

Gunallo Ram \$3000 In 'Outstanding' Sale

By CATHERINE MILLER

GUNALLO Poll Merino and Merino stud's 33rd annual on-property sale at Pinnaroo last Thursday brought a lift in the average price to \$993, despite the recent dip in wool and sheep prices.

Ten new buyers and a large contingent of long-time clients ensured a 97 per cent clearance of 90 April, 2011-drop rams offered by the Schroeder family.

Stud principal Ray Schroeder said the breeding program was starting to produce greater numbers of quality elite-wool sheep with good carcasses.

"It is all about clearance and getting our rams out there to new clients," he said. "We are confident that they will do the right thing for them."

Kim Thorpe and Duane Simon, McMahon Bros, Lameroo outlaid the \$3000 top for a son of Ridgway 1137. Gunallo owns a semen share in the sire, which made \$25,000 at the 2010 Classings Classic sale.

The 21.2-micron Poll had wool measurements of 2.9 standard deviation, 13.7 per cent coefficient of variation, 99.7pc comfort factor and 100 kilograms.

It was one of three rams bought by McMahon Bros.

The following lot, a 17.3M Poll, made the second-top-price of \$2700.

It sold to local school Murrayville Community College, which has received a grant to investigate the latest sheep technologies such as electronic eartags and autodrafters.

The school has bought ewes from Gunallo and Glenlea Park studs for the project.

The sale's Poll Merino average jumped by \$25 to \$1025 for 78 rams.

Following the industry trend, demand for horned rams diminished – nine Merinos averaged \$700.

The day's volume buyers were Rick and Ben Marra, Marra Farms, Netherby, taking 11 to \$1300.

Other volume buyers included Altus Pastoral, Lameroo three to \$2300; LS Hand, Parilla, seven to \$1000; JL&SM Jenzen, Pinnaroo, four to \$1600; Blackwell Pastoral, Dunkeld, Victoria, four to \$800; and IR,EJ&NI Wheeler, Nhill, Vic with six rams to \$800.

Two buyers who bought Gunallo rams at the Hamilton, Vic, Pen of Five Ram Sale, added to their sire batteries.

They were Erewhon Pastoral, Penola, three to \$1600, and GB&WR Schenke, Murray Bridge, two to \$1600.

Landmark stud stock manager Malcolm Scroop described the sale as “outstanding”, having an increased average without the largest volume buyer from 2011 operating.

“They are breeding a type of ram that spreads their options across a few people’s uses,” he said. “This has given them a real opening into the high-rainfall areas with many new clients in Vic and the South East.”

Gunallo’s three rams reserved for the Adelaide Ram Sale and eight rams for Classings Classic sale, were displayed.



GUN RAM: Brad and Ray Schroeder, Gunallo stud, Pinnaroo, with buyers of their \$3000 top-price ram Kim Thorpe and Duane Simon, McMahon Bros, Lameroo, and Landmark stud auctioneer Malcolm Scroop.



VOLUME BUYERS: Westech Ag Kyle Livestock's Damian Pearson with volume buyers Rick and Ben Marra, Marra Farms, Netherby, who took 11 Gunallo rams.