

MEDIA RELEASE

Kurralea continues to set pace despite seasonal set back

The desperate season being experienced almost nationwide has had an impact on all sheep sales this spring. While that also proved to be the case at Kurralea Poll Dorset and White Suffolk Sale last Tuesday (3rd) at Aria Park, NSW, the Prentice family still achieved one of the very best meat sheep sale results nationally. Overall 289 rams cleared to a \$14,000 top and averaged \$1,122, with a \$324,300 sale gross. This gross was back some \$200,000 on last year's record breaking sale.

There may well be many stud breeders across the country who come to regret their decision not to operate at this year's sale, as they missed a golden opportunity to invest in some terrific stud improving genetics. Some 64% of the drop in sale gross this year was due to a fall in the stud returns; primarily in the stud Poll Dorset rams. Stud breeders are generally the ones with the long term breeding plans and commitment, yet this year, it was their commercial colleagues who showed the greater faith in their industry.

One who made the most of the wonderful stud buying opportunities at Kurralea this year was Ian Kyle, Ashley Park stud, Bairnsdale, Victoria. He jumped in right from the start and won the bidding duel for Kurralea 589/05 Twin, the magnificent lot 1 Poll Dorset stud ram sired by Kurralea 'Pure Gold' 827/03, his first son to be offered for sale. He won the bidding at \$14,000, with James, Victoria and Lachlan Patterson, Goolagong, NSW, being underbidders.

They compensated by picking up lot 2, K412/05 for a relative bargain at \$8,000. This son of K404/02, the Adelaide 2003 Supreme All-breeds Champion ram has already been used heavily in the Kurralea stud with semen also being sold to 12 studs. Kurralea had intended to keep this young sire but due to such good enquiry, decided to offer him. The Pattersons couldn't believe their luck in securing him so cheaply. They have recently boosted their relatively new Kinellar Poll Dorset stud with ewe purchases from Kurralea; many being mated to this ram. They later added a Pure Gold son (lot 19) for only \$1,500.

Jessica and Alistair Sutherland, Kononwootong stud, Bairnsdale paid \$11,000 for K265/05. This much admired 'Hallmark' son was the Balmoral trophy winner at Gundagai and Canberra Royal earlier in the year. His class was backed by outstanding Lambplan figures.

Making the most of the Auctions Plus network was Janmac Pastoral Co, Edenhope, Victoria. They purchased lots 9 and 12 via this network for \$3,250 and \$5,250 respectively.

Valed Poll Dorset stud, Pootilla, NSW; DD & MM Picker, Biggs, NSW; and JH & IV Turner, Mossvale, NSW were 3 studs who picked up absolute bargains by purchasing 3 of the standout rams in the sale at lots 10, 8 and 13 respectively (all K404/02 sons) @ \$4,000, \$6,500 and \$3,250.

Another couple who attended this year and made the most of the great buying opportunities were Clayton and Andrea Rowett, 'Ulandi Park' stud, Marrabel, SA. After being runner up on the record \$26,000 ram last year via phone, they purchased 2 outstanding young spring drop Poll Dorset rams this year; lots 5 & 6, both @ \$3,000. The 25 stud Poll Dorset rams offered all sold for a \$3,850 average; well down on the \$6,056 average last year.

No Poll Dorset stud ewes were offered this year due to earlier private selection enquiries being so strong; this also contributing to the lesser sale gross.

The Kurralea White Suffolk stud had just returned from outstanding success at Melbourne Royal Show, where Kurralea won the Supreme All-breeds Champion ram, plus Supreme Progeny Group classes of 3 rams and 4 rams; all with their White Suffolks. These winners were all included in the stud's offering of 13 terrific White Suffolk stud rams that followed the Poll Dorset stud ram offering.

Again Ian Kyle jumped in to pick up the first of the offering; lot 27 @ \$4,250 and then lot 28 @ \$2,000. Both were sired by Wheetelande 2864, the 2004 Adelaide Champion White Suffolk ram purchased by Kurralea. The 1st ram,

K169/05 was previously Champion ram at Gundagai, 1st at Canberra Royal and also 1st at Melbourne. The second, K143/05 was the Supreme All Breeds ram at Canberra earlier in the year.

Lot 29, K126/05, the Melbourne Supreme All Breeds Champion, was secured by GD & GB Huxtable, Duenclyn stud, Kaniva, Victoria via the Auctions Plus network for just \$7,000, in a good, but somewhat disappointing reward for such an outstanding ram.

WR & MM Honner, Junee, NSW secured lot 31, K30/05, the Reserve Champion at Canberra, for only \$1,500 to add to 2 earlier Poll Dorset stud ram purchases at \$1,750 and \$1,500. These purchases underlined the bargain buying for stud rams available to those astute enough to attend.

While the big drafts of flock rams also had reduced averages from last year's record breaking sale, they still had very solid and consistent support. The 186 Poll Dorset flock rams topped @ \$1,200 and averaged \$808, while the 65 White Suffolk flock rams topped @ \$900 and averaged \$761.

Big numbers were secured by 2 buyers in particular; Fletcher International Exports, Dubbo, NSW and FS Falkiner & Sons, Deniliquin, NSW.

Fletcher International purchased 50 Poll Dorsets and 13 White Suffolks for their prime lamb production business on a newly purchased Condobolin property. These rams will go over Merino ewes to produce the big, fast growing and high yielding lambs the company is seeking.

FS Falkiner & Sons purchased 17 Poll Dorset rams and 24 White Suffolks for their prime lamb operation; having great success over many years with Kurralea rams.

The only other double figure buyer was Robin Jackson, 'Lake Repose Partnership', Glenthompson, Victoria. A repeat Kurralea client, he purchased 10 White Suffolks.

Most flock ram buyers were keen to reduce their outlay as much as possible and as a result only 16 rams sold for \$1,000 or better in the flock ram drafts. However, strong competition saw 67% of the offering sell in the \$700 to \$900 range, providing value for clients, yet still good returns for the vendors.

Sale Summary

Poll Dorset stud rams	25 of 25 sold to \$14,000 and averaged \$3,850
Poll Dorset flock rams	186 of 202 sold to \$1,200 and averaged \$808
White Suffolk stud rams	13 of 13 sold to \$7,000 and averaged \$2,181
White Suffolk flock rams	65 of 68 sold to \$900 and averaged \$761
Sale Gross	\$324,300
Agents	Elders Ltd Wagga Wagga
Auctioneers	Michael Glasser & James Tierney

Photos



Top priced ram at the Kurralea on property Poll Dorset and White Suffolk sale was the lot 1 Poll Dorset ram, K589/05. It sold to Ian Kyle, Ashley Park, Bairnsdale, Victoria (centre) for \$14,000; and is being held by Kurralea principal Jim Prentice, with auctioneer Michael Glasser, Elders Stud Stock Manager, Victoria and Riverina (left).



Ben Prentice (left) is with James and Lachlan Patterson, Kinellar stud, Goolagong, NSW and the outstanding Poll Dorset stud ram, Kurralea 412/05 that they purchased at the Kurralea sale for \$8,000.



Jim Prentice, Kurralea principal, Aria Park, NSW holds Kurralea 126/05; the Supreme All-breeds Champion ram at the recent Melbourne Royal Show that sold for the White Suffolk sale top of \$7,000, via Auctions Plus to GD & GB Huxtable, Kaniva, Victoria.



Key flock ram buyers at the Kurralea sale were Condobolin based agent Greg Moncrief (who bought 20 rams in total for several clients); Robin Jackson, Lake Repose Partnership, Glenthompson, Victoria (10 White Suffolk rams); Sophie & Ben Prentice, Kurralea, Aria Park, NSW; and Angus Girle, Livestock Manager, Fletcher International, Condobolin (63 rams in total).