

# Carrington Park stud ends on \$18,000 high

By ZOE MOROZ

**T**HE Carrington Park Angus dispersal sale held at Drouin South, Victoria, last Saturday drew a large crowd despite the steady rain.

Vendors, Mark and Sheryl Atkinson, offered all stud animals, as well as semen and embryo packages and show equipment.

Buyers from across Victoria, Tasmania, NSW and Queensland crowded into the makeshift selling centre in the Atkinsons' hay shed to snap up highly sought Angus genetics.

More than 230 lots were offered, with 110 female lots sold to a top of \$18,000 and a \$3195 average, while 11 recipient females sold to \$7000 to average \$3773.

Thirty-five bulls sold to \$10,000 and averaged \$3165, while genetic packages sold to \$2300, twice, for two embryo packages, purchased by Keith Kerridge, Bannaby Angus, Taralga.

Leachman Right Time daughter, Carrington Park Jane B28 – a broadribbon winner – from Merridale Jane S32 took top-price honours for the day.

With a heifer calf at foot, the pair was purchased by local breeders, Des and Carol Grylls, EJ Angus, Pakenham, Vic.

EJ Angus principal, Carol Grylls, said Jane B28 was the cow which appealed most to them.

"The Leachman Right Time animals have continuously proven themselves



The top price of \$18,000 was paid by Des and Carol Grylls, EJ Angus, Pakenham, Victoria, for Carrington Park Jane B28 with a heifer calf at foot. Pictured is Mr Grylls' son, Erin, with Ryan Fielding, who assisted the Atkinsons in the yards on the day.

to be a line that just keeps on breeding," she said.

The Grylls plan on flushing their new addition as they expand their stud herd.

Queensland volume buyer, Mark Merchant, Boss Investments, Toowoomba, purchased 16 lots to a top of \$11,000 and averaged \$4187.

Hayden Rogers, Landmark Warragatta, was buying on behalf of Mr Merchant and paid \$11,000 for bred heifer, Carrington Park Dream D6.

Matt Williams, West Creek, Wonthaggi, Vic, purchased four heifers,

paying the top price of \$3750 for unjoined heifer, Carrington Park Jane F2, and averaging \$2687.

Onalim Nominees purchased the top-priced bull paying \$10,000 for Carrington Park Destiny D73, sired by Carrington Park Time On B7.

Fred Geard, Premier, Berrima, purchased nine lots including packages to a top of \$9000 for Carrington Park Dream D5, by BR New Frontier 095, and averaged \$2522.

The sale was conducted by Landmark Warragul with Kevin Norris, Andrew Sloan and Peter Godbolt sharing selling duties on the day.

## Cows analyse threats with right side of brain

IMPROVED yard design and animal husbandry may be the ultimate outcome of a new study that has proven, like humans, cattle perceive the world very differently on the left and right sides of their body.

Dr Andrew Robins and Professor Clive Phillips from the University of Queensland's Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics (CAWE) have published their findings of an investigation to determine whether cattle possess "visual lateralisation".

Dr Robins said there was a consistent pattern of specialised functions carried out on either side of the brain.

The right side specialised in the rapid analysis of, and response to, novel or threatening stimuli such as predators.

"By contrast, the left side of the brain specialises in considered,

tle preferred to view a potential threat with either their left or right eye.

The CAWE team followed up on a Russian study that found intensively-housed dairy herd productivity varied, depending on the direction they received their food.

The Russian researchers found dairy cattle that always fed from a tractor and hopper moving to the right past their stall were 10 per cent more productive than cattle fed from the left direction.

The Russians concluded the productivity differences were related to other studies finding lateralisation in the right side of the brain's control of the sympathetic nervous system – which co-ordinates milk let-down as well as the "flight or fight" response.

This led Dr Robins and Professor

By contrast, the left side of the brain specialises in considered, detailed processing

– Dr Andrew Robins, University of Queensland's Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics

detailed processing such as deciding what to eat and what to avoid eating," he said.

Director of CAWE, Professor Clive Phillips, said direct implications of the research would facilitate improved husbandry methods using a new understanding of their herding behaviour.

"A related implication includes improved yard designs to incorporate cattle's visual preferences," Professor Phillips said.

The study aimed to find out if cat-

Phillips to devise their "herd-splitting" experiments, where the middle of herd groups of 17 to 33 head were divided by a researcher advancing on foot, with successively more threatening stimuli.

First the experimenter walked alone, then with an umbrella, next a wide forked apparatus, and finally an idling whipper-snipper engine.

The cattle consistently and significantly preferred to orient themselves to view the novel and potential threat with their left eye.