

## National record smashed at Anden

The Australian national auction record for any meat sheep breed ram was smashed in a big way at the Donnan family's annual sheep sale at Woomelang, Victoria last Thursday when one of their Anden White Suffolk stud rams sold for \$68,000.

Anden 150277Tw was purchased by the Hull family, Kattata Well stud, Pt Kenny, SA who are making a real impact in the White Suffolk breed. The previous record for the White Suffolk breed was \$36,000 set in 2004 by the Detpa Grove stud, Jeparit, Vic and equalled by Anden last year when they sold one of their rams to the Ditchburn family, Kukerin, WA. The previous national meat sheep breed's record stood at \$44,000, set in 2011 for a Dorper.

The ram, a 140kg August drop son of Kurralea 130305, was a huge factor in attracting 81 bidders from four states to register for the sale, a special celebration sale in itself. It was the Donnan family's 21<sup>st</sup> sale and it was also announced pre-sale that John Donnan was handing over his 25% share in the program to great nephew Joel Donnan who has put a power of work into the stud's program this year.

That included showing at Hamilton Sheepvention for the first time for many years, plus the Adelaide Royal. At both these shows Anden 150277Tw was awarded the Supreme Interbreed ram of the show, but the big attraction was not confined to his outstanding phenotype. His Lambplan figures indicated huge performance with 13.31 weaning weight EBV, 19.98 for post weaning weight, -0.81 fat, 1.47 eye muscle depth; combining for a Carcase Plus index of 221.01 and L2020 index of 116.20. That combination of phenotype and genotype makes it a potential once in a generation and breed changing ram, a point well recognised by many of the registered bidders in attendance.

It took Elders stud stock auctioneer Ross Milne 90 seconds to describe him to the gallery when it entered the sale ring, and such was the rapidity of bidding, just 130 seconds to sell him, going from an opening \$10,000 bid to the \$68,000 knock down price.

Speaking for the family, Geoff Hull said, "We are delighted to be able to purchase such a high quality ram to follow on from our other recent top sire investments. This ram is a complete package with huge growth for age and performance figures, is so structurally correct and has that wonderful and renowned Suffolk shape of wide and deep hindquarters and loin, with narrower shoulders and great neck extension for lambing ease."

"After seeing him in Adelaide, we couldn't find anything to match him to suit our breeding objectives. We have decided to name him 'Cruiser'," Leroy Hull added.

Considering their purchase price, the Hulls said it was likely they would offer semen packages and expressions of interest were being sought through Superior Selections before a final decision will be made on how many packages would be sold.

The Hull family's commitment is to be admired, but also that of the underbidders, especially Anthony Hurst, Seriston stud, Avenue Range, SA who went to \$66,000 and John Jamieson, Wattle Park stud, Finley, NSW who went to \$57,000. The sale gives a huge positive boost to the seedstock sector of the prime lamb industry, one that is experiencing record saleyard prices and an exceptional season.

While this is a huge highlight and focus, the balance of the four breed sale was outstanding as well. There was a total clearance of 193 head at a \$2154 average. This culminated in a huge 75% increase in sale gross. Even with the record ram taken out, the sale proceeds were still 46% up on last year. It was a just reward for many years of hard toil by Andrew and Denita Donnan and family, often in harsh conditions vastly inferior to those currently being experienced in the Victorian Mallee.

Commencing the sale were 21 top White Suffolk 2015 drop stud ewes, a special inclusion from the Anden keeper ewe flock as a 21<sup>st</sup> sale celebration offering. These were well appreciated, selling to a \$1300 top and averaging \$900. Again it was the Hull family, Kattata Well stud who paid the top price in their purchase of two ewes. Ian Kyle, Ashley Park, Bairnsdale, plus a bidder via Auctions Plus network bid the \$1200 second top price; Ashley Park purchasing three ewes and four going via Auctions Plus.

The 20 White Suffolk rams were second cab off the rank and including the record breaker, they averaged a fantastic \$10,050. Taking that ram out, the balance still averaged \$7000, well up on last year's average of \$5905 which included the \$36,000 ram sale.

This entire draft had exceptional performance with the average Lambplan Carcase Plus index being 210.05 and only two of the 20 were below 200. In any other sale than this one, the \$18,000 purchase of Anden 150346Tw by Shane Baker, Booloola stud, Carisbrook would have been a worthy headline on its own. Sired by Anden 140300, it boasted a Carcase Plus index of 225.67, the highest in the draft.

The Funke family, Bundara Downs, Western Flat, SA negotiated a share in the \$18,000 ram as well as paying \$13,000 for Anden 150060, while Anthony Hurst compensated on missing out on the record breaker with the purchase of Anden 150325Tw for \$10,000 in another highlight sale.

The 98 White Suffolk flock rams were offered in two drafts interspersed with the offering from the other breeds, with all clearing to 22 buyers at a \$1282 average. Again the seasonal outlook on top of a buoyant lamb industry that saw sucker lambs sell to \$184 at the last Ouyen sale were huge factors in achieving this average, up 48% on last year. Dominating these drafts were long term Anden clients Ray and Pat Healy, operating through Landmark Mildura. They purchased a total of 37 rams, paying from \$1000 to \$1400 and at an \$1150 average. They mate these to a substantial proportion of their 6000 Merino ewes, dropping in April/May and having all lambs sold by late spring.

A draft of 24 Viewdale Poll Dorset rams received very good support with all 24 selling to \$2000 and averaging \$1320, considerably stronger than previous buying support.

A first time offering of 21 'Easy-Care Composite' rams also attracted strong support, all selling to a \$1600 top and averaging \$1274. The Donnans have been working on producing a consistent line of these composite White Dorper/Poll Dorset cross rams for several years and felt they were of good enough quality to offer in the sale this year.

They were certainly appreciated by at least four buyers present, with Brad and Greg Rae, Kyalite making the trip over to Anden for the first time to get some. They purchased nine on top of five earlier Poll Dorset ram purchases, paying the \$1600 top in this draft six times. The Rae family produce around 3500 lambs from Merino maiden ewes for Coles annually. They have sold 2700 so

far this year up to \$190/head at 20 weeks of age and are very confident in their Anden ram purchases being able to improve that production efficiency.

Nine Kerangie Suffolk rams completed the sale offering and these sold to \$3500 and averaged \$1306. Included in these was the 2016 Adelaide champion Suffolk ram, offered in the first pen of three on offer. Ian Kyle, Ashely Park stud looked beyond the lack of fanfare to purchase Kerangie 150530Tw for the relative bargain price of \$3500 for his Suffolk stud, the top price for this section.

### **Sale Summary**

**Agents:** Elders Wycheproof

**Auctioneers:** Ross Milne and Andrew Zwar

### **Anden White Suffolks**

21/21 stud ewes sold to \$1300 and averaged \$900

20/20 stud rams sold to \$68,000 and averaged \$10,050

98/98 flock rams sold to \$2000 and averaged \$1282

### **Anden Easy Care Composites**

21/21 rams sold to \$1600 and averaged \$1274

### **Viewdale Poll Dorsets**

24/24 rams sold to \$2000 and averaged \$1321

### **Kerangie Suffolks**

9/9 rams sold to \$3500 and averaged \$1306



*Joel Donnan shows his delight as he celebrated his inclusion as a 25% partner in the Anden stud business with a new Australian all meat sheep breeds record price of \$68,000 when this fantastic Anden White Suffolk ram was that sold to the Hull family, Kattata Well stud, Pt Kenny, SA at Woomelang last Thursday.*



*Joel Donnan holds the new \$68,000 record priced White Suffolk and all meat sheep breeds ram, surrounded by key participants; Denita, Lauren, Andrew (kneeling) and John Donnan; Elders stud stock auctioneer Ross Milne; and purchasers Geoff & Leroy Hull, Kattata Well stud, Pt Kenny, SA.*



*Joel Donnan holds the new \$68,000 record priced White Suffolk and all meat sheep breeds ram, surrounded by key participants; Lauren Donnan, purchaser Leroy Hull, John & Andrew Donnan; Elders stud stock auctioneer Ross Milne; purchaser Geoff, and Denita Donnan*





*Shane Baker (right), Booloola White Suffolk stud, Carisbrook, Vic holds the \$18,000 second top priced Anden White Suffolk ram that he purchased last Thursday. Also pictured are Greg & Lachie Funke, Bundara Downs stud, Western Flat, SA who purchased a share in the ram, and vendors, Andrew and Joel Donnan.*



*Anden co-principals, Joel & Andrew Donnan are pictured with Greg Funke, Bundara Downs stud, Western Flat, SA holding the ram Bundara Downs purchased for \$13,000 at the record breaking Anden sale.*



*Ray Healy is pictured post sale with Anden principals Joel & Andrew Donnan inspecting some of the 37 White Suffolk rams he and brother Pat purchased through Landmark Mildura at last Thursday's Anden sale.*



*Brad (left) and Greg Rae (2<sup>nd</sup> right) are inspecting the rams they bought at the Anden sale with principals Joel and Andrew Donnan. First time buyers, they purchased 5 Poll Dorsets and 9 'Easy Care' Composites for their prime lamb enterprise at Kyalite.*





*Anden principals Joel (left) and Andrew Donnan (right) are pictured with clients Don & Russ Rothacker, Bridgewater and their agent Alexander Pollock, McLean McGregor. The Rothackers purchased 8 rams of the 21 purchased by the agency for their clients.*



*Lachlan and Paul Routley, Almondvale stud, Urana, NSW purchased this 'ball of muscle' at the Anden sale for their Almondvale White Suffolk stud for just \$3500 as the first ram offered. Used as a ram lamb in the Anden stud, this shows that often the first ram is the cheapest.*



*The \$68,000 Anden White Suffolk ram on its own.*



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