

# Regal pedigree turns heads

By CATHERINE MILLER

**A** MAGNIFICENT Poll Merino ram from Collinsville stud, Booborowie, boasting a right-royal pedigree made \$66,000 at the Adelaide Merino Ram Sale last Friday.

It was the highest price the iconic stud had achieved since selling a ram for \$68,000 in 1996 – and a fitting end for the Handbury family's ownership of the stud.

They have sold Collinsville to George and Sophie Millington, Cappeedee, Hallett.

Since returning as a vendor in 2010 after a long hiatus, Collinsville has topped the sale three times in the past five years.

Collinsville Regal 242 – a twin AI-bred 16-month-old – had a reserve price of \$30,000 but that was just where the frenzied bidding started.

The tightly packed buying gallery witnessed the quick price ascension.

The final bidders battling for the sale-topper were eventual lot 1 buyer Luke Ledwith, Kolindale

Merino and Poll Merino stud, Dudinin, WA, and a syndicate of eight studs.

Regal had tremendous depth of breeding, being AI bred by Collinsville Regal 9 – the \$23,000 top-price ram in Collinsville's team at the 2012 sale.

He was also a grandson of Majestic, which sold for \$30,000 to Sherlock stud, Sherlock.

Collinsville stud manager Tim Dalla said the 19.4-micron Regal, with superb rich wool with measurements of 3.1 standard deviation, 16.0 coefficient of variation and 99.7 per cent comfort factor, was a standout for balance and very structurally correct.

"He is quite big with exceptional wool. It is quite hard to get the exceptional wool on the big ones," he said.

"It has exceeded our expectations. We always thought he was going to make a bit of money and was pretty good but didn't think he would make \$66,000."

Buyer Mr Ledwith, who had also been the medium wool Poll Merino judge at Royal Adelaide

for the previous two years, was adamant Regal 242 was the best ram in the shed.

"He is a big, upstanding ram, structurally perfect with very good, long-stapled, nourished crimp white wool," he said.

Semen shares have already been sold in the ram, including one to Trumps stud, South Africa.

Regal is heading to the AI centre before heading west with semen available for \$40 a dose.

Kolindale also bought Collinsville's \$39,000 sale-topping ram in 2010 and Mr Ledwith has been pleased with his progeny.

"He has bred well with perfect-structured sheep with good wool and quick-growing progeny, so we are hoping this one will do the same," he said.

Thirteen may be unlucky for some but definitely not for another Mid North stud, Moorundie Park, Gulnare, which made the other outstanding sale.

Stud principals Tom and Laura Davidson achieved the sale's \$53,000 second-top price for their grand champion autumn-shorn Poll Merino ram at lot 13.

"We hoped he would sell well. He is an impressive ram and we are sure he will go on and do a good job for his new owners," Mr Davidson said.

Many astute breeders commented that the ram, which was also the winner of the Fibre Meat Plus class, was the best sheep Moorundie Park stud had ever offered in Adelaide.

It sold to Nigel Kerin, Kerin Poll, Yeoval, NSW, who said it was rare to get such a heavy wool cutter from a ram of 19.5M.

"He is a massive boned sheep and has a stack of density for this size. He is well covered and has a beautiful underline and belly," he said.

Semen sales were made soon after to four SA studs.

Moorundie Park, Gulnare added to their terrific day by topping the stud average list with four rams averaging \$16,250.

Jim, Rob and James Sullivan and families, Greenfields stud, Hallett sold their Royal Show supreme exhibit for \$18,500 – the highest price for a horned ram, to M Peskett & Son, Cunnamulla, Qld.

Another high price came just after the completion of the sale with the lead ram from Wallaloo

## Sale summary

	2014	2013
■ Offered	109	102
■ Sold	87	114
■ Top	\$66,000	\$34,000
■ Av	\$7609	\$7223
■ Gross	\$736,750	\$662,000

## How the studs sold

	Offered	Sold	Top	Av
■ Moorundie Park, Gulnare	4	4	\$53,000	\$16,250
■ Collinsville, Booborowie	12	10	\$66,000	\$12,900
■ Wallaloo Park, Marnoo, Vic	3	3	\$30,000	\$12667
■ North Ashrose, Gulnare	8	7	\$15,000	\$11,000
■ Moorundie, Keith	5	5	\$15,000	\$8600
■ Greenfields, Hallett	7	7	\$18,500	\$8214
■ Mulloorie, Brinkworth	6	6	\$15,000	\$7917
■ Terrick West, Prairie, Vic	2	2	\$10,000	\$7000
■ Kamora Netley Park, Karoonda	4	4	\$9500	\$5750
■ Kamora Park, Karoonda	4	3	\$7000	\$5500
■ Nyowee, Balaklava	8	8	\$9000	\$5187
■ Hyfield, Kojunup, WA	2	2	\$5500	\$3750
■ Old Ashrose, Hallett	7	7	\$6000	\$3643
■ Hilton Heath, Mount Pleasant	3	2	\$4500	\$3250
■ Gunallo, Pinnaroo	2	2	\$4000	\$3000
■ Blue Hills, Telopea Downs	4	4	\$3000	\$2375
■ Roemahkita, Cummins	4	2	\$3000	\$2250
■ Glenlea Park, Pinnaroo	3	2	\$2000	2000

■ Rices Creek, Saddleworth, offered two and sold one at \$7500; Sherlock stud, Sherlock, sold one at \$4000; Ridgway, Lamerloo, offered four and sold one at \$6000; Collandra North, Tumby Bay, sold one at \$6000; Charinga, Berrimal, Vic, sold one of two rams at \$4000; Banavie, Berrimal, Vic, sold one at \$12,000; One Oak, Jerilderie, NSW, sold one of three at \$7000

Park stud, Marnoo, Vic, selling for \$30,000 to the Superior Wool Syndicate after failing to meet its reserve at auction.

In a nearly 80 per cent clearance, 87 of 109 Merino and Poll Merino rams from 28 vendors sold for a \$7609 av.

Seventeen rams made \$10,000 or more, but it was particularly tough going for some of the newer vendors late in the catalogue.

There was a noticeable absence of Argentinian buyers, who had been active in recent years, but the 156 registered bidders standing shoulder-to-shoulder bid with confidence.

Leading the volume buyers was Mutooroo Pastoral Company, via Broken Hill, with seven rams for a \$7143 av. Included in its tally were two Poll Merinos from Graham, Tom and Matt Ashby and families, North Ashrose stud, Gulnare, at \$12,000 and \$13,000.

Elders stud stock manager Tony Wetherall, who sold the \$66,000 sale-topper, said the sale had cemented its position as the premier Merino multi-vendor

sale in Australia with vendors from SA, Vic, NSW and for the first time WA.

Rams sold to all Merino producing states except Tasmania.

There were big expectations and the top end was very strong with the syndicates formed to bid on.

"They really did have exceptional competition and deservedly so. They are elite sires and don't come along like that every year," he said.

He acknowledged that there were some lulls in the sale, with more demand needed on the flock-improving sires.

Landmark stud stock's Gordon Wood said it was a sale of tremendous highs but it was evident that stud breeders were chasing those extremely fast-growing animals with the ability to cut a real bulk of wool.

"Structural soundness and good constitution were paramount," he said.

Elders and Landmark were joint selling agents with Elders' Tom Penna and Mr Wetherall, and Landmark's Gordon Wood and Leo Redden auctioneers.



**POLL PERFECTION:** Collinsville stud manager Tim Dalla holds the \$66,000 top-price ram – Collinsville Regal 242 – with his wife Jade and WA buyers Luke Ledwith and his partner Daniela Varone, Kolindale Merino and Poll Merino stud, Dudinin