

# DETPA GROVE'S 21<sup>ST</sup> A REAL CELEBRATION

There is probably little argument that the Pipkorn family's Detpa Grove White Suffolk stud has been at, or very near the pinnacle of the meat sheep industry's seedstock breeding in this country in recent years. That status was reinforced in a large way last Thursday when the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Detpa Grove sale produced its best ever result.

244 head of magnificently bred and presented White Suffolk rams and ewes sold to a top of \$20,000 and averaged \$1,511. There have been higher individual animal sales in the past than the \$20,000 top price, such as the \$35,000 (2003) and \$36,000 (2005) Australian meat sheep industry record prices, but there has not been a Detpa Grove sale that has been so strong right through all drafts in the offering. The overall sale gross of \$368,800 exceeded their previous best gross in 2003 by some \$5,000.

The sale commenced with a superb line-up of young ewes that represented all the best Detpa Grove breeding lines. These were hot from the very first lot, with Graham King, Dowerin, WA, who connected via the Auctions Plus network winning the bidding for this high performance 'Distinction' daughter at \$1,400. He purchased 3 at a \$1,367 average.

However it was Jai Moar and Lilly Fulwood, Wyanbah White Suffolk stud, Armidale, NSW who put the real top end heat into the ewe sale. Jai was returning after purchasing top ewes at the 2007 Detpa Grove mated ewe sale and purchased 11 of the 30 special stud ewes to a top of \$2,600, and then added another 16 from the 52 ewes offered in pens of 4. The \$2,600 was a Detpa Grove record for ewes, even exceeding the \$1,900 paid by Gary Heilig, Montana, USA in 2007 for a proven mated ewe.

RG & JA Roberts, Pyramid Hill went to the sale's 2<sup>nd</sup> top ewe price of \$1,550 in purchasing 3 top ewes, while R Johanson, North Fitzroy, Vic was the other major volume buyer; coming in strongly on the later lots, purchasing 17 ewes from \$500 to \$700.

The 30 special ewes averaged a magnificent \$870 while the 52 graded stud ewes averaged \$565, with the 82 all up averaging \$677. Other key buyers included ADC & R Price, Glencoe, SA (5 to \$1,100), Damien Hawker, Kaniva (5 to \$850), EM McLean, Patchewollock (6 to \$500) and last year's volume ewe buyer, Kookaburra White Suffolks, Kyneton (5 to \$650).

If competition in the ewe offering was hot, it was scorching in the line up of 29 stud rams. Four sold for \$10,000 or more, with a further 10 from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and only 1 selling for under \$3,000. The middle ground buying strength was exceptional, in line with the quality. To best describe this offering, they were structurally very good and had excellent breed type, topped off by absolutely outstanding Lambplan performance figures. Post weaning weights ranged from +13.75 up to +18.18, fat ASBVs were in the moderately lean range, muscle ASBVs were all positive and went up to +2.37 and Carcase Plus indices averaged 198 and went up to 211.09! In opening the sale, Lambplan operator and Australian White Suffolk breed president Steve Milne mentioned the footprint Detpa Grove had made on the breed with 24% of all animals in the breed having a direct paternal and maternal linkage to Detpa Grove bloodlines.

John Jamieson, Finley, NSW got the stud ram offering off on a top note with a successful \$7,000 bid on the first ram offered, followed by Irvin Bros, Barellan taking the next at \$5,500. Both have had great success with Detpa Grove bloodlines, with the Irvins paying \$33,000 for DG 020419 at the 2003 sale.

Jim and Kim Prentice, Kurralea, Ariah Park, NSW and Bob and Idrienne Neill, Wheetelande, Farrell Flat, SA then combined to outlast the competition for DG 080518, an August drop and arguably the

pick ram of the offering visually, supported by great performance figures culminating in a C+ index of 204.54. They were pushed to the sale top of \$20,000 by a syndicate of the Ryeview, Glenarbian and Tattykeel studs. Detpa Grove is keeping a semen share in this ram.

Michael and Julie Osborne, Ryeview later went to \$7,250 for the highest figured ram in the catalogue, sired by DG 070546Tw, the same sire as for the top priced ram. His 3 stud sons in the catalogue averaged \$10,583, also being the sire of the top ram that was exported to China earlier in the year in the exciting venture the Pipkorns are involved in there with other investors.

Steve and Ros Funke, Bundara Downs, Western Flat, SA paid the second top price of \$18,000 for an impressive son of DG 070121, having an eye muscle ASBV of +2.05. Another South Australian to make a big mark on the result was Andrew Frick, Gypsum Hill stud, Padthaway, SA. He successfully bid \$11,000 to secure DG 080701, an August drop triplet also by DG 070121 and with super impressive structure and figures. As the 5<sup>th</sup> ram offered and in the context of the overall result, this ram was relatively cheap, with Detpa Grove also retaining a semen interest in this ram.

Coming off his own very successful sale the week before, Andrew Donnan, Anden White Suffolks, Woomelang, Vic purchased the highest muscled ram, DG 080297 for \$10,000 and the added DG 080559Triplet, another son of 070121 for \$8,500 in the next lot offered.

Paul Routley, Almond Vale stud, Urana, NSW grabbed an impressive son of DG 'Cracker' to be one of the bargains of the offering, while Bonnie Doone Partnership, Jerrybang paid \$8,000 & \$3,000 for 2 rams. Superior Selections, SA also purchased 2 rams for SA and WA clients. The 29 stud rams averaged an impressive \$6,207.

The flock ram offering continued in the same strong vein, but at top end commercial levels. Forty buyers were successful in picking up rams in this offering where the 133 rams on offer averaged a terrific \$1,002, ranging from a great value \$650 up to \$3,300. The \$3,300 top was paid by Kookaburra stud, Kyneton, Vic, having missed out in the stud ram offering; 6 other top flock rams also going for registration as stud rams.

JW & RD Sporn, Murrayville have been long term top end flock ram buyers from Detpa Grove and started their buying by outbidding stud breeders for the last ram in that section of the sale at \$3,000. They then added 7 more flock rams from \$850 to \$1,700 to average out their 8 outstanding performance rams at \$1,394.

The performance of the top Detpa Grove rams in the commercial industry keeps bringing regular buyers back year after year. Elders Bendigo have provided strong buying support for years; this year being no exception. The strongest Bendigo region buyer was again SJ & GM Wilson, who paid to \$1,100 in purchasing 10 top rams.

PPH & S Naracoorte agent Simon Mulraney last year purchased 38 rams for 4 clients and was strong again this year. Amongst his client base was Peter Irving, Irving Partnership, Edenhope who was the individual volume buyer, selecting 13 rams in total from \$700 to \$1,000 in great value buying.

F & S Gunther, Pyramid Hill purchased 8 rams from \$800 to \$1,000 while Noremac Partnership, Englefield purchased 7 from \$850 to \$1,200 to be very significant buyers on the day.

Other key flock ram buyers included AJ, BL & LJ Mann, Pyramid Hill (4 to \$1,200), Josh Pitt, Netherby (4 to \$1,300), SJ & LJ Poole, Berrimal (4 to \$1,000), D, J, D & A Wilson, Bridgewater (4 to \$900), CA & JM Ross, McKenzie Creek (4 to \$1,050), PW Spicer & Co, Watchem (4 to \$1,100), Lagoon Partnership, Englefield (4 to \$1,100), and DL & KL Croser, Penola, SA (3 from \$1,500 to \$1,850).

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**Sale summary****Stud ewes 2009**

Offered	82	84
Sold	82	67
Top	\$2,600	
Ave	\$677	\$360

**2008 Stud rams 2009**

Offered	29
Sold	29
Top	\$1,000
Ave	\$6,207

**2008**

Offered	27
Sold	27
Top	\$20,000
Ave	\$4,435

**Flock rams 2009**

Offered	133	131
Sold	133	116
Top	\$3,300	
Ave	\$1,002	

**2008**

Offered	131
Sold	116
Top	\$1,200
Ave	\$724

Agents: Elders

Auctioneers: Ross Milne & Aaron Zwar

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Paul and Peter Routley, Almond Vale stud, Urana, NSW hold the impressive \$7,000 White Suffolk ram they bought at the record breaking 21<sup>st</sup> annual Detpa Grove sale.



Steve Funke, Bundara Downs stud, Western Flat, SA holds the \$18,000 second top priced ram he bought at the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Detpa Grove sale and is with Detpa Grove principals Michelle and David Pipkorn, Jeparit, Vic.



Detpa Grove principal David Pipkorn holds the \$20,000 top priced ram at the stud's 21<sup>st</sup> annual sale and is with buyers Jim Prentice, Kurralea stud, Ariah Park, NSW and Idrienne and Bob Neill, Wheetelande stud, Farrell Flat, SA.



David Pipkorn, Detpa Grove holds the stud's \$2,600 record priced ewe with buyers Lilly Fulwood and Jai Moar, Wyanbah White Suffolks, Armidale, NSW. They were also the volume ewe buyers, purchasing 27 ewes in total.



Andrew Frick, Gypsum Hill stud, Padthaway, SA and son Benjamin are with Detpa Grove principals Michelle and David Pipkorn and the impressive White Suffolk sire Andrew bought for \$11,000 at the Detpa Grove 21<sup>st</sup> annual sale.