

Karoo bulls sell to top of \$25,000

BULLS sold to a top of \$25,000 at the eighth annual on-property bull sale at "Karoo", Meadow Flat near Bathurst, last Thursday.

There was a 97 per cent clearance of the 62 bulls offered by John and Monica Reen and Annie Scott, for an average of \$5180.

The two bulls passed in at auction were sold privately straight after the sale, a pleasing result for the vendors, who had increased the offering, despite the tough season.

Mr Reen said he was pleased with the result particularly the top end of the sale, with three bulls making \$20,000 or better.

Landmark CTM auctioneer, Charlie Maher, said the sale average was slightly up on last year.

The top priced bull, Karoo W109 Direction Z90 (AI), was a two-year-old son of Ardrossan Direction W109, and the heaviest bull at the sale, at 750 kilograms.

Buyers were the Bateman family, "Kangarooobie", Orange, represented by manager, Derek Hubert, who said the Batemans were in the process of putting together a new

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Angus stud and were chasing the W109 bloodline.

He said the bulls purchased at the sale would be put with Narrangullen-blood females bought at that stud's dispersal late last year.

"I liked the bull because he is well put together and is also a very growthy bull", Mr Hubert said.

In the June 2006 Angus Breedplan estimated breeding values Karoo W109 direction Z90 (AI) was in the top five per cent for carcass weight at +54 with eye muscle area (EMA) of +4.5.

The bull's growth figures were also in the top 10pc with a 600-day weight of +99 and a 200-day weight figure of +41.

The Bateman family also purchased Karoo 5321 Direction A20 (AI) for \$20,000, which was the first of the 2005 calf drop offered this year. A20 is a son of Future Direction from a TC Stockman 365 cow.

The second top priced bull, purchased by a Victorian syndicate of

buyers, Agri-Gene Pty Ltd and Rob Williams for \$21,000, was Karoo W109 Direction Z181, also a son of W109, and a sire destined for the Agri-Gene semen catalogue.

Mrs Scott said Karoo W109 Direction Z181 had an outstanding set of EBV's, and was a real curve bender with a birth weight of +2.8, 600-day weight of +95, carcass weight of +57, EMA of +4.2 and intra-muscular fat percentage (IMF) of +1.4.

Losing bidder on both these bulls was repeat buyer, Mark Freeman, and his manager Robert Ward, Native Dog Station, Oberon, who later picked up five bulls to a top of \$8000 and an average of \$6150.

Another volume buyer, Rodney Royds, "Bedervale", Braidwood, helped keep a floor in the market, buying five bulls for a top of \$5250 and an average of \$4000.

A feature of this year's sale was strong repeat buying, where top quality genetics sold for realistic commercial prices.

The sale was conducted by Landmark CTM, with Charlie Maher as the auctioneer.



Representing the buyer of the top-priced bull at the eighth annual Karoo Angus bull sale near Bathurst, Derek Hubert, "Kangarooobie", Orange, with vendors Annie and Tony Scott and the \$25,000 bull, Karoo W109 Direction Z90 (AI).