



## Pink ram helps with cancer therapy

**F**IELD workers at Goondiwindi have unearthed a new and practical 'therapy' to help breast cancer sufferers – auctioning a poll Merino ram to raise funds for the McGrath Foundation.

Vicki Murphy of Karbullah Poll Merino Stud is busily selecting one of the best young rams to be offered in support of the foundation which raises money to place nurses in communities across Australia. It will be sold at the stud's annual sale on September 19.

"I have a sister and a grandmother who suffered from breast cancer," Mrs Murphy said.

"We were discussing plans for the sale over morning tea and we decided we should give something back. It is tough for people with this illness – particularly those in rural or remote areas.

"We thought that if we dig into our pockets, we might encourage others to do so as well."

Mrs Murphy said about 160 rams would go under the hammer at

the sale at the Goondiwindi Showgrounds.

"It is our ninth annual sale," she said. "We'd expect about 60 people to attend and we hope for strong support, particularly when the McGrath Foundation ram goes up for auction."

The foundation was formed by Jane McGrath in 2002.

It aims to place nurses, equipped to provide support for breast cancer sufferers, in regional and rural communities across Australia.

Mrs Murphy said full proceeds from the sale of the ram would be presented to the foundation.

"Our agents, AWN Pastoral, will waive their commission to maximise the return for the foundation," she said.

Top price last year was \$4600 and the average was \$1000.

"We'll be selecting one of the better rams and hoping to raise \$2000 or more," she said.

"We won't paint him pink.

"But we might send him out in some pink socks in recognition of the McGrath Foundation's favourite colour."

The plan to help the foundation deploy remote area nurses was motivated by Mrs Murphy's experiences driving her sister to and from cancer treatment in Toowoomba.

"It was a difficult time," she said. "My sister was living at North Star and it was a race to get back as far as possible before she began feeling ill.

"The community was great. There was a lot of support, but in those times, you need someone with whom you can talk on a personal level and that is where the foundation makes its contribution."

Mrs Murphy said the sale would be staged at the cattle pavilion, with catering by Goondiwindi High School students fundraising for a proposed visit to Gallipoli for Anzac Day. – **Story: CAMERON THOMPSON. Pictures: SARAH COULTON.**



**RIGHT:** Karbullah Poll Merino Stud principal Mark Murphy has launched a 'pink ram' campaign to raise funds for the McGrath Foundation for breast cancer.