

Yarrowonga 50th tops \$52,500



Yarrowonga Vautin, 33 months, takes centre stage early in the bidding before being snapped up for \$14,000 by Scott and Wendy Ferguson, Glen Oaks Santa Gertrudis Stud, Nobby. — Picture: RODNEY GREEN.

SUMMARY

130 classified bulls av \$8458
52 commercial bulls av \$4183
16 females av \$6562
Overall: 198 lots av \$7122

By JAMES NASON

THE grandstands were filled to capacity and it was standing room only as almost 500 buyers and long-time Yarrowonga Waco supporters gathered for two days of sales and celebrations to mark the iconic Queensland stud's 50th annual sale last weekend.

The milestone occasion was marked with a female sale and welcoming party last Saturday night and an annual bull sale the following day, and buyers responded by delivering one of the strongest results in the stud's half-century history of sales.

The offering of 182 bulls and 16 females sold to a top price of \$52,500 for bulls and \$18,000 for females, and achieved the outstanding average of \$7122 for 198 lots, the highest average in the stud's 50-year history.

Yarrowonga Waco client of 20 years, Graeme Acton from Acton Cattle

Company, set the early pace by paying \$32,500 for lot 1, Yarrowonga Volunteer by Yarrowonga Ockerby, the bull he had previously judged as senior and grand champion Santa Gertrudis bull at Beef 2009 in May. The 38-month-old Volunteer, weighing 1240kg and measuring 144 in the rib eye, was also the senior and grand champion at the Brisbane Royal Show in August.

Four lots later, Mr Acton was in the thick of the action again, bidding to \$52,500 to secure Yarrowonga Valid by Waco Robroy, the 2009 Sydney Royal champion and a Beef 2009 class winner.

"They are about as close to perfect as you could get," Mr Acton said of his two bull purchases.

"They had all the attributes about them of length, and bone and temperament. They were both very athletic and they both showed fine Santa Gertrudis characteristics," Mr Acton said.

Both will be used in the Acton Cattle Company's embryo transplant program at Paradise Lagoons near Rockhampton, along with two females bought by Mr Acton at the female sale on Saturday night. The Actons breed in the vicinity of 800 commercial bulls a year, all of which are used within their own breeding oper-

ations, which involve approximately 180,000 head of cattle spread across 1.56 million hectares in Queensland.

Mr Acton said semen from both bulls would be made available for sale at a later date.

The equal second-top price of \$32,500 was also paid by Jack and Steve Swan, Inala, Moura, for lot 6, Yarrowonga Wellington, a 26-month-old son of Yarrowonga Y222. Wellington was the junior champion Santa Gertrudis bull at Beef 2009.

Steve Swan said they chose Wellington for his weight-for-age, genetic strength, structural correctness, muscle pattern and predictability.

"We can see this bull will be a valuable contribution to our commercial herd," Mr Swan said.

"We're comfortable that we can rely on the Bassingthwaites' bulls as being a genetically strong, pure line of cattle."

Rob Sinnamon, Yulgilbar Santa Gertrudis Stud, Baryulgil, NSW, paid \$25,000 for lot 12, Yarrowonga Wallaby, a 22-month-old son of Yarrowonga Promotor, and \$16,000 for lot 2, Yarrowonga Vendetta, a 32-month-old son of Waco Soldier.

Mr Sinnamon was looking for polled

bulls and said both provided a genetic outcross for the Yulgilbar Stud and would suit the stud's NSW north-coast environment.

"They are going to be used extensively in our 700-head stud breeder herd and we will be looking to use them over the offspring of bulls such as the Sahara bull we paid an \$80,000 Australian record for three years ago," Mr Sinnamon said.

"We were looking for bloodlines and genetics that we believe will blend with the likes of that bull, and we felt that we found them in the bulls that we purchased."

Several buyers bought bulls in the \$20,000-plus range including S Kidman and Co, which paid \$24,000 for Yarrowonga Matrix son Waco Varsity; Ian Mitchell, Eyriewald, Corfield, who paid \$24,000 for Narganoo Ovation son Yarrowonga Valvoline; the Sargood family of Manresa, Tambo, who paid \$22,000 for Yarrowonga Matrix son Waco Watchman; and Roger and Shane Hatton, Diamond H Santa Gertrudis Stud, Chinchilla, who outlaid \$20,000 to buy a 25-month-old son of Yarrowonga Romeo, Waco Wrangler.



Top buyer Graeme Acton with wife Jennie, Acton Cattle Company, Paradise Lagoons, after paying \$52,500 for Yarrowonga Valid, delighting the stud's Andrew Bassingthwaite (centre).

Of the 144 bidders who registered for the sale, 77 came away with bulls.

Among the volume buyers were the Murray family from Kindee Pastoral Company, Injune, who bought 10 bulls for a total outlay of \$36,500; David and Judy Camm, Natal Downs, Charters Towers, who bought nine for \$38,500; John Southern, St George, bought eight for \$25,000; the Parkinson Grazing Company, Sarina, who bought seven bulls for \$39,000; and Kevin and Sandy Southern of St George, who bought seven for \$18,000.

● Agents: Elders and Landmark.



"Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our 50th sale and celebrations and for the confidence you have shown in our breeding over many years"

Alastair, Louise and Families



Top price bull sold \$52,500 to Graeme and Jennie Acton • 182 bulls av \$7236 • 16 females av \$6562 • 100% clearance

YARRAWONGA WACO

Santa Gertrudis Stud Australia

