THE Sydney Markets Annual Mango Auction, held last week at Flemington raised a total of $60,000, with an incredible $30,000 paid for the first tray of mangoes for the season.

Proceeds raised at the auction will be donated to the Children’s Hospital of Sports Medicine (CHISM), and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, two of Sydney Markets’ charities of choice.

The winning bid on the season’s first tray of mangoes came from Woolworths whose incredible generosity and spirit encouraged brisk bidding, Sydney Markets CEO Brad Latham said.

“Once the bidding started, I knew we were going to raise a good amount for the first box of mangoes for the season,” he said.

The annual mango auction is often considered one of the first signs of summer with this tray of mangoes making its way from the Northern Territory. Each mango effectively cost $2,142, with 14 Sweet Blush mangoes in the tray.

Woolworths plans to deliver the tray of mangoes to be enjoyed by the kids at Westmead Children’s Hospital.

Mr Latham said he was constantly amazed by the continued generosity shown by bidders, particularly in economically tough times.

“I must congratulate not only Woolworths, but all the bidders who competed with generosity and humor to make this event so successful,” he said.

Retired Bulldogs great Hazem El Masri at the annual mango auction.