

# Detpa Grove soars to \$26,000 top

The genetic strength of the Detpa Grove White Suffolk flock cannot be questioned on the back of their many sale successes, particularly over the last two decades, and the repeatable breeding successes for clients.

That combination is what has repeatedly drawn both stud breeders from Australia wide, and commercial lamb producers back to the Pipkorn family's annual sheep sale at Jeparit each October.

In their 30<sup>th</sup> annual sale, the results were extremely good and appropriate for this significant milestone. You don't get to hold 30 very successful annual sales without producing consistent high quality stock and providing great after sales service.

There were 65 registered bidders from four states in attendance at this year's sale, plus 35 users connected via the active Auctions Plus network, bringing a fifth state onto the successful buyers' list.

Despite difficulties presented by the season in a lot of the country, including the Victorian Wimmera and Mallee regions, the strength of competition on the lines of ewes and rams drove the overall result up, resulting in 230 lots averaging \$1809 in a 95% clearance.

No doubt the highlight was the stunning \$26,000 top price in the stud ram draft of 30 rams. This was bid by Kelvin Fitzgerald, Elders Mildura, operating for his client Roger Wilkinson, Camborn Station, Wentworth, NSW for DG 170591, a beautifully balanced August drop son of DG 0485 Tw. With Lambplan figures as impressive as his exceptional phenotype, including 17.64 for Pwwt, -0.14 for Pfat, 1.58 for Pemd and a Carcase Plus index of 207, it was a standout ram in an outstanding draft that averaged \$5150. This was up \$1806 on last year's average and \$17,000 on last year's \$9000 top price.

Rivers Hyde, Kohat stud, Ongerup, WA connected to the sale via phone and successfully negotiated a semen share in this sale topping ram.

The underbidder was Alan Manton, Manton Farming Co, Yealering, WA, also connected via phone with Lachy Day. He had more success on the very next ram, DG 170293 Tw for \$6000, adding to two ewes purchased in that draft.

Fresh from his inaugural Banquet ram sale at Mortlake three days before, Gordon Branson outstayed the strong competition on DG 170267 Tw by DG 150042. He paid the sale's second top price of \$16,000 for the deep and balanced ram that displayed outstanding muscling and an exceptional skin and Downs wool.

Mark Williams, Lillimur has been a long-time supporter of Detpa Grove genetics, breeding White Suffolk rams for his sheep enterprise, this year making a very significant impact.

He purchased three of this stud ram draft at an average of \$8167, topping at \$12,000 for DG 170154, an extremely high performing appendix son of Hillcroft Farms 130156, with a Pemd of 2.78 and indices for LEQ of 158 and C+ of 218.

Nick Cheetham, Cheetara stud, Naremben, WA connected via phone with Elders Stud Stock Perth's Michael O'Neill and also successfully bid \$12,000 for the very well-muscled DG 170559, an August drop son of DG 'Code' 160247ET.

Probably the thickest and best hind quartered ram in the draft opened the stud ram offering, going for \$8000 to AC & P McDonald through Rodwells, Edenhope. While there were these significant highlights, there was also exceptional value for quality available, with 10 of this draft going to stud or ram breeding enterprises in the range of \$2000 to \$4000.

Alexa Hearn, operating the Auctions Plus connection service, purchased nine rams in this range from breeders in five states, plus 15 stud ewes from the draft that commenced the sale offering.

This stud ewe draft also saw strong stud competition, with 67 of the 68 finding new homes, topping at \$2200 and averaging \$949. This was an increase in top of \$800 and in average of \$229. The top was paid by Nathan Ditchburn, Golden Hill stud, Kukerin, WA for DG 170557 Tw, an impressive August drop daughter of DG 140101 Tr. Nathan's three select ewe purchases were at a \$1733 average.

Brayden and Lachie Gilmore made the long trip down from Oberon, NSW and also went home with three select ewe purchases, paying to the second top of \$1800 and averaging \$1333. The biggest volume buyer was W Peck & K Brown, buying through Elders Naracoorte. They started on the first ewe at \$800 and finished on the third last ewe at the same price, buying 15 in total to \$1200 and averaging a great value \$853.

Of the 15 ewes purchased through Auctions Plus, Mark Stass, Gunnawanna Pastoral, Piallamore, NSW was the most prominent. He added to a \$2000 ram purchase with the eight ewes he purchased, paying to \$1600 and averaging \$1100.

Elders Perth's Michael O'Neill purchased seven ewes for various clients, paying to \$1400 and averaging \$986. Hannaton, through Kyle Livestock, Kaniva purchased six great value ewes, averaging \$633, while B & N Medlyn, Clover Valley White Suffolks, Stuart Mill purchased five at a \$780 average.

To give top end flock ram buyers, or stud buyers who ran out of specific options in the stud ram draft a bigger selection choice, the Pipkorns offered 24 specially selected rams immediately after the stud draft and before the flock draft. These sold to a top of \$2600 and averaged \$1975. Leonie Guinane and David Hutchinson, Woodbank stud, Meredith paid the top for DG 170506 Tw, the only other son of DG 160485 Tw, sire of the sale topper offered in these top drafts.

All the rest went to commercial producers, with local Jeparit lamb producers, BW & DJ McKenzie fulfilling their buying needs of four rams in this draft. They paid the \$2400 top for rams going commercially and averaged \$2250.

Denholm Green, through Landmark Mortlake purchased two of these, plus two they snared out of the stud draft and four flock rams; their eight top rams averaging \$1763.

There were 35 successful bidders on the 136 commercially destined rams, coming from most regions of Victoria and South Eastern SA.

PPH & S agent, Simon Mulraney again brought five regular clients to this sale and successfully purchased 37 rams. Included was Peter Irving, Irving Partnership who was once again the biggest volume buyer in the sale with 25 rams. He paid from \$800 to \$1600 and averaged \$1184.

Conducting sale agents Elders were strongly represented by their branch network, with the Warracknabeal branch supplying eight clients (20 rams), Boort with five clients (12 rams) and Bendigo with three clients (12 rams) being the most prominent.

This year's flock ram draft was exceptionally good in quality, but was more in the buyers' favour, coming down to a \$1490 average from last year's \$1621 average which blew several clients off the buyers' list. This year 12 rams did not find buyers at auction and with 16 of the last 30 to sell going for just \$800 each, it allowed lower budget buyers to get on the buying list and volume buyers to lower their buying average.

Elders stud stock auctioneer Ross Milne said, "It was an outstanding line-up right through with some standout individual animals, but there were plenty of both stud and commercial rams that sold at great value which was a real feature."

Detpa Grove principal David Pipkorn said the rain they'd had leading up to the sale improved confidence and gave some hope in the immediate area, which helped this result.

"It's been a tough year and the sheep have had to be tough to get through it, but we're very happy with how they came up and sold. We're very appreciative of the great support we received today," he said.

#### Sale Summary

	Stud ewes		Stud rams		Specially Selected & Flock rams	
	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
Offered	68	80	30	32	145	144
Sold	67	64	30	32	133	144
Top	\$2200	\$1400	\$26,000	\$9000 x 2	\$2600	\$2100 x 3
Average	\$949	\$720	\$5150	\$3344	\$1490	\$1621

Agents: Elders Warracknabeal

Auctioneers: Ross Milne and Matt O'Connor

#### Photo Captions:

1. Pictured with the \$26,000 sale topping ram are Detpa Grove principals David and Michelle Pipkorn, Jeparit and Elders Mildura's Kelvin Fitzgerald who purchased the ram for his client Roger Wilkinson, Camborn Station, Wentworth.
2. Pictured with the \$16,000 second top priced ram are Detpa Grove principals David and Michelle Pipkorn, Jeparit and the purchaser, Gordon Branson, Banquet stud, Mortlake, Vic.
3. Pictured with the \$2600 ram that topped the Specially Selected and flock ram drafts are Detpa Grove principals David and Michelle Pipkorn, Jeparit and purchasers Leonie Guinane and David Hutchinson, Meredith, Vic.
4. Pictured during the flock ram section of the draft is PP H & S Naracoorte agent Simon Mulraney (centre) with two of his clients, Peter Irving who was the biggest volume buyer with 25 rams (average \$1184) and Glen Sambell (two rams at \$1800 each).