

# Big Kolindale sale tops at \$5100

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PREPARING and penning up 348 Merinos and Poll Merinos is achievement enough in itself let alone selling the majority of them to an excellent average of \$1324.

The Kolindale stud selling complex was bursting at the seams with big, sirey rams and with the additional offering of meaty White Suffolks, the rams were further accommodated in an adjoining marquee.

In all 72 registered buyers put their names down to go the distance across the catalogue of rams and some outstanding prices were achieved right to the end.

In a massive selling effort, there were 213 Poll Merinos offered and 209 sold to average \$1421, while of the 135 Merino rams offered, 126 sold to average \$1163.

As it so often does however, the top price ram of the sale emerged in the first run of rams and it was to another stud when lot five (a Poll Merino ram) sold for \$5100.

Richard and Willa Steel, Carribber stud, Southern Cross, ensured they got their pick when they started looking for a new stud sire and it was lot five which to them clearly had the credentials.

"We bought a sire from here two years ago and were very pleased with him and how he bred," they said.

"That ram went on to breed the top price ram in our recent sale so he certainly did the job."

The Steels said they were looking at a Kolindale sire



□ Kolindale stud principal Luke Ledwith (left), holds the \$5100 top price ram at the Kolindale on-property ram sale on Monday. With him were his father Matthew Ledwith, top price ram buyers Willa and Richard Steel, Carribber stud, Southern Cross and Elders stud stock manager Tim Spicer.

which had different genetics for them and the top price ram was from Collinsville bloodlines which fitted the bill.

"He has nice free growing white wool and visually he has great size and conformation," they said.

Figures wise, the top Poll measured 21.2 micron, 3.2 SD, 15.1 CV and 99.4 per cent comfort factor.

Topping the sale in the Merino portion of the catalogue at \$3500 was a ram also situated in the top end of

the catalogue at lot two.

Cramphorne Farms, Muntadgin, was the successful purchaser of the ram as well as a further two at \$3000 and \$2800, which were also in the first run.

Kyran Starceвич, Cramphorne Farms, said they had been buying at Kolindale for about 10 years and they bought the best rams they could to use in a nucleus flock to breed their own rams.

"We wanted sires with really good size and the type of wool which suited our dryer conditions," he said.

"Big, bale filler types was what we selected for today."

The Starceвич's operation sees 5000 Merino ewes mated annually.

The top Merino ram was March shorn and of Lewisdale blood and had wool test

figures of 19.1 micron, 3.7 SD, 19.4 CV and 99.5pc CF.

Also paying \$3500 for a ram was Lockerbie Trading, Beverley, which paid the sum for a Poll ram that was part of a team of three rams all up for which the company paid an average of \$2773.

Elders auctioneer Preston Clarke, who shared the marathon selling duties with fellow Elders auctioneer Nathan King, said the sale flowed extremely well and buyers were enjoying the virtues of a good season and investing in their ram purchases this year.

"It's certainly a good environment at the moment and people can definitely see the benefits of purchasing top quality, dual-purpose Merino

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## KOLINDALE MERINO AND YANDA WHITE SUFFOLK ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE (Under the hammer results)

	offered	sold	top	gross	average
Poll Merino	213	209	\$5100	\$297,000	\$1421
Merino	135	126	\$3500	\$146,600	\$1163
Total	348	335	\$5100	\$443,600	\$1324
White Suffolk	104	104	\$1950	\$144,150	\$1386

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rams," Mr Clarke said.

"Both the Merino meat and wool market are looking very good for a while to come, so buyers are keen to capitalise on that.

"They were willing to step up and pay a bit more for their ram purchases this year, which resulted in a very fluent and successful sale for the Ledwith family."

With such an array of rams to peruse, the majority of the buyers put together good size teams which suited their individual type and style according to their operation's focus.

Needless to say the Kolindale stud put up rams which transcended various market specifications and this was clearly appreciated by the list of registered buyers which came from all over the State.

The volume buyer across the sale Rutledge Pastoral, Illawarra, New South Wales, selected a whopping 45 rams from the shed paying to a top



of \$1200 and an average of \$689.

Likewise RF & A Kett, Bencubbin, put together a team of 28 rams paying to a top of \$1200 (paid twice) and an average of \$750 across the team.

Ensuring they achieved their first choice each time was C & M Hill, Gnowangerup, who not only put together an impressive team of 17 rams but paid an outstanding average of \$2235.

Also carefully selecting and ensuring they bid to buy the rams they chose was Brooklands Park Pastoral, East Pingelly, which took home 15 rams paying to a top of \$2100 at an average of \$1307.

Averages continued to stay high and Marlu Farms, Hyden, paid an impressive average of \$1707 for a ute full of 14 Kolindale sires, while PM & MD Barrett, Jerramungup, bought 13 for a \$1508 average.

Woodlands Farm, Yealering, also bought 13 paying an average of \$1562.

Represented at the sale by Landmark agent and Brindley-Gale Agencies co-principal Peter Gale, Chilwell, Esperance, had 15 rams knocked down to its account and for these it paid to a top of \$1600 and average of \$893.

A & A Di Russo & Sons, Hyden, put 10 rams in their ute at the end of the day and these rounded out at an average of \$1670, while E & H Tomsic, South Perth, also bought 10 rams at a notable \$1320 average.

Corrigin farmers MG & M Leach, put together a team of nine rams paying to a top of

Kolindale stud principal Luke Ledwith (left), holds the \$3500 top price Merino of the stud's on-property ram sale. He is pictured with buyer Kyran Starcevich, Cramphorne Farms, Muntadgin, Kolindale stud connection Colin Lewis and Elders stud stock auctioneer Nathan King.

\$2400 and average of \$1633 while a trip from Pingelly for Dryandra Farms resulted in eight rams for the operation for which it paid an average of \$1263.

Six buyers bought seven rams apiece at the sale and these included AH Chisolm & Co, Ongerup, (\$2100 average), RBY Mouritz, Hyden, (\$1670 average), VS & J Brown, Hyden, (\$1271 average), Somerford Park, Trayning, (\$1886 average), GC & MD Orchard, Wickopin, (\$1114 average) and Karradale Farm, Karragullen, (\$1057 average).

You wouldn't be blamed for thinking that such high prices and averages paid across a catalogue of 350 rams could not be sustained but the pace of the sale was unrelenting and the top money continued to be paid by buyers across the State.

BR West & Co, Lake King, took home six rams averaging \$1567, as did Willmott & Son, Cuderdin, who paid an \$1880 average for their five.

Tyjon Pty Ltd, Kulin, bid up and secured five rams at a \$1740 average, while Bond Bros, Quairading, paid a \$1520 average for their five and AT & MD Pauley, Pingelly, averaged \$1040 for another five.

Other buyers who paid top dollar included DP Dunbar & Co, Southern Cross, who bought five to average \$1140 and KJ & BI Couper, Hyden,



Kolindale stud principal Luke Ledwith (left), recently took over the Yanda White Suffolk stud from previous principal John Argent and enjoyed a very successful first ram sale. The White Suffolks topped at \$1950 which was sold by Landmark auctioneer Mark Warren and purchased by Landmark Wickopin and Kulin livestock agent Ty Miller, on behalf of Wayne and Tara Pittard, Bremer Bay.

took home four at \$2600, \$2300, \$2000 and \$1500.

#### Yanda White Suffolks

After almost four hours of selling the Kolindale Merino and Poll Merino offering, it was finally time to sell the stud's latest addition, the Yanda White Suffolk ram offering.

The sale didn't miss a beat from the cracking pace the Merinos had set as the Landmark team, headed by auctioneer Mark Warren, launched into a fast and furious offering of 104 outstanding White Suffolk rams.

They sold all 104 to great competition from start to finish, adding up a total gross of \$144,150 and achieving an impressive average of \$1386.

The recent addition of the White Suffolk breed and well-regarded Yanda genetics was clearly a winning move for the Ledwith family's Kolindale stud, which brought a new client base to their annual on-property sale and offered a more diverse range of rams for existing clients.

Landmark auctioneer Mark Warren said the quality of the rams was consistent through the entire catalogue, which was reflected in the excellent average and total clearance.

"The sale was very strong due to the fantastic quality of White Suffolk rams, which met great buying support from a previously established and loyal client base," Mr Warren said.

"Everyone knew they could bid with confidence because the quality of the rams from start to finish was outstanding, and at a level Luke is keen to continue to build upon."

One particular ram proved to be slightly more popular than the others, the fourth sire offered, a large-framed, meaty ram that attracted plenty of bids from a number of keen buyers.

But it was Landmark Wickepin and Kulin livestock agent Ty Miller that managed to secure the 111.5kg sire for the top price of \$1950, on behalf of clients Wayne and Tara Pittard, Bremer Bay.

Mr Miller liked the look of the White Suffolk sire for its excellent muscling and long body, making sure he

purchased it for the Pittards, who have been using Yanda rams for the past four years.

"He was the best ram in a top line-up of rams, so it was hard to split them," Mr Miller said.

Measuring 36.2 in the eye muscle and a fat score of 4.5, the ram was built for positive breeding and was soon joined by a second sire for the trip to Bremer Bay after Mr Miller purchased a 120kg ram for \$1600.

There were plenty of clients looking to buy bulk breeding power at the sale, with the 17 other buyers all taking home two or more rams.

Most notable was Landmark's Brindley and Gale agent Peter Gale, Esperance, who was nodding his trademark akubra hat on a regular basis to secure a total of 15 White Suffolk rams on behalf of loyal volume buyers Simon and Robyn Fowler, Chilwell, Condingup.

After racking up a substantial Merino and Poll Merino bill to the Chilwell account in the first part of the Kolindale sale, Mr Gale had no hesitations paying a top of \$1500 on two occasions in his quest to purchase the 15 rams the Fowlers required.

That meant he loaded a total of 30 Merino, Poll Merino and White Suffolk rams into the trailer at the end of the day, bound for the Fowler property.

Not far behind him in the White Suffolk section was G & GL Varone, Kulin, who purchased a total of 12 rams, while Lake Grace buyers and regular clients JG & JD Smith and AW Cameron both continued chasing Yanda genetics, taking home eight rams each.

Those in the market for seven White Suffolk sires included Denabling Grazing, Narrogin, ND & OF Grieve, Cuballing and TF & JM Robinson Pty Ltd, York.

Stud principal Luke Ledwith was overjoyed at the result and thanked all the previous Yanda clients and new ones for their support at their first sale.

"I'd like to particularly thank the Yanda clients that supported the Argent family



Kevin (left) and Craig Cousins, West Popanyinning, were keen to return to Kolindale for their fourth year to buy the latest Poll Merino genetics offered by the stud.

initially and have continued to support us after we took on the stud," Mr Ledwith said.

"I think the rams presented very well and are some of the best White Suffolk genetics in the State, so that is what we

want to build upon.

"We plan to increase the numbers and continue with the well-established breeding lines the Argent family began with, and keep improving the genetics."



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