

New \$38,000 State record at Leahcim

Records and the Leahcim Poll Merino stud at Snowtown seem to go hand in hand and this year's sale was no exception.

A new on-property SA state record price of \$38,000 was set when Leahcim 111355 was purchased by Chad Burbidge, Murray Bridge and Gary Ferguson, Tintinara, representing the Superior Wool Syndicate. They outbid Bill Walker, Classings Ltd who was bidding for a WA syndicate comprising Scott Welke, Esperence, the Clark family Brookdale stud, Arthur River and Bruce Pengilly, Penrose stud, Esperence. This price was \$7000 above the previous SA on-property record of \$31,000 set by Lorelmo-Willalooka and was \$13,000 better than Leahcim's previous high individual ram price of \$25,000 achieved at the Classings Classic.

Sired by Leahcim 080187, the new record priced ram had wonderful Merino Select wool and carcase figures across the board, highlighted by a yearling fleece weight breeding value of +24 and eye muscle breeding value of +0.5.

Chad Burbidge said this was the best ram in the 200 strong catalogue for his all-round attributes and figures, but particularly for his length of body and wool staple. He said the ram will be mated to over 2000 ewes in this next mating by AI in Superior Wool Syndicate members' flocks.

Ray and Brad Schroeder, Gunallo stud Murrayville, Jed & Hugo Keller, Ramsgate stud Tintinara and the Paech family, Lucernebrae stud Callington all negotiated semen shares in this record ram.

This price was far above anything else at the sale, with \$7000 being the second top price, paid by two of the semen share partners in the top ram; Gunallo taking lot 1, L110190 and Ramsgate picking up L111545 at lot 11.

Last year demand was so strong that the prices were pushed up to what was believed to be a national on-property record average at the time of \$2988.50 for the 200 rams offered, with another 120 rams being sold privately the next day.

Leahcim principal Andrew Michael was delighted with this year's result, when 196 of the 200 sold for a much more affordable \$2123 average.

"When you take the stud ram purchases out it was even better for our long time regulars. We are delighted that all our loyal clients were able to get cheaper rams this year, or purchase a higher quality for the same budget," Andrew said.

A case in point was Rob Germein, Pt Vincent. He regularly buys top end quality rams and last year paid to \$4400 and averaged \$3667 for six purchases. This year he was able to purchase seven at a \$1943 average, selecting all in the first half of the catalogue and topping at \$3500.

Fourteen rams went to seedstock breeders and with these taken out, the average for the other 182 sold was \$1811, down over \$1100 on last year's sale.

There were buyers present from five states to appreciate this value. South Australian buyers accounted for half the offering.

The most prominent of these was the Atkinson family, Crafers who purchased 12 rams to \$2800 and at a \$2033 average, adding to the 13 they purchased last year. ML Jaeschke & Co, Clare was also active, buying eight rams to \$3500 and at a \$1963 average.

Colin Wegner Nominees, Callington and Rundle Farming Props, Kulpara purchased six and five rams respectively.

New South Wales buyers were very prominent last year and again this year. Fifteen individual buyers purchased a collective 70 rams, with a majority of these buying through the Australian Wool Network agency.

Sam Kelly, FJ Kelly Trust, Bowering was the biggest volume buyer in the sale, purchasing a total of 20 rams at an \$1835 average and paying to \$3000. Lumley Pastoral, Goulburn and Markdale Pastoral, Binda both purchased eight rams to \$3000 and \$1300 respectively, while Glensloy Pty Ltd, Young picked up five to \$2200 to be the bigger volume buyers amongst them.

GJ Warner, Wangaratta averaged \$3000 for two select rams to put Victoria on the Leahcim buyers' map, other than the Gunallo stud.

Staying east, two Queensland buyers made an impact. Anthony Glasson, Picarelli Pastoral Co, Thargomindah paid to \$2800 and averaged \$1529 for seven high quality rams, while Richard Beresford, Cunnamulla selected three of the best to \$4000 and at a \$2933 average.

Phillip Foss, Bruce Rock made a significant WA impact in the buying ledger, being the second highest volume buyer with 13 select rams. He operated to a \$2000 budget and with this year's better buying value, was able to average his purchases out at \$1246.

Despite missing the record ram, Bill Walker, Classings Ltd, Murray Bridge was successful in purchasing two select rams at \$4000 and \$4400 for the Welke family, Esperence, WA.

In thanking buyers, Andrew Michael said he was excited about the future of the industry and with Leahcim's productive commercial focus, he was particularly pleased to see commercial clients get good rams at value this year.

Sale Summary	2012	2011
Offered	200	200
Sold	196	200
Top	\$38,000	\$22,500
Average	\$2123	\$2988.50

Agents: Elders and Landmark

Auctioneers: Tom Penna and Gordon Wood



Leahcim's

Alistair Michael holds the impressive \$38,000 top priced ram at the Leahcim Poll Merino ram sale with Chad Burbidge (left), Murray Bridge and Gary Ferguson (right) Tintinara representing the successful Superior Wool Syndicate purchasers. Also pictured are Jed and Hugo Keller, Ramsgate stud, Tintinara (semen share purchaser), Elders auctioneer Tom Penna, Ray Schroeder, Gunallo stud, Murrayville (semen share purchaser) and Landmark auctioneer Gordon Wood. Gunallo and Ramsgate also purchased rams at the equal second top price of \$7000.



Buyers from five states made an impact on the buying ledger at the Leahcim Poll Merino ram sale. Pictured are Sam Kelly, 'Redhill', Bowering NSW (20 rams); Sam's AWN agent Mark Hedley, Goulburn, NSW; Anthony Glasson, Picarilli Pastoral Co, Thargomindah, Qld (seven rams); Phillip Foss, Bruce Rock, WA (13 rams); and Richard Beresford, Cunnamulla, Qld (three rams).