

# Value in big GullenGamble line up

By JAMIE-LEE  
OLDFIELD

**A**N INCREASE in both the sale top and average was achieved at the 17th annual on-property GullenGamble ram sale at Yeoval this week.

But with 170 rams offered and 167 sold, clients both old and new still found plenty of value for money in the big line up of Poll Merino rams.

The sale, held by principals Mark and Kym Kerin, "GullenGamble", reached a high of \$5400, up \$1000 on 2014, and averaged \$1940, an increase of about \$150 on last year's result.

In the breakdown, 13 Merino rams averaged \$1383 while the 154 Poll Merino rams cleared sold at an average of \$2030.

The top ram – the second lot to go under the hammer – was purchased by Michael and Leanne Heywood, "Old Mungery", Peak Hill, who returned after also securing the highest-priced lot in 2014.

This year the Heywoods took home an 18.1 micron autumn-drop sire with fleece measurements of 3.2-micron standard deviation (SD), 17.8 per cent coefficient of variation (CV) and 100pc comfort factor.

The ram had yearling clean fleece weight (YCFW) and yearling weight (YWT) MerinoSelect Australian sheep breeding values (ASBVs) in the top five per cent of the breed, at +29.9 and +10.3 respectively.

The 94 kilogram sire was one of four rams selected by the Heywoods for an average \$3950.

Mr Heywood said the ram's size, deep crimping wool and bodyweight attracted the high price tag.

It was just one of the trait leaders offered at GullenGamble, with the sale rams having an average fibre diameter of 18.4 micron, with ASBV values of +22 for YCFW – in the top five per cent of the breed – and YWT in the top 10pc at +7.1.

The second-highest sale price of \$5000 was paid twice, by volume buyers on both occasions.

The first time was for lot 21, a 20.2 micron ram with a whopping YCFW

ASBV of +26.2, selected by Ted and Fiona Hodges, "Avoca", Baldry.

The ram was also a trait leader for YWT at +10.3, and had fleece measurements of 3.2-micron for SD, 16pc CV and 99.5pc CF.

The Hodges purchased seven rams to average \$3914.

Macdonald Grazing, "Mullungen", Molong, was the other volume buyer to pay to \$5000, and averaged \$1740 for its 10 rams.

It paid to \$5000 for lot 29, an 18.8 micron ram with a 3.2-micron SD, 16.9pc CV and 99.8pc CF, that weighed 80kg and was in the top 10pc of the breed for YCFW at +21.2.

Buying up big was John Holland, Uungula Pastoral Wellington, who along with sons George and Oliver, loaded up 20 rams, paying to \$3000 and averaging \$1890.

The \$3000 lot 33 was a 17.8-micron ram with trait leading ASBVs for YCFW and YWT, and fleece measurements of 2.4-micron SD, 16.3pc CV and 99.8pc CF.

Mr Holland had been purchasing GullenGamble rams since the stud was founded, and hadn't missed one of the Kerin's 17 on-property sales.

Joining 3200 Merino ewes, as well as running a Hereford and Angus breeding herd, Mr Holland said he first selected GullenGamble sires to decrease the micron of his Merino flock.

"We keep coming back for the frame of the sheep, and their dual purpose traits," he said.

"It means we can take advantage of what market is performing the best at the time – whether it is wool or meat.

"The good fertility and early maturity traits are also important for turning off lambs."

Neighbours Dudley Grazing Company, "Dudleys", Yeoval, returned after buying 10 rams last year, and put a floor in the sale selecting 17 sires to a top of \$1000, and averaging \$989.

And after buying at GullenGamble for the first time in 2014, Grant McAlpine, "Salisbury", Girilambone, took 10 sale rams at auction to \$2000 twice and averaging \$1940.

Mr McAlpine, who also took 13 graded rams from the paddock, said



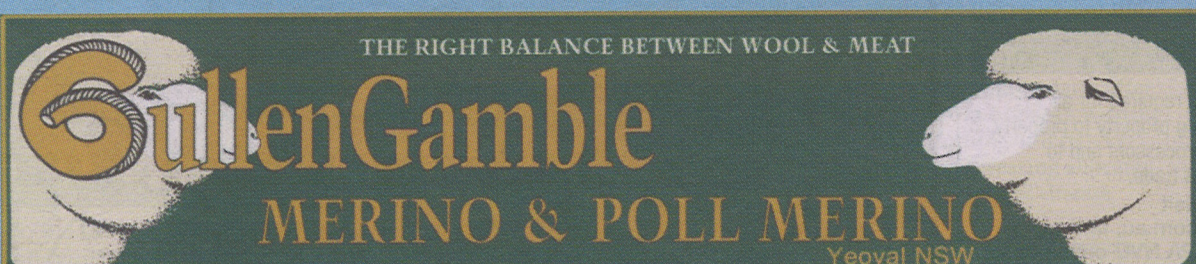
the polled rams at GullenGamble, as well as the impressive wool they grew, brought him back to buy again this year.

Selling agent Scott Thrift, Elders Dubbo, said the sale was consistent and the rams presented well.

"There was strong competition all the way through, with people chasing fleece cut as well as fat and muscle," he said.

**ABOVE:** Elders Dubbo's Scott Thrift, GullenGamble principal Mark Kerin, Yeoval, and top-price buyer Michael Heywood, "Old Mungery", Peak Hill, with the \$5400 top-priced ram.

**RIGHT:** Oliver, John and George Holland, Uungula Pastoral Company, Wellington, who purchased 20 rams to the top-price of \$3000 for the pictured lot.



**Thank you to all buyers  
and under-bidders for  
supporting GullenGamble  
Merinos at another  
tremendous sale.**

**We also welcome our new clients  
and we look forward to working  
with all of you into the future.**

**Top price: \$5400  
Average: \$1940**

**170 rams offered – 167 sold**

- Grade rams now available for sale.
- Classing service available to Clients upon request
- Enquiries always welcome

## SheepGenetics MerinoSelect Database Averages @ 24/08/15

YCFW	YWT	YEMD	DP+
+8.8	+3.2	+0.3	130

\*Top 5% YCFW +22.6 \*Top 5% YWT +8.3

\*Top 10% YCFW +19.9 \*Top 10% YWT +7.1 \*Top 10% DP+ 149

## GullenGamble 2015 Sale Ram Averages

MIC:	18.4
YCFW:	+22.0
YWT:	+7.1
DP+:	148

Industry Trait Leaders – top 10% of breed



**We're still turning heads ....**

**Mark and Kym Kerin**

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