

Magnificent Mandayen at Keith

After four great sale results held at the Woonallee sale complex at Furner, the Gommers family had some pre-sale nerves before staging their 5th annual Limousin Performance sale at their new Keith venue, the 8 Mile Saleyard formally owned by Noranda. Changing venue can have a negative effect on sale results, but that was far from the case in this sale, with a magnificent result that exceeded their previous highest gross by nearly \$50,000

The result was not surprising to most observers as it reflected the quality on offer. The Gommers family and particularly stud manager Damian Gommers should be congratulated on the quality and presentation of their Limousin bulls and females and their hospitality.

They offered 59 bulls and 35 females that were very much in tune with industry signals, having great balance, breed type and functionality. This was backed by wonderful performance figures and health status, Mandayen being the first European breed stud to embrace the Pfizer Star health program. Mandayen is well above breed average for all trait EBVs including docility, where they are well above, having paid strict attention to this from the inception of their stud in the 1990s.

The 59 bulls sold to \$14,000 and averaged an outstanding \$4,881.36, while the females sold to \$8,000 for a 9½ month unmated heifer and averaged over \$3,500.

GD & P Zilm buying through Elders Naracoorte got the sale off on a top note by successfully bidding \$5,000 for lot 1, a Wulfs Nobel Prize son. The first Hunt Mr Jock 44J (USA) son to be offered by Mandayen, Mandayen Mr Jock D1141, a 21 month old and 856kg homozygous black Limousin with extreme performance followed and attracted very strong competition from several key bidders. Eventually Frank Hill, Derrimal won the intense bidding competition with a \$14,000 bid. He runs 500 Angus cows and will breed first cross bulls with this new sire. These bulls will then be used to produce the 9 month old steer weaners he produces for the feedlot trade.

The second top price of \$11,000 was bid by Robert Woodward, Garrison Cattle Feeders P/L, Swan Hill and Lucindale and buying through SAL Naracoorte. This was for an apricot Nobel Prize son, also with outstanding performance figures and was one of 5 bulls he bought on the day. These will be used at their Lucindale property in a crossbreeding program over Red Angus and Gelbvich cross females. Their 5 top bull purchases averaged \$7,150.

The Neyland family, Prill Park Nominees, Euston and buying through Elders Mildura agent Kelvin Fitzgerald were the biggest volume buyers of the sale. They purchased 6 select bulls to \$6,500 and at a \$5,250 average, having been fantastic supporters of Mandayen over their past sales, paying up to an equal Mandayen record of \$16,000. They selected 4 blacks and 2 reds in their purchases this year.

Also buying through Kelvin Fitzgerald was Mark Collett, representing the family partnership of RM Collett & Sons, Mildura. He has also been a strong supporter in the past including the top priced bull in 2007. This year he purchased 3 top red bulls, paying \$5,500 twice and a top of \$9,000 for a Mandayen Vision Y329 son. Vision Y329 was the sire of most of Mandayen's award winning steers and heifers in the 2009 Melbourne Royal carcass competition.

Kaye Considine, representing Considine Brothers, Burrungule via Mt Gambier was again a strong bidder after purchasing last year's \$10,500 top priced bull. While she was underbidder on the \$11,000 second top priced bull, she was successful in purchasing 3 top red bulls at \$6,250 to \$8,000.

Other key bull buyers included Bernie Seebeck representing BH & LM Seebeck, Pakenham (3 bulls to \$5,000 for their west Gippsland based herd); Meadowside Estate buying through Landmark

Naracoorte's David Heinrich (3 bulls at \$3,500 each); Spence Dix & Co (4 @ \$3,000); Berthong Pastoral Co, NSW (1 @ \$6,000); HE & RL Maxwell, Nentawarra (1 @ \$5,500); and Anthony Allen, Rockallen Pastoral Co, Willalooka (1 @ \$8,000). Anthony Allen has bought bulls from Mandayen every year for the last 11 years and this year also added 2 females, as did bull buyers Bernie Seebeck.

The female offering commenced with ten 3 in 1 units; cows with calves at foot and re-mated. These topped at \$7,000 for the first one offered, an apricot Mandayen Krystal B727, sired by Ionesco and with a polled bull calf at foot by Nobel Prize and AI'd to the homozygous polled bull HC Final Time 407. The successful bidders were repeat buyers Paul and Janette Relf, Warragul Limousins, Wingham, NSW. They later added another mated female for \$3,500. The 10 cow and calf units averaged a very solid \$3,600.

Chris & Marilyn Meade, Pelican Rise stud, Colac paid to \$6,250 for the top mated cow in the draft of 9 on offer in this category. This was also for an Ionesco daughter. They also purchased another at \$5,500, with these 9 mated cows averaging \$3,750.

The Meades then bid very strongly to win out the bidding for the top two black 2009 drop heifers to come into the ring from a draft of 16. These 2 sold at \$6,000 for the first and then the sale topping \$8,000 for females. This sale topper was a fantastic 9½ month daughter of Hunt Mr Jock 44J and was out of the \$3,500 mated cow purchased a few lots earlier by the Relfs, making that purchase a real bargain.

Underbidders on these 2 black heifers were Justin and Penny Schulz, trading as Schulz Livestock, Coonalpyn. Elders agent, Brian Biddle bid on their behalf, and was more successful in purchasing 3 other females for their Mt Raven black Limousin stud, paying from \$3,500 to \$4,250. They paid the \$8,500 top female price last year.

The second top heifer price of \$7,000 was paid by repeat buyers Bruce and Sue Griffiths, Beckenham Limousins, Kyneton, Vic when they successfully bid for the first apricot 2009 drop heifer. This was another Hunt Mr Jock 44J daughter that was double polled and in the top 10% of the breed for 5 production traits. They later added another top apricot heifer for only \$2,500 to average out their buying. Thirteen of the sixteen 2009 drop heifers sold in the auction with 2 clearing straight away afterwards; the fifteen that sold averaging \$3,567.

Other top female buyers included Mt Gambier Limousins (3 to \$4,250); S & R Laslett, Moorak (3 to \$2,500); and CM & P Armstrong, Wharparilla, Vic (3 to \$3,000).

In summing up the sale, Elders stud stock officer Ross Milne stated that the Gommers family were justly rewarded for their attention to quality and detail, presenting a terrific line of industry relevant cattle that were soft and nicely grown.

Sale Summary		2010	2009	2010	2009
Bulls				Mated Heifers	
Offered	59	58	9	8	
Sold	59	55	9	8	
Top	\$14,000	\$10,500	\$3,750	\$3,094	
Ave	\$4,881	\$4,332	\$3,750	\$3,094	
3 in 1 Cow and Calf Units				Heifers	
Offered	10	9	16	18	
Sold	10	9	15	15	
Top	\$7,000	\$8,500	\$8,000	\$5,500	
Ave	\$3,600	\$3,917	\$3,568	\$3,033	

Sale Gross: \$411,250

Agents: Spence Dix & Co & Elders Ltd

Auctioneers: Jonathon Spence & Larryn Gogel



Pictured with the \$14,000 top priced bull at last week's Mandayen Limousin sale at Keith are Elders auctioneer and Keith branch manager Larryn Gogel; Spence Dix & Co auctioneer Jonathon Spence, Mandayen principal and stud manager Damian Gommers; buyer Frank Hill, Derrimal, Vic and his agent Kevin Stratton, representing Ellis Nuttall, Bendigo.



Key bull buyers at the Mandayen Limousin sale were Spence Dix & Co auctioneer Jonathon Spence, Mark Collett, Mildura (3 bulls to \$9,000); Mandayen principal Damian Gommers, Keith and Murray Bridge; Mark & Justin Neyland, Euston, NSW (6 bulls to \$6,500); and the agent for the Neyland and Collett families, Kelvin Fitzgerald, Elders Mildura.



Mandayen principals Mandy and Damian Gommers (right) are pictured with key female buyers from their 5th annual Mandayen Limousin Performance sale last week. They are Paul and Janelle Relf, Warrigul Limousins, Wingham, NSW (2 females to \$7,000); Greg Moore, Wingham who travelled with them; Bruce and Sue Griffiths, Beckenham Limousins, Kyneton, Vic (2 females also to \$7,000); and Elders Livestock consultant Tim Bayliss (centre back).