

2013 Lachlan Merinos Ram Sale Summary

The Rubie families 8th on property ram sale, was held on Wednesday, 18th September, Forbes. A total clearance of 102 Lachlan Merinos rams sold to \$6800 as one of the biggest crowds to date at the sale competed for their selected sheep. Buyers came from across the state and the rams averaged \$2239, up \$277 on last year's result. With the body weights in the draft a highlight, averaging 99.8kg, majority being 12-13 months old, this year's current short wool tests averaged 19.6 Micron, 15.9 CV, SD 2.9 and 99.5 CF for the draft of Poll and Merino sires. Each year producers are treated to a hands-on shearing demonstration of the 12-13-month-old full sisters of the sale rams. With the wool off, buyers commented on the long plain bodies of the sheep, the most valuable ewe lamb cut 9.2 kilograms of 16.4 Micron, SD 2.5, 15.7 CV and 99.6 CF, valued at \$97.00, by Jemalong Wool. The eight ewe lambs averaged 71.4kg, with average fleece weight of 9.5kg, with micron averaging 17.2. "I like to let the sheep do the talking, shearing these lambs each year, people are always blown away by what Lachlan merino lambs can achieve in the first twelve months of their lives," Mr Rubie said. "They are a good reflection of our breeding objectives to breed big dual-purpose Merinos producing meat combined with high wool cut," he said.

The Lachlan breeding objectives has flowed into their client's flocks with Graham and Elizabeth Mulligan, Alectown taking out first place for the most valuable fleece in their wether team entered in the Merino Wether trial held in conjunction with the Merino National in Dubbo. Mark Jones, Condobolin won the productivity award at the 2013 Don Brown ewe competition with a fleece value of \$92.53.

Craig and John Johnston Austral-Eden Merino and Poll Merino stud, West Wyalong paid the \$6800 for an embryo transfer, milk tooth horn Merino ram described by stud principal Glen Rubie as the best horn Merino ram bred by the stud. Craig Johnston said you would go a long way to find a better ram than this one. We first saw the young sire on display at the Dubbo Merino national in August; we have not seen a better hogget around with that good rich wool. The young sire carried figures of 19.4 Micron, 2.8 SD, 14.9 CV and 99.5 CF.

Volume and \$5200 top priced Poll Merino ram (was sired by LM.77) purchaser was long time client Mark Jones, Condobolin, who averaged \$3455 for his draft of 18 young rams. Mr Jones, who runs a pure Lachlan blood flock, said that the Lachlan sheep are doing the job for him; our wool cut has increased to 8 kilograms. We were looking for straight, medium quality wool rams, this year our sixteen-month-old ewes and wethers with 10 months of wool, cut 8 kilograms.

Buyers at the top end of the market included return client, Robert Green, Forbes, who outlaid \$4200 for a Lachlan Poll 77 son. Lachlan Poll 77 has the double copy poll gene, and the runs on the board with his ASBVs trait for Clean Fleece Weight testing plus 40.8, the highest in the country to date.

Multiple buyers for over eight years, the Knight family, Grenfell paid to \$3200 for their six rams to average \$2266. Terry Knight said the Lachlan sheep are a genuine true dual-purpose animal providing, high wool cuts, early maturing attributes, high fertility rates with deep crimping well-nourished wool. The fertility trait flows right through your flock, this year we scanned 140 percentage in lamb, last year we scanned 160 percent. Glen is a great stud master who knows his stuff, the service the family provide is second to none, he said. Other buyers included Roger Warren, Boorowa who took home twelve new sires.

The sale was conducted by Elders with Andy McGeoch as the auctioneer.



*Craig and John Johnston Austral-Eden Merino and Poll Merino stud,
with Mitchell and Glen Rubie, Lachlan Merinos*