

Trackpower crash: four riders hospitalised P16



BIG MONEY: \$3.1 million dollars changed hands at the Goulburn Saleyards on Friday afternoon, as hundreds of graziers from across the region converged on the city to buy top quality stock to rebuild their flock numbers. Photo: Les Smith.

A record breaker

By **TOM SEBO**

THE region's sheep flock was seriously diminished during the decade long drought, with many graziers losing the majority of their stock. However, a record breaking store sheep sale at the Goulburn Saleyards on Friday signalled that the local industry is on the mend.

Assistant saleyards manager Luke Doggett told the *Post* that \$3.1 million changed hands on the day, with more than 16,500 first cross ewes and lambs being sold for breeding purposes. It was also one of the biggest crowds he had ever seen, with hundreds of farmers travelling from as far as Cooma, Young and Cowra just to attend.

"I think people are back trying to restock," Mr Doggett said.

"They have had 10 years of drought and now they are trying to restock. Also, the price of lamb is good at the moment and a lot (of graziers) are

trying to breed second cross lambs."

The top pen was sold by Landmark to Duncombe and CO J and J Weir, with 130 ewes fetching \$262 per head. And the average price on the day was about \$188, which was down on last year. Mr Doggett believed the number of first cross lambs was what stopped prices across the board from reaching parody with the 2011 sale.

"The tops were actually on par with last year but on average, the average price was down by about \$10," he said.

"Most of the market was predominantly one-and-a-half-year-old ewes...and the average for a ewe would have been close to \$200."

Ultimately though, the strength of the market came from the quality of the stock on offer.

"The quality was some of the best going around NSW," Landmark livestock agent Matt Joseph said.

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