

Report on the 13th Annual on Property Sale of Coolawang Border Leicesters at Mundulla on Thursday 9th October 2014 – by Richard Cooper

TOTAL COOLAWANG CLEARANCE

Once again Trevor, Judy & Lachie James have led the way in the southern selling season with a 100% clearance at their 13th Annual on property Border Leicester ram sale at Mundulla.

For the second time only, senior principal Trevor decided to offer all stud rams the stud will sell in 2014 at their on property sale.

“It’s very hard to ask prospective buyers to travel big distances to the home sale if you sell some of your top sheep at other venues. It’s only the second time we have offered all stud rams at home and so far our decision has been vindicated” Trevor said.

It was always going to be hard to exceed last year’s Australian record price of \$18,200 and stud sale average of \$6253 for 15 stud rams, but loyal and new clients supported the stud’s decision by purchasing all 11 selected rams this year for a very credible average of \$3,745.

The honour of top price was achieved at the opening with Lot 1, Coolawang 130234 selling for \$6,500 to NSW client Geoff Sutton, Wattle Farm Border Leicesters from Temora. Bidding on the phone, he followed up last year’s purchase of a stud ram for \$5,500. This year’s purchase was by Coolawang Oscar 3 and was shown with great success in Adelaide this September. A beautiful headed sheep, he won the Best Headed Border Leicester Class, the Objective Measurement Class, the Junior and Grand Championship and then went on to be the Reserve Interbreed Longwool Champion. With wool to match his many ribbons, the ram deserved the attention he received from the four bidders who were interested in purchasing him.

Rob Mutton “Cloverlea” Naracoorte secured Lot 3, Coolawang 130160 for the second top price of \$4,500; a ram much admired pre-sale for his huge body and outstanding wool. Shown in Adelaide he received a 4th prize ribbon in the strongly contested woolly ram under 1.5 years class. Being the best son of the prolific sire Coolawang Wallace 6th, whose progeny averaged \$3,440 in the stud section, Mr. Mutton was very pleased to have secured a ram from such a successful bloodline for that price.

“Marjong Park” at Millicent was once again a strong supporter of the selected stud section, securing four rams to a top of \$3,200 and at an average of \$3,050. In the flock section they secured another nine to a top of \$1,500 (x4) and at an average of \$1,355. Prices in the selected rams remained strong throughout, a testament to the evenness of the offering.

Lot 9, Coolawang 130002Tw was purchased by Glen Rogers from Ballarat, while Tom Munro, “Taronga Park” stud, Naracoorte purchased Lot 10, Coolawang 130079 for \$4,000. Ric Foster, “Haven Park” at Casterton, SL & JL Makeham, NSW and return buyer, AJ & SK Geue, Kingston all purchased astutely in the selected ram section securing rams at \$3,250 each.

In the flock ram section, a total clearance of 119 rams was achieved under the very professional baton of Elders Tony Weatherall, and also matching last year’s top of \$2,000. Averaging a very credible \$988, this section of the sale was well up in number and price on last year when 106 which averaged \$961.

A feature of the Coolawang sheep each year is the evenness of the offering. The rams all display excellent heads and great depth throughout, and with many clients chasing good wool type, the pressure is kept on the James family to match their needs each year.

“It was particularly difficult to present our sheep well this year. We had a reasonable autumn, but a very short winter and no spring” he said.

However, the result would suggest the Coolawang clients liked what they saw! Many of these Coolawang clients have been buying the rams for well in excess of 20 years and each year they return and buy again.

The James family fully understands the commercial side of the industry as they also use their rams to produce first cross ewes. With 350 ewes in the Elders Annual Feature 1st Cross Sale to be held on the 13th of November at Naracoorte, the commercial Coolawang sheep will again be in the running to be judged the “Best Presented” pen of ewes, an honour they have achieved five times in the last 10 years.

Major buyers in the flock section, all from the South East of SA included the top price honour of \$2,000 to RG & JK Vogelsang. Greg Fisher from “Clover Ridge”, Woolumbool purchased 12 to \$1,100 and at an average of \$950, while Graham Ahrens, “Eagle Park”, Bordertown purchased 12 to a top of \$1,100 and at an average of \$930.

Steven Hill, from T.D.C. Penola, was prominent throughout the sale purchasing 20 rams on order from five clients. After the sale Steven commented that the sheep always perform well, having early maturity and the right wool for his clients’ conditions.

D & G Kidman, Penola carefully selected 16 very even rams from start to finish, paying to a top of \$900 and averaging just on \$800. Peter Carslake, also from Kingston took home 5 rams for an average of \$1,140.

Near neighbour, Christopher Hoare from Padthaway, a 20 year plus client of Coolawang selected 8 rams and was the winner of the Virbac sponsored 500ml container of Multimin. Also longer term repeat buyers, Chris & Liz England, “The Snuggery”, Kingston also bid throughout the sale and selected 8 rams.

Only three rams sold below \$1,000 in the first 60 lots offered, but volume buyers had plenty to choose from to average out their accounts with the last 70 head all selling between \$700 and \$1,100, most in the high value \$800 to \$900 range.

Speaking post sale, Trevor James expressed great satisfaction with the sale result and clearance. “To clear all the rams and maintain our average in a year when many of our clients are suffering from the poorer seasonal conditions is very satisfying” he said.

The sale was conducted by Elders Naracoorte with Tony Weatherall as auctioneer.

Sale Summary:

	Specially Selected Rams		Flock Rams	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Offered -	11	15	119	106
Sold -	11	15	119	106
Top Price -	\$6500	\$18,200	\$2000	\$2000
Average Price -	\$3745	\$6253	\$988	\$961



Tom Dennis, Livestock Manager, Elders Naracoorte and Trevor James “Coolawang” inspect Lot 1 purchased by Tom on behalf of Geoff Sutton “Wattle Farm” Temora, NSW for the top sale price of \$6,500.



Mark Diprose presents the Virbac sponsored prize of a 500ml container of Multimin to long term supporter of Coolawang, Chris Hoare of Padthaway who is with Coolawang principal, Trevor James.



Major buyer, Steven Hill, T.D.C. Penola is inspecting some of the 20 rams he purchased for various clients.



Rob Mutton "Cloverlea", Naracoorte and Steve Johnson "Carinya", Lucindale are pictured at the Coolawang sale. Rob purchased a stud sire for \$4,500 and Steve purchased 4 rams for a \$900 average.



Tom Munro “Taronga Park”, Naracoorte is with S.A.L. representative Mat Macdonald. Tom purchased a son of the AI Sire Wellingrove White 135/07 for \$4,500.



Chris and Liz England “The Snuggery”, Kingston, who purchased 8 rams at the Coolawang sale, are pictured in discussion with Bob Andrews from Mundulla.



James, Jackie & Phil Muecke, “Woodebo”, Penola purchased 3 rams at Coolawang for an average of \$1,370.