



2020 ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE REPORT

Sale Summary

Agents: Elders and Nutrien

Auctioneers: Tony Wetherall (E) & Gordon Wood (N)

	2020	2019
Offered	187	181
Sold	187	181
Top Price	\$15,000	\$18,000
Average	\$2469	\$2962

STRONG COMPETITION AT WHITE RIVER

The Daniell family's White River Merino and Poll Merino stud achieved another outstanding result at their 41st annual ram sale at Poochera. There was a full clearance of the 187 magnificent big bodied, heavy cutting White River rams, selling to a top of \$15,000 and averaging \$2469.

While this average was down marginally on last year's record result, given the uncertainty of the season with lack of rainfall and low wool prices, along with non-attendance from some regular interstate buyers due to COVID19, plus an extra 6 rams offered, the result was particularly strong.

In recent White River sale day style, cold and wet conditions greeted the 145 attendees, however, everyone was more than happy to welcome the much-needed rain.

In a first for White River and to accommodate all interested buyers during the current health restrictions, the sale was live streamed on AuctionsPlus, with 84 people following the sale online. Combined with the 45 registered bidders in the marquee, the resulting competition ensured the strong result, with 39 bidders successful in purchasing rams.

To match demand, Poll Merinos now dominate the offering in numbers, with the 130 Poll Merinos offered averaging \$2,465, while the 57 Merinos averaged \$2,478. Of the 187 strong offering, 176 were totally paddock prepared; these presenting very well, despite the dry conditions they have faced prior to the sale day.

The sale kicked off on a high note with very competitive bidding on the first 7 Poll Merino and 4 Merino prepared rams. The first 3 Poll Merinos sold for \$5,000 to the Olsen family, Kaira Pty Ltd, Streaky Bay, \$4,000 to Paul Carey, Talieka Pastoral, Streaky Bay and \$7,500 to NJ & EE MacCartney, Coreen, NSW.

It was the Lot 4 ram that topped the sale at \$15,000, selling to regular repeat buyer, Nick Lienert from Oak Farms Merinos & Poll Merino studs, Buckleboo, SA. With wool figures of 19.2 micron, 2.9 SD, 15.1, CV, 99.8 CF, it is a son of the popular and well sought-after Moorundie W252.

Nick Lienert described the ram as being, “a great ram with well-nourished wool and excellent topline, shoulders and structural correctness.

“He is a very well covered ram with excellent nourishment which are traits we need in our sheep for the type of country we have,” he said.

Oak Farms has been a regular buyer of White River bloodlines for nearly 20 years. In partnership with Sharlu Park Merino Stud, Frankton via Truro, SA, they were also joint purchasers of the lot 8 Merino, the second top priced ram and top priced Merino of the day at \$13,500, a son of Wallaloo Park 112.

The lot 6 Poll Merino saw 3 bidders determined to secure this 136kg son of Moorundie W252, resulting in it achieving the sale’s third top price of \$8250. Two bidders were at the sale, while the third was live streaming from Auctions Plus. Hayden Zander from Zander Poll Merinos, Wynarka, SA placed the final bid to secure this big bodied, 18.4-micron Poll Merino ram. It was his first time purchasing at White River and he couldn’t have been any happier with the outcome.

“This ram impressed me with his stylish, well-nourished white wool, typical of the Moorundie W252 family, plus his impressive carcass size courtesy of White River’s breeding,” Hayden said.

Showing the depth of quality, with lot 120 making \$7,000 with an Auctions Plus bidder being the successful buyer, then lot 136 reached \$7,200, again with an Auctions Plus bidder securing this Poll Merino ram.

Lairg Station was again the stand-out volume buyer, purchasing 45 rams at a great value average of \$876.

This year’s offering saw the first progeny of White River 881, Moorundie W252 sons and sons of Wallaloo Park 112 (that sold for \$52,000 in 2018). They proved to be great additions to genetic mix at White River; 26 sons of WR 881 were offered averaging \$3,207 and topping at \$7,200; 20 W252 sons averaged \$3,957 topping at \$15,000; and 22 WP 112 sons averaged of \$2,986 topping at \$13,500; all well above the overall sale average

Newton Pastoral Pty Ltd, Tintinara, are loyal clients with Julian Desmazures purchasing 10 rams up to \$3,400 and averaging \$2,700. The Turnbull family from Cleve are also regular buyers and strong bidders, purchasing 10 rams up to \$2,400 averaging \$1,590. West coast locals Craig Wright, SF & DJ Wright & Son P/L, Ceduna and WG Fuss & Sons, Cummins each purchased 7 rams, averaging \$3,457 and \$3885 respectively.

The Auctions Plus volume buyer was Driscoll McIlree & Dickinson Nhill from Nhill, Victoria purchasing 30 rams with an average of \$2,813.

Tony Wetherall, Elders Stud Stock Auctioneer, said the line-up this year was terrific. "There was great attendance from both studs and top end commercial buyers. White River is renowned for performance and high-end genetics and the competition was strong right from the word go."

There was plenty of competition from West Coast, Yorke Peninsula, Mid-North and Auctions Plus bidders.

"It was pleasing to see AuctionsPlus being well utilised throughout the sale to allow for interstate parties the opportunity to bid in the current COVID19 environment," Tony Wetherall said.

The Daniell family was very pleased with the overall sale result, with an added bonus of 13ml of rain received on their sale day.

"We were so happy with the result of our sale. It's been a tough year over the state for most areas due to the lack of rain, but it was great to see some rainfall throughout the day," Wes Daniell said.

"We thank our wonderful and loyal bunch of clients, new buyers and supporters who helped us achieve the excellent average of \$2,469 and achieve a total clearance of the 187 Merino and Poll Merino rams," John Daniell added.

The sale was conducted through Elders this year with Tony Wetherall, Elders and Gordon Wood, Nutrien Ag Solutions auctioneering the sale.

Report by Tegan Buckley & Ian Turner



TOP WHITE RIVER RAMS: Pictured with the \$15,000 top priced Poll Merino and \$13,500 Merino rams are Tony Wetherall, Elders Stud Stock, Nick Lienert, Oak Farms, Buckleboo, Wes and John Daniell, White River and Gordon Wood, Nutrien Ag Solutions.

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