

# Livestock

## Monterey fires to \$20,500 top

By KANE CHATFIELD,  
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MONTEREY lived up to its reputation as one of the country's more influential seedstock producers at its annual Murray Grey and Angus production sale at the Knutsford Selling Complex, Kojonup, last week.

With beef prices finally swinging in the right direction for producers, there is an overdue positive vibe throughout the WA beef industry this bull selling season.

And the Eastern States' return to favourable seasons was evident again as the Monterey studs, along with guest vendor Tullibardine Murray Grey stud, attracted increased Eastern States' support that combined strongly with the usual following of new and return WA stud and commercial producers.

The fixture grossed \$466,750 across the outstanding catalogue of Murray Grey and Angus bulls and Murray Grey females however this was back \$68,250 due to a reduced number of bulls and no semen sales.

Averages took a minor hit across all sections of the sale compared to last year, but with the huge numbers of breeding cattle that have crossed the border to greener pastures in the east and despite being much improved, the State's beef industry is still in the recovery phase, so it's no surprise that WA producers are keeping an eye on their back pockets.

However the substantial sale result still holds the fixture as one of the premier events on the country's beef cattle calendar.

Monterey cleared 100 per cent of the 46 Murray Grey bulls to top at \$20,500 and average \$5125 with one older



□ Monterey Scott River manager Ian Featherstone (left), Landmark Margaret River representative Jock Embry, syndicate buyers Bernard Atkins, Vicstock, Elbern Murray Grey stud, Stanley, Tasmania and Peter Sutherland, Thologolong Murray Grey stud, Wodonga, Victoria, Monterey stud principal Gary Buller, Karridale and Elders Margaret River agent Alec Williams with Monterey Engine Driver that sold for the top price of \$20,500 at the Monterey Production sale at Kojonup last week.

stud sire selling for \$9000.

Monterey also sold 25 of the 29 Angus bulls catalogued to average \$4340 and top at \$9000.

Tullibardine sold 13 of the 14 Murray Grey bulls offered at more consistent rates topping at \$4000 on four occasions and averaging \$3519, back \$838 on 2010.

In the Monterey female section, older females attracted little inquiry while eight of the 10 cow and calf units sold at auction to average \$5063 and top at \$8000 with this average back \$312 on last year. Rounding out the sale was the complete clearance of nine Monterey Murray Grey heifers that topped at \$3750 and averaged \$3028.

Due to the substantial interest from the Eastern States, AuctionsPlus was operating live at the sale for the first time which yielded a couple of sales.

Elders stud stock auctioneer Dennis Roberts said the final result was an excellent

outcome for the Monterey stud and the sale was very consistent throughout.

"The better bulls attracted stronger competition and sold extremely strongly and there was strong support once again from return Monterey clients," Mr Roberts said.

"Strong support from the agency network around the state ensured a very good clearance and resulted in a very high percentage of bulls finding new homes.

"The strong clearance was certainly more than I expected this year given the season and the number of breeders out of the system.

"Overall the prices were in line with the increased demand and prices in the beef industry at present."

Landmark senior stud stock auctioneer John Wirth said it was a pleasing outcome for a quality catalogue of bulls and females.

"The presentation of the Monterey bulls was, as always, magnificent in both the Angus

and Murray Greys," Mr Wirth said.

"The strong interest from the east and the loyal local following combined once again to produce a very solid sale right to the end.

"It's a credit to Gary and Julie that in a tough year like this the bulls came up extremely well which meant the sale was consistent from start to finish."

□ **Monterey Murray Grey bulls**

It was lot six of the quality catalogue of Murray Grey bulls that had everyone talking with several comments heard from industry stalwarts before the sale that the powerful Monterey Engine Driver E32 was the best Murray Grey bull seen in the country for several years.

And the big wraps were justified when the bull was finally knocked down for \$20,500 after numerous parties vied for ownership.

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The bull was purchased by Bernard Atkins, Vicstock Tasmania, for a syndicate involving his own Elbern Murray Grey stud, Stanley, Tasmania, Cam Grove Murray Grey stud, Burnie, Tasmania, Thologolong Murray Grey stud, Wodonga, Victoria and three undisclosed Tasmanian commercial beef producers.

Losing bidder on the bull was Leon Giglia, Landmark stud stock, on behalf of PJ & A Fielding, Fieldview Park Murray Grey stud, Orange, NSW.

The classy 962kg bull was born on March 21, 2009, by sire Monterey Stratosphere Y4 and out of Monterey Mannequinn Y122 and was a junior trait leader with top figures and indexes to match the bull's outstanding physical structure, carcass and performance.

Engine Driver recorded in the top one per cent for 2009-drop bulls for 200, 400 and 600-day weights, mature cow weight, carcass weight and supermarket index while he had the top figure for E-drop bulls in the breed for retail beef yield.

According to Monterey stud



Monterey stud principal Gary Buller (rear), Karridale, Elders stud stock auctioneer Dennis Roberts, Landmark senior stud stock auctioneer John Wirth, buyer Doug Gray, Arcadia Murray Grey stud, Tasmania and Monterey Karridale and Busselton manager Matt Nield with Monterey Impeccable Z102, the rising 7-year-old proven sire that sold for \$9000.

principal Gary Buller, the bull would have been retained in the stud but he needed to maintain genetic diversity in the stud's bloodlines.

Buyer Bernard Atkins said in his 10 years of agent work, it was the most powerful bull he had seen in the breed.

"He is all that and more," Mr Atkins said.

"His breedplan figures for 200 and 400-day growth are outstanding and he is a leader in several other traits."

Mr Atkins said the vendor and all purchasers have agreed to "lock up" the bull with no semen to be sold in two years and encouraged producers to keep an eye out for its progeny.

Doug Gray, Arcadia Murray Grey stud, Tasmania, paid the sale's \$9000 second top price for a three quarter share and possession of the proven stud sire, Monterey Impeccable Z102.

Described as an outstanding example of the breed and undoubtedly the most credentialed Murray Grey bull to be ever sold in WA, Impeccable was the senior champion interbreed bull at the 2007 Perth Royal Show and sired the \$12,500 top-priced bull and \$10,500 top-priced junior bull at last year's sale.

The grey rising seven-year-old was born in late April, 2004 and was sired by Monterey Tremendous and out of Bundaleer Rejoyce and is a multi-trait leader for the breed.

Mr Gray said he had been a stud connection for the Waverley Murray Grey stud for 18 years and is now starting his own stud with Impeccable a new sire.

"He's the complete package from his breeding background right through to his proven breeding ability," Mr Gray said.

"It's such a rare opportunity that a bull of this quality is for sale in Australia, it just doesn't happen that often so I'm very pleased to be able to take advantage of it."

Among many advantageous attributes, Mr Gray said Impeccable was well hung, walked correctly, with good feet and muscling in all the right places.

Long time Monterey supporters FJ & M Foster & Sons, Cowaramup and CBC & J Grant, Lindsay Murray Grey stud, Edenhope, Victoria, each paid \$8500 for single purchases.

The Fosters selected the silver Monterey Energiser E22 born March 19, 2009, a 796kg son of Monterey Stratosphere that had been used lightly over Monterey heifers that have all calved down well.

The Lindsay stud purchased Monterey Easy Rider E108, a 862kg grey son of their own homebred sire Lindsay Starbright B123.

The mid April 2009-drop bull was a junior trait-leader with all growth traits in the top 1-10pc, all indexes in the top 5pc and top 1pc EMA and was

**MONTEREY MURRAY GREY & ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE**  
(Under the hammer results)

Stud	offered	sold	top	gross	average
<b>Murray Grey bull (rising 7yo)</b>					
Monterey	1	1	\$9000	\$9000	\$9000
<b>Murray Grey bulls (17 - 24 months)</b>					
Monterey	46	46	\$20,500	\$235,750	\$5125
Tullibardine	14	13	\$4000(4)	\$45,750	\$3519
<b>Total Murray Grey bulls</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>\$20,500</b>	<b>\$290,500</b>	<b>\$4842</b>
<b>Angus bulls (17 - 22 months)</b>					
Monterey	29	25	\$9000	\$108,500	\$4340
<b>Bulls total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>\$20,500</b>	<b>\$399,000</b>	<b>\$4694</b>
<b>PTIC Murray Grey cow</b>					
Monterey	5	-	-	-	-
<b>PTIC Murray Grey cow and calf units</b>					
Monterey	10	8	\$8000	\$40,500	\$5063
<b>PTIC Murray Grey heifers</b>					
Monterey	9	9	\$3750	\$27,250	\$3028
<b>Females total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$8000</b>	<b>\$67,750</b>	<b>\$3985</b>
<b>Semen Straws</b>	<b>70</b>	-	-	-	-

described by Gary Buller as possibly the pick of the bunch from the Scott River herd of 100 bulls.

Others to pay in the higher price bracket included LR McGuire & Co, Manypeaks and the Mungatta Murray Grey stud, Wongan Hills, with each paying \$8000 for a Monterey Murray Grey bull.

BV Smith, Mettler, paid \$7500 for two bulls while Darren Koopman, Bottlesford Murray Grey stud, Tungkillo, South Australia, paid this value for a single sire.

Volume wise, Landmark Capel agent Chris Waddingham took the cake with four bulls to \$7500 on behalf of Hampden Farms, Donnybrook, while Daryl Avery, Nannup, paid \$5000 twice on his way to collecting three bulls.

Several buyers purchased teams of two, with those to pay a little extra including Roydon Nominees, Denmark, to \$6250 and Jason Parke, Lake Muir, to \$5500.

**❑ Tullibardine Murray Grey bulls**

Tullibardine stud's \$4000 top price was achieved by numerous buyers.

AuctionsPlus, on behalf of an undisclosed buyer, paid it for the online buyer's first successful purchase of the day.

The early April 2009-drop grey coated 870kg bull, Tullibardine Earnest E66, was sired by Monterey Gotcha and recorded in the top 5pc for all indices and the top 1pc for 400 and 600-day weights.

The next \$4000 bull, Tullibardine Eccentril, was knocked down to the Stirling Brothers, Pemberton.

The early March 2009-drop, 812kg grey bull was sired by Tullibardine Yandilla and recorded in the top 10pc for 400-day weight and supermarket index, top 5pc for 600-day weight and EMA.

Manypeaks graziers and long time clients of the stud LR McGuire & Co were next to pay \$4000 for the 810kg Tullibardine Elegant E56.

Elegant is a grey bull by Monterey Egyptian and was born on March 31, 2009.

The sire is a junior trait leader recording in the top 5pc for all



❑ Buyers Jeannette (left), Gerald and Darren Koopman, Bottlesford Murray Grey stud, Tungkillo, South Australia, Elders stud and commercial cattle manager Darren Chatley, Julie Buller, Monterey stud, Karridale and Landmark stud stock account manager Deane Allen with the \$8000 top-priced female Monterey Showgirl A185 and her heifer calf at foot.

growth traits and carcase weight.

Buyers Michael and Jake McGuire said the bull would be used over heifers and some first calvers from the operation's 350 Angus and Murray Grey breeders.

Landmark Mt Barker agent Charlie Staite, representing PF Slade, Mt Barker, also paid \$4000 for Tullibardine Elope E43, a substitute bull sired by Monterey Sensational.

The 790kg bull born on March 24, 2009, was above breed average for most traits.

The only multiple Tullibardine bull buyer was Conifox Nurseries, Dunsborough, paying to \$3750.

**❑ Monterey Angus bulls**

The sale's momentum wasn't lowered as the buyers turned their attention to the quality line-up of sleek, black Angus bulls on offer from Monterey.

From the moment the first Angus bull entered the ring buyers showed their confidence in the Monterey Angus genetics clearing 25 of the 29 bulls offered under the hammer at an average of \$4340, which was up \$263 on last year's average of \$4077.

Leading the way in the Angus team was a son of Ace 989 of Turoia, Monterey Ace E6, when it was knocked down for the \$9000, to be the top-

priced Angus bull.

Bidding started at \$5000 on Ace E6, which showed plenty of power and a tonne of muscle as it moved around the ring.

But after capturing the attention of many buyers the 882kg bull was finally knocked down to return buyers Frank Tomasi Nominees, Karridale, through the operation's manager Kevin Owen.

The long, deep-bodied bull, with an excellent temperament and structure was born on March 18, 2009 and was out of Monterey Serene V19.

Ace E6 raw data displayed a 38kg birthweight, 6.5 for frame score, 43cm for scrotal circumference, 115cm<sup>2</sup> for EMA and 5.1pc for IMF.

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**MONTEREY**  
Murray Grey & Angus Studs

Gary & Julie would like to thank loyal and new buyers, underbidders, staff and agents for their support at Monterey's 19th Annual Production Sale last week.

Thankyou also to auctioneers Dennis Roberts and John Wirth, Simon Walsh & McDonald's Transport.

Bulls still available for private selection.

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Ace E6 is now the 13th Angus bull bought by the Karridale operation for its 350-head pure Angus herd.

Mr Owen said he was chasing the new bloodline the bull offers, as they had used a Turiroa 848 bull in the past and it worked well in the herd.

"He shows very good softness and depth and is well put together for a New Zealand bull," Mr Owen said.

"He has the style and growth we were looking for in a sire.

"We want bulls with good growth early, as we are now turning the calves off as weaners instead of growing them out."

Mr Owen said he did not pay a great deal of attention to figures when selecting bulls as he believed the style and physical attributes of the bull were more important.

The bull will go over first calvers this season and then be used in the main herd on the Karridale property in 2012.

The operation started its breeding herd six years ago and has slowly been building its numbers and is aiming for 400 head.

"We used to run the calves through and sell them as steers but now we sell them off as weaners, and this means we have more room to run



With the \$9000 top-priced Angus bull were Elders Margaret River agent Alec Williams (left), Monterey Scott River manager Ian Featherstone, Monterey stud principal Gary Buller, Karridale, buyers Kevin and Tracy Owen, Frank Tomasi Nominees, Karridale and Landmark Margaret River representative Jock Embry.

breeders," Mr Owen said.

"This season we sold our excess heifer weaners to Turkey as breeders, while the majority of the steer calves went on the boats in October at around eight months of age, weighing 350kg."

Running second to Ace E6 in the price stakes was Monterey Eclipse E21, when it was knocked down for \$7000 to Marawa Farms, Cranbrook, which has been a regular buyer of Monterey bulls.

The 970kg well balanced and easy-doer, showed outstanding muscling and growth in the ring and had the figures to back it up.

The March 2009-drop son of Raff Wizard A247 had scan figures of 114cm<sup>2</sup> for EMA, 5.9pc for IMF, a frame score of seven and 40cm for scrotal circumference.

Eclipse E21 was the second heaviest bull in the drop at scanning and had the equal highest IMF scan.

The tremendous thickness and potential of Monterey Expert E117, also attracted the attention of buyers before it was finally knocked down at \$6250 to TI & J Jujnovich, Mundaring.

The 832kg bull, which was by Wallaroy Expert X255, had scan figures of 105cm<sup>2</sup> for EMA and 5.6 for IMF.

After losing out on the top-priced bull the Della Gola family, JM & H Della Gola, Northcliffe, didn't leave the sale empty handed, with their name pencilled in next to Monterey Eclipse E59 at \$6000.

The 860kg son of Lawsons Gar Direction X3, which showed plenty of balance and eye appeal to match its scan figures of 115cm<sup>2</sup> for EMA and 5.9pc for IMF.

Securing five sires at an average of \$4050 and to a top of \$5500 were Joe and Mary Cummings, Young River, Esperance.

They paid \$5500 for the 886kg Monterey Easterly E88, which was by Lawsons Gar Direction X3.

Buying two bulls for a \$5125 average was L & M Dellagostino, Esperance, who had left a buying order with Elders Margaret River agent Alec Williams.

Included in their purchases was Monterey Elder Statesman



Elders Kojonup representative Jamie Hart (left), Tullibardine stud principal Alistair Murray, Albany, Landmark stud stock representative Mitchell Crosby and buyers Michael and Jake McGuire, Manypeaks, with the equal \$4000 top-priced Tullibardine bull.

E17, which was by Wallaroy Expert X255, at \$5500.

Also securing two sires both at \$5000 was fellow Esperance producer JC & SJ Sharpe, both bulls were by Wallaroy Expert X255.

Purchasing two sires each at \$3000 was Sesto Dante, Manjimup and Hargate Park, Esperance.

**□ Murray Grey Females**

The package deals were the most popular when it came to the female section, as buyers jumped at the chance to secure more than one Monterey female with a single bid.

The Buller family decided to broaden the age range of the females this year, with the more experienced cows entering the ring first.

Buyers failed to take the opportunity to purchase the first of the elite Murray Grey breeding cows, a nine-year-old cow described in the catalogue as possibly the largest Murray Grey cow ever offered for sale.

Despite being five months PTIC, the huge female set the scene for the following four proven matrons which also aroused limited competition.

The crowd was waiting for the younger cows with calves at foot, with the pregnant

Monterey Showgirl A185 and its heifer calf by Monterey Steamroller B140 at foot setting a cracking pace when it was sold for the top price of \$8000.

Travelling across the border to secure Showgirl and its offspring was Bottlesford Murray Grey stud principals Gerald and Jeannette Koopman with their son Darren, Tungkillio, SA.

The Koopmans made the trip west for the sole purpose of attending the sale, as they had done for the last three years and said both the cow and heifer showed tremendous potential.

“We liked the growth and style of both the cow and heifer calf,” Darren Koopman said.

“It was also a great opportunity to bring in some new genetics and the different outcross of bloodlines.”

He added Showgirl was an all-round complete cow and was rearing a good calf which they were hoping to also grow out well, with the added bonus of another calf on the way.

Described as a star lot and an outfit that demonstrated what Murray Grey breeding was all about, Showgirl A185 expressed figures such as +3.8 birthweight, +2 milk and +34 mature cow weight and was

PTIC to Monterey Whirlwind Y176.

The Koopman family purchased the second top priced three-in-one package, Jeannie Z187 which had a silver bull calf at foot and PTIC, for \$7250.

Jeannie was a trailleader in the Murray Grey breed with figures such as a light birthweight of +2.3 combined with a high +15 milk figure, with the bull calf described as being in elite territory for growth and milk at +11 and recording a below average birthweight.

Not only were they the top price buyers, but the Koopmans also took out the volume buyer tag for the female sale, finishing up with an additional two D drop heifers to keep their previously purchased Murray Grey bull company on the way home.

The Whitfield family, Denmark, was keen to buy some Monterey females and purchased Rowan Z1153 for \$3500, with a very promising heifer calf at foot by Bootlegger and PTIC to Tarlina Cairns.

The Whitfields paid a little more for Joyce A48 at \$5500, which was PTIC to Bootlegger and had a heifer calf at foot

sired by Bombardier B5.

WA accounted for a small percentage of buyers in the cow-calf section, as Eastern States buyers from NSW and SA took the opportunity to secure Monterey genetics.

Buyers such as S & MT Battiste, Tarranville, NSW, purchased the pregnant Rejoyce with a bull calf at foot for \$4000, while Sussex Park Murray Grey stud, Canowindra, NSW, got hold of the last of the matrons Primrose Y165 that was PTIC for \$3500.

Tullis Holdings, SA, paid good money for the pregnant Annabelle Z149 and her classy bull calf at \$5000 and reappeared in the heifer section to buy the first on offer, Magnolia D126 for \$3000.

The rest of the stud registered 2008-drop heifers, which were all PTIC, were shared between PJ & A Fielding, Orange, NSW, RJ Hage, West Wyalong, NSW, and SP Knapp, Augusta, WA, who purchased one heifer each for \$3250, \$3750 and \$2500 respectively.

It was Augusta producer W & R Gale that purchased the bulk of the heifers, taking home two for \$3000 each and rounding out the sale by purchasing the last PTIC heifer for \$2500.

## Surprised winner takes home fertiliser package

**WINNER** of the 2011 *Farm Weekly*, Monterey Murray Grey and Angus stud and Summit Fertilizers' Win-A-Bull competition, Gail James, Bakers Hill, sat in stunned silence when her name was drawn out at the Monterey annual bull sale last week.

It took a few long seconds before Ms James realised Monterey stud principal Gary Buller was scanning the crowd for her, when she made the quick decision to take either a specially selected Murray Grey or Angus bull or the \$4000 Summit Fertilizer package.

Ms James opted for the Summit Fertilizer package as she needed the fertiliser more and only ran a modest herd of 60 cattle with her bull requirements already full, including three Monterey

bulls purchased in previous years.

“I’m still in shock, I have never won anything in my life,” Ms James said.

“I enter all the *Farm Weekly* competitions. I sent all my forms in the mail every week because I didn’t want to leave them behind when I came today.”

The James’ 259 hectare Bakers Hill property was a mixed operation of 800 sheep and the 60 head of cattle, which was split half and half between the Angus and Hereford breeds.

After 25 years of being a subscriber to *Farm Weekly* since they purchased their Bakers Hill farm in 1987, Ms James was over the moon to win one of the numerous competitions she had entered in that time.



□ Monterey stud principal Gary Buller (left), managed to convince Win-a-Bull prize winner Gail James, Bakers Hill, it was her entry that had been drawn, with the help of *Farm Weekly* livestock manager Jodie Rintoul. Ms James opted to take the \$4000 Summit Fertilizer package.

The bulls that had been reserved for the draw were put up for auction, with the Angus sire, Monterey Explorer E103 up first in lot 66 which was purchased by

TWT Dickson, Nannup, for \$3000 and then the Murray Grey, Monterey Encore went to MA & CJ Cavanagh, Tenterden, for the same amount.