

Karoo's \$32,000 record

By HOLLY McALISTER

THOUGH it was overcast and freezing outdoors, the atmosphere heated up inside the selling shed at the Karoo Angus on-property bull sale last Friday at Meadow Flat, near Bathurst.

Sixty-eight bulls aged from 18 months to two years were sold at a 100 per cent clearance rate and topped at an impressive \$32,000, a new record for Karoo, accompanied by an average of \$8338.

Stud co-principal Annie Scott, who runs the enterprise with her father John Reen, was understandably speechless at the result of their sale, which beat their previous top price by \$6000.

"This was obviously our best sale to date so I'm extremely happy with the results, especially because there were not only our regular, dedicated clients, but also some new faces competing for our bulls," Mrs Scott said.

"I think that the bulls really spoke for themselves on the day – they were all totally grassfed and our focus has always been on the commercial traits of the bulls and good ease of calving without having to sacrifice the carcase characteristics of Angus bulls."

This was the first year Karoo had offered a line of yearling bulls in their annual sale, but the addition paid off when 18-month-old Karoo D145 Regent G57 sold for the top price of \$32,000 to stud breeder Bruce Graham, Crawford Angus, Tumut.

Though Mr Graham couldn't make it to the sale in person, he successfully bid over the phone to secure the bull, which weighed 690 kilograms and had a scrotal circumference of 40 centimetres.

After the sale, Mr Graham comment-



Karoo D145 Regent G57, an 18-month-old bull which sold for \$32,000 to Bruce Graham, Crawford Angus, Tumut, at the Karoo annual bull sale last week.

ed that it was the bull's phenotype which had appealed to him, and that the bull had "ticked all the boxes" as far as estimated breeding values (EBVs) were concerned, with high growth, high carcase and positive fat values, as well as a good, clean front.

A son of Tuwharetoa Regent D145 from Karoo Wilcoola A78, the bull had both Te Mania and Ardrossan genetics through sire and dam respectively, and carcase EBVs of +6.0 for eye muscle area and a carcase weight of +76, with positive fat and an intramuscular fat of +2.4.

For growth, the bull measured +6.9 for birthweight, +52 for 200-day weight, +96 for 400-day weight and +124 for 600-day weight.

Many other studs were also on-hand to secure Karoo sires, including long-time client Waverley Station Angus, Gundy via Scone, which took home

four bulls, including another Regent son and three sons of Te Mania Infinity 04 379, at a top of \$10,000 and an average of \$8000.

Also among the volume buyers was Mark and Sam Evans, "Martindale", Walgett, who as buyers of Karoo bulls for over 15 years took home four bulls for an average of \$11,750, topping their draft at \$15,000.

Matt and Kate Spry, Sprys Shorthorn and Angus, Tamworth, bought the first cab off the rank at the sale, Karoo 04379 Infinity F67 for \$13,000 to use over their Shorthorn cows and Angus heifers.

Freeman Pastoral Company, Native Dog Station, Oberon, bought six bulls for an average of \$7666, topping at \$9000.

The sale was conducted by Ray White Emms Mooney and Company, with Charlie Maher on the rostrum.