

\$5800 Wiltipoll national ram record

By CATHERINE MILLER

A NEW national Wiltipoll record was set at the South Australian Combined Breeders sale last Friday at Mount Pleasant with the top price ram reaching a spectacular \$5800 high.

The July 2009-drop from vendors San Jolly and Ann Wallace, Wonoka stud, Kapunda, sold to Peter George, Illowra stud, Kawarren, Victoria, who was looking to improve his new stud comprising 30 ewes.

"I really liked his black feet, good length and good clean shedding coat," he said.

"Wiltipolls are less work than other breeds. I only go up to the farm on weekends so they need to be easy care.

The top price easily eclipsed the \$2700 top at last year's sale, also achieved by Wonoka, and the \$3200 paid for a Western Australian ram in a private sale

Sale summary

Rams	
■ Offered	53
■ Sold	39
■ Top	\$5800
■ Av	\$1326
Ewes	
■ Offered	46
■ Sold	34
■ Top	\$935
■ Av	\$462

earlier this year. For San, it was a reward for the past 12 years of breeding the sheep. She said it had been a long journey, especially when it came to gaining acceptance for the Wiltipoll breed among mainstream sheep producers for its easy-care attributes.

"It has been a slow and steady progress trying to improve the breed quality. And



THRILLING DAY: Wonoka stud principals San Jolly and Ann Wallace, Kapunda, were thrilled to achieve a \$5800 national record with a ram sold to Peter George, Illowra, Kawarren, Victoria.

because they are not imported, we have had to breed them ourselves," she said.

The Mt Pleasant multi-vendor sale continues to grow in stature each year with the fifth annual sale catalogue comprising 53 rams and 46 ewes from 12 different vendors.

It attracted 41 registered bidders from SA, Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania and in the breakdown, 39 rams sold for a \$1326 average and 34 ewes for a \$462 average.

Wonoka sold another ram for \$3400 to JW&AF Cabot, Port Lincoln, and for the same money The Palms, Palmer, sold their pick ram to Bruce Williams, Marchmont, Gigegannup, WA.

Repeat volume buyer PJ&K Dowdle, Woodhouse, Vic, underpinned strong competition early in the sale but after he had filled his order, a number of rams from the newer vendors were passed in.

Tasmanian breeders Erica Bell and Sebastian Seidel, Misima stud, Hobart, made their presence felt during the ewe offering with 10 ewes, including two at the \$925 high from Wonoka stud.

Mr Seidel, secretary of the Tasmanian sub-committee, said Wiltipolls were better-suited to these high rainfall areas than other naturally shedding breeds and had eliminated the need to drench their sheep.

Ewes were generally in demand, with Wonoka averaging \$788 for their six ewes and Coolamon Park, Pinnaroo, having a total clearance of their six ewes for a \$575 average.

However, there was buying across all budgets, with 14 of the 15 ewes including two with lambs at foot from Eden Valley Estate, Springton, making between \$225 and \$300 each.

Elders Strathalbyn conducted the sale with Tom Penna the auctioneer.

How the studs sold

Rams	Offered	Sold	Top	Av
■ Wonoka, Kapunda	3	3	\$5800	\$3400
■ The Palms, Palmer	3	3	\$3400	\$2133
■ Burange, Lucindale	6	6	\$2000	\$1350
■ Coolamon Park, Pinnaroo	11	11	\$2200	\$1182
■ Kars, Strathalbyn	10	10	\$1400	\$1000
■ Spring Creek, Kapunda	2	2	\$900	\$750
■ Serenidad, Netherby – sold one ram at \$800				
■ Eden Valley Estate, Springton sold one at \$700				
■ Cromer Park, Cromer sold one at \$500				
■ Glenmorangie, Aldgate sold one at \$500				