

High quality Callowie offering

It was a case of an opportunity missed for many sheep producers at the Callowie Poll Merino ram sale at Bordertown on Monday.

A very even and high quality line-up of 42 Poll Merinos was presented to sheep producers for competition, but demand did not match that quality. Twenty six rams found new homes from mainly repeat and loyal clients of the Halliday family, topping at \$1700 and averaging a well undervalued \$942.

Principals Richard and Jacque Halliday and sons Angus and Thomas fully appreciate that it would not be easy coming back from their adversity from years past, and their progression would most likely be “in little steps”.

“We are about producing bale fillers with frames to match and while our road back is a work in progress, we are pleased with the quality we have presented and the very positive feedback we have received from clients who have bought over the last two years,” Richard Halliday said.

The rams displayed excellent carcase conformation and muscling under very good skins carrying long stapled and free growing 17 to 21 micron wools with density. Landmark auctioneer Richard Miller praised the Halliday’s on the depth of quality on offer and for embracing ASBVs through Merino Select, with the figures strongly supporting their visual outlook.

“They have terrific heavy cutting and nourished fleeces and you can see a combination of positive muscling and fat throughout the catalogue, a relatively rare occurrence in Merinos,” he said.

Three long term regular buyers dominated the buying list. Keith Nutt, buying through Landmark Orroroo readily travels down to Callowie to get rams of this quality and value. He purchased four rams this year at a \$1275 average, including two at the sale’s top price of \$1700. Both the sale toppers were sons of Callowie 110287, from the stud’s Poll Boonoke family line.

Buying through Stuart Kyle, Westech Ag Kyle Livestock, Cove Station’s David Jaensch was a very good bidder, picking up eight rams to \$1200 and averaging a great value \$875 for the Miles family, Dinyarrak. They were the equal highest volume buyers, also achieving that honour last year.

Able to achieve even greater value while also purchasing eight rams through PPH&S, were Rex Anderson and his manager Robert Giles, from Pitlochry Station, Kingston. They picked up very good rams at an average of just \$675, paying to an \$800 top in the process.

Bruce Bridgart, Wynarka paid the sale's second top price of \$1600 and then \$1500 in picking up two outstanding 20 and 19.6 micron bale fillers at lots 9 & 10. Both of these rams were also sired by Callowie 110287.

Obviously the Hallidays still have a good supply of quality rams available for private selection.

Sale Summary	2016	2015
Offered	42	45
Sold	26	28
Top	\$1700 (x2)	\$2300
Average	\$942	\$1039

Agents: Landmark Bordertown

Auctioneer: Richard Miller