

Woolaroo to \$1451 average

By **BRENDAN MANSBRIDGE**

STRONG support from repeat buyers, including a large contingent from Victoria, bolstered the Woolaroo Merino ram sale at Yass on Monday.

Operated by the Walker family, the stud offered 60 rams, with 47 selling under the hammer to a top price of \$3600 and average of \$1451.

John and Irene Bestwick, "Eumarra", Bathurst, and their manager, Gavin Seaman, paid the top price for the second year in a row.

Their \$3600 purchase carried a 16.6-micron fleece, with a standard deviation (SD) of 2.9-micron, coefficient of variation (CV) of 17.9 per cent and a comfort factor of 99.1pc.

The Bestwicks were also the sale's volume buyers, taking home nine rams, including the

equal second-top at \$3000, to average \$2356.

Ledgeworth Partnership, "Ledgeworth", Yass, selected the other \$3000 ram among their draft of four which averaged \$1400.

The leading Victorian buyer was M.A. and D.A. Ball, "Gerrigerrup", Peshurst, who took home three rams to average \$2233, topping at \$2700.

E.W and L.F. Heffernan, Gunning, took a ram at \$2700,

while the Jay Dee Partnership, "Jay Dee", Manildra, purchased four rams to a top of \$2200 and average of \$1450.

The J.S. Obst Partnership, "Rose Vale", Temora, selected four rams for a top price of \$2000 and an average of \$1100.

The sale was conducted by Elders and Landmark Copeland Medway, both of Yass with Elders' Paul Dooley on the auctioneer's rostrum.



James Walker, Woolaroo Merinos, Yass; John Bestwick, "Eumarra", Bathurst, and Gavin Seaman, "Eumarra", with the \$3600 top-priced ram.

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Bella Lana's \$4800, av \$950

VALUES increased for SRS Merino and Poll Merino rams when 60 head topped at \$4800 and averaged \$950 in a total Helmsman auction clearance at the third annual Bella Lana Merino stud sale at Dripstone near Wellington last week.

The average increased by \$303 a head following competition from new and returning buyers. Regarded as a "stand-out" ram, a 14-month-old Poll Merino growing 17.9-micron wool with a comfort factor of 99 per cent, was won with a \$4800 bid by Ben and Bede O'Brien, "Glencardie", Suntop near Wellington.

The ram was in the top one per cent for fat.

The O'Briens purchased three rams for a \$2700 average.

Lachlan and Dugald Campbell "Bonada" and "Burrandong", Wellington, returned to secure eight rams for a \$1313 average to a top of \$2100, twice.

Returning client of six years, Richard Marshall, "Wargandinnia", Burren Junction, bought seven rams for an average of \$1029 and paying to \$2000, while Matthew Slack-Smith, "The Pratts Hut",



Scott Brien, Bella Lana Merinos, Wellington, holds the \$4800 top-priced ram purchased by Ben O'Brien, (right) "Glencardie", Suntop, with Anna Brien and daughters Jane, Hannah and Sarah.

Brewarrina, bought nine rams at \$600 each.

The sale was conducted by Elders Dubbo under the direction of Paul Jameson and Bevan Jolly.

- MARK GRIGGS

Gleneith cracks \$4500 record

A TOP-NOTCH sire set a new record price for the Kember family's Gleneith Border Leicester stud, at Ganmain last Friday, where spirited bidding reached \$5400.

In the breakdown, 19 specially selected rams sold in a total clearance for the top price of \$5400, to average \$1668 and 75

of the 80 flock rams sold at auction for a top of \$1700 to average \$905.

The top ram was by Inverbrackie 357-08, had the highest dollar index in the catalogue at \$128.48 and was eventually secured over the phone by Ross Lomas, Point Vale Super-Borders, Cavendish, Victoria,

who had inspected the ram prior to the sale.

The second-top price of \$3700 was paid by repeat buyer, Greg Doyle, Inglemar Pastoral Company, Walbundrie.

Mr Doyle bought four rams in total for a top of \$3700 to average \$2525.

Volume buyer was Colin Weissell, Elders Wagga Wagga, who secured 30 rams for a corporate enterprise for \$800 each, and Ruby Park Pastoral Company, Wagga Wagga, bought nine rams for a top of \$1000, to average \$875.

The sale was conducted by Elders Narrandera and J.L. Buchanan, Coleambally, with Nick Fogarty and Justin Buchanan the auctioneers.

- CARA JEFFERY



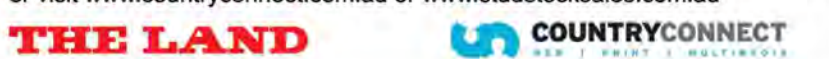
LEFT: Julie and Nathan Kember, Gleneith Border Leicesters, Ganmain, with the \$5400 top-priced ram, the second-top price ram held by Wes Kember, Gleneith, and Greg Doyle, Inglemar Pastoral Company, Walbundrie.

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