

# LEAHCIM NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter No.15



July 2017

## White Suffolks & Poll Merinos

### *Welcome*

We are halfway through the year; one that continues to present very positive market signals allowing sheep producers at all levels to achieve very good returns.

It is also a time when we have more and more industry developments that help us achieve greater returns with less effort; allow us to work smarter, not harder, bringing greater enjoyment to those who run sheep.

It is a great time to invest in the future with top performance and easy care genetics.

We enjoy the challenges of seedstock breeding and bringing to you, our greatly valued clients, superior genetics every year, not only breeding for our future, but also yours.

We trust you find value in the updates included in this newsletter and look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible at one of the venues below, and/or our annual sale.

Regards; Andrew, Rosemary, Luke,  
Stewart & Alistair Michael, 'Leahcim',  
Snowtown, SA

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We encourage you to regularly check out our website for updated information

[www.leahcim.com.au](http://www.leahcim.com.au)

## Leahcim's 2017 Calendar of Events

- ★ Displaying – Bendigo ASBA – Friday 14th to Sunday 16th July
- ★ Hamilton Sheepvention – Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th August
- ★ Adelaide Royal – Friday 1st to Sunday 10th September
- ★ Leahcim's Snowtown Poll Merino Sale – Tuesday 12th September
- ★ Leahcim's Snowtown White Suffolk Sale - Friday 15th September



## Leahcim - Past and Present

Over the last twelve months we have seen some amazing weather events and changes within our business. This newsletter covers a cross-section of the changes at Leahcim and also touches on where to from here. Leahcim genetics throughout the world have reached heights that we thought was almost impossible to achieve (see more on this in the article on our Chile trip).

Our family has purchased the original Hummocks Station and with the help of many people we have built a boutique Caravan Park to add to the B&B and Function Centre on Hummocks Station. We will also cover some of the personal achievements within our business that we are very proud of.

Panlatinga, our south east property, is having one of the best starts encountered for many years and Luke said one of his neighbours thought it was the best he had seen in the area for thirty years. Luke and Kathryn have implemented some pasture management changes and the farm is looking a treat.

Planting some winter wheats and Kikuyu last year has made a big difference to the grazing structure on their farm. Panlatinga is where nearly all the stud ewes are lambed down. This year we had a 20% increase in multiples in our pregnancy testing results which we hope will be reflected in increased progeny being available in 2018. Information on one of the positive effects from increasing fat and muscle and how that improves early maturity and pregnancy rates is also included in this newsletter.

Stewart and Jemma had an addition to the family; Heidi Lee was born on the 22nd February and she is settling in well. Over the last few years Stewy has been chasing his dream of flying, in conjunction with farming. We are very proud of what he has achieved. He now has his commercial licence and in the last few months has obtained his Ag rating.

Stewy also has his aerobatics endorsement; this being a great skill to have when he is working in the Ag aircraft. Stewy achieved all the theory results by correspondence while managing the cropping and maintenance program for Leahcim Farming.



↑ Loading Stewy in Agwagon for our mouse baiting program.

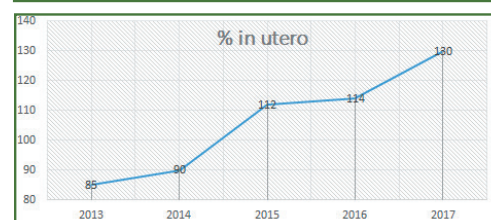
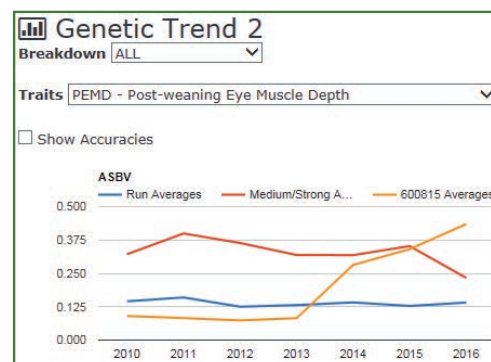
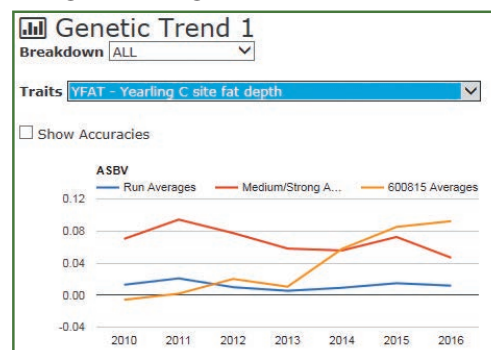
With our crazy dream of buying Hummocks Station and building a caravan park, over the last four months Alistair has been left to totally manage the sheep and genetic program in the north. (He tells me that it has never been run better!) Alistair and I went to Chile in February to class the Marin family's sheep breeding operation which is a very enjoyable but humbling experience. Some of the work Alistair is doing with the Jivet programs and skin testing is taking Leahcim genetics to the next level. Understanding and producing animals that can adapt to a wide range of climatic and environmental conditions, while having a strong Animal Welfare focus has always been and will always be the centerpiece of our breeding direction.

## Why should we believe ASBVs will make a difference to our profits?

At Leahcim we have been very focused on selecting genetics that are the present profit drivers for all sheep producer businesses while also identifying where our industry is likely to be in the future. As an industry we need to increase our Australian flock numbers with sheep that work with animal welfare issues, the processors and the end users of our products.

With the current high prices for all sheep meat and wool products it's important that we understand that while some of those prices are driven by limited supply, some are also coming from using superior genetics and good management. Some of the variation in wool prices is driven by wool quality, with a 200 cent/ kg price spread within the same micron range for different wool qualities. The same can be said for 'unmulesed' wools with a possible 70 cents a kg price advantage (selecting sires with negative ASBVs for breech wrinkle e.g.: 123153 Ebwr -1.45 with a 94% accuracy). I saw one line of 80 bales from one of our clients that had been accredited with RWS (responsible wool standards) achieve that 70 cent wool price advantage.

One area we have placed strong selection pressure on over the last 7 years at Leahcim in both the White Suffolks and Poll Merinos has been the balance of fat and muscle while maintaining early growth. In last year's newsletter we showed that our White Suffolk ewe lamb mating results had achieved an 88% pregnancy rate (300 mated at 5 to 8 months of age with 36 dry). The graphs below show very clearly in our Poll Merino flock how using ASBVs with high accuracies can return higher productivity and gives strong verification of the use of ASBVs.



These 34 day matings with no teasers used, show the gains that can be made in a short period. We use a short mating program to reduce the spread of lambing and to increase the accuracies of our data.

Research has shown that if we shift our maturity pattern to an earlier age (200 days from 300 days) by identifying higher Pwwt, Pfat & Pemd, we will end up with higher fertility and a higher yielding carcass.

The balanced use of ASBVs and visual selection has helped us make measured consistent gains within our two studs.



## Chile classing

The Marin family purchased six rams at Leahcim in September 2016; two White Suffolks and four Poll Merinos for their breeding program in Chile. Pepe and Ada made a special trip to Australia to attend our sale and purchase these rams. The rams then underwent a quarantine program in Dubbo and arrived in Chile in March just after Alistair and Andrew returned home to Australia. It was five years since our last classing trip to the Marin family farms and the results in Chile were very pleasing.

It is interesting to observe while in Chile that they are looking for the same genetic improvements as our Australian clients (increased early growth, fat and muscle while maintaining a superior quality wool with a wool production level that works in harmony with their business). The Marin family business, that includes a state of the art abattoir, was particularly interested in the development of eating quality markers, allowing them to offer these advantages to their branded meat products to clients throughout the world.

The Marin business has undertaken a major export of their Poll Merino sheep to Ecuador with consignments of rams and ewes (2000 in each air consignment freighted). These sheep were purchased by the Ecuadorian government for their indigenous people to produce both meat and wool.

As I said in the introduction, Leahcim genetics have reached new heights! These sheep will be living in an area that is 3800m to 4200m above sea level and receives metres of rain. We believe that these Poll Merinos are living at the highest altitude of any Merino sheep in the world). Pepe said the sheep adapted to the extreme environment and climate very quickly.



← Pepe and Ada's son Jose pictured in the plane loaded to take the sheep to Ecuador.

Jose Marin with the Leahcim bloodline sheep after arrival in Ecuador. ↓



## School wether competition & Trials

Leahcim has been, and continues to be a great supporter of any trial or competition where sheep are compared using performance measurements, and then offers some education for the people involved (especially the younger people).

At the 2017 Adelaide Royal show we will have three schools displaying wethers from Leahcim, while other Leahcim blood wethers from our clients have being offered to schools from throughout the state. This is a great competition of Merino

sheep, with the value of their meat, wool and skins going towards the prize placings for the pens of three wethers.

For the first time the carcass, or meat value will be assessed using a combination of weight, fat and muscle measurement to gain a carcass yield value. The 2016 show had over 40 pens of three wethers from all areas of the state, creating a great spectacle with just under 130 sheep lined up in one area. Our SA Stud Merino Breeders Association states that no bloodlines should be advertised with the results from this competition, yet for the last few years some members of that committee have advertised their results. All I would like to say is congratulations to Urrbrae Agricultural School for having the highest value carcass group within this 2016 competition.



↑ The big line-up of wethers at Adelaide Royal in the Schools Merino Wether competition.

Andrew at back right with the Urrbrae Agricultural School team and their pen of 3 that achieved the blue ribbon for highest carcass values. ↓



**Trials:** Leahcim has entered three rams (132624, 153234 and 152775) in three different sire evaluation trials throughout Australia in 2017.

In April we attended the Balmoral Sire Evaluation Trial in Victoria where there were many sheep with Leahcim genetics on display. I must congratulate all the people involved with this trial for the professional way it is run and the sheep displayed. With the hundreds of sheep on display, I never cease to be amazed by the power of genetics.

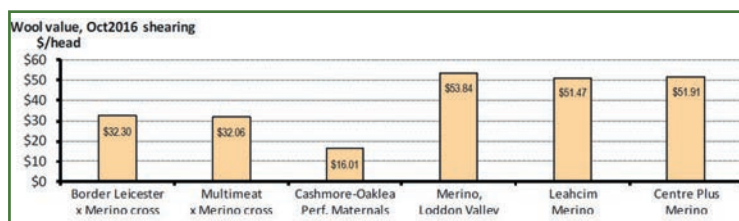
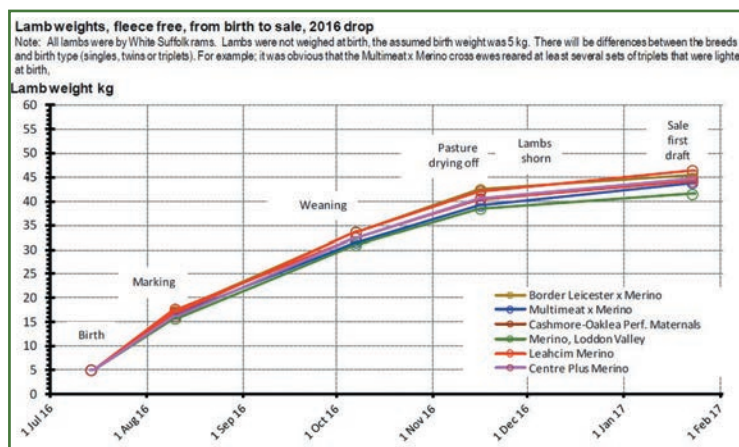
The sheep performed very close to where their high accuracy ASBV data indicated, whether good or poorer. There was one pen of lambs that entered the trial with very little objective data, but was sired by a ram that was grand champion at several major shows.

The 'shed fed' show preparation that the ram had undergone had obviously influenced this sire's appearance and growth to the point that it misled some breeders about its genetic potential as a sire. The sad part was the progeny also had some structural problems that I feel would have been hidden on the sire by its unnatural feeding program. This show champion had matured into a big ram, yet his progeny had some of the lowest growth rates with very little fat and muscle. The key message and the great benefit of these trials is to be able to see and compare sheep run under the same environmental conditions!

Two years ago three of our clients entered some ewe lambs in the Elmore ewe breeding trial; one that compares ewes from a large range of breeds being mated to common sires over a 4 or 5 year mating program. The progeny are measured for a wide range of traits over this period.

The October 2016 graph top right shows the growth rates of the White Suffolk lambs out of the ewe lambs entered in the Elmore trial and the wool values of the different groups. It would be interesting to do a comparative wool value of the different groups now.

This trial is only in its early stages so we will be following the results in the coming years with special interest.



## Leahcim genetics

For many years Leahcim has been focusing on producing one type of animal within each of our two studs and we feel we are close to achieving that goal. However, I would like to explain what I mean by that. Firstly all sheep should have the same structural 'make and shape' with good feet, legs, topline, butt shape, mouth and smooth shoulders on a moderate frame (not too big).

Also, all sheep should have a high quality skin, whether they have 15-18 fibres per square millimetre (White Suffolk), or 60-120 fibres per square millimetre (Poll Merino) and they should be open faced. Our White Suffolks and Poll Merinos should tick all these boxes, with final genetic selections being made using informed performance data.

All Leahcim genetics have parentage DNA, highly accurate ASBV information derived from a mountain of raw data collected from these animals and their siblings. We are extremely confident that any Leahcim client can select our genetics knowing they are sound, functional and match their data, meaning they and their progeny can be predictably bred.

At Leahcim, we are maximizing our genetic gains by the use of advanced breeding technologies such as Jivet, ET, plus mating large numbers of ewe lambs to further shorten generation turnover. The tables below show a cross section of ram lambs from both breeds used at 9 months of age over our top ewe lambs in this year's mating program. The red figures indicate top 10% on Merino Select & Lambplan data bases.

Tag	Sire	Pwwt	Ywt	Pfat	Pemd	YCFW	YFD	YSL	Dress	IMF	SF5	DP+
<b>162061</b>	123153	6.2	8.6	0.9	1.5	22.6	0.0	12.8	1.9	-0.1	-0.5	158
<b>162170</b>	123153	6.0	7.9	0.8	1.6	20.7	-1.2	15.7	2.1	0.1	-0.4	165
<b>162173</b>	142072	4.2	5.9	0.9	1.9	21.1	-1.4	16.3	2.2	0.3	-1.6	164
<b>162744</b>	142983	3.6	5.2	1.3	3.0	17.0	0.1	15.2	2.4	0.0	-1.9	151
<b>162793</b>	143641	6.7	8.5	0.4	0.3	16.0	-1.1	11.9	1.1	-0.1	1.9	156
<b>162824</b>	142090	5.4	7.4	0.4	0.6	22.6	-1.4	14.3	1.5	0.0	0.3	160
<b>162929</b>	120103AN	8.6	10.8	1.4	2.2	20.0	-0.7	12.8	1.9	0.0	0.7	173
<b>163206</b>	143567	5.0	7.2	0.4	0.8	19.6	-0.1	14.1	1.1	-0.4	1.1	150
<b>163254</b>	132722	5.7	7.0	0.7	1.4	18.4	0.2	14.4	1.5	-0.3	1.0	151
<b>163266</b>	122934	7.2	9.3	0.7	0.9	17.9	-1.1	12.9	1.4	0.0	1.1	155

← Table 1:  
Poll Merinos

Our Poll Merino sale rams at shearing. ↓

Tag	Wwt	Pwwt	Pfat	Pemd	CP+	EQ	LEQ
<b>160012</b>	11.6	18	-0.4	2.4	219	145.9	146.6
<b>160020</b>	10.2	16.2	-0.2	2.7	212	142.3	142.5
<b>160026</b>	10.6	16.6	-0.2	2.7	214	144.6	144.7
<b>160027</b>	11.5	18	-0.3	1.5	208	142.7	142.9
<b>160042</b>	10.9	17.2	-0.2	2.4	214	144.8	144.9

← Table 2:  
White Suffolks



This year we are increasing the rams available at both the on-property ram sales, thus maximizing the selection choices for clients attending either sale.



## Hummocks Station

Our family took ownership of the historic Hummocks Station on the 1st of December.

Rosemary and I went on a holiday to Darwin in July 2016 and during that trip realized how recognized Snowtown was for the wrong reasons. While booking in at caravan parks and naming our town of residence nearly every person knew of Snowtown but it was for the wrong reason.

Since the 'bodies in the barrel' brand has followed Snowtown, we felt it was time to develop a positive venture for Snowtown and our community. The Hummocks Station joins our home farm on the western side and is only 3 km from Snowtown.

It has a great history that officially started off back in 1851 with sheep and has been owned by some of Australia's greatest pioneering families. Steve and Ann Aldridge, who we have known for many years, agreed to come and help us develop the Hummocks Station Bed & Breakfast and Function Centre along with a Caravan Park.

The Historic Homestead (built in the early 1860s) and the out buildings, that include the restored Shearers Quarters and Caravan Park, can cater for 80 people at functions and accommodate around 50 people. Hummocks Station has a great web site that gives a brief history and general information regarding the facilities on the Station.

Hummocks Station was the first property to run sheep north of Adelaide after colonization. It is the gateway to Australia's southern outback, yet is only one and a half hours from Adelaide.



↑ *The Hummocks Station shearers' quarters converted into high quality accommodation.*



← *Soak up the tranquility and history at the new Hummocks Station caravan park.*

If you are travelling through South Australia, or considering attending any of our ram sales and need accommodation in the area give Steve or Ann a call on **0427 243 348**, or email Hummocks Station ([stay@hummocksstation.com.au](mailto:stay@hummocksstation.com.au)).

## Northbank Fishing Competition

Alistair and I again entered the Northbank fishing competition at Wallaroo, the ninth time this event has been run. Below is our brag picture. We were very lucky to have success this year, winning the main prize of the biggest Snapper, Whiting and Crab with the longest combined length!

Thanks to Rob Cuming and Northbank for a great day.



↑ *Rob Cuming with Andrew & Alistair with their competition winning snapper.*

*The following two sale reports are as appeared in the press last September*

## Leahcim continues to lead

For the Michael family it was the 28th time they have gone through the lead up to an annual ram sale, but despite the rain, none of those previous experiences could dampen their enthusiasm and excitement for this one, and even more so with the result that followed.

Clearly being recognised as a national leading stud in the adoption of scientific developments and full performance measurement, buyers from every state of Australia and overseas flocked to this sale to compete for the strength of proven genetics in the rams on offer.

The end result was again outstanding, with a total and rapid fire clearance of all 228 rams on offer for a fantastic average of \$2733. That was \$18 up on last year, despite 28 more being offered and a significantly lower top price.

That top price was \$10,000, with only nine rams exceeding \$5000, so there was no extremely high price to boost the average. Rather it was the evenness of the offering, combined with the belief the many repeat clients have in the productive advantages they get, that drove the demand and the consistently good prices achieved throughout. 65% of the offering sold between \$2000 and \$4000.

It was the late decision by the Michael family to add an extra 28 rams from their originally catalogued 200 that achieved their desired wish of bringing value and sufficient supply to their loyal local regular clients.

The average of \$3816 for the first 50 rams altered little as the sale went on, being \$3550 at 100 rams and still \$3276 at 150. The first ram to sell under \$2000 was not until lot 139 and the first one that sold for less than \$1000 was lot 179. However, 19 sold for \$1000 or less by the end of the sale and this catered for those with lower budgets.



There were 66 registered bidders with 56 successful in purchasing rams of their choice. Leading the way was the one international buyer present. Pepe Marin, Ganadera Marin, Punta Arenas, Chile included the Adelaide Royal judging in his pre-sale schedule before attending this sale.

He paid the \$10,000 top price for lot 2, L152719, a 15 month old youngster with great structure and type, backed up by an outstanding set of performance figures. These were a catalogue leading +28.8 for yearling clean fleece weight, the third best +18.2 for staple length, plus a very high +8.8 for yearling weight. He then backed up that purchase with two more at \$5800 and \$6000, both also at the very top end for performance figures. The Marin flock has been using Leahcim genetics since 1997 and has an influence on 50% of Chile's sheep flock.



↑ Pictured with the \$7000 second top price at the Leahcim Poll Merino ram sale are Andrew & Alistair Michael, Leahcim, Snowtown, purchasers Paul & Jen Goering, Lukin Springs, Boyup Brook, WA, and Rosemary Michael.

Also kicking in from Western Australia was the Welke family's Westwood stud, Cascade. Bidding through Classings Bill Walker they paid \$5200 for L152316 with outstanding balanced figures across the board, including +22.5 for yearling clean fleece weight.

The Pengilly family, Penrose Pastoral, Esperence was another ram breeding flock to bid up strongly. They paid the top price at the 2014 sale, but this year purchased volume with five rams to \$3400 and at a \$2700 average.

Commercial WA producers and long term Leahcim supporters, the Foss family, Bruce Rock and represented by Phil Foss purchased nine rams, paying to \$3000 and averaging \$2256 average. Phil is adamant that rams of this quality simply aren't available elsewhere and is more than happy to travel over to purchase these rams that suit their requirements.

Bruce Michael, outlaid \$5600 for the first ram offered, L152108 for the 'Murrayfield' flock on Bruny Island to put Tasmania on the buyers' map from the beginning. The Hooke family, Willera Merino stud, Serpentine was the most prominent of top end Victorian buyers with three rams to \$5000 and at a \$4333 average.

Highlighting value gained through patience, Roger Wheaton purchased 12 rams, all at \$800 for R & C Martin, Swan Hill, Victoria, all these coming in the last 40 lots.

Queensland was represented on the buyers' list by Moonjaree Pastoral Co, Moonjaree with two purchases at \$3400 and \$3200.



↑ Pictured with the \$10,000 top priced ram at the Leahcim Poll Merino ram sale are Landmark auctioneers Richard Miller & Gordon Wood (at back), Alistair and Andrew Michael, Leahcim, Snowtown, and purchasers, Ada & Pepe Marin, Punta Arenas, Chile.

Including the Chilean purchases, 29 rams sold to 12 stud ram breeding flocks and averaged \$4459. Paul and Jen Goerling, Lukin Springs stud, Boyup Brook paid the sale's second top of \$7000 in their two purchases, averaging \$6300. L153071 had wonderful balanced figures across the range including +22.4 for clean fleece weight, +6.6 for yearling weight and +0.9 for eye muscle depth.

The sale topping \$10,000 ram is pictured in the sale ring being auctioned during the Leahcim Poll Merino ram sale. ↓





However, by far the most prominent buying support from interstate came from New South Wales. Tony and Joel Smith, 'Tara,' Walgett run approximately 5000 Merino ewes in their self-replacing flock and were back again to top up their sire needs with the purchase of nine top rams, paying to \$3800 and averaging \$3020.



← Prominent NSW buyers at Leahcim were Tony and Joel Smith, 'Tara,' Walgett NSW. They purchased nine rams to \$3800 and are discussing their buying decisions with Leahcim senior principal Andrew Michael (centre).

Again, the biggest impact on the sale came from a group of 12 Australian Wool Network (AWN) clients. Purchasing through their AWN agents Mark Hedley, Denis Hewitt and Pat McNeill, they collectively accumulated 77 rams in strong bidding from the sale's beginning to the end. These included five of the top eight volume purchasers on the day.

Paspaley Rural, Coolah led the way with 18 rams to \$3000 and averaging \$1917. RA & SF McLean, Breadalbane were originally sceptical on the measured benefits of these Leahcim genetics, but after trialling them they are now strong advocates and purchased 14, paying to \$3200 and averaging \$2007. FJ Kelly Trust, Bowning operated on the top end, chasing the higher performers, their 10 rams averaging \$3140 and topping at \$4200. Averaging exactly the same and topping at \$4000 was Hollywood Pastoral Co, Crookwell, while the Collins family, K & A Grazing, also from Crookwell picked up seven to \$3600 and at a \$2600 average.

Buying through WISS agency in Melbourne, Ardenside Angus, Tooma, NSW was another prominent and repeat purchaser with seven rams to \$4000 and at a \$3371 ave, while Mumblebone Merino stud, Mumblebone, NSW with one ram at \$4000 was the only seedstock buyer from that state.

Local South Australian buyers were not blown away by the competition from other states and the successful buyers included a group from Orroroo and surrounding areas who have supported Leahcim from the very beginning. These included HT Harslett Rural, Gladstone with six rams to \$4600 and averaging \$3560, PJ & KL Ebsary, Barunga Gap, also six rams to \$3000 and averaging \$2517, and the Kuerschner family, Black Rock Ag, Orroroo with five rams at a \$2360 average.

Ray and Brad Schroeder, Gunallo stud, Pinaroo were fresh from topping the Classing Classic sale the week before and invested some of their earnings into purchasing two top rams, including L153052 for the sale's third top price of \$6200.

Bert and Dion Woolford, Karawatha Park, Kimba were particularly prominent, investing significantly with the purchase of six rams to \$5200 and at a \$3800 average for their Eyre Peninsula based ram breeding flock. Chris Prime, Nantoura stud, Wharminda was another active Eyre Peninsula stud, purchasing three rams to \$4200 and at a \$3733 average.

The Schwarz family, Pindari stud, Waterloo outlaid \$4800 for a top ram, and then combined with Hans Graetz, Pepper Well stud, Keyneton to pick up L153180, a ram with outstanding figures for \$5000.

Other prominent SA buyers included AC & H Michael, Quorn (five rams ave \$1560), P & V Molo, Roseworthy (five rams ave \$1700), Atkinson Livestock, Crafers and KI (five rams ave \$2580), Rundle Farming, Kulpara, (four rams ave \$3050), the Mitchell family, Chelwood Farming, Mintaro, (four rams ave \$2750), Arapunya Investments P/L (four rams ave \$2200), and ND & AM Jaeschke, Clare (four rams ave \$2300).

↓ Leahcim's Alistair Michael (3rd left) is pictured post sale with this group of seedstock buyers who collectively purchased 12 rams to \$6200 at the sale. They are Bert & Dion Woolford, Karawatha Park,



Kimba (6 rams); Chris Prime, Nantoura, Wharminda (3 rams); Bill Walker, Classings Ltd, Murray Bridge (1 ram for Westwood stud, WA); and Ray & Brad Schroeder, Gunallo, Pinnaroo (2 rams).

A delighted senior principal Andrew Michael said post sale, "This was a complete family effort with all members playing key roles in the success of our program, but most of all I am just blown away by the depth of quality people amongst our loyal commercial clients. Their commitment and enthusiasm is outstanding and they deserve every bit of the success they are getting. We are humbled that so many continue to travel so far to purchase our genetics and we can't thank them enough."

Sale Agents: Landmark Clare  
Auctioneers: Gordon Wood and Richard Miller

## Whites top off wonderful week

Andrew and Rosemary Michael and family topped off a wonderful sales week with a cracking White Suffolk ram sale at Snowtown in September, following on from their fantastic Poll Merino ram sale earlier in the same week.

They penned 127 Leahcim White Suffolk rams for competition from 35 registered and mainly long standing repeat bidders and were duly rewarded with a total clearance at a \$1206 average. This was up \$233 on last year's very solid sale.







Buying strength came from most mid north areas, plus the Adelaide Plains, Yorke Peninsula, Upper South East and Eyre Peninsula, while some significant interstate support came from Crookwell and Pooncarie in NSW and Swan Hill in Victoria. It was one of the largest crowds seen at the Leahcim White Suffolk sale for many years which was a reflection on the positivity within the lamb industry combined with a good season.

Two buyers shared the top price honours. The first ram offered went to Gerard Burns, Burnslea White Suffolks, Cummins, repeating his 2014 sale topping bid of \$4000. Also paying this year's equal sale top was long term Leahcim supporters, Paul and Yvonne Wurst, Appila. They also purchased two other top performance rams to average \$2400 for their three rams.

The biggest volume buying honours were also shared.

Fresh from selling his first draft of station country lambs on Auctions Plus three days before for \$110 straight off their mothers, regular volume buyer Craig Bell, Bono Station, Pooncarie also purchased 20 rams, averaging a great value \$895, while Kangarilla Station, Keith purchased 20 top rams to a \$2000 top and averaged \$1285.

Balanced Lambplan figures have long been the Michael family's breeding objective and their regular clients have

certainly appreciated and sought these. Leahcim has been working hard on improving yield and muscling conformation in the loin and hindquarter areas on their sheep, but have now also taken on board the latest meat eating quality areas of shear force and intramuscular fat.

Andrew Michael commented pre-sale that they had identified and used the three highest figured rams in Australia for carcase and eating quality ASBVs in their 2016 lambing. These will be available next year when they plan to offer around 150 rams to enable buyers to get quality, but still at good value.

Other prominent buyers included Humphris Family Trust, Gladstone (seven to \$1400 ave \$1100), Adam Jamieson, Adalis Pastoral, Barunga Gap (seven to \$1300 ave \$1129), Fordvale Pastoral, Strathalbyn (three to \$2100 and ave \$2066), Kadlunga Props, Clare (six ave \$900) and Anama Trustee, Clare (six ave \$983).

Sale Agents: Landmark  
Auctioneer: Gordon Wood



← Pictured after the Leahcim White Suffolk sale with the \$4000 equal top priced ram he bought was Gerard Burns, Cummins (2nd left), Landmark auctioneer Gordon Wood, Leahcim's Alastair Michael (holding ram) and Gerard's buying agent, Elders Clare's Peter Rolestone.



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