

Murray Bridge wildcard hits \$21,000

By **CATHERINE MILLER**

NEARLY 100 registered bidders from across Australia converged on the 2017 Classings Classic ram sale at Murray Bridge, South Australia on Monday, with rams selling to South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and WA.

And the best was saved until last at the multi-vendor ram sale, with a wildcard entry from White River stud, Poochera, South Australia.

The final lot from sale debutantes John, Marg, Wes and Jacqui Daniell made the \$21,000 top price at the Murray Bridge sale.

Sale organiser Bill Walker spotted the ram – WR558 – on display at the Australian Sheep & Wool Show in Bendigo, Victoria, in July and invited them to be a vendor.

Despite “a couple of substantial” offers on the 19.7 micron ram, the Daniells kept their promise to be a vendor.

John Daniell said the April 2016-drop sire was a well-balanced ram with wool of special quality.

“It has nourished and very rich, deep crimp wool with terrific wool tests including a comfort factor of 99.9 per cent,” Mr Daniell said.

The ram is a grandson of Premier 302, a ram which made \$34,000 at the Adelaide Merino Ram Sale and was out of a ewe sired by Ridgway Kulkami – which White River bought for \$32,000 at the 2011 Classings sale.

The successful buyer of the

ram was the Superior Wool Syndicate (SWS), which comprises eight commercial buyers and two studs, Lucernbrae, Callington, South Australia and SWM, Tintinara, South Australia, who will undertake AI programs.

“It is beautiful on its feet with good density and length of wool,” SWS spokesperson Chad Burbidge said.

The syndicate has been buying top rams from the Classings sale for more than a decade, including a Gunallo ram in 2015.

The Penrose Poll stud, Esperance, also bought a semen interest in White River’s sale-topper.

Pushing them all the way were Argentine buyers who had seen WR588 at Brecon Breeders AI Centre, Keith, South Australia, a fortnight earlier, where semen was being collected for the stud’s in-flock use.

In the breakdown, 20 South Australian, Victorian and NSW studs sold 67 of 71 rams offered for a \$5142 average, which was up \$652 on 2016.

Stud interest was much stronger than the previous year, with 11 rams making \$10,000 or more.

Ross, Robyn and Claire McGauchie, Terrick West stud, Prairie, Victoria, sold the \$18,000 second top-priced ram to Peter Wilkinson, Challara stud, Badgingarra.

The May 2016-drop twin weighed a massive 140 kilograms, with a 46mm eye muscle depth and 7.5mm fat depth.



❑ Sale co-ordinator Bill Walker (left), Terrick West principal Ross McGauchie, Prairie, Victoria, Primaries Badgingarra agent Greg Wootton, Peter Wilkinson, Challara stud, Badgingarra and Claire McGauchie, Terrick West, with the Terrick West ram purchased at \$18,000 by the Challara stud.

Mr Wilkinson said they were after an impact sire and selected the ram with the assistance of his livestock agent Greg Wootton, Primaries Badgingarra, who Mr Wilkinson believes has a “good eye for structure on a sheep”.

“We went to the sale with an open mind with no particular stud in mind,” Mr Wilkinson said.

“But this ram stood out, it was so structurally sound for its size.

“After speaking with the breeder on its background and what they are trying to achieve in their breeding direction, it reaffirms what we saw in the animal.

“Along with using him in our stud we will be taking semen orders on the ram.”

Terrick West also sold a ram for \$13,000 to John Lamb

Pastoral, Deniliquin, NSW, to top the average table.

David and Karen Ridgway, Ridgway Advance, Bordertown, were the volume vendors, selling 21 of 22 rams for an average of \$4071.

This included a 19.1 micron sire which made \$16,000 when its sold to John Lamb Pastoral.

Their \$14,000 top-priced ram sold to Angus and Will McLachlan, Rosebank stud, Mount Pleasant, South Australia.

Sale organiser Bill Walker described it as the “best lineup” in the sale’s history, with less numbers this year but a tighter selection on rams with good constitution and exceptional wools.

He said the stud activity was very good, but the gap in the market was the top-end commercial support.

WILLIAMS RAM SALE

Wednesday, October 4 • 1pm

at Williams Sportsground

*Further details
in coming issues of Farm Weekly*