

# switch to SA shedding sheep



## Timely call for Wiltipoll purchase from Broken Hill's Kars Station

A PHONE call "out of the blue" enquiring about 6000 Wiltipoll ewes caught Fred Hughes (pictured with wife Pip and their children Sidney and Dougally) off guard – but it was "very timely".

He did not have 6000 to spare, but was able to sell Tony Kelly and Jo Eldridge 3078 ewes from across three age groups after they inspected the sheep in September.

Mr Hughes said he believed the record sale of Wiltipoll ewes to also be the biggest ever sale of a wool shedding breed to a single client.

Mr Hughes operates Kars Station at Broken Hill with his wife Pip and their children where they run registered and flock Wiltipoll sheep, while his parents Annie and Tom run a registered flock at Strathalbyn.

The last lot of ewes – which were trucked across five loads in five weeks – left Kars Station last week.

Mr Hughes said they also had an order for another "load or two" next year.

Despite the large sale, Mr Hughes said he still had 4500 ewes, plus ewe lambs, at the Kars Station operation. "The Wiltipolls really seem to thrive out here," he said.

◀ cattle, Mr Kelly and Ms Eldridge were running 1000 head across their two farms, about 2300 hectares each, and 1800ha lease property, all adjoining.

"We'd normally run 1000 head of cattle and crop about 700ha of wheat, but we'll scale that back now and grow more dual-purpose crops for sheep feed," he said.

Mogal Plain has a 1000-head registered feedlot which Mr Kelly said could be converted to a lamb feedlot, if they want-

ed. "We have 1000 tonnes of silage cut for this year for that option."

Mr Kelly said he was hoping to sell lambs directly on-hooks.

"But with our liaison with Tony we know he'll take them to finish too if we can't," he said.

"The downfall in the first year will be only having half the progeny to sell because we'll be retaining the first-cross ewes."

They plan to buy more Wiltipoll ewes next year.

# REMEMBER