

2017 Mernowie Sale Report

Mernowie Poll Merino stud celebrated its 30th annual on property auction at Marrabel in stunning style on 15th September with a total clearance of rams.

A large crowd of registered bidders pushed the average to \$2,045 for the 103 rams offered by Ian, Roz, David and Paige Rowett

The Groves family from Booleroo Centre bought the top price ram at \$5,800. The top ram had outstanding fleece measurements and carcass traits. They purchased four rams in all at a \$5,200 average to complement their quality commercial flock. Principals Wayne and Brendon Groves consistently feature in the top bracket for wool and sheep sales with their Mernowie bred sheep.

Morley stud, Cowell purchased lot 2, a big ram with outstanding conformation and 18 micron wool for \$5,000. Studmaster Leonie Mills who was overseas, left the bidding to father Alex Horne. Mernowie blood sheep have consistently performed well on the Eyre Peninsula stud.

Peter Rowett and son Kerry, Bordertown provided strong support in the sale with four rams averaging \$4,200. Kerry Rowett said the Mernowie sheep with their easy care traits and very white wool thrived in their country.

Volume buyer was Grant Burge of Burge Estates Tanunda with 23 rams to \$3,400. Mr Burge has recently purchased another grazing property and was keen to secure quality rams for his flock which is run on country averaging up to 700 mm rainfall.

Other volume buyers included Andriske Farms, Loxton with 6 rams to \$3,800: I&M Kelly also bought six for their property at Lock.

Pastoral interests were well represented with Yednalue station Carrieton actively buying a quality draft.

Netallie station, Wilcannia NSW also continued their support of Mernowie bred rams which perform well in their drier climate.

A number of local and repeat clients also were successful in purchasing Mernowie genetics.

A feature of the catalogue was the measured data for wool and meat traits provided to assist prospective buyers.

Joint principals Ian and David Rowett said that since joining the national benchmarking Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBV's) program they had experienced quicker genetic gain and the information was of great assistance to clients in choosing their rams.