

Mawarra climbs to \$18,000

By JEANETTE SEVERS

A MOUNTAIN of a bull called Mawarra Chicago, which weighed 1064 kilograms at two years old, topped last week's Mawarra sale at Longford, Victoria, when the hammer fell at \$18,000.

All up, 70 of 88 bulls sold to average \$5829.

The sale topper was bought by Arthur Trethowan, Albury, and had 100/100 pigmentation and a 39.5 centimetre scrotal circumference.

Chicago was a son of Mawarra Whisky River and from Mawarra Miss Titania 299.

This was followed with a second purchase by Mr Trethowan, a long-term customer of the Sykes family of Mawarra, who also paid \$12,000 for the last bull of the sale, Mawarra Coopers Town.

Coopers Town was 18 months old but managed an impressive weight of 802kg, pigmentation of 100/100 and a scrotal circumference of 39.5cm.

Mr Trethowan regularly tops the market at Wodonga with his heifers, all of which are Mawarra blood.

The second-highest priced bull was Mawarra Challenger at \$17,000, which sold to W.B. and M.L. Armstrong, Leongatha, Vic.

Challenger, a July 2013 calf, with pigmentation of 95/100 and a scrotal circumference of 41.5cm, weighed 900kg, and was a son of a Big-Gully sire.

The buyer of the top-priced poll Hereford bull was just as happy with his purchase.

Peter Adams, Staghorn Flat, Vic,



Peter Adams, Staghorn Flat, Victoria, East Gippsland Livestock's Geoff Nicholls and Mawarra principals Deanne and Peter Sykes, with the top-priced Poll Hereford bull from Mawarra's sales, Media Baron. Mr Adams paid \$12,000 for the two-year-old 920 kilogram bull by Merawah Maximum and from Mawarra Cherry Ripe. The horned bulls topped at \$18,000.

paid \$12,000 for the two-year-old Mawarra Media Baron, by Merawah Maximum and from Mawarra Cherry Ripe.

Media Baron weighed 920kg and measured 41cm for scrotal circumference and 100/100 pigmentation.

"I like the growth in their cattle and their do-ability," Mr Adams said of Mawarra.

"They produce true Hereford cattle." Mr Adams was a traditional Hereford breeder until recent years, when he switched to polled cattle.

He breeds Herefords for the two-

year-old prime steer market and keeps his heifers in the herd.

Vendor, Peter Sykes, said he was pleased with the result of the sale.

"There were a lot of repeat buyers today and a lot of new customers," Mr Sykes said.

"A lot of these fellas have been getting good results in the recent mountain calf sales with their breeding and those are good results for us as well.

"We're trying to breed what our customers want, with the traditional attributes of the Hereford breed, but with better carcass attributes.

"We've also been breeding Poll Herefords and we had a few available today which did well."

Eddie, Gail and Lucy Sellers, Bendoc Park Poll Hereford stud, Delegate, added to their own stud cattle at Mawarra's sale, buying three heifers and a stud cow with a bull calf at foot.

The Sellers family, including another daughter, Emma, are building their stud herd and host their bull sale in May.

"We are looking to build up our breeding, mostly buying Mawarra heifers at the moment," Mr Sellers said.

Making News

Beef's helping hand: A landmark study into the environmental performance of the Australian beef industry across 30 years shows steps undertaken by cattle producers have led to significant reductions in emissions, water use and emissions associated with land use across the period between 1981 and 2010.

The Life Cycle Assessment study, funded by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), quantifies the environmental impacts of Australian beef production.

Results show improved genetic selection of animals, heavier finishing weights, increased survival rates, capping of artesian bores and a decline in irrigation, as well as an increase in lotfeeding since the early 1990s, have been key developments in reduced environmental impact and improved productivity.

MLA on-farm innovation and adoption general manager Dr Matthew McDonagh said investing in this research provided the most comprehensive analysis of the environmental efficiency of Australian beef production on farm.

"The results from this study have given us valuable long-term data on the Australian beef system and a benchmark to equip industry with quantitative data and facts to reinforce Australia's credentials as being producers of high quality beef, both here and with our customers overseas," he said.

"This is also a critical body of research in helping industry respond to any misconceptions around environmental impacts of beef production, given the Australian beef industry covers almost half of Australia's land mass and is one of the country's largest agricultural industries, worth \$17 million to the economy and employing more than 200,000 people."

Alpine Angus sells all to \$4568 average

ALPINE Angus had a full clearance for the second year running for its 12th annual bull sale at Rosewhite, Victoria, last week.

All of the 59 bulls offered were sold for an average of \$4568 to buyers consisting of repeat and new clients, which mostly came from local areas such as Wangaratta, Corryong and Omeo, but also as far as South Australia and Northern NSW.

The top price of \$15,000 paid was for Alpine Jumbo J052 by Ben Mayne, Texas Angus, Warialda.

Jumbo was from Alpine Wilcoola D18 and by Coonamble Z3.

Alpine Angus stud manager Chris Oswin said the Coonamble Z3 progeny proved to be highly sought after.

"The Z3 line was popular and provided a solid base for the sale," Mr Oswin said.

The two-year-old Alpine Jumbo J052 weighed 840 kilograms, and had an eye muscle area (EMA) figure of +6.3 and a 600-day weight figure of +109, placing the bull among the top percentiles for the breed.

The second highest priced bull,

Alpine Justice J108, by Te Mania Emperor E343, was bought by Independent Breeding Services, Wangaratta, for \$7500.

Volume buyers included R.J. and B.R. Surtees, Nariel Valley, Victoria, who purchased four bulls, averaging \$4000, and Tom Groggin Station, Corryong, which bought three bulls, also averaging \$4000.

Mr Oswin said the recent high prices at the Myrtleford and Omeo markets were mirrored in the sale outcome.

"Off the back of those we did pretty well," Mr Oswin said.

Jim Bruce, Elders stud stock, said the sale serviced a number of price points and markets.

"We sold a number [of bulls] at \$3000, so the affordability was there, but then the top end was also there, resulting in a strong average," Mr Bruce said.

"The results are a good sign for Alpine as well as the industry in general."

Mr Bruce said the results were also reflective of Alpine Angus's strong local following.

- JESSICA SKILBECK



Alpine Angus manager, Chris Oswin; Michael Glasser, Glasser Total Sales Management; James Ryan, Keith, South Australia; Dan Ivone, Paull and Scollard, Myrtleford, Victoria; Jim Delany, Alpine Angus, and Jim Bruce, Elders stud stock, with Alpine Angus \$15,000 sale topper Alpine Jumbo J052, sold to Texas Angus, Warialda.

Failed export deal leaves agents high and dry

SOME livestock agents in Victoria and the Riverina are set to be left with debts in the millions of dollars after a failed live export deal to China resulted in a West Australian live export company go into voluntary administration.

The failed deal, estimated to be worth more than \$20 million, meant Carpenter International Pty Ltd was placed in administra-

tion last week under the control of Grant Thornton Australia (GTA).

GTA managing partner Matthew Donnelly said more than 20 agents were owed money, with some individual agents owed up to \$2.5m.

The collapsed order has trapped 11,000 Friesian and Angus heifers in export delivery feedlots across the country.

About 350 farmers were involved in supplying the export order but

Mr Donnelly said most of the creditors were stock agents.

"Because the farmers sold through agents, working on del credere (on trust) contracts, the agents have taken the credit risk, so the majority of the farmers have been paid and the out-of-pocket now falls to the agent," Mr Donnelly said.

"There are about 20 agents involved.

"Some of the agents have supplied 25 per cent of the herd, with some supplying 30-40 head of cattle.

"There is a big mix (of debt)."

Mr Donnelly said the administrators were looking for an agency to conduct a stocktake of the cattle and to put the herd back on the market.

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