

Leahcim Poll Merinos continue roller coaster ride

Andrew and Rosemary Michael and family continued their amazing forward momentum with another outstanding result at their Leahcim Poll Merino sale last week. A large crowd that included 42 registered buyers competed very strongly for a high quality offering of paddock reared and performance recorded Poll Merinos.

The performance of the Leahcim Poll Merinos is such that buyers keep coming back to compete for these genetics. When lined up against traditional housed and show fed rams, some criticise these sheep rather than analyse their many benefits and performance they have. In opening the sale, Leahcim principal Andrew Michael expressed excitement about the stud's progress and in reference to some young ET ram lambs on display, plus others in the sale, he said, "Some people say these sheep don't cut enough wool, but these ET ram lambs cut 4kgs of 17 micron and 75mm staple length wool at 5 months."

In the sale's main auction, 71 of 74 rams sold to rapid fire bidding, achieving a top of \$4,500 and average of \$1,864. The entire offering went to commercial breeders, with competition coming from 3 states.

This result was even above last year's outstanding sale with a \$250 lift in the top price and a \$118 lift in the average while also selling 9 more rams.

The mini auction that followed allowed buyers on lower budgets to top up their buying needs and saw another 24 rams clear to \$1,025 and average \$676.

Leahcim also offered some stud ewes for the first time, with all 109 offered finding homes for an \$82.57 average. In all, the sale gross was \$38,515 above last year's outstanding result.

Craig Keller, Tintinara got the sale off on a top note by going to \$4,200 to purchase the outstanding ram offered at lot 1. However, it was one of the 8 young ET ram lambs that topped the sale, coming in at lot 17 and being knocked down to Bill Walker, Classings Ltd on behalf of Mike Welke, Esperence, WA. Mr Welke was present at the sale and bid successfully through Mr Walker for 6 rams in total, at a \$2,917 average. Last year he purchased 4 rams including the top at \$4,250.

NSW buying support came from 2 quarters; with Buckville Park through Elders Narrabri purchasing 3 rams, while Ron and Robyn Chudleigh, Bigga purchased 2 rams through Elders Crookwell office. The 5 NSW bound rams were purchased at a \$1,860 average, almost spot on the overall sale average.

The volume buyer was Pauline Crawford, Weekeroo Station, Mannahill and buying through Elders Peterborough office. She purchased 8 rams from \$800 to \$1,800 in the main auction and then added a further 9, all at \$600 from the mini auction. Weekeroo purchased 17 rams last year to also be the highest volume buyer then.

DJ & LK Ebsary, Barunga Gap and buying through Landmark Snowtown, purchased 4 in the main auction from \$800 to \$2,000, later adding 2 more in the mini auction. Andrew Mitchell, Mintaro also purchased 6 in total, including 4 in the main auction,

paying to \$1,100. HT Harslett, Gladstone was the only other buyer to secure 4 rams in the main auction, paying from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Yorke Peninsula support was strong with Rob Germein, Pt Vincent and Noel Polkinghorne, Curramulka purchasing 3 top rams each. Mr Germein paid to \$2,400 and averaged \$2,233 for his purchases, while Mr Polkinghorne also paid to \$2,400 and averaged \$1,700.

Brian Jeffries, Jeffries Consulting, Myrtle Bank purchased 2 top rams A/c RD Willson, Kingscote at \$3,600 and \$2,400. Also strong at the top end of the sale were Scott Davidson, Naracoorte (2 rams at \$3,800 and \$2,200) and the Graetz Family Trust, Mundulla (2 rams at \$3,250 and \$2,200).

Sale Summary

Main Auction

Offered	74 Poll Merino rams	Sold	71	(62 in 2006)
Top price	\$4,500 (\$4,250 in 2006)	Ave price	\$1,864	(\$1,746 in 2006)

Mini Auction

Offered	35 rams	Sold	24
Top price	\$160	Ave price	\$82.57

Stud ewes

Offered	109	Sold	109
Top price	\$160	Ave price	\$82.57

Agents Elders Ltd, Clare & Jon Reinke Agencies, Landmark Snowtown

Auctioneers Craig Shearer (Elders) and Malcolm Scroop (Landmark)



1. Landmark auctioneer Malcolm Scroop is pictured at the Leahcim Poll Merino ram sale with key buyers Craig Keller, Tintinara (2nd top priced ram @ \$4,200); Pauline Crawford, Weekeroo Station, Mannahill (volume buyer purchasing 17 rams in total); Mike Welke, Esperence, WA (6 rams including the \$4,500 sale topper); and Bill Walker, Classings Ltd, Murray Bridge, who purchased for Mike Welke.



2. Key Yorke Peninsula buyers were Noel Polkinghorne, Curramulka and Rob Germein, Pt Vincent who purchased 3 top rams each at the Leahcim Poll Merino ram sale.



3. Leahcim principal Andrew Michael is with Peter Rolestone, Elders Clare manager and NSW buyers Robyn and Ron Chudleigh, Bigga, who purchased 2 rams at \$1,800 and \$1,600 at the Leahcim Poll Merino ram sale.



4. Stewart Michael with NSW based buyers, Lizz & Bill Holcombe, Buckulla Park, Burren Junction. They purchased 3 rams paying to \$2,500