

## TOP JOCK SETS \$21,000 RECORD

By CATHERINE MILLER (courtesy of the Stock Journal)

In one of the SA bull sale calendar's most spectacular sales three bulls broke Mandayen Limousin stud's \$16,000 stud record on Wednesday last week Vendors Damian and Mandy Gommers and family sold 72 Limousin and Limflex bulls to a \$21,000 high at their seventh annual bull sale at the Eight Mile sale complex near Keith.

They also notched up a record average of \$6395- a jump of \$1109 on 2011-on the largest number of bulls they had ever offered at auction.

Mandayen maintained its reputation as a leading seedstock supplier with studs from four states of Australia competing fiercely for the top end of the catalogue.

The sale's success though was owed to the lengths that many repeat commercial buyers were prepared to go to continue breeding progeny hitting market demand.

It was raining bids from the opening of the sale with the first 10 bulls averaging \$11,450.

Lot two, Mandayen Ionesco was the first bull to make five figures selling for \$19,500 to Robert Woodward, Garrison Cattle Feeders, Swan Hill, Victoria.

In total Garrison Cattle Feeders bought seven bulls for a \$7857 average.

The new record was short lived with bidding on the next lot surpassed it and producing the \$21,000 sale top.

Regular Mandayen buyers Bruce and Sue Griffiths bought the sale topper Mandayen Mr Jock F1593 for their Victorian based stud, Beckenham Limousins at Kyneton.

The embryo transfer bred, double polled apricot bull tipped the scales at 860 kilograms at 21 months of age and turned the Griffiths heads for his "bloodlines and fantastic figures."

Mandayen's herd exceeds breed average for all Breedplan EBV's and the sale topper had some really impressive arithmetic to match his eye appealing phenotype.

The bull had nine production traits in the top 5 per cent of the breed and all \$ index values and growth traits in the top 1pc of the breed's 2010 drop calves.

Beckenham Limousins' previous sire Mandayen Guardian A488 has paid for himself in semen sales and sired two of the three Borthwick Trophy winning steers at the Royal Melbourne Show last year.

The following lot- a full ET flush sibling-which was black in colour attracted the attention of Queensland stud breeders Jon and Leny Gaffney, Graneta stud, Bell who paid the equal second top price \$19,500.

"When the previous two made big money we knew we would have to pay. We have come too far not to take home the bull we wanted," Jon said.

"Where else in Australia can you go to a sale to select from such a top quality line of Limo bulls - nowhere," Leny said.

The Gaffneys said the bull suited their stud operation breeding bulls for their bullock clients in Queensland.

Both the top priced and equal second top priced bull were sons of Hunt Mr Jock 44J who has been the highest averaging sire for the past three years.

Six sons in this year's sale averaged \$13,083.

One of the most exciting genetic package was the first son of Wulfs Titus to be sold in Australia produced from an imported embryo from the United States.

The black bull which was the heaviest bull in the catalogue at 898 kilograms made \$13,000 selling to Mount Pleasant Limousins, Forbes, NSW.

The sale's volume buyer BH&LM Seebeck, Berwick, Victoria proved there was plenty of more modest priced bulls taking home 10 bulls for a \$3750 average.

In total 26 bulls made \$4000 or less.

Elders Mildura's Kelvin Fitzgerald was busy shuffling buying cards high in the stands taking home 12 bulls for five different commercial clients.

The tally included seven to Prill Park Nominees, Tammit Station, Euston, NSW for an \$8938 average.

Bidding on the Limflex bulls scattered through the catalogue was less animated with only six of eight selling for a \$4250 average.

Stud principal Damian Gommers was "absolutely rapt" with the result.

"It is very humbling that we are getting those who have been buying our bulls for seven years or so and paying good money who keep coming back each year."

"Hopefully they are getting a bit extra for their calves so it works both ways."

He said being the largest registered Limousin stud in Australia with 350 stud females enabled them to offer large numbers of bulls of consistent quality.

"We are trying to put softness and real doing ability in our cattle without losing the muscle the Limousins are known for so the calves can be finished for any market- as vealers, feedlots or the EU market," he said.

Damian said it was pleasing for the breed that the large number of Limousin bulls on offer this season were finding homes indicating the breed was riding a wave of popularity.

Next year Mandayen will hold a special twilight female production sale where they hope to offer 80 females on the eve of its bull sale.

Joint selling agents were Spence Dix & Co, Elders and Landmark with Jono Spence, Ross Milne and Gordon Wood rotating on the rostrum.



**NEW RECORD:** Landmark Armidale's Tim Bayliss and clients Sue and Bruce Griffiths, Beckenham Limousins, Kyneton, Victoria were successful on the \$21,000 top priced bull at Mandayen's seventh annual bull sale last week. They are pictured with stud principal Damian Gommers and auctioneers Jonathan Spence from Spence Dix & Co, Landmark stud stock account manager Gordon Wood and Elders stud stock's Ross Milne.