dohnes made them the obvious choice for the future of the Nicolson's sheep enterprise.

David said the true dual-purpose traits of the Dohne provided them with more alternatives within their enterprise.

"The biggest reason my brother and I went into breeding Dohnes was to give us options," he said.

"We used to be a solely wool growing operation, with a few excess sheep to sell.

"We liked the choices and options available through breeding Dohnes; it allowed us more opportunity."

The Nicolson's own a 5000-hectare property 10 kilometres east of Campbell Town.

The brothers are fifth-generation farmers, with three of those generations having farmed on their current property, Truelands.

David said the main enterprise was their flock of 3000 breeding ewes.

They also run a small Angus herd of about 120 breeding cows that they are building up after the drought.

The decision to switch to Dohnes four years ago came after the pair had seen examples of the breed at the Bendigo Show two years earlier.

"After seeing the Dohnes and hearing about their positive attributes, we looked into the breed's history," David said.

"They perform well in droughts, with their doing ability and reproductive success being driving factors in our choice to purchase rams."

He said their initial purchase of 14 blue-tag Dohne rams proved they had made the right decision for their commercial breeding program.

"So far they have done what we expected and more," David said.

"We no longer have any Merino rams – we are solely using Dohne rams over all our ewes."

## At a glance

- ◆ Peter and David Nicolson, Campbell Town, Tasmania
- ◆ Run 3000 breeding ewes and 120 Angus cows on 5000ha
- ◆ Opportunity with Dohne's dual-purpose traits



With their Dohne program only relatively new, there is still a mixture of breeds among the 3000 ewes being lambed-down this year.

"We have 1250 first-cross ewes that have been mated and the remainder are Merinos," David said.

"We have about 900 first-cross hogget ewes to come into the flock next year and there are also some F2 lambs currently on the ground.

"We are trying to build our numbers up using the F1 ewes."

He said their success with breeding the F1 ewes meant they were looking to eventually have a 4000-head breeding flock in the future.

"We are now moving towards a ewe flock producing lambs," David said.

"Instead of retaining our wethers for wool we are now selling them as lambs.

"With the Dohnes, we continue to sell wether lambs and are averaging \$100-\$110 a head for them off grass.

"For the past two years the wethers have gone as trade lambs at 40-50 kilograms and score two and three.

"We have sold these through AuctionsPlus because it is the best market at present in Tasmania."

Two thirds of the Nicolson property is steep, hilly bush country with native grasses and a rate of one dry sheep equivalent to 1.21ha.

"We do have 1200ha of improved pastures and runs," David said.

"These consist of clovers, ryegrasses, cocksfoot and some phalaris and we also do some dryland cropping of oats and barley."

He said although they grew the oats as a feed source, they tried not to supplementarily-feed their sheep grain but did store some feed for use in tough seasons.

"We are really happy with the F1 Dohne ewes' performance," David said.

"From the age of 12 months they spent about six months in the bush and we have had no trouble whatsoever with them.

"They really are easy-care.

"We've had minimal problems during lambing and they are returning from the bush country in good condition."

David said their management tasks began with a six-week joining at the start of March, with lambing from the beginning of August through to mid-September.

"We shear the hoggets in November," he said.

"This is followed by the lambs in December, before Christmas, and the ewes are shorn in the first week of April, with scanning done in June."

Before the Dohnes' arrival, the focus of the Nicolson's operation was on wool, so it is no wonder the dual wool/meat traits of the Dohne appealed to them.

David said the wool quality and style were still a huge part of their sire selection criteria.

"Our micron average for the F1s is 18.5," he said.

"We have taken care when selecting rams to look for bright white, crimped wool.

"This has transferred into the F1s but we have yet to gauge the results from the F2s as we only have lambs at present.

"We aim to remain around the 18.5M average."

The Nicolson's made a bold decision to shift from Merinos to Dohnes but the results have had a positive impact on their enterprise.

"I would definitely advise people who might be thinking about breeding Dohnes to try it," David said.

"Looking to the future, we have a few ideas we would like to trial to see if they work.

"Ultimately we aim to increase to 4000 breeding ewes and maintain the flock at that level."



COMMENT by  
JAN DAVIS

## Forestry loss will be disastrous

I REALLY wonder whether everyone has thought through some of the ramifications of the current dismembering of the Tasmanian forest industry.

The uncertainty around the future of Forestry Tasmania (FT), the demise of Gunns and the loss of so many contractors from the system pose real risk for all Tasmanians – but nobody much seems to be talking about this.

In FT's case, we are talking about the management of 1.5 million hectares of state forest, half of it non-productive.

FT employees not only manage the forests; they manage the pests and weeds, maintain 14,000 kilometres of roads and work to minimise the risk of fire.

Forget about the politics of the forests and think instead of the realities of losing so many skilled forest workers and the impacts resource constraints will have in those forests; think about safety, about roads, and about pest and weed control.

Most importantly, think about fire risk and the lessons to be learned from the 2009 Victorian bushfire disaster.

Tasmania has not had a really serious bushfire since 1967.

Despite what some would have you believe, this island is covered in forests which, without proper management, are a disaster waiting to happen.

FT staff and forest contractors are in many cases our first line of defence, and they must share some of the credit for our good record over the past four decades.

Forest contractors too have been generous with their time and equipment for use in fire management activities.

With fewer people and less equipment available to assist in this task, there is inevitably increased risk.

If the potential fuel for fires is not actively monitored and reduced, if roads and bridges are not kept open to assist in firefighting, we face a looming disaster – especially with forecasts for a drier-than-average summer this year after an amazingly productive growing season.

Think too about other issues.

We all know how quickly country roads deteriorate when they are not maintained, and who's going to manage pests and weeds?

Where will the money come from without the work FT does on the ground as an unfunded – and largely unrecognised – community service?

You cannot expect to decimate the on-ground people who deal with these issues every day without creating a significant impact.

These issues have been sidelined in the debate over the future of our forests yet will have far-reaching and fundamental impacts on all Tasmanians.

Hardest hit will be our farmers – and they are already seeing the results of reduced funding and loss of experienced forest managers spilling over onto their properties, with increases in pests and weeds spreading from State-owned parks and reserves.

They live in some of the most fire-prone parts of the State and their families, homes and livelihoods are at significant risk in bushfire season.

Many are active in volunteer bushfire brigades.

There's more than enough information and more than enough wise counsel to alert us to these dangers; it is simply not acceptable to ignore the situation.

No-one wants to be sitting here after a bushfire disaster saying "I told you so".

■ Jan Davis is president of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association

Lambs.....359c ▲

# Sheep & Wool

Section edited by Shannon Twomey (03) 9344 9914 or shannon.twomey@fairfaxmedia.com.au

## Dohne demand strong at dispersal

By CARLA WIESE-SMITH

**D**AY one of the historic three-day Uardry dispersal at Hay saleyards did not disappoint, with 9947 stud and commercial Dohnes grossing more than \$1.7 million for new owners the Brinkworth family of South Australia.

Demand for Dohnes was strong throughout the Elders-run sale with a number of stud and commercial outfits competing solidly for the sheep on offer.

A total of 71 registered bidders from Victoria, NSW, SA, Tasmania and Western Australia competed on the solid draft of sheep put forward, which onlookers said was a credit to stud manager Ben Lane.

The 8869 stud and commercial ewes from the largest Dohne stud in the world sold from \$64 and \$600.

The top pen of 20 November-shorn 2010-drop mixed age stud ewes was secured by John Evans, Coleslea Dohnes, Leeton, NSW.

"The ewes are high-scoring ewes with high index figures and that's what I've been trying to target – muscle depth and high index use for our stud," he said.

The 41 stud rams topped at \$6000 twice and averaged \$2184.

One of these was picked up by the Mills family, Kardinia Dohnes, Corowa, NSW, together with John Nadin, Macquarie Dohnes, Warren, NSW, while the other went to a partnership of Harewood Dohnes, Armidale, NSW, and Chirninimup Dohnes, Nyabing, WA.

Michael O'Brien, Kincora, Walgett, NSW, took the largest draft of sheep, a total of 1419 ewes. This included 728 unshorn 2012-drop stud ewe weaners at \$130, 426 unshorn 2012-drop third-cross foundation flock ewe weaners at \$85 and 265 unshorn 2012-drop second-cross foundation

### Uardry Dohnes

- ◆ Yarding: 9947 stud and commercials
- ◆ Special stud ewes to \$600
- ◆ Rams to \$6000

flock ewe weaners at \$80.

Mr O'Brien said he was trying to take advantage of the seasonal conditions across most of the State to pick up quality sheep at reasonable prices.

"The market was very strong, but we had to take advantage of the magnificent quality available on the day that will never be seen again in my lifetime," he said.

John Nadin, Macquarie Dohnes, did not hesitate to pick up 612 ram weaners (2012-drops) at a bargain \$135.

"We (Macquarie) have had a long association with Uardry as two of the founding studs in Australia and the two largest," Mr Nadin said.

"One quarter of our stud (which totals 1600 stud ewes) are a Uardry-blood family developed over the years with the purchase of six sires and semen over the past decade.

"With the purchase of 612 ram weaners on Wednesday, we intend to offer the top 150 at auction in Hay in September 2013 and continue to provide this service from our Uardry family at Hay in future years."



■ John Evans, Coleslea Dohnes, Leeton, NSW, paid \$600 for a pen of 20 November-shorn, mixed-age Dohne special stud ewes.



■ Andrew Cook, Sutton Grange Dohne stud, Nhill, with Rachel Browne, Chirninimup Dohnes, Nyabing, WA. Ms Browne teamed up with Justin Tombs, Harewood Dohnes, Armidale, NSW, to buy one of the \$6000 equal-top-price rams.

Roberts Tasmania agent Andrew Calvert, Launceston, hit the mainland with a hefty order for Nigel Webb, Webb Industries in southern Tasmania, and went home with 547 ewes from \$150 to \$570 and four sires at \$1788.

Mr Calvert said the future of the sheep was still to be determined but stud transfers had been requested.

"It's their first foray into stud sheep; they recognised the opportunity presented, it's pretty difficult to source straight-bred Dohnes in Tasmania," he said.

The sheep – most of the ewes arrived on Friday, with the balance to come this week – will be put on country which Mr Calvert

said was ideally suited to dual-purpose sheep.

Victorian buyers included Nugong, Seaspray, who stocked up with 536 third-cross ewes (2011-drops), as well as three sires to \$1400; while MT Rogerson, Glenthompson, bought 243 ewes from \$150 to \$375 and a stud ram at \$5000; and Alistair Greenshields, Glenaroua via Kilmore, took home 286 ewes from \$165-\$200 and one sire at \$1500.

### Farmonline

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## Top stud sires at Uardry Merino dispersal sell to \$7500

THE \$7500 top-priced stud sire at the Uardry Merino dispersal last week, was a Sims Uardry Poll sire secured by GW Pritchard, Tubbo Station, Darlington Point, NSW, and measuring 20-micron. He was one of more than 10,000 Merino and Poll Merinos offered at the sale, which grossed \$1.8 million for the Brinkworth family of South Australia.

In the breakdown, 2026 Merino weaner rams averaged \$182, 6397 Merino ewes av \$167 and 25 Merino sires av \$1750.

The 612 Poll Merino weaner rams av \$213, while 2105 Poll Merino ewes av \$187 and 23 Poll Merino sires av \$2174.

Victorian buyers at the sale included Deep Creek Pastoral Company, Euroa, who bought a total of 1198 ewes from \$115 to \$275, as well as two poll sires.

Its ewe draft included 50 Sims Uardry Poll 2011-drop double stud ewes at \$275, 89 Sims Uardry 2012-drop ewe weaners at \$165, 426 Sims Uardry Poll 2012-drop double stud ewe weaners and 633 Sims Uardry and Uardry 2012-drop double stud ewe weaners \$115-\$130.

PK Heywood, Torwood, NSW, put together a line of 912 ewes from \$85-\$175, as well as 150 weaner rams and six sires.

The run included 2010-drop Uardry special ewes, 2005-2008-drop Uardry double stud ewes and surplus mixed-age stud ewes, and 2012-drop specially selected and general Sims Uardry weaner rams.

D&C Gunther, Pyramid Hill, bought 354 ewes including 213 Uardry 2011-drop double studs at

### Uardry Merinos

- ◆ 2026 Merino weaner rams av \$182
- ◆ 6397 Merino ewes av \$167
- ◆ 25 Merino sires av \$1750
- ◆ 612 Polled weaner rams av \$213
- ◆ 2105 Polled ewes av \$187
- ◆ 23 Polled sires av \$2174

\$200 and 141 Sims Uardry Poll 2012-drop double studs at \$130, as well as 20 Sims Uardry Poll 2012-drop special weaner rams by AI sires at \$275.

MJ Scott, Pyramid Hill, paid to \$275 for 10 Sims Uardry Poll 2012-drop special rams by AI sires, as well as 140 Sims Uardry Poll, 2012-drop double stud ewes at \$130 and a poll sire at \$1600.

A number of studs were also in action including Graham and Susan Coddington, Coddington Poll Merinos, Dubbo, NSW, who took 106 Sims Uardry Poll 2009-drop double stud ewes at \$240, as well as 214 Sims Uardry Poll 2012-drop specially selected weaner rams at \$230, while Winyar Merinos, Canowindra, NSW, took 100 Sims Uardry 2005-08 special ewes at \$205.

Gingie Pastoral Company, Walgett, NSW, picked up 53 Sims Uardry Poll 2011-drop special ewes at \$275 and 50 Sims Uardry Poll 2012-drop special ewes at \$280.

– CARLA WIESE-SMITH



■ Robert Stein, Tubbo Station, Darlington Point, and Uardry stud manager Ben Lane, Hay, with the \$7500 top-priced Merino sire.

## "TOLAND POLL "In The Blue" Ram & Stud Ewe Sale"

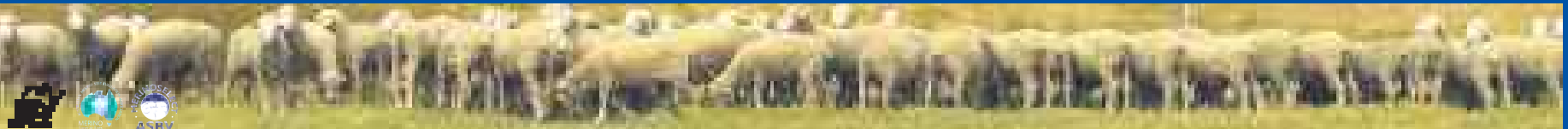
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# Dohne group is all about performance

## At a glance

- ◆ Dohnes on display
- ◆ July: Australian Sheep & Wool Show, Bendigo
- ◆ August: Sheepvention, Hamilton
- ◆ August: Premier Dohne sale, Adelaide
- ◆ August: Naracoorte Dohne sale, SA
- ◆ October: Ballarat Dohne sale
- ◆ October: Campbell Town sale, Tas

By ALISHA FOGDEN

**T**HE Southern Dohne Breeders Group will return to the Sheep & Wool Show this year, as part of a six-event circuit across Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia during the next few months.

The group was established in 2003 and included four of the earliest and most prominent Dohne studs in eastern Australia.

It now consists of six studs – Havelock Park, Stratford; Kardinia, Corowa, NSW; Macquarie, Warren, NSW; Uardry, Hay, NSW; Glenaroua, near Kilmore; and DD Dohnes, Moama, NSW.

“Being part of a group enables us to better use our funds collectively in promoting our studs and the breed,” Kardinia principal Don Mills said.

And while they’re not showing at Bendigo, the six studs that make up the group will be displaying the 25 rams they will be offering for sale at Sheepvention, Hamilton, early next month.

“The Sheep & Wool Show is one of the largest sheep industry events in Australia – showcasing more than 3000 head of sheep,” Mr Mills said.

“And we need to be there to represent our breed, along with a few other breeders from Victoria (Sutton Grange, Nhill, and Stirling, Glenthompson).”

Mr Mills said they don’t enter the judging at events because the Dohne breed was more performance based.

“Subjective assessment through judging is not necessarily conducive to producing highly productive animals,” he said.

The next stop for the group after Bendigo is Hamilton Sheepvention, where last year they offered 35 rams, which sold to \$4750 twice – the top price for the Dohne sale section.

They then travelled to the inaugural Premier Dohne Sire Sale at the Royal Adelaide Showground last October, where DD Dohnes topped the sale with a record highest price paid for a Dohne at auction at \$21,000.

It was a great sale for DD Dohnes, who sold three rams av \$10,166; Uardry also sold three rams at \$7500, \$4500 and \$3000; while Macquarie sold their three rams to \$6500, av \$4833.



■ Southern Dohne Breeders Group stud DD Dohnes, Moama, NSW, topped the inaugural Premier Dohne Sire Sale at the Royal Adelaide Showground last year, with the highest price paid for a Dohne at auction at \$21,000. The top price ram was bought by Hamilton’s Run, Jamestown, SA. Pictured with the top ram are Elders auctioneer Tom Penna, Landmark auctioneer Gordon Wood, Hamilton Run’s Greg Andrews and Nicole Luckraft, DD Dohnes owner David Shelmerdine, principal Bruce Barnes-Webb and stud classer Jason Southwell, McMichael & Associates, Orange, NSW.

**LEFT:** Members of the Southern Dohne Breeders Group: Alistair Greenshields, Glenaroua; Bruce Barnes-Webb, DD Dohnes; classer Jason Southwell from Uardry Dohnes; John Nadin, Macquarie; and Don Mills, Kardinia. Absent is Craig Robertson, Havelock Park.

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## Future of farming

THE FUTURE of farming is in good hands thanks to some enthusiastic young sheep handlers and the legacy of one of the industry’s finest.

The first morning of the Australian Sheep & Wool Show, Friday, July 20, will see more than 100 students from across Victoria and southern NSW participate in the Ross McKenzie fellowship annual school program.

The late Ross McKenzie was a Department of Primary Industry sheep and wool officer who liked to see kids involved in the industry.

When he passed away his work colleagues and family set up a trust to promote students involvement in agricultural education, and the trust has been supporting the schools

program at the Australian Sheep & Wool show since it began being held at Bendigo.

The students will take the morning off from tending the sheep or fleeces they have entered in the show and undertake an education program.

Topics covered will include a carcass demonstration by the festival of lamb’s Bob the Butcher, a session on animal genetics hosted by the Sheep CRC, and talks on internal and external parasites.

Graythorn sheep stud will

also do a presentation on preparing sheep before showing before the students return to their animals and the showing.

Schools program co-ordinator Don Dennet said it is a popular event with children, and numbers have risen in the past few years.

“The topics are selected each year from recommendations from staff and students asking for subjects to be covered,” he said.

Then we simply try to source people from industry to talk on topics that the students want to know

about. “We get great support from our commercial industry people, including stock and station agents, chemical companies

and breeders, and the DPI staff jump in and do a topic if it is within their roles.”

Students headed for Bendigo will also have the opportunity to compete in a number of junior sheep and fleece judging competitions, hosted by the Corriedale and Merino associations.

The show also hosts the Victorian Agricultural Society junior judging state finals, which students have been selected for from various shows across the State.

– JAMIE-LEE OLDFIELD

“We get great support from our commercial industry people.”

– DON DENNET, Schools program co-ordinator



■ Darren Cameron, Koonik Dohne stud; Greg McCann, Macquarie Dohne stud, NSW; Don Mills, Kardinia Dohne stud, NSW; Fiona Cameron, Koonik; Craig Robertson, Havelock Park Dohne stud; Bill Mildren, Wodonga; and John Nadin, Macquarie stud; with the \$12,000 top-price ram at the 2012 Premier Dohne Sire Sale last week.

#### Premier turnout for Dohnes

**PREMIER DOHNES, SA**  
■ 17 of 26 rams sold to \$12,000, av \$4147

A GOOD crowd returned for the second Premier Dohne Sire Sale at Adelaide Showground last week.

The top price did not reach last year's height of \$21,000 but a top of \$12,000 was well-received, along with the second-highest price of \$10,000.

There was a bigger catalogue of rams than last year, with 26 head (two were withdrawn from an original count of 28), of which the 17 sold averaged \$4147.

The top ram went to stud adviser Bill Mildren, Wodonga, buying on behalf of three studs: Koonik Dohnes, Havelock Park Dohnes and Kardinia Dohnes, NSW.

It was a Macquarie stud ram from NSW, with Lambplan figures of 0.7 millimetres eye muscle depth (EMD) and -0.1mm fat depth (FD).

The second-highest price of \$10,000 was paid by West Way for a DD Dohne ram, NSW, with 1mm EMD and 0.4mm FD.

Other buyers included Glen Holme stud, Manoora, with two Mollerin Rock Dohne Merino stud rams from Western Australia at \$2000 each, and Delta Group, with two DD Dohnes rams at \$2000 each.

— MALCOLM SUTTON

# White Dorpers to \$3300

**B**IG money flowed for large-framed clean-shedding flock rams at the third annual Dorper and White Dorper ram sale at Wentworth, NSW, recently.

BR&C Agents' Darren Old said local area breeders from Ivanhoe, Balranald and Broken Hill contested the sale of 140 stud and commercial Dorper and White Dorper rams, clearing 97 per cent at a sale average of \$1264.

A market top of \$3300 was paid for a pair of White Dorper rams bred by Scott Lohead, Avoca Dorpers, Wentworth.

These were sold to Greg and Loraine Ayson, Bidura Pastoral, Balranald, NSW, while the

sale's next highest price was achieved on a black-faced Dorper ram sold at \$3200 by Gary Cullinan, Dust N Rain Dorpers, Castairs, Pooncarie, NSW.

Mr Old said most sales of flock rams were in the range of \$1500-\$2300 a head, with the odd sale higher.

He said flock rams attracted better inquiry on the day than stud rams, with buyers displaying a preference for White Dorpers, even though black Dorper rams were predominant.

The sale was interfaced through AuctionsPlus, with four sales achieved electronically.

#### Wentworth & District Dorper and White Dorper sale

Stud	Offered	Sold	Top	Average
Glen Park	54	53	1750	1063
Kelleen	24	24	1650	1270
Dust N Rain	12	12	3200	1562
Avoca	14	14	3300	1828
Cowra	9	8	1200	1000
Bunnerungie	12	12	1350	1012
Swamp Road	11	10	3300	1186
Meridian View	4	3	2600	650
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>3300</b>	<b>1264</b>



■ Greg and Loraine Ayson, Bidura Pastoral, Balranald, NSW, with their agent Darren Mirtchin, BR&C Swan Hill, and Scott Lohead, Avoca Dorpers, Wentworth, NSW, and the two sale-toppers at \$3300.

## Kenlorne Poll Dorset rams sell to \$1050

**KENLORNE POLL DORSETS, SA**  
■ 63 of 82 rams sold to \$1050, av \$635

KENLORNE Poll Dorset stud principals Betty and Ken Walker welcomed purchasers to their 22nd annual on-property Poll Dorset ram near Beachport, SA, on Tuesday, with a selection of good, solid, productive rams on offer.

A small crowd of 12 repeat and new buyers registered for the chance to secure one of the Kenlorne sires, which were described as "showing plenty of muscle with good, open faces".

Buyers of the top-priced ram last year and regular buyers of Kenlorne rams since 1999, John and Carolyn Lambert, Bimbimbi Props, Wattle Range, SA, were back this year, twice paying the sale-high of \$1050 for their top picks in the catalogue.

The Lambert family bought 13 rams at a \$769 average.

Repeat buyer MD Altschwager & Sons, Tantanoola, SA, also twice paid \$1050 for its top choices, going on to buy an additional eight rams averaging \$795.

Aloonanat Props, Tantanoola, bought five rams to average \$580, while Landmark agent Jim Noonan, buying on behalf of three clients, bought 16 rams at an average of \$521.

— JACQUI BATEMAN



■ Garry Glasson and David Little, Elders Millicent (buyers of two of the four top-priced rams at \$1050); John and Carolyn Lambert, Wattle Range, SA; Kimberley Battersby, Elders Millicent; Anthony Driessen and Richard North, Landmark Millicent; and Kenlorne Poll Dorsets principal Ken Walker.

## White Suffolks reach \$1050 at Ryevue

**RYEVUE WHITE SUFFOLKS, SA**  
■ 50 of 75 sold to \$1050, av \$652

AN INCREASE in the number of rams on offer from last year saw a total of 89 head up for auction at the fifth annual on-property sale at Ryevue stud near Millicent, SA.

A small gallery of repeat and new buyers were on hand to bid for the 75 White Suffolks, seven Ryelands and six composite rams in the catalogue.

Ryevue principals Michael and Julie Osborne once again donated the entire proceeds of one of their sale rams to the Millicent Cancer Support Group, with Elders joining in by waiving its sale commission for the charity lot.

This year's ram was selected by Elders stud stock manager and auctioneer Tom Penna, who liked the look of the good, meaty lot 9 ram in the catalogue with a figure of +174.92 on the carcass.

The 11 registered buyers also knew a good specimen when they saw one, with spirited bidding seeing the ram finally knocked down to repeat buyer Michael Ridge, Kongorong, SA, at \$1050.

The Ridge family, having had good results with Ryevue rams previously, bought seven more of the White Suffolks, averaging \$825 for the eight.



■ Michael Ridge, Kongorong, SA, and daughter Krysten secured the feature White Suffolk ram, held by Ryevue stud principals Michael and Julie Osborne. For the second year running, the Ridge family bid successfully on the ram donated to the Millicent Cancer Support Group; it was also the top-priced ram of the 2012 sale at \$1050. Elders' David Little, Kimberley Battersby and Brock Quick of the Millicent branch conducted the sale, with Elders stud stock manager Tom Penna auctioneering.

Volume buyer D Ferguson bought 23 White Suffolks at a \$617 average.

In keeping with the general trend of similar sales this year, the overall average of \$652 for the White

Suffolks was slightly down across the 50 head sold.

Six composite rams averaged \$600, with one Ryeland sold at \$500.

— JACQUI BATEMAN

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■ Chris Clemson, Clemson Hiscox, Walgett, NSW; Greg McCann and John Nadin, Macquarie Dohne stud, Warren, NSW; and Neil Arnold, Lake Cargelligo, NSW.

# Dohne diversity

**MACQUARIE DOHNES, NSW**  
 ■ 123 of 160 rams sold to \$3400, av \$1700  
 ■ 35 stud ewes sold to \$350

By BRAD WILSON

**B**UYERS commented on the improvement in wool quality of this year's Macquarie Dohne ram draft at Warren, NSW, as 123 from 160 cleared to average \$1700, back from last year's av of \$2150, while 35 stud ewes sold to \$350.

Stud co-principal Greg McCann backed the comments of the buyers when he said the stud had concentrated on improving wool quality and would continue along this path.

Macquarie Dohne stud is one of the largest and most genetically diverse Dohne studs in the country, with 1600 registered stud breeding ewes in six families.

Four States were represented at

the sale, with paddock reared rams now headed for NSW, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia.

Repeat clients Michael O'Brien, Brigalows Pastoral Company, Carinda, NSW, and Neil Arnold, Lake Cargelligo, NSW, paid the equal \$3400 top Dohne ram price.

The AA 142.32 indexing ram accompanied Mr O'Brien's draft of 10 rams, av \$2300, while Mr Arnold's ram carried a fleece weight of 17.48.

Mr Arnold took home nine rams, including two of the \$3200 equal second highest price sires, av \$2444.

"I was looking for rams with nourishment to handle soil type (red dirt) on our property north west of Condobolin and rams with character in the wool," Mr Arnold said.

"We put a lot of emphasis on wool quality and carcase attributes; Macquarie have a large selection of rams, they are good

doers on minimal rainfall," he said.

"All ewes are lambed down at Lake Cargelligo and I send the wether portion down to the family farm Berrigan, Jerilderie, to be finished and sold over the hook or through the Finley saleyards."

A large selection of the draft went to the Walgett district with Chris Clemson, Clemson and Hiscox, taking home 54 rams divided among five clients, av \$1814.

Interstate buyers included Barnadow Dohne stud, Bendigo, which purchased 25 stud ewes at \$200 a head, while Graham and Helen Crawford, Goldvale Dohne stud, Kingscote, Kangaroo Island, SA, purchased two rams to \$3200.

Queensland breeders were represented with Mark and Miranda Winning, Mona Station, Bollan, who paid to \$3200 for six and David Hawker, Cunnamulla, av \$1975 for his draft of eight.



■ Mal and Chad Ramsey of Chalunga Border Leicesters, Western Flat, SA, with the \$4800 top-priced ram they bought at the Johnos' sale last week. Also pictured are stud principals Neil and Mel Johnson, and Landmark auctioneer Gordon Wood.

# Border Leicesters in high demand

**JOHNOS, SA**  
 ■ 138 of 147 Border Leicester rams sold to \$4800, av \$1202  
 ■ 5 of 12 Hampshire Downs rams sold to \$1000, av \$680

A NEAR total clearance of 147 Border Leicester rams was achieved during Johnos' 14th annual on-property sale at Keith, SA, last week, after competitive bidding from 30 registered buyers from throughout the State and Victoria.

The top-priced Border ram of the sale at \$4800 was no stranger to the spotlight, having won the maternal Lambplan class at Sheepvention earlier this year.

He was sired by 'The Hulk' and had impressive figures right across the board, particularly his carcase plus index of 130.4 and post weaning weight of 9.2.

Purchasers were Malvin Ramsey and son Chad, Chalunga, Western Flat, SA, who were most impressed with the ram's good wool type and overall carcase size.

Renowned for his Naracoorte first-cross ewe sale success, Simon Pocock, Lameroo, SA, was yet again the driving force throughout the top half of the sale, putting together a powerful team of 35 rams, av \$1431.

Overall 138 of the 147 Border Leicester rams sold, av \$1202, while

five of 12 Hampshire Downs rams sold to \$1000, av \$680.

The top Hampshire ram is Victoria bound after being sold to Langcurrah, Terang.

Stud principals Neil and Jeff Johnson said they were pleased with the result and grateful for the continued support from mainly repeat buyers.

Neil noted the obvious "confidence in the Border Leicester as the most popular maternal sire".

"We continue to see this, with many clients having top priced pens at the Naracoorte first-cross ewe sales year after year," he said.

— KATELIN DAVIES

## In brief

### Breeders drive sale

MANY White Dorper studs around Australia have a Red Rock or Edson influence but it was commercial breeders rather than stud inquiry that ensured the success of the seventh annual on-property sale at Keith, SA, recently.

The 35 registered bidders from the far Eyre Peninsula to the high rainfall areas of central Victoria waving their hands strongly on the warm day to ensure a strong \$1149 average for 121 of 152 stud and commercial Dorper rams, topping at \$4600.

The sale did run out of buyers in the final stages with vendors Brad and Tanya Edson from Red Rock and Charlie and Pat Edson, Edson Livestock, increasing their numbers on offer thanks to a total clearance last year.

The majority of the rams were White Dorsers but Edson Livestock sold 11 of 12 Dorper rams to a \$1700 high, av \$909.

The 15 stud White Dorper ewes also met strong competition selling to \$750, av \$533.

The solid sale follows the stud's success at the recent White Dorper-Dorper National Show & Sale.

Red Rock sold two White Dorper rams to China.

### Poll Dorsets rams cleared

POLL Dorset rams sold to a total clearance at the Mitchell family's annual Rene stud sale at Culcairn, NSW, recently.

There were 68 Poll Dorset rams offered for a total clearance.

Three Poll Dorset stud rams sold to \$1600, av \$1500; and 65 Poll Dorset flock rams sold for a top of \$1500 av \$935.

At auction, 16 of the 36 White Suffolk rams sold, with four White Suffolk stud rams selling to \$2500, av \$1940 and 12 White Suffolk flock rams to \$1500, av \$736.

The best money paid for a Poll Dorset ram was by Malcolm Everitt, Ingalara, Balldale, NSW, who selected the April 2011-drop ram for its early maturity traits that would suit the sucker market.

Brad Hulme, of Koorong White Suffolk stud, Holbrook, NSW, was the purchaser of the top-priced White Suffolk ram.

The August 2011-drop ram had Lambplan figures of +8 for weaning weight (WW), +13.1 for post weaning weight (PWWT), -0.6 for post weaning fat (PFAT), +0.1 for post weaning EMD (PEMD) and a carcase plus figure of 168.

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# Sheepvention 2012 REPORT

## Large multi-vendor sale to \$19,500

By **PAULA DORAN** and **CATHERINE MILLER**

IT WAS a case of eastern domination at one of the nation's largest multi-vendor sale at Sheepvention last week.

The sale high of \$19,500 achieved by One Oak stud, Jerilderie, NSW, was the best price in close to a decade, when a \$31,000 high was reached.

The 14-month-old, 18.4-micron Merino ram was knocked down to Richard Beggs from the historic Western Victorian stud Nareeb Nareeb, Glenthompson.

"In the end it was the standard deviation that got me (2.5)," he said last week.

"To have such a solid frame, so much length and presence, with outstanding skins and wools, he is the best ram that has been in this shed for many years."

The top-priced ram was sired by Roseville Park 14 via embryo transfer with One Oak's own ewe.

One Oak principal Graham Wells said their offering would normally have been retained in stud, but they had been highly encouraged by the recognition among fellow studs at their quality.

Many annual sale supporters rated it among the best, with an 88 per cent clearance and an extra 39 rams sold in Australia's largest multi-vendor ram sale.

Overall, 342 of 389 Merino and Dohne rams from 66 studs averaged \$2487.

Peter and Marianne Wallis, Glenlea Park stud, Pinnaroo, South Australia, sold the second

Landmark Hamilton's Kevin Beaton did the bidding for the \$19,500 top-priced Merino ram from One Oak on behalf of Nareeb Nareeb stud principal Richard Beggs. Holding the ram is One Oak stud principal Graham Wells, Jerilderie, NSW.



highest priced ram at \$14,000.

The 19.6M Poll Merino had an outstanding pedigree being an AI bred son of Nyowee L88 and out of a daughter of their \$39,000 ram Olympic.

The 15-month-old was knocked down to Len Mathews, Bulgandri Poll stud, Rand, NSW, bidding via phone through Landmark Albury's David Johnson.

Glenlea Park also notched up one of the sale's highest averages,

with a magical \$6300 for its pen of five rams.

Some of the highest averages for Victorian vendors went to Wurrook, Rokewood, which averaged \$3500 for its pen of five; and Terrick West, Prairie, av \$3300 with its five, after selling the 13-14 month-olds to \$6500.

Also scoring healthy averages were Bogo Merinos, Bookham, NSW, who made a tidy return av \$5200, while fellow NSW stud Langdene, Dunedoo, sold five "industry focused" rams to \$11,000, av \$6600, the top long wool two-year-old ram, measuring 17.1M, going to Roberts Tasmania on behalf of Trefusis Merino Stud, Ross, Tas.

Launching the sale were the pens of five Dohnes, kicking off with DD Dohne Stud, Moama, NSW, who sold up to \$3000, av \$2300, while Uardry Dohnes, Hay, NSW, topped at \$4000, av \$2700.

Elders stud stock auctioneer Ross Milne described it as "a hell

### Sheepvention ram sale

	2012	2011
Offered:	389	334
Sold:	342	303
Top:	\$19,500	\$9000
Av:	\$2487	\$2411

### Sheepvention sale averages

Stud Name	Location	Sale Total	Lots Offered	Lots Sold	Average Price
Banavie	Donald	10500	5	5	\$2100.00
Beverley	Redesdale	10000	5	5	\$2000.00
Bindawarra	Giffard West	20350	10	10	\$2035.00
Blue Hills	Kaniva	8500	5	4	\$2125.00
Bogo	Bookham	26000	5	5	\$5200.00
Borambil	Balldale	12250	5	4	\$3062.50
Bundaleer Polls	Walla Walla, NSW	14750	5	5	\$2950.00
Bundaleer	Walla Walla, NSW	6000	4	3	\$2000.00
Connewarran	Mortlake	9300	5	5	\$1860.00
Conrayn	Berridale, NSW	11500	5	5	\$2300.00
Demondrille	Harden, NSW	18300	5	5	\$3660.00
DD Dohnes	Moama, NSW	11500	5	5	\$2300.00
Eilan Donan	Elphinstone	0	5	0	
Fernleigh Comebacks	Glenthompson	7250	5	5	\$1450.00
Forest Springs	Joel Joel	2250	5	2	\$1125.00
Glanna	Gulgong, NSW	9500	5	5	\$1900.00
Glenara	Dunkeld	7500	5	4	\$1875.00
Glendonald	Nhill	31200	20	20	\$1560.00
Glenlea Park	Pinnaroo, SA	31500	5	5	\$6300.00
Glenpaen	Brimpaen	15500	5	5	\$3100.00
Gowandale	St Arnaud	7200	5	5	\$1440.00
Gunallo	Pinnaroo, SA	18750	10	10	\$1875.00
Hannaton Poll	Kaniva	15750	5	5	\$3150.00
Havelock Park Dohnes	Stratford	3000	9	3	\$1000.00
Hynam Poll	Hopetoun	3750	5	3	\$1250.00
Kardinia Dohnes	Corowa, NSW	8750	5	5	\$1750.00
KD Dohnes	Moama, NSW	0	5	0	
Kedleston Park	Calivil	13000	5	5	\$2600.00
Kilfeera Park	Kilfeera	8000	5	5	\$1600.00
Kerrilyn	Dunluce	6300	5	5	\$1260.00
Koole Vale	Costerfield	8000	5	5	\$1600.00
Langdene	Dunedoo, NSW	33000	5	5	\$6600.00
Macquarie Dohnes	Warren, NSW	15750	10	8	\$1942.00
Melrose	Nurrabiel	7500	5	4	\$1875.00
Merrignee	Boorowa, NSW	14500	5	5	\$2900.00
Merryville	Boorowa, NSW	12250	5	4	\$3062.50
Mount Yulong Poll	Telangatik East	10700	5	5	\$2140.00
Nareeb Nareeb	Chatsworth	16600	10	10	\$1660.00
Nerstane	Woolbrook, NSW	18250	5	5	\$3650.00
One Oak	Jerilderie, NSW	49000	10	9	\$5212.50
Pendarra	Benambra	21150	10	10	\$2115.00
Petali Poll	Walcha, NSW	10250	5	5	\$2050.00
Ramsgate	Tintinara, SA	8000	5	5	\$1600.00
Ridgway	Lameroo, SA	24250	10	10	\$2425.00
Rifle Downs	Rokewood	2500	5	2	\$1250.00
Rosemere Prime SAMM	Junee, NSW	1600	5	2	\$800.00
Roseville Park	Dubbo, NSW	24500	5	5	\$4900.00
Rowensville	St Helens	3600	5	4	\$900.00
Sims Uardry	Urana, NSW	5500	5	4	\$1375.00
Southrose	Tintinara, SA	6500	5	4	\$1625.00
Stockton	Bairnsdale	17750	5	5	\$3550.00
SWM	Tintinara, SA	10500	5	4	\$2625.00
Tamaleuca	Ouyen	0	0	0	
Tara Park	Boorowa, NSW	12000	5	4	\$3000.00
Terrick West	Prairie	16500	5	5	\$3300.00
The Fringe	Briagolong	6300	5	5	\$1260.00
The Yanko	Jerilderie, NSW	13250	5	5	\$2650.00
Toland Poll	Violet Town	20300	10	8	\$2283.33
Towalba	Peak Hill, NSW	9500	5	4	\$2375.00
Tragowel & Poll	Laharum	5200	5	4	\$1300.00
Uardry Dohnes	Urana, NSW	13500	5	5	\$2700.00
Willera	Serpentine	13000	5	5	\$2600.00
Winyar	Canowindra, NSW	9500	5	5	\$1900.00
Wurrook	Rokewood	17500	5	5	\$3500.00
Woolaroo	Yass, NSW	9500	5	5	\$1900.00
Woodpark Poll	Jerilderie, NSW	15500	5	5	\$3100.00

of a sale" for both average and clearance buoyed by the quality of sheep on offer.

"In terms of the volume and numbers it is as good as anywhere in the southern hemisphere," he said.

"They come to the Hamilton sale for the great showcase of some of the leading Merino and Dohne genetics in the country."

Mr Milne said it was good to see increased stud enquiry on the top end of the catalogue as in previous years along with the sus-

tained confidence of flock ram buyers.

Landmark Merino specialist Stuart Hodgson said the offering had improved significantly in recent years and, with the fairly solid wool market, die-hard Merino breeders were prepared to pay a bit more for a select type of flock ram.

"It is right up there with the best sale we have seen and when you consider the bulk of the rams are only 15 months of age it is exceptional money," he said.

Terrick West Poll Merino stud principal Ross McGauchie, Prairie (pictured with Member for Wannon Dan Tehan and Nationals Leader Warren Truss) continued a winning year on the sheep show circuit, taking out supreme champion ram at Sheepvention. This follows his success at the Hay Sheep Show just months ago, where one of his entries won the coveted Australian hogget ram of the year award.



## BOGO MERINOS

Malcolm Peake and Frances Elsegood, Bogo Merinos, with buyer of \$10,000 ram Frank Kaveney, Tallawong, Yass.

Thank you to all buyers and underbidders

**5 rams av \$5,200**

**On Property Ram Sale - Thursday, November 8, 2012**

**250 Merino and Poll Merino Rams**

Malcolm Peake, Bogo, Bookham, NSW. Ph 0408 426 103.



## Kamarooka Park Poll Merinos

**KPP Gold 193 - \$7,500**

Sire: Leachim 601 by Leachim 004

**Highest Price for Victorian Ram**

AUSTRALIAN MERINO RAM SALE BENDIGO, JULY 23rd 2012

Sold to Glen Rubie of Lachlan Merino Stud, Forbes NSW  
**50% Semen Rights retained by KPP**

ORDERS FOR SEMEN BEING TAKEN FOR THIS QUALITY RAM AT \$30 PER DOSE (+ GST)

Micron SD CV Com. Fact. Curv. Spin  
18.6 2.5 13.4 99.9 46.0 17.1  
At Bendigo - Weight: 103.5kg Fat: 7mm Muscle: 37



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Glen Rubie (Lachlan Merino Stud)

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KPP Gold 193 will be on display at Lachlan Merino Stud Site August 28, 29, 30 at Dubbo, NSW

## Strong competition for Strathcona rams

**STRATHCONA**  
 ■ 41 of 50 rams sold to \$3000, av \$1068

WHEN Tony Bradfield, Australian Wool Network, Hobart, Tasmania, visited Strathcona during the Southern Victorian Merino field days, he was taken by a ram that was lot two in last week's sale.

This ram, by Roseville Park 31, topped the annual Strathcona Merino ram sale at Carngham.

The buyer was Sam Burbury, WE Burbury & Son, Andover, Tas, with bidding by Dale Bruns, AWN Hamilton.

Strathcona will retain semen in this ram as he is the last in a long line of top



sheep by RP31. Sandy Jelbart, Strathcona, was pleased to average \$1068 for 41 rams sold at auction.

- GARRY RODDA

# Dohnes to \$5200

**BALLARAT DOHNES**  
 ■ 35 of 41 rams sold to \$5200, av \$1723

By SHANNON TWOMEY

**D**OHNE rams sold to a top of \$5200 at the Ballarat Dohne ram sale last Friday, where competition was strong.

Seven Victorian and NSW studs offered 41 rams with 35 selling at an average of \$1723.

The top-priced ram was sold by John Nadin from the Macquarie stud, Warren, NSW, purchased by Neville Triplett, Barnadown Dohnes, Epsom.

Mr Triplett chose the ram because it had good fleece and body weight.

Mr Triplett runs about 100 Dohne stud ewes.

The second-highest-priced ram at \$2600, was sold by Don Mills from the Kardinia Dohne stud, Corowa, NSW. It was purchased by Helen Galloway, Cotswold Slopes.



This is the third year the Galloways have purchased Dohne rams from Kardinia.

The family have switched from an F3 prime lamb operation to the dual-purpose sheep

Macquarie Dohne stud principal John Nadin sold rams to \$5200 at the Ballarat Dohne ram sale last Friday. He is pictured with Greg McCann and buyer Neville Triplett, Barnadown Dohnes, Epsom.

to achieve quality meat and wool.

Some of the volume buyers at the sale included David Nicolson, Campbell Town, Tasmania, who purchased four rams to \$2000, av \$1750.

Mr Nicolson runs 3000 breeding ewes with his brother Peter.

The McNeilly family, Sale, purchased three rams to \$1400, av \$1267, to join with Merino ewes.

Coad Pastoral was another large volume buyer, taking five rams to \$1800, av \$1440.

## Claronden rams top at \$1500

**CLARONDEN POLL DORSETS**  
 ■ 117 of 126 rams sold to \$1500, av \$797

CARAMUT Poll Dorset breeders Aaron and Dee Pascoe sold rams to \$1500 and averaged \$797 at their Claronden on-property sale last week.

The stud's ninth annual sale offered 126 lots, of which 117 sold to repeat and new buyers.

The offering, characterised by long-bodied rams with good shoulder shape and neck extension, included rams by the new sire Rannoch 199/9, who was junior champion at the 2010 Royal Adelaide Show, and Shilee Downs 20/9 who was champion at Perth in 2010.

The top price of \$1500 was paid for lot 6, a son of Kurralea 570/0, who was champion ram at Adelaide in 2010.

He went to the Willow Park Stud at Mardella, Western Australia.



Willow Park owners Gary, Noelle and Todd Wilson exhibited the champion ram at the Perth show last year.

Volume buyer was L&P Schwarz, Caramut, who bought 12 rams to \$1350.

R&L Manifold, Camperdown, took home 11 rams to \$850,

while new buyer David Moyle, Hamilton, bought eight rams to \$1200.

Repeat client Waratah Pastoral of Cavendish also bought eight, paying up to \$900.

Mr Pascoe said the result was consistent with expectations, taking into consideration the

Aaron Pascoe (left) watches bidding on lot 5, which sold at \$1200 to Greg Holcombe, Branxholme.

Photo: STEVE HYNES

generally lower prime lamb prices this year, combined with the lighter condition of the rams due to seasonal conditions.

"They were nine kilograms lighter but they still presented very well," he said.

- STEVE HYNES



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1146575

# \$uperBorders stack up

**DEEPWATER BORDER LEICESTERS**  
 ■ 129 of 156 to \$1600, av \$834

By CATHERINE MILLER

**H**IGH indexing Border Leicester rams met solid competition at Deepwater stud's 19th annual sale at Binnun, SA, on Monday last week.

The South East-based stud, which was established nearly 40 years ago by the Dowdy family, has focused on breeding rams with growth and carcase performance.

Every sale ram met the \$uperBorder requirements and stacked up well against the best in the breed.

The catalogue had an average maternal index of 118.6, up a point on last year's offering and well above the assessed breed average of 112.1.

Two late addition rams, which came from the stud reserves, made the top money.

Deepwater was successful in buying the \$3100 second-highest priced ram at Inverbrackie ram sale at Strathalbyn, SA, the previous week so could offer the rams to their clients instead.

Shayne Ellis, Enhallow Farms, Skipton, who breeds a few Border Leicester rams for his own use, out-laid \$1600 for an early August-drop ram with a maternal \$ index of 128.9. This was the highest in the catalogue of 150 plus rams.

"We have bought semen from Deepwater before and came here looking for a ram – he is a very good quality ram," Mr Ellis said.

The following lot made the \$1500 second-highest price. It was sold to Phil Russell from Canowindra, NSW.

GB&RE Hage, Naracoorte, SA, bought some of the highest-figured rams and was also one of the major buyers, with nine rams av \$783.



■ Kristie Foster and Josh Dowdy from Deepwater stud, Binnun, with their \$1600 top-priced ram which was bought by first-time buyer Shayne Ellis, Enhallow Farms, Skipton. Also pictured are Landmark stud stock auctioneer Malcolm Scroop and Southern Australian Livestock auctioneer Josh Manser.

Pinkerton Palm Hamlyn & Steen agent Simon Mulraney had plenty of buying cards in his top pocket and really helped to make the sale.

He bought more than 30 rams for six clients including Pondam Park, Hynam, who bought six av \$900.

Stud principal Josh Dowdy was pleased with the quality of the pasture-reared rams they had offered.

"There were only one or two new buyers with the rest repeat buyers, which is good to see – they are happy with the product," Mr Dowdy said.

The Dowdys will hold one more sale for the season – their annual Jay-Dee maternal composite sale on October 26 at the Hamilton Showground, offering 150 rams.

## Naracoorte sees satisfied customers

**NARACOORTE DOHNE INVITATIONAL, SA**  
 ■ 27 of 42 rams sold to \$2400, av \$1385

IT WAS a small buying gallery at the seventh annual Naracoorte Dohne Invitation ram sale last Wednesday but those there were prepared to bid up, lifting the sale average by \$80.

In the breakdown, seven NSW, Victorian and South Australian studs sold 27 of their 42 AA and A graded Dohne rams av \$1385 at the Naracoorte Showground.

The original aim of the multi-vendor sale, started by a group of NSW and Victorian-based studs, was to put Dohne rams in front of buyers in SA, with few being bred in that State at the time.

But with a large number of Dohne sales now being held in SA, it is getting more difficult to attract buyers late in the selling season.

Sale spokesman Donald Mills, Kardinia stud, Corowa, NSW, was pleased to see largely repeat buyers in the stands.

"We have got some satisfied customers and we have certainly been successful at getting the



Dohne name out there and it becoming a more accepted breed," he said.

"Given the timing of the sale against so many other regional sales we had to expect it would be hard to clear all the rams."

Peter and Val and John Tischler, Edenhope, who first moved to a self-replacing Dohne flock six years ago, bought three rams including

■ Peter Tischler, Edenhope, paid the \$2400 top price at the Naracoorte Dohne Invitation ram sale for this Uardry ram, held by stud manager Ben Lane, Hay, NSW.

the \$2400 sale topper.

The July 2011-drop from the Uardry stud at Hay, NSW, was AA graded and had a Dohne \$ index of 135.23.

"He has good quality wool and a good back end on him. He is what we are chasing – good, framey sheep,"

Peter Tischler said.

Another long-time sale supporter, Robert Cross, Wynwood, Apsley, bought the second-highest-priced ram at \$1900.

The ram from the Kardinia stud had particularly good figures with an eye muscle depth EBV of 1.68 and fibre diameter EBV of -0.36.

"We have moved from Corriedales to Dohnes and when we sold prime lambs last week our Dorset-Dohnes made more money than the Dorset-Corriedales in the same draft," Mr Cross said.

S&R DiGiorgio, Lucindale – underbidders on the \$2400 top-priced ram – was one of the volume buyers, with three rams av \$1467.

– CATHERINE MILLER



■ Elders district wool manager – Lower South East – Stephanie Brooker-Jones (second from left) bought the top-price \$2100 ram on behalf of clients Egremont Pastoral, Lucindale, SA. She is pictured with stud principals Kathy, Tyke and Kym Staude.

## Dohne \$2100 top

**KD DOHNES, SA**  
 ■ 46 of 68 rams sold to \$2100, av \$965

THE SIXTH annual on-property ram auction held at KD Dohnes, White Dorners & Composites, Bordertown, SA, last Monday resulted in a \$2100 top price.

The ram was bought by Elders district wool manager – Lower South East – Stephanie Brooker-Jones on behalf of clients Egremont Pastoral, Lucindale, SA.

The July 2011-drop ram weighed 83 kilograms and had a 19.2-micron fleece and a Dohne Index Value of 125.5.

Egremont Pastoral also took a further four Dohnes to \$2000.

Stud principal Kym Staude said the rams for sale this year came from the 2011-drop, which had lambing percentages at 147 per cent.

Volume buyer was CL Kilsby & Co, Mount Gambier, SA, taking seven rams to \$1000.

Other buyers were Ashco

Ent, through Cox Rural Keith, taking five to \$1800, and HJ Briscow, through Landmark Pinnaroo, taking five to \$1000.

Buying four rams each were P&J Rundle, through SAL Lameroo to \$1100, and NW&JT Thomas, through Ron Johnson Livestock, Lucindale, to \$600.

Along with the main Dohne sale, a dozen 2011 composites sold to \$900, one 2010 composite at \$600 and one Meat Master ram at \$500.

Hassell Farming, through Elders Millicent, bought five composites to \$900, and Tippett Farms, through Rodwells Horsham, bought four to \$800.

Ashdor White Dorners principal Sheree Heading offered 20 rams, selling 15 to \$2000 av \$1046.

The top-price July 2011-drop ram weighed 72.5kg with an eye muscle depth of 40 millimetres and fat score of 6mm.

– PAULA THOMPSON

### How the studs sold

Stud	Offered	Sold	Top	Av
Uardry, Hay, NSW	10	8	\$2400	\$1638
DD Dohnes, Moama, NSW	5	5	\$1700	\$1400
Kardinia, Corowa, NSW	8	6	\$1900	\$1317
Goldvale, Clare, SA	6	4	\$1500	\$1225
Macquarie, Warren, NSW	8	3	\$1500	\$1167

\* Havelock Park, Stratford, sold one of their three rams at \$1000  
 \* Glenaroua, Kilmore, offered two rams

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