

Outstanding quality a feature at Mandayen

If there has been an offering of better quality cattle this year than at the 4th Annual Mandayen Limousin Performance sale, they must have been very good indeed. Damian Gommers and family presented a wonderful draft of 93 high performance, soft, easy doing and extremely docile Limousin cattle for sale last Wednesday at the Woonallee sale complex, Furner. They were supported by a large crowd of interested cattle breeders that contained 70 registered bidders, providing a very solid sale result, with a 94% clearance and a sale gross of \$343,750.

While buying support was very good, it was evident that commercial producers were conscious of operating within pre-set budgets. 70% of the 59 bulls offered went for prices between \$3,000 and \$5,000, with only 9 selling higher and 7 below that range in the bargain basement area. As a result, the bull sale achieved a very solid average of \$4,332 for the 55 lots sold; topping at \$10,500. Last year 4 bulls sold above \$10,000 and topped at \$16,000, so to achieve an average that was only \$173 less than last year's fantastic result, while also offering 5 more bulls, was a very credible result in these times of financial uncertainty. It also reflected the depth of quality in the offering.

The \$10,500 top price was paid by Kaye Considine, representing Considine Brothers, Burrungule, via Mt Gambier. They run 400 Poll Hereford and Limousin cows on two blocks and have been regular supporters of Mandayen Limousin genetics.

They outlaid the \$10,500 for lot 44; one of the late September '07 spring drop bulls, Mandayen Vision C1042, by top homebred sire Mandayen Vision Y329. This 690kg and 17 month old bull was well grown and displayed good muscle expression, also offering length and top disposition. He is in the top 10% of the breed for 6 production traits and dollar indices. Kaye said she was looking for a good all round bull, but he needed to have low birth weight and high docility and milk EBVs. She also found these features in a Wulfs Nobel Prize son at lot 30, only having to outlay \$3,000 for that purchase.

Pre-sale, the Gommers family presented gifts to Anthony Allen, Rockallen, Willalooka and Michael Blake, Hamilton. Both these clients have bought from Mandayen for the last 10 years. This year Michael purchased a black Limflex bull, also by M.Vision Y329 for \$5,000, while Anthony purchased 2 top bulls at lots 4 and 13 for \$9,500 and \$7,500. These 2 were sired by Ionesco N206, the sire of last year's sale toppers and Hamilton Beef Expo winners.

The volume bull buying honours were shared by 4 producers with three bulls each. AS & RL Darcy, through TDC, Penola paid from \$4,000 to \$4,500, Berthong Pastoral Co, Wallandbeen, NSW paid from \$3,500 to \$5,500, MJ & SA Byrnes, Strathalbyn paid from \$2,500 to \$3,000 and award winning butchers, GF & VC Hardwick, Kyneton, Vic paid from \$2,500 to \$3,250 for their 3 bulls.

In top end buying, Paul Relf, Warrigal Limousins and buying through Elders Taree, paid \$8,000 for a black Mandayen Vision Y329 son at lot 40. They later added 3 females from \$3,000 to \$5,000 to be strong contributors to the overall success of the sale.

The McDonald family, Furan Props, Strathalbyn purchased the first of the spring drop bulls; another black Vision Y329 son for \$7,750. Prairie Glen Pastoral, Lucindale paid \$6,750 for an Ionesco son at lot 27, plus \$5,000 for a Cookie Monster son at lot 15, while S&B Gleeson, Pt Fairy, Vic went to \$6,500 for another Ionesco son at lot 26.

Other multiple bull buyers were AR & JE Legoe, Lucindale (2 bulls @ \$3,000 & \$4,500); RF, PJ & P Holmes, Drik Drik, Vic (2 @ \$3,500 each); Corinna Park, Mt Gambier (2 @ \$3,500 and \$4,500); Killarnie Props, Mt Gambier (2 @ \$2,500 each); Andrew Chapman, Winchelsea, Vic (2 @ \$4,000 and \$4,500); JAK Pastoral, Naracoorte (2 @ \$4,500 and \$5,000); GW Cain, Strathdownie, Vic (2 @ \$4,000 and \$4,500); and BJ & RJ Smith, Millicent (2 @ \$4,000 and \$5,500).

In the female section, competition was also very strong. The offering of 9 cows all cleared for a \$3,917 average. Paying the top of this section and ultimately the entire female offering were Jason and Penny Schultz, Mt Raven Limousins, Coonalpyn. They successfully bid to \$8,500 to secure a 3 in 1 unit at lot 63, Kensal Black Pearl with a heifer calf at foot and AI'd back to Wulfs Nobel Prize. They later added 3 young heifers from \$2,500 to \$3,500 to round out a top day's buying.

In the mated 2007 drop heifers, the top of \$5,500 was bid by Auctions Plus, with this apricot polled heifer by Wulfs Realtor 1503R and PTIC going to 16 year old Tim Anderson, Dural, NSW. The 8 mated heifers averaged a very credible \$3,094 in an excellent result.

The eighteen 2008 drop weaner heifers also sold well until the very end of the sale, when 3 were passed. The other 15 also topped at \$5,500 to Eleanor Stewart, Ararat, Vic. She successfully bid this amount for Mandayen Kuddles D1122, a double polled and apricot heifer, produced from a fully imported embryo by Carrouseles MVP and from Wulfs Kuddles.

B & S Griffiths were top bidders and paid to \$4,750 for 3 top females from the offering. Other key female buyers included DJ & TJ Hodge, Burrungule (3 to \$2,750 to add to a bull at \$3,500), Peter Armstrong, Wharparilla, Vic (2 to \$3,000 to add to a \$3,500 bull), Steven Mulraney, Mt Gambier (2 to \$3,500), Manoora Park Limousins, Ayrswford, Vic (2 to \$3,750) and S Laslett, Moorak, (2 to \$3,000).

It could be argued that the quality of the female offering exceeded even that of the bulls. The depth of quality was only possible because of the exceptional success of the Mandayen ET programs in recent years.

Sale Summary 2009 2008

Bulls

Offered	58	53
Sold	55	52
Top	\$10,500	\$16,000
Ave	\$4,332	\$4,505

Cows

Offered	9	10
Sold	9	9
Top	\$8,500	\$6,000
Ave	\$3,917	\$3,278

Mated Heifers

Offered	8	20
Sold	8	20
Top	\$5,500	\$5,500
Ave	\$3,094	\$2,938

Weaner Heifers

Offered	18	13
Sold	15	13
Top	\$5,500	\$5,750
Ave	\$3,033	\$3,192

Sale agents: *Elders Ltd*

Auctioneers: *Jono Spence and Laryn Gogel*



Pictured with the \$10,500 top priced bull at the 4th annual Mandayen Limousin Performance sale are Mandayen co-principals Mandy and Damian Gommers, Elders auctioneer Jono Spence and buyer, Kaye Considine, Burrungule, via Mt Gambier.



Buyers of \$9,500 and \$7,500 bulls at the Mandayen sale were Anthony and Tanya Allen, 'Rockallen', Willalooka. They are with Elders auctioneer Jono Spence (left) and Mandayen co-principals Damian and Mandy Gommers, Murray Bridge.



Prominent buyers of females at the Mandayen sale were Paul Relf, Warrigal Limousins, Taree, NSW (1 bull @ \$8,000 and 3 heifers to \$5,000), Wayne Churchill, Numkeeri Park Limousins, Kilandra, Vic (1 heifer @ \$4,000), Murray Armstrong, Shepparton, Vic (1 heifer @ \$2,750) and Sue and Bruce Griffiths, Beckenham Limousins, Kyneton, Vic (3 heifers to \$4,750).



Penny and Jason Schultz, Raven Limousin stud, Coonalpyn were the most prominent buyers of Limousin females at the Mandayen sale. They bought the top priced cow @ \$8,500, plus 3 heifers to \$3,500. They are with Mandayen principal Damian Gommers.



Pictured after the Mandayen sale was co-principal Len Gommers (centre), with a group of south east buyers. They are agent Charles Smith, O'Connor and Graney, Mt Gambier (whose clients purchased 3 bulls and 1 female); Kaye Considine, Burrungule (2 bulls including the top priced bull at \$10,500); David Jones, Mt Gambier (1 bull & 1 female); and John Considine, Mt Gambier (2 bulls).