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Blackrock Angus sale tops \$20,000

By KANE CHATFIELD

BLACKROCK Angus supporters demonstrated an air of confidence in the WA beef industry to deliver strong results at the stud's annual bull sale at Boyanup last week.

This reciprocated the conviction shown by the MacLeay family and the Blackrock team when they offered their largest ever sale team of bulls this year.

The extensive list of registered buyers from throughout the State from Geraldton to the north and Esperance to the south, lauded the outstanding presentation of 72 rising two-year-old Angus bulls representing leading international and Australian genetics and a number of high performing Blackrock bred sires.

Despite the well-documented seasonal and market challenges facing WA beef producers over the past 12 months, buyers were keen to continue investing in the future of their breeding herds and bid with confidence to secure genetics of choice.

The sale was also interfaced on AuctionsPlus with the online platform active throughout the sale.

The sale catalogue received 1703 views online, yielding 47 registered buyers and 53 viewers logged into the sale, with 77 online bids across 26 lots seeing 10 bulls sell to six different online buyers, contributing more than \$100,000 to the sale at a healthy \$10,550 average.

The widespread support at the sale and online resulted in the Elders South West livestock selling team led by stud stock auctioneer Nathan King, selling 64 bulls (89 per cent) at auction for an average of \$9320.



□ Clemens Kiessig (left), Blackrock Angus stud, Vasse, Jacques Martinson, Elders, Busselton, Blackrock stud principal Ken MacLeay, Vasse, top-priced bull buyer Peter Cowcher, Willandra Simmental, Red Angus and Angus studs, Williams and his son Charles and top-priced bull sponsor Kylie Meloury, Virbac central WA area sales manager, caught up following the annual Blackrock Angus bull sale at Boyanup last week. The Cowcher family paid the sale's \$20,000 top price for lot seven Blackrock T132 (by Millah Murrah Paratrooper P15).

A number of the overlooked bulls were snapped up soon after the conclusion of the sale, further improving the clearance of bulls.

The stud sold one more bull at auction compared to last year's sale, but like all bull sales so far this selling season, values were back reflecting the current climate.

Last year, 63 of 69 Angus bulls (91pc) sold under the hammer for an average of \$11,159.

Blackrock stud principal Ken MacLeay said they were very pleased with the buyer support at the sale.

"We take it to be an endorsement of our breeding goals and also a high level of satisfaction of the bulls that were offered," Mr MacLeay said.

"We remain committed to long term outcomes and are delighted to supply genetics to so many like minded farmers."

The influence of leading Australian sire Millah Murrah Paratrooper P15 in herds throughout the country can't be understated and its sons again proved a popular choice among buyers and featured among the sale's top-priced bulls.

This included the \$20,000 sale topper Blackrock T132 in lot seven, with the impressive bull knocked down to the winning bid of Peter Cowcher, Willandra Simmental, Red Angus and Angus studs, Williams.

The mid-March 2022-born Paratrooper son was out of a Landfall Keystone K132 daughter Blackrock Q70 and

supported its eye-catching physique with a strong spread of EBV performance.

This included ranking in the breed's top 6pc for gestation length (GL), top 5pc carcase weight (CW), top 17pc 200-day weight (DW), top 7pc 400-DW, top 9pc 600-DW, top 11pc mature cow weight (MCW), top 25pc intramuscular fat (IMF), top 2-17pc leg and feet structure traits, positive fats and top 15pc and 25pc for \$A-L and \$A Angus Breeding Indexes respectively.

Mr Cowcher said they selected the bull from its video on AuctionsPlus prior to the sale and seeing the bull in the flesh confirmed their choice.

"In terms of phenotype he

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