

# Kolindale Poll sets top price of \$5000

By CAITLYN BURLING

WHEN a stud decides to put up almost 350 rams at an on-property sale, it shows an unwavering confidence in the sheep industry and its relevance to the commercial market.

As one of the youngest stud breeders in the industry, Luke Ledwith has continued to develop his Kolindale Merino and Poll Merino stud and this year's on-property sale marked yet another milestone for the Ledwith family.

Mr Ledwith said they had been steadily working towards building their ram sale numbers, while still maintaining a focus on producing animals with top quality wool, complemented by large frames.

With this aim, this year's Kolindale on-property sale catered towards a broad spectrum of clients, penning a total of 347 Merino and Poll Merino rams, with buyers operating until the very last pen to clear 307 rams under the hammer.

Even though the large quantity of rams meant the sale took just over three hours, prices remained at a strong level until the end to gross \$374,300 and average \$1219.

The sheer scale of the sale was also reflected by the diverse collection of number plates parked in the paddock of the Ledwiths' Dudinin farm, with the 58 registered buyers travelling from all over WA to secure their Kolindale genetics.

The top buyers were straight out of the gate as soon as the Elders team got proceedings underway,



□ Holding the \$5000 top price Poll Merino ram was Kolindale stud principal Luke Ledwith (left), with successful bidder Mitch Crosby, Landmark Breeding, who bought the ram on behalf of Rohan Johnston, Merna stud, Quairading. They are joined by Elders stud stock representative Russell McKay.

warming up with the \$3600 top-priced Merino ram selling in the very first lot, followed by the sale top price of \$5000 for an outstanding Poll Merino ram in lot three.

Marked early as one of the best-wooled rams in the shed, the Poll Merino was a clear contender for the top price honours and it was Landmark Breeding representative Mitch Crosby holding the highest bid.

Mr Crosby purchased the ram for \$5000 on behalf of Rohan Johnston, Merna stud, Quairading, which incorporated a semen share for Bruce Edmonds, Glen-Byrne stud, Calingiri.

It was the large volume and top quality wool that impressed the astute judges in the shed, with a greasy fleece weight of 5.4kg, 18 micron, 4.2 SD, 23.3 CV and a comfort factor of 99 per cent.

Buyers were also assisted by ASBV figures for the first time this year and these came in handy to bolster the appeal of the \$5000 ram, in addition to its excellent wool attributes.

It measured 1.109 YWT, 0.19 YEMD, -0.356 YGFW and -0.16 YFD after being scanned on July 20, making it a ram to remember at this year's Merino field days according to Mr Johnston.

"We saw him at the field days and his wool just stood out as one of the best," Mr Johnston said.

"He has plenty of free-growing wool that is white, well-nourished with a bold crimp."

"Wool of that quality will be very handy in our stud's breeding program."

Mr Edmonds said he would use the semen share from the ram to AI 100 of his Glen-Byrne stud ewes, while Mr Johnston purchased a second Poll Merino sire for \$2300 to bolster his breeding program.

Before prices hit the \$5000 ceiling, it was a large-framed Merino ram that achieved the second top price of \$3600 after Simon Hill, C & M Hill, Gnowangerup, pursued the sire and opened the sale with a bang.

Suited perfectly to the type of sheep the Hills produce at their Gnowangerup property, the Merino ram had the size and frame to warrant a higher price tag.

"For a number of years now, we have concentrated on our wool style, cut and quality," Mr Hill said.

"We think we have achieved that so we are now looking to refine the frame of our sheep."

"This ram has both the large frame and free-growing, stylish wool that we need."

## KOLINDALE ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE (Under the hammer results)

	offered	sold	top	gross	average
Poll Merino	241	219	\$5000	\$274,100	\$1252
Merino	106	88	\$3600	\$100,200	\$1139
Total	347	307	\$5000	\$374,300	\$1219

"It's exactly the type of ram suited to our business."

With a fleece that measured 19.1 micron, 2.8 SD, 14.7 CV and a comfort factor of 99.5pc, the Merino ram was also stacked in the rack where it was needed most, measuring 0.575 YEMD, -1.313 YWT and 0.444 YFAT.

Mr Hill continued to be an active buyer of both Merino and Poll Merino rams throughout the sale, paying high-end prices to load six Merino and 12 Poll Merino sires into the back of his trailer at the end of the day.

Volume numbers of rams also equates to volume buyers and there were many purchasers taking home multiple Kolindale sires after a busy days' bidding.

Landmark Brindley and Gale representative Peter Gale drove all the way from Esperance to secure 20 more Kolindale rams on behalf of regular client Simon Fowler, Chilwell, Esperance.

Having already purchased 19 Merino rams from the stud's Esperance sale two weeks ago, Mr Gale returned to outdo himself and purchase 20 more to a top of \$1400.

Brookland Farms purchased 17 sires to a top of \$1300 and average of \$882, while Brendon Di Russo, A & A Di Russo & Sons, Hyden, purchased 11 rams for high-end prices to average



□ Kolindale stud connection Colin Lewis (left) and principal Luke Ledwith congratulate new owner Simon Hill, Gnowangerup, on purchasing the \$3600 top price Merino ram at the stud's annual on-property sale. With them were Elders auctioneer Don Morgan and stud connection Matthew Ledwith.

\$1518 and top at \$2100 on three occasions.

Marlu Farms was also paying top dollars when purchasing their total of 11 rams, averaging \$1936 and topping at \$2500.

Twenty more buyers took home five or more rams, with hardly any settling for just the one ram.

Elders auctioneer Don Morgan said the Ledwith family had put in a lot of time and effort to present 347 top quality rams at their annual on-property sale, which was appreciated by both their existing and new clients.

"It was a large undertaking but all of the rams presented exceptionally well," Mr Morgan said.

"Values held strong through most of the catalogue, with many buyers filling their ram requirements by the final run."



□ Checking out this year's Kolindale Merino and Poll Merino offering were Brian Shipley (left), Yealering and Brendon Di Russo, Hyden. Mr Di Russo was one of the volume buyers at the sale, purchasing 11 rams for top values.



***The Ledwith family  
thank all buyers and  
underbidders for their support  
at their sales this year.***

***A warm welcome to all first  
time buyers at our sales your  
support is greatly  
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