



Wool's back and never been better! Yes a few fluctuations, corrections and flat spots but any wool year that hovers around the 1500 cent mark for a good period of time giving everyone a chance to capitalise is worth it's salt.

The Kangaroo Inn's Andre family whose greasy price for high quality, high tensile, high yield, six month shorn fibre at 1750 cents was the peak amongst our clients. That figure as a clean price would suffice in most cases!

Meat prices are running in tandem with quality fibre and when goat prices can hit over \$7 per kilo it could be assumed that our merino version should be a safe bet for a while yet.

A wet end to 2016 including a soggy summer right to the end of February and that's about when things started to flag! I had the wettest February classing of all time, particularly in Western Australia where I kept a mere day ahead of some serious rainfall events.

Zooming ahead to now, June/July and the whole joint needs a soaker particularly SA's West Coast and not necessarily the regular drier parts - Cummins the most notable in receiving not much. Some parts of W.A. just copped a bit (22nd June) but hopefully things will pick up.

This edition of Cullings follows the same format as other years with a main article taking the majority of the early pages.

This year's epic concentrates on the basics of ASBV's and a major data contributor, Sire Evaluation trials from across the nation.

If I had a few months and a case of the finest Langhorne Creek Shiraz at my disposal I could have filled this whole newsletter with anything to do with ASBV's, the pros and cons, frustrations, accolades, raw information interpretation right through to distrust with entered information amongst subscribers!

I have touched briefly on the six month shearing discussion with Tom Silcock and Darren and Fiona Sanders contributing their findings having taken on the task of shearing twice per year. That too could have been another reason for a longer stay in the office!

The Classic'16 sale was another belter with a \$4,450 average a healthy one particularly considering the top price at a realistic \$16,000

for the triple crowned Gunallo enterprise. This meant for excellent buying of top end genetics for many commercial producers particularly those who run stud rivalling home ram breeding programs. Many rams fell into the \$2,000-\$3,000 range allowing all to participate in acquiring top end quality.

A typical great crowd possibly boosted slightly considering it was also the first day of the World Merino Conference, realised an informative day with service providers and stud displays surrounding that classic Classic rope and pole marquee hosting the nation's finest progressive genetics.

Oddly the toughest part of organising Classic'16 was attracting obvious wool clothing companies to show off/sell their wares on a day that was attended by around 400-500 including Internationals - something I plan to rectify with Classic'17.

South Australia at long last is hosting a Sire Evaluation trial at the property of the Keynes family at Keyneton in the Barossa Valley - run there for two years. Sixteen stud sires have been entered artificially inseminating over 950 ewes in February with the first assessments made as lambs for weaning and growth rates this year with first stage fleece weighing and all trait recording in 2018.

Full marks to all of those who attended over the two AI days to make this trial a guaranteed success. The best evaluation trials are those who have a great contingent of supporters during all procedures along the way.

What's new with mulesing addressing technologies could be asked but it's a waste of time - just breed your way into being in the box seat for when the final crunch comes. ASBV's for important traits in relation to this are available with high accuracies now and don't ever disregard your eye or advisors advice.

Tight overdone skins copped atrocities reserved for war films in 2016 and many who are pushing for copious amounts of extra fleece weight are suffering because of it - yet the subject isn't high on the stud promotion list.

Exterminate the Dorper ram at all cost, (which has probably made its way onto your property by now rampantly spreading Brucellosis), grab a plonk or a cuppa and have a read of this year's Cullings. I invite everyone's response to this edition so that any issues that come to hand may be discussed via social media or preferably in the greatest hotel in the nation, The Hermitage Hotel in Harrow!



CLASSINGS

Merino Sheep Classing and Wool Testing Service



CLASSINGS SHEEP - CLASSING & ADVISORY

Classing's Sheepclassing and Breeding Consultancy began in 1962 under the direction of Don Walker and in the last thirty years has continued successfully with son, Bill at the helm.

Experience gained from years of merino, in yard visual classing backed up by information gleaned from Classing's Laboratory results validated any new breeding concepts and undertaken on client's properties.

Classings now has over 80 commercial clients and over 20 studs they class and advise in four states, guiding them toward the best tactics in breeding high quality merinos that meet all fibre and meat expectations as well as exuding a skin that is productive yet easy care as to attract a young aspiring wool grower!



CLASSINGS WOOL TESTING FACILITY

Classing's Wool Testing Service has been in operation since 1972 and has been using CSIRO's Laserscan extensively since 1996 under the management of director, Rose Walker and staff.

The Laserscan added another dimension to the business with the additional measurements produced and the subsequent interpretation of these on flowing to clients as a means to the betterment of their flocks with production and quality.

The Laboratory tests samples from all over the nation including merino, alpaca, mohair and angora.

Results are printed and bound in an easy to read folder.

For all testing options please go to the Classing's website.



CLASSING'S CLASSIC POLL MERINO RAM SALE

The Classing's Classic sale was initiated back in 2002 with only 42 rams from selected studs who were seen to be progressive in their endeavour to address mulesing issues. These rams were genuinely plain bodied yet productive and included plain and sometimes bare breeches.

Today the sale boasts around 80 poll merinos annually satisfying the needs of stud and commercial growers alike. The studs involved and rams selected are handpicked from over three states. All rams are selected under stringent guidelines for quality control

The Classic '16 sale averaged \$4,450 boosted by a top price of \$16,000 but included many affordable rams in the \$1,500-\$3,500 range to appease the budgets of the commercial buyer.

Bill and Rose Walker

25 Sturt St. Murray Bridge SA 5253

Bill: 0428 973 804 Rose: 0428 832 806 Ph: 08 85323065

classing@internode.on.net

www.classings.com.au

2017 RAM SALES THAT COUNT

July 3rd EYRE PENINSULA FIELD DAY

July 14th-16th BENDIGO SHEEP SHOW

July 16th BENDIGO RAM SALE

July 19th S.E. MERINO FIELD DAY

July 25th ROEMAHKITA Cummins SA
Joe & Tracey Dahlitz 0428 295 706

July 26th PIMBENA Wirrulla SA
Les Hamence 0428 268 002

July 27th O'BRIEN POLL Wudinna SA
Showground - Darren O'Brien 0419 772 173

July 28th KAROONDA & DISTRICTS F/DAY
MURRAY BRIDGE SHOW GROUND

Aug 7th & 8th HAMILTON SHEEPVENTION

Aug 3rd LUCERNBRAE Callington SA
Keith & Judy Paech 0415 701 493

Aug 3rd RICE'S CREEK Tintinara SA
Mark Vandeleur 0417 871 054

Aug 4th KAMORA PARK Karoonda SA
Colin & Julie Boughen 0885 783 456

Aug 14th RIDGWAY Lameroo SA
Ric 0459 432 679 Matt 0439 460 554
Home 08 8578 8039

Aug 15th RAMSGATE Tintinara SA
Jed Keller 0427 691 858
Craig 0418 259 049

Aug 16th RIDGWAY ADVANCE
Border-town S.A. David & Karen Ridgway
0409 408 263 & 08 8754 2028

Aug 18th GLENLEA PARK Pinnaroo SA
Peter & Marianne Wallis 0428 766 126

Aug 24th CALCOOKARA Cowell SA
Brenton Smith 08 8628 5039 0427 285 039

Aug 25th KARAWATHA PARK
Buckle-boo SA
Bert Woolford 0427 274 030

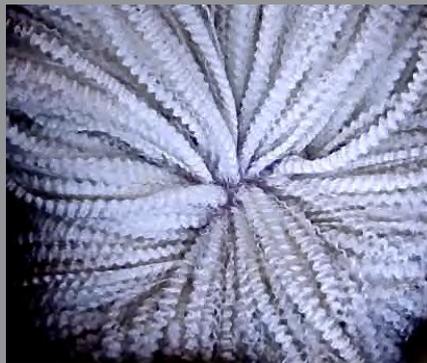
Aug 29th PEPPERWELL Keyneton SA
Hans Graetz 0427 790 676

Aug 30th NANTOURA Wharminda SA
Chris Prime 0427 289 021

Aug 29th RICE'S CREEK Saddleworth SA

August 30th BORUNG Waikerie SA
Brenton Kroehn 0427 414 494

Classings Classic'17
Monday September 4th
Murray Bridge Racecourse S.A.



August 31st GUNALLO Pinnaroo
SA Ray 0427 778 485 Brad 0400 335
660

Sep 1st SWM Tintinara SA
Richard Harkness 0428 758 028

Sep 1st ESPERANCE RAM SALE including
PENROSE AND WESTWOOD.

Sep 4th CLASSINGS CLASSIC '17

Sep 7th CHALLARA Badgingarra W.A.
Peter Wilkinson 0427 427 691

Sep 9th ADELAIDE RAM SALE

Sep 11th LONE GUM Crystal Brook SA
Private Inspection Stuart Everett
0427 362 801

Sep 14th WALLALOO PARK Marnoo Vic
John Carter 0427 501 431
Trent 0427 776 114

Sep 15th SOHNIC Marnoo Vic
Scott Nicholson 0438 086 403

Sep 18th FLAIRDALE Cooke Plains SA
Wayne Lehmann 0408 896877

Sep 21st MARNOO FIELD DAY VIC.

Oct 13th ELLA MATTA Parndana SA
Andrew Heinrich 0427 596 108



There has been a huge quality lift in many Murray Bridge and districts commercial flocks over the last decade due to improved pasture improvement and shifts in genetics from many.

These two, Dean Pearson and Wayne Schenke, are guilty and exhibit quality flocks due to realistic budgets on sale day convinced that low budget rams just don't cut it for flock improvement.

Promoters of ASBV's may disagree yet with the studs that we are involved with cheap rams are cheap for good reason generally due to skin related issues seriously affecting ease of breeding even with good numbers for growth and wool.

Grant Wagenknecht, Glen Richards, Hansen Farms, Bill Cameron, Chad Burbidge, Nathan Wegener and the Pym family, are breeding some of the best merinos going around and constantly produce all that's needed in meeting meat and fibre premiums.

"Again the discounts applied to the poorer styles of wool..... With the better types being less affected, but the lower quality wools being hammered by the trade.....and the average micron price guides hide the real trend of the market somewhat. This sends the correct message to wool growers, that quality matters just as much as micron, and it is only when quantity is limited that they are rewarded for producing lower quality wool." **Wool Wrap-The Land 13.4.17**

'Merinos are often maligned for their poor reproductive ability and ill thrift. This need not be the case with some simple knowledge and a little attention to detail. Nor is it necessary to infuse Dohne or SAMM to improve meat production at the cost of wool production. The humble merino can do it all if she is allowed.' **Darren & Fiona Sanders - Coombe SA**

**PROOF, EVIDENCE, SUITABILITY,
DISAPPOINTMENT
INTRODUCTION TO SIRE
EVALUATION & ASBV's**

Figure 2. Classer's Visual Grade: Tops and Culls

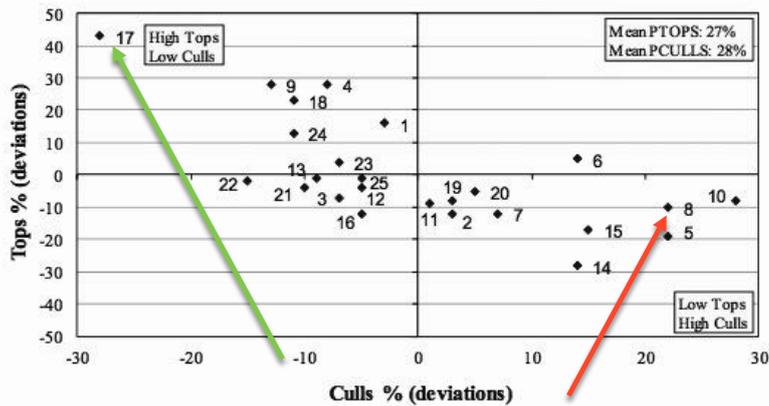


Figure 1. Fleece Weight and Fibre Diameter (FBVs)

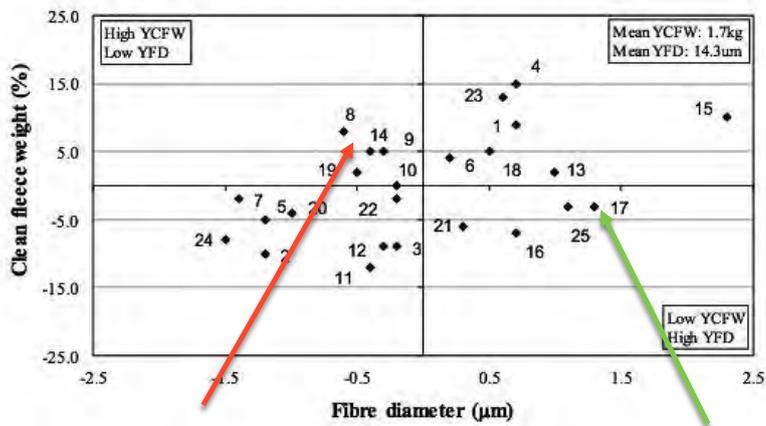


Figure 1b. Visual and measured performance (MP+ index)

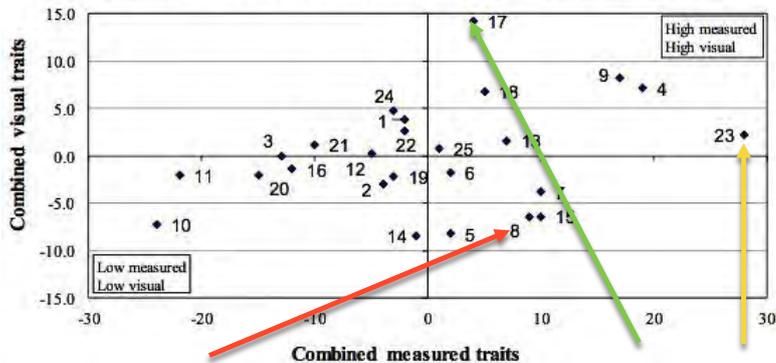
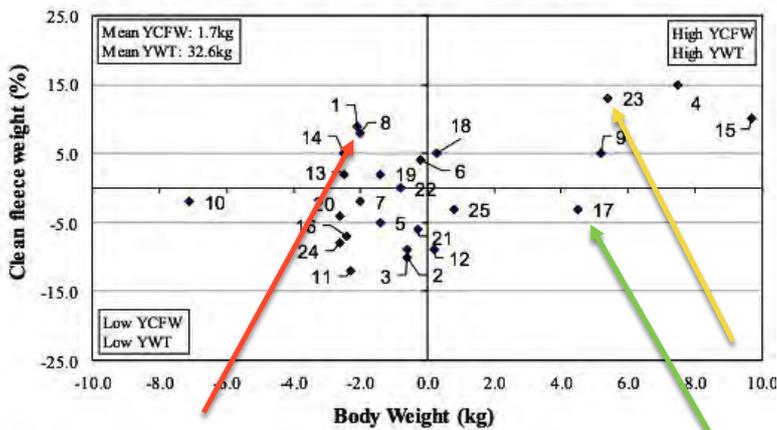


Figure 4. Fleece Weight and Body Weight (FBVs)



I had the fortune to be invited to professionally class the Elders Balmoral-Harrow MLP/Sire Evaluation Trial starting last year where the 2015 drop representing 25 sires from 25 studs are evaluated for every trait measurable. All progeny are DNA tested for further research work which will be invaluable for years to come.

There's a lot of information to be gleaned which would take every page of this glorious magazine to complete!

The quadrant graphs shown left have been part of Superior Sire booklets for years but are a welcome addition to this trial as a snapshot of what sire is doing what! All information shown here will be referred to with my further discussions including reference to existing ASBV's for sires represented.

One of the questions asked regularly in the paddock or in any bar at any given time is the viability of the time in an animal's life when most information is recorded - do we take fleece measurements including fleece weight far too early?

In a young stud ram's short life and on the property of birth there are generally only two shearings where data can be recorded - lamb shearing (worthless) and weaner shearing often in Feb/March after, at times, a testy summer.

To monitor a ewe's lifetime achievements is the only chance we have to really assess just when is the most primo time to accurately record consistent data to then influence higher accuracies with ASBV's for example. The Merino Lifetime Productivity Project (MLP) is the AWI funded effort in finding the answers.

Due to the lack of Sire Evaluation Trials in South Australia I would say a majority of growers may not have viewed many of these graphs at this level although they were very popular for a moment in this state when Hazeldean were slaughtering most bloodlines with off-the-graph type results!! Suddenly PIRSA sponsored trials were abolished and the great graphs went with it alongside no Rural Press reporting whatsoever! Relayers of factual information at workshops were banished - where is Albert Singh these days!!

Enough! Take a look at the adjacent graphs - It's not important to necessarily know who sire #17 is but I'm using him for reference only. By the way there is nothing to hide here - all information gathered from this trial and six others nationwide is accessible for all. Attend a Field Day at any trial site and it's yours - ring me and I'll get it to you!

Prior to any serious fleece weight and objective measurements the top graph exhibits the practical raw classing on a visual basis in the race. High Tops/Low Culls can be a very pointed graph especially when you have an animal nearly falling off it like #17 in Fig.2 due to his ability to throw little waste and plenty of top end stock.

What is this waste? Usually culls due to skin related issues including excessive pin wrinkle, short staple length, water stain, fleece rot, strong primary/secondary fibres. Add structural issues including bad hocks, sprung pasterns, muff, dipped shoulders and ill thrift and you may have my drift!

Also note ram #8 in Fig.2 that was below par with his classing result, placing him in the opposite quadrant with a lesser amount of tops and more culls.

Notice though that in Fig.1 once objective measurements (Micron & Yield) and CFW% are recorded and summarised, both animals swap quadrants with #8 appearing as the more desirable ram with above average (+8%) for CFW and below average for micron at (-0.5u), and #17 in the same breath shows below average CFW% at (-0.4%) & higher micron at (+1.2u).

A leveller in this situation is required as to help decipher just what ram out of these two is best suited to your enterprise and that's where ASBV's or in this scenario, FBV's (Flock Breeding Values) come into play.

Go to Figure 1b now and notice 'Visual and Measured Performance' MP+ Index. I have used this index as it represents what most of our commercial growers sway toward in reality with their own operation ie. concentrating on Fleece Weight Gain, a lift in Yearling Body Weight and less pressure on micron where most of our fellas are in the zone for wool quality.

It's in this graph where #17 falls back onto the radar with a combined approach - naturally his Combined visual Traits still puts him the highest on that axis yet where has he picked up to be on the right side of the ledger for Measured Traits?

Go to Fig.4 - Fleece Weight & Body Weight and see that although there's no advance with his fleece weight status, his Body Weight expressed here in kg's, is 5th highest across all sires. (+4.4kg). Next go to Fig.5, Fig.6 & Fig.7 to see that he is above for EMD & BW as already mentioned.

Fig.8 adds to the Combined Trait pile attractiveness with #17 considering his giant figures for Staple Strength - (Yss) and Worm Egg Count (WEC). Staple Strength at +4.7 was fourth highest in the group and a WEC, where a negative figure is a lure, sits at -24, fourth best in the group.

Follow #8's path across the same graphs to see why his initial CFW and micron reducing capabilities are slightly softened with lesser performance in other measured trait recordings.

So with all this in mind, which sire do you choose?!

This classer naturally has a sway toward #17 due to his severe lack of culls and great performance with other traits albeit a 4% deficit with fleece weight. Others, including those who regard ASBV's as the be all and end all and have a need to lift fleece weight emphatically (even though with their environ not suitable to such a task as well as high pressure stocking rates) would possibly be attracted to the micron/fleece weight advantage of #8 yet expect a higher cull rate.

Let's look at two Indices to make the task possibly clearer.

MP+ remember emphasises Fleece Weight and Yearling Weight with lesser demands on micron and staple strength. Another Index, DP+ with concentration on Yemd, Ywt and fertility-NLW (number of lambs weaned) is the other that is most commonly used for decision making.

Let's put #17 & #8 to the test on both Index systems - a higher index figure the more alluring within reason (explained later)

Sire #08 - DP+ Index 96 MP+ 108
Sire #17 - DP+ Index 111. MP+ 96

Figure 5. Fleece Weight and FAT (FBVs)

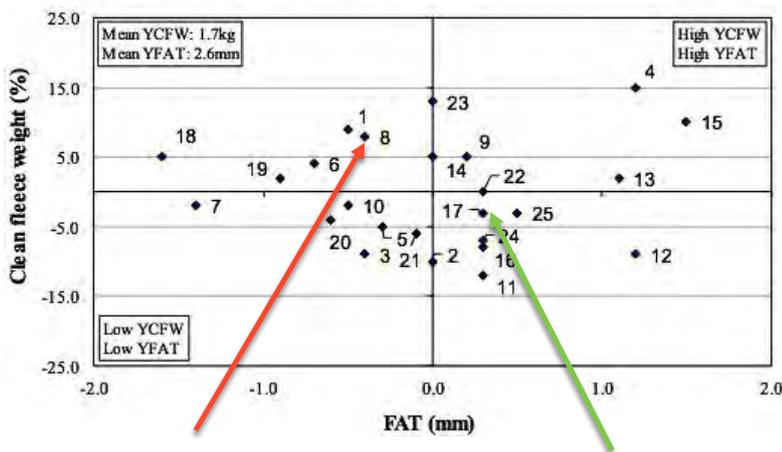


Figure 6. Fleece Weight and Eye Muscle Depth (FBVs)

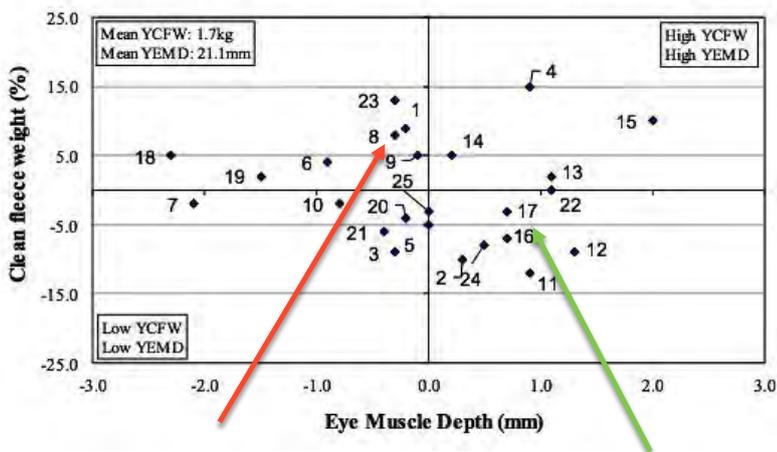


Figure 7. Body Weight and Eye Muscle Depth (FBVs)

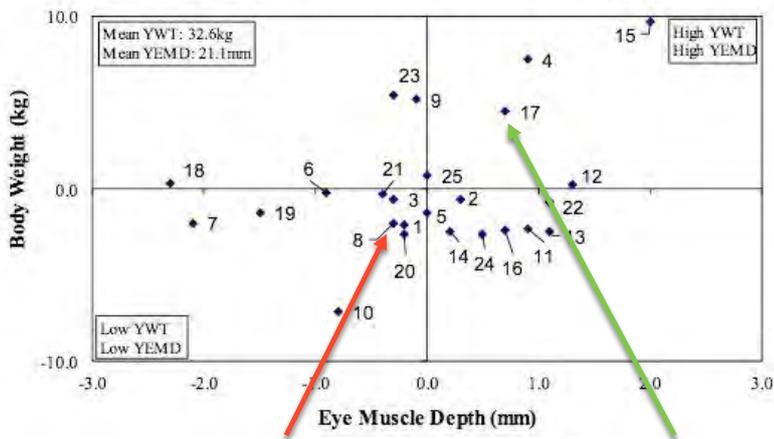
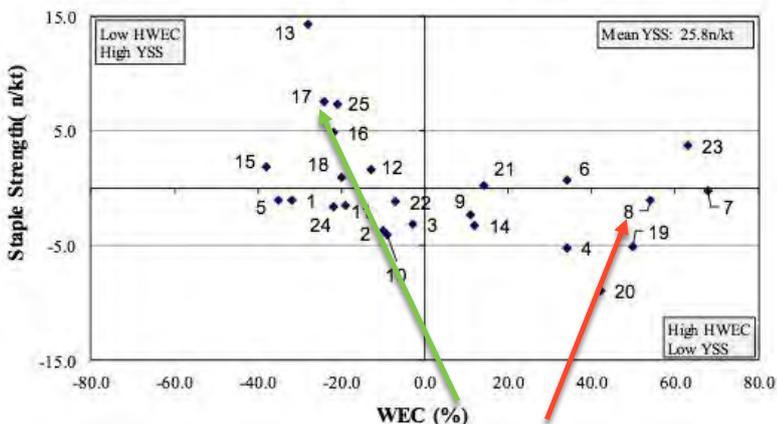
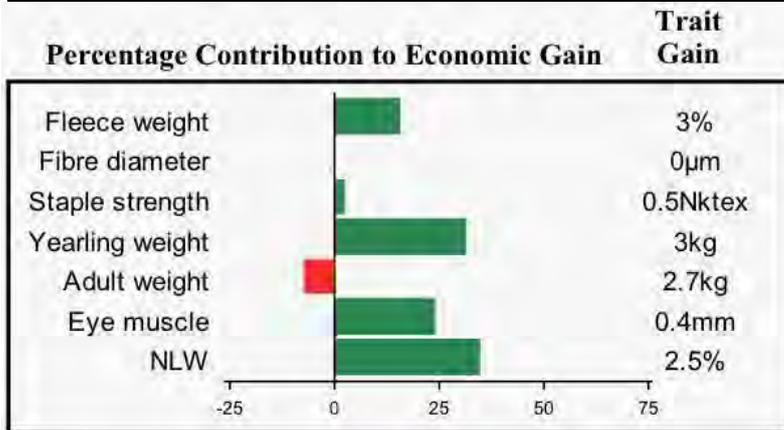


Figure 8. WEC and Staple Strength (FBVs)



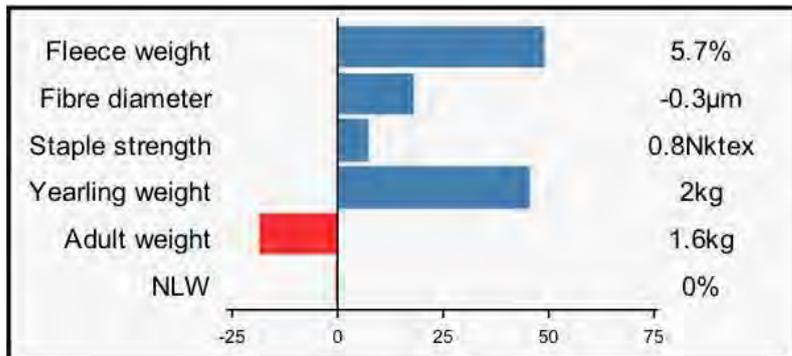
Dual Purpose Plus (DP+)

Based on a meat focused production system where surplus progeny are sold as lambs and a portion of ewes are joined to terminal sires. Large increase in body weight and carcass traits. Moderate increase in fleece weight. Maintain fibre diameter and staple strength. Moderate increase in reproduction.



Merino Production Plus (MP+)

Based on a balanced wool and meat production system where surplus progeny are sold as hoggets. Balanced emphasis on increasing fleece weight and reduction in fibre diameter. Moderate increase in body weight, with little change in reproduction.



“An ASBV is an estimate of the genetic potential a sheep will pass on to its progeny. ASBVs are available for a range of economically important traits and are designed to be used in conjunction with visual selection.

The appearance and performance of an animal is a combination of its genes and the environment in which it is raised (e.g. the amount and quality of feed, single or twin birth type).

ASBVs account for these environmental effects, allowing the comparison of sheep based on the genes they will pass on to their progeny. It is important to remember when selecting sheep you are choosing the genes, not the environment.” SHEEPGENETICS

So with all that said and most definitely in my opinion and as a Sheepclasser who detests waste there is no choice - **Sire #17** wins the bucks for an allrounder and especially if fleece weight within a flock is at reasonable levels. There are certain environs and stocking pressures where attempted lifts in fleece weight is not desirable - the animals fold into culling atrocities if fleece weight is ‘piled on’ under these conditions.

It must be remembered that the estimated breeding values in any of these trials are ‘within flock only’ (FBV’s) as opposed to ASBV’s which are across the board nationally.

The data accrued from AMSEA trials like Tuloona and the six up and running nationally, will eventually be submitted to the MerinoSelect number crunchers to then be added to that national database providing the broad spectrum ASBV system.

Despite rams excelling/bombing with FBV’s in the Tuloona Trial, once that same data is crunched in the national system, different interpretations are expected due to a broader base where one sire’s progeny is explored possibly over ten events/properties including a lot more progeny. As a sire/ewe’s progeny including pedigree depth are explored, measured and charted, the higher the accuracies become.

‘Australian Sheep Breeding Values are an estimate of an animal’s true breeding value based on pedigree and performance recorded information. They are essentially a projection of how that animals progeny will perform for a range of traits.’ MERINO SELECT

I’m well aware that many growers are reticent to ask about the meaning of ASBV’s and their purpose in fear of being depicted as the dumb ass (like I was!) so I’m hoping that the following will make that task a bit easier...

Fig. A - Sire 23

YWT	AWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	YWEC
10.6 94%	8.8 89%	-0.3 90%	-0.5 87%	31.7 90%	-1.0 93%	-0.9 90%	15.3 91%	2.7 86%	24 68%

I want to explore another ram in the quad graphs shown - **Sire #23** and use this ram as an intro to more ASBV understandings all round. This bloke did feature well in this Sire Evaluation but it’s the use of his numbers in explanatory form that I’m after.

The numbers shown above are **Sire #23’s** actual ASBV’s within the SheepGenetics system. Those % figures below each trait indicates percentage of accuracy. Ive researched that there are 143 head of stock from four flocks that data has been entered to create the shown result suggesting high accuracies with the ram’s breeding potential.

The trait on everyone’s radar at the moment is YCFW - Sire 23’s ASBV at **31.7** is a big number! The average across the nation from all entered animals for this trait is **11.8** putting this bloke in the top 1% in the country. (researched but not shown here) Now look at that YWT figure of **10.6** - considering the national ASBV average for YWT is 3.7, this fella has again excelled again putting him in the top 1% box!

So, before his Flock Breeding Values (FBV’s) are entered from the afore mentioned Sire Evaluation Trial and into the national ASBV data base, how did he compare for recorded measurement - is there association between the two?

Shown below is Sire 23's Flock Breeding Values (FBV's) from Tuloona trials some figures here are actual deviations expressed in i.e. kg, mm and percentage deviations from a zero average - ASBV's are not! 0.0 is not the par average of most traits with ASBV's. So a number comparison is not just in this instance.

#23 YWT (FBV)

5.4 (+5.4 kg above avg.) In the trial's top 3. (ASBV top 1%)

#23 YEMD (FBV)

-0.5 (-0.5mm below avg.) In the trial's bottom 5 (ASBV bottom 20%)

#23 YFAT (FBV)

-0.1 (-0.1mm below avg.) About 1/2 way in trial (ASBV bottom 65%)

#23 YCFW (FBV)

+13.0 (13% above avg.) In trial's top 2 (ASBV top 1%)

As portrayed here there is very good correlation between the Tuloona Sire Evaluation generated **FBV's** with this sire and his already established **ASBV's** which were very current at the concoction of this article.

Once this data is added to the system you would not expect the traits mentioned to alter much from the original excellent numbers. There may be a slight increase with accuracies (that % figure below figures) due to more information added from the same sire.

Fig. A - Sire 23 repeat

YWT	AWI	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	YWEK
10.6	8.8	-0.3	-0.5	31.7	-1.0	-0.9	15.3	2.7	24
94%	89%	90%	87%	90%	93%	90%	91%	86%	68%

Righteo then! Above is that same table of sire #23 with some of his ASBV's displayed. What do they mean and how are they arrived at. "ASBV's are expressed as either positive or negative deviations from an average.

This example for ASBV for yearling weight (YWT) is **10.6kg**. **As rams contribute half the genetics of their progeny and the ewe the other half**, therefore the resulting progeny will on average be 5.3kg heavier (1/2 of 10.6kg) at yearling weight than an animal with a YWT ASBV of 0."

Now check out that ASBV for yearling clean fleece weight (YCFW) sitting at **31.7** - thats a great figure but does not represent kg's obviously but percentage %. It's part of the system that takes a bit to get used to but grows on you over time. **I believe a percentage figure should be apparent right throughout the whole system.**

Sitting at **31.7(%)** this equates to the resulting progeny exhibiting a **15.85%** lift in CFW as a yearling (Y) (considering the ewe contributes the other half) than another animal sitting at YWT 0.0.

Check the **YSL** column now and note 15.3 suggesting that this fella will throw progeny 7.6mm longer in the fibre compared to a sire with ASBV's of 0.0 for Staple Length.

Merino Lifetime Productivity (MLP) Project

An idea initially shaped by a group of ram breeding enthusiasts has grown to become Australia's largest and longest Merino project, the Merino Lifetime Productivity (MLP) project. The MLP will see the daughters of 166 divergent industry sires shorn, measured, classed and joined annually over the next five to six years across five industry sites.

Large amounts of data will be generated that will be used to deliver a greater understanding of the genetic and economic drivers of lifetime productivity. The AWI funded project is a \$7m (plus \$4m from partners), 10-year partnership between AWI, the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association, nominating stud breeders and the site hosts.

The "Elders Balmoral" site located at Harrow in Victoria is one of the five MLP sites that has joined via AI for two years and will retain their ewe progeny for annual natural joining, classing and lifetime assessment. The sites initially operate as a standard sire evaluation site – following the rigorous and independently measured and visual assessment protocols. At the conclusion of the standard sire evaluation (once progeny are 18-24 months of age) AWI will support the ongoing measurement and visual classing of ewe progeny through 4-5 joinings and annual shearings.

The MLP project is fortunate to have the advice and input from Bill Walker who sits on AWI's project industry steering committee and is a nominated classer within the project. Bill has been involved in the annual professional sheep classing at the Elders Balmoral site. At this stage just standard sire evaluation results are generated, but down the track the project will report records such as the annual additional classing undertaken by Bill and other nominated classers.

Sire evaluation is made possible by sire entrants, willing site hosts and effective industry site committees. The Elders Balmoral site is hosted by the Craig family on their property "Tuloona" where the progeny of 46 industry sires will be evaluated annually for life. The field day planned for February 16th in 2018 will have the progeny of these sires on display along with the first drop of the next generation in the project.

The following two charts have been taken from the MLP Elders Balmoral 2015 drop Adult assessment, this is the first of five adult assessments that will take place on these ewes. All ewes are run together from two weeks after birth – so any difference in sire performance is a genetic difference rather than management difference. Other factors that might have impacted on progeny performance have been accounted for such as whether the progeny were singles or twins. The results are expressed as sire differences in the form of flock breeding values (FBVs) which are shown as a deviation from the average of the group. FBVs are only comparable within a drop, unlike Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) which can be compared across flocks and drops.

A full copy of the adult report for the MLP Elders Balmoral 2015 drop is available at www.merinosuperiorsies.com.au or by contacting the site (Tom Silcock: 0419 882 239).

UTILISING INDIVIDUAL TRAIT SELECTION METHOD

“At the risk of getting myself into a new argument, I personally aren’t a great fan of using indexes as a first means of selection as I believe they can present a compromise.

I would much prefer to individually use each individual trait breeding value, that makes up your selected index, as my selection method. Those selected animals will deliver a good index result, without hiding any tradeoffs.

Indexes can water down the power of individual trait breeding values, but offer a time saving for those who use them.” T.S.

CLIENTS AND ASBV USAGE

We had come from a objective measure background. ASBVs seemed to be the next step in that breeding pathway.

When we started in 2001 the breeders involved were very performance orientated - more wool, quicker growing, lower micron

Originally we used ASBVs as our main selection taken out obvious faults. Even when we first got a classer in we would run two mobs classers choice (Top classed ram with best ASBVs) and a high ASBV mob. This continued on for a few year until we saw that our high ASBV mob was producing more culls and not far enough in front of a mob combining the classing and ASBVs.

Now we class the rams (or Bill does) then look at the top rams for ASBVs using a combination of both to select our reserve rams

Most of our clients have been with us from the start or have had a background in ASBVs. I think most of them understand them but use them more as a guide than gospel.

If a ram looks like he has wool and the ASBV backs that up they are happy with the figures but if the ASBV is high for fleece cut and the feel is that it doesn’t have the wool then they will question the figures.

Around 70% use them as a guide to narrow their selection down.

CHRIS PRIME - NANTOURA POLL - S.A.

There is no need for me to go through every trait but use the above as a guide to work out progeny directions.

Other than YCFW, two other popular traits that people have a guess at regularly is **YEMD & YFAT**.

I will draw on a couple of descriptions from the Petali website as to an explanation for both...

Yearling FAT Depth (mm)

Rams with more positive FAT ASBVs produce progeny that are fatter. Fat is positively associated with higher reproduction rates, greater lamb & weaner survival. Ewes also lose less weight when nutrition is restricted.

YEMD – YEARLING EYE MUSCLE DEPTH (mm)

Rams with more positive EMD ASBVs will produce progeny that have more muscle, independent of weight, plus higher lean meat yields. Muscle is positively associated with worm resistance, higher staple strength, higher body condition & more twins.

Have a look at those informative quadrant graphs and note **Sire 15’s** efforts for YEMD, YFAT & YWT. Leader in all of these traits and add to that which you can’t see here but he also led the way with a DP+ Index of 142!

How did this compare with the already collected, high accuracy data in ASBV world - see table below.

Fig. B Sire 15

YWT	AWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	YWEC
12.0	10.6	3.2	2.0	17.8	0.7	-1.0	24.9	0.7	-50
98%	97%	98%	97%	98%	98%	98%	98%	97%	91%

As you can see both his national ASBV information and the trial’s FBV’s are highly correlated. Those three traits mentioned put him in the top 1% for each!

His actual ASBV for DP+ Index sits at 177. So the perfect ram? For all sorts of reasons he is hugely ranked yet there was an issue with him in the fact that on a visual basis he didn’t rank as well as others in the trial.

Much of his progeny were culled for not fitting into the parameters set by the site objective of which one point was wool quality which was lacking.

So huge numbers for ASBV’s and huge income on paper with meaty early maturing animals meeting market requirement with early growth, high fat and eye muscling

yet wool only a mother would adore. He is definitely an industry ram where if the grower is patient in losing fibre quality in place of making big bucks for big time meat yield and early growing lambs, this is the boy.

Would the progeny bred by a ram of his calibre over high quality ‘wool’ ewes be the trick? Ring me!

This is the reason I put it to about thirty studs of which we are associated a question asking if straight ASBV’s are adequate when this scenario pops up regularly. Should there be additional information made available suggesting dangers and or compliments. yes they can be found with a bit of research especially in Superior Sire and Sire Evaluation booklets providing the ram has been part of these trials.

Some great news whilst putting this all together that through Anne Ramsay and AMSEA’s permission, I can disclose all of the entries that are part of the 2015 drop Elders Balmoral ‘Tuloona’ trial from the first classing - I thank Anne for this.

This certainly makes it easier to read and understand when stud/sire names are used instead of the coded Sire 23 for example. When things are all said and done, all of this information is accessible to any woolgrower on request so why not take snippets from this with a few explanations.

You can now see clearly who the pre-mentioned sires are.

All of the recorded information at at this Tuloona trial as well as all of the others across the nation, are all entered through the SheepGenetics protocol and added to the Merino Select data base.

Picture this and then add all of the single sire information mustered from individual studs once again from across Australia and out of nowhere there are now well over 1,000,000 records from sires and dam pedigrees increasing accuracies from a sire or stud family that may be of interest.

On a monthly basis there are ‘runs’ that accept new data from all growers and trial sites like Tuloona and all existing information is recalibrated and adjusted considering all new data entry.

This in turn can sometimes affect some sire ASBV’s due to the new information at hand and ever improving genetics across the board. Some sires that were once highly acclaimed for yearling clean fleece weight



ELDERS BALMORAL (HARROW) 2015 SIRE EVALUATION ENTRIES

Sire code	Breeders flock, Sire number	Sheep Genetics ID	Sire of Sire
1	Billandri Poll, 130087	600571-2013-130087	509605-2009-090122
2	Bogo, 111424	504792-2011-111424	Unknown
3	Bundaleer Poll, 13V741	601449-2013-13V741	Unknown
4	Bundilla, 111265	504081-2011-111265	504081-2009-090044
5	Centre Plus Poll, 207316	601250-2012-207316	601250-2009-907538 (Centre Plus Poll, 907538)
6	Darriwell, 130941	503655-2013-130941	503655-2011-000952
7	Glenpaen, 120042	504654-2012-120042	503298-2009-090910 (Nerstane, 090910)
8	Greenfields Poll, 130599	600240-2013-130599	600240-2010-100087
9	Hazeklean, 11.43	500383-2011-000043	600553-2007-070002 (Coromandel Poll, ET2)
10	Kurra-Wirra, SR5681	504173-2013-SR5681	504173-2010-SR4862
11	Leahcim Poll, 090918	600815-2009-090918	600815-2007-070319
12	Leahcim Poll, 123153	600815-2012-123153	600815-2010-101009
13	Merinotech WA Poll, 100081	609040-2010-100081	609040-2008-088578
14	Mokapeen, 120092	504888-2012-120092	504888-2009-000004
15	Mooj-pin, 100248	504637-2010-100248	504637-2008-081206
16	Mumblebone, 130389	500063-2013-130389	601365-2009-090399
17	Mumblebone, 130850	500063-2013-130850	500063-2010-100186
18	Nareeb Nareeb, 130380	500246-2013-130380	503855-2011-BL0115
19	Nerstane, 130467	503298-2013-130467	503298-2010-100919 (Nerstane, 100919)
20	One Oak No. 2, R56	503855-2010-100R56	503855-2008-080004
21	Roseville Park, 140019	504166-2014-140019	601050-2009-090853 (Stockman Poll, 090853)
22	The Mountain Dam, 11/ESA004	504572-2011-ESA004	600792-2009-090576 (Mernowie Poll, 090576)
23	Tuckwood Poll, 121021	601053-2012-121021	601082-2008-081375
24	Yalgoo, 120043	501552-2012-120043	503298-2008-080121 (Nerstane, 080121)
25	Yiddinga, 130374	509242-2013-130374	509242-2011-000076

might now be in the middle of the field due to higher accuracies once there is more information on that one sire entered.

On the other hand a lowly ranked animal that starts in the ghetto due to low accuracies because of youth or low confidence can suddenly shoot through the roof because of semen uptake because of one good result that I or other advisors/classers may push or more ewe progeny entered into the day base for example.

Considering the likes of the Cattle, Suffolk and Pig industries being so savvy with Breeding Values for decades it has been a slow start for the merino mob due in part to some sluggish sectors within our industry.

There has been two sides to the ASBV argument of which we have witnessed even in the finest hotels and not dissimilar to the Watts/SRS debate which surprisingly still

meets with some knockers.

In one corner there is the discussion that we have made it this far without Breeding Values albeit with some objective measurement thus, "Have a look at these great animals!" In the other corner of the ring there is the mob who totally agrees yet want to explore even further into objectivity particularly with growth rates and meat traits.

There is still a large divide in my eyes - our clients Stuart & Nancy Everett of Lone Gum Poll in Crystal Brook S.A. know that for the future existence of their great yet small stud, ASBV's are the answer in attracting a young, bristling-with-knowledge potential client eager for the latest and greatest. Incoming sires are now assessed using both principles. This stud breeds the best stock in the Mid North yet has now resigned to a selection day type process as a means of low profile selling.



There is another group that has adopted ASBV's purely to attract these same youngsters without having much idea themselves which is fine until the discussion over lunch reverts to inter muscular fat and WEC! This has surprisingly worked well due

ASBV's - To be sure to be sure?

Skepticism is part of human nature... Maybe for a reason.

When quizzing Stud's that have committed to the ASBV system & their reasoning for doing so, I receive varied & conflicting responses.

The ones portraying the most positivity refer to the term 'benchmarking' - a way of comparing apples to apples. The problem I see with this is that merino sheep are far more complex than a piece of fruit and are produced over a very diverse landscape in extremely different climatic conditions.

These studs are quite aggressive and seem to know how to work the system in order to raise their rating scores. Not appearing to be using it as a breeding tool, more so a marketing tool. Some go as far as to say, "We will never use genetics outside the ASBV system again". This may have an effect on their progress.

Others have said, "You need to keep up with technology or you will be left behind." Therefore, we must do it because everyone else is, even though it is said to be very time consuming and expensive. Someone is making some considerable profits but I am not sure it is the merino producer.

While objective measurements have been a useful tool and has helped us understand different components of merino sheep; pushing too far objectively in anyway can upset the balance & lead you up the garden path. However objective breeding strategies are nothing new. They have been tried over many years but with little or no success.

Generally when there is an imbalance in favour to the objective over subjective, the breeding breaks down. I am concerned that the ASBV system is heading down this track.

'When your eyes start turning square you start to loose focus' (pity it didn't turn the sheep square).

You can keep testing until the cows come home but one thing I am sure of is, the more things you test for the more you will become confused. I feel that the ASBV system confuses capability with predicta-bility and encourages an erratic mixing of genetics yet again.

I have just discovered why I relate to the Irish people so much & want to visit them. You need... 'to be sure to be sure' before jumping into bed with ASBV's.

NAME WITHHELD

Are you satisfied with the Merino Select Breeding Values and how they are calculated? Do you understand it? We were convinced it was a very good measurement tool to use up until two years ago. Until then the figures seemed to match the animal.

Now that the calculations have changed and there is a big emphasis on the amount of pedigree information given (preferably 70% and above), I am not so sure about it.

The wool measurement is confusing in regards to how the actual sheep is performing.

The Merino Select figures are suggesting it is impossible to shear twice per year, yet our average wool cut is close to 4kg (stud ewes 4.5kg) every six months and we have done a sensitivity analysis on our wool clip to prove it.

I believe the raw data is a more accurate indicator of our sheep's performance at this point of time.

If it's not possible to improve from 40% to provide 70% pedigree information for the coming year, I would seriously consider stepping down from the Merino Select breeding value system because we have gained nothing from it by all our own testing in the last two years. **P.W.**

to the inclusion of the 'MerinoSelect' & ASBV logos on their advertising giving a misconception that they are 'with it'!!

There's another mob who are so ASBV orientated that the mere challenge from other quarters regarding all things associated with the subject causes angst and heckles and renders this poor interviewer useless!

Mind you all of the above still place subjective appraisal as a given but in various degrees.

There's a 'numbers' group who will buy a super highly indexed critter just to boost their own stats. Big stock, huge eye and fat - no fibre quality, pigmentation on ears and muzzle, hocky, big fleece weight, loaded with water stain but MP+ 200 yeah! Many of these rams should never made it past the classer's giant cull stripe down their grizzly backs!

A big purchase from a bloke I know that displayed huge index and meat trait breeding values almost drew two gasps from the non adoring crowd with its

procurement. One gasp for the money spent and the other from me wondering how the hell did this bastard deserve a sale pen!!

...and naturally there's the mob who breed these animals in the first place. Big index - big sales!

Of course then there's the allrounder who exhibit great looking stock, appreciate their classer's expertise and advice as well as going full bore with meat and wool measurements and subsequently convert all information into breeding values as a guidance and backup to that 'perfect' ram.

So, who's the winner here?! Everyone is doing fine at the minute due to one of the best times to be involved with this job in decades. Providing it rains in the western part of this state and extending even further westward, all studs will have a 'field day' this year when it comes to sales.

Wool quantity low nationally, quality high, meat prices extraordinary, price for breeding ewes amazing (\$180 6 year old ewes) even the stinky ol' goat has hit the \$7 plus mark!

The young brigade who at long last have got the gist that these merinos can easily rival wheat when the season or price falters, will, I believe, be on the hunt for those studs who have a balanced approach. A stud that can answer all queries regarding ASBV's yet have a sound knowledge on just what skin, fibre & structure suits what kind of environment.

The following is a basic description but identifies one part of the problem with ASBV's when used due to notoriety. We ran a three way trail at a Willalooka S.A. property via an A.I. program involving three acclaimed sires. Two of which were moderate for ASBV's and one, a very highly rated sire extensively used nation wide due to his meat and fleece weight attributes. Ewes were selected as an even type, fleece weight and micron.

Basically he outgunned the other two for fleece weight as his at that point of time was sitting at around YCFW 30+. The outcome though was a mere 0.3 kg improvement in fleece weight yet was tangled with the problem of way too many culls due to his skin make up in this environ which is low lying saturated flats.

Continued Page 13.



FIELD DAY 2017

THURSDAY 21st SEPTEMBER
10am - 4pm



OVER 700 RAMS ON DISPLAY

Studs: Old Dundee, Charinga, Banavie, Gowandale, Belbourie, Oakbank,
Forest Springs, Sohnic Merinos, Wallaloo Park
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“ASBV’s are not, & were never designed to be, a replacement for visual selection. They are simply an addition to visual selection.

Having the ability to select for traits without the environmental noise of seasonal variation, age of dams, twin-single status & artificial shed preparation is having a significant impact on the genetic progress of our sheep, and the flocks we influence.

Our ewes are all run on native hill country east of Wellington & weaned 130% of lambs last year - up from an average of 105% six years ago.

The ewes are shorn every six months & cut, on average, 3.2kg’s of 18.9 micron, 64mm wool from a wrinkle free animal that doesn’t need to be mulesed. The un-mulesed status of our clip this year has added \$1 to \$1.50/kg to all fleece lines.

ASBV’s assist our selection for all measured traits from fleece weight & micron, to growth, condition score, reproduction, lamb survival, staple length & skin type. We will continue to support Sheep Genetics & the delivery if essential, industry relevant, information that underpins rapid genetic progress & the attraction of the tech savvy, science driven, next generation merino breeder.” **CHAD TAYLOR - MUMBLEBONE MERINO NSW**



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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SIRE EVALUATION EVENTUATES!



Not since Angus McLachlan’s Rosebank property hosted the last one, has there been a hint of a Sire Evaluation trial in this state since the mid 90’s. Sure there have been PIRSA assisted wether trials, local Ag Bureau Trials and Hogget Competitions for years which may possibly lend themselves to the inquisitive grower to change bloodlines for one reason or another.

Sire Evaluation trials benchmark entered merino stud sires not only against each others progeny but that of ‘link sires’ which have a historical presence linked to other trials usually in other states. Every possible trait is measured including data collected from DNA testing.

With a recent association with AMSEA (Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association) gurus, Ben Swain and Tom Silcock due to MLP (Merino Lifetime Productivity Project) classing at Harrow Vic. I put it to them if SA could be considered as a host for an Evaluation Trial with their response very positive providing a host was found. The rest is history with Keyneton Station near the Barossa Valley taking on that role with the Keynes family willing and able with guidance from University of Adelaide’s Stephen Lee and SA Sheep Industry Blueprint - we must make sure this guy isn’t poached by other states - he’s good!

After casting our eyes over Keyneton

Station’s mostly 2.5 year old ewes for structure and even wool type, 960 ewes were AI’d over two days by Marg and Helen-Brecon Breeders to 16 stud merino sires - 13 from SA and three from NSW of which two are link sires.

Gunallo 140007, Ridgway Advance 150103, Ridgway 140721, Pepperwell 155227, Flairdale 150078, Roemahkita 150092, Leahcim 152775, Greenfields 140345, Hilton Heath 447, Kelvale 150120, Malleetech 155180, Hamilton Run 150600 & Collinsville 135111 represent the SA submission with NSW’s contingent made up of Poll Boonoke 150026, Hazeldean 134936 and Mumblebone 130850, a ram that featured very well in the Elders Balmoral trial (Tuloona-Harrow Vic.) for High % tops and Low % culls.

The SA Merino Sire Evaluation site inseminated 954 ewes to 16 sires in



mid-January 2017. The site recorded a conception rate of 62% with 402 ewes scanned with singles and 192 ewes scanned with twins, 360 ewes were dry. The site design managed risk by inseminating 60 ewes/sire.

This is important as on average there are nearly 50 fetuses scanned per sire. This is an excel-lent base to evaluate sire’s progeny for a range of composition, wool and meat quality traits.

Lambing to come....

ASBV PERCENTILE CHART: APRIL 2017

Band	Yfd u	Ycfw %	Yfdcv %	Ysl mm	Yss Nktex	NLW %	Ysc cm	Ywec %	Ywt kg	Yfat mm	Yemfd mm	DP+	MP+	FP+
0	-5.8	43.9	-4.0	32.3	12.0	22	6.5	-93	16.6	3.9	5.2	227.6	213.4	191.3
1	-4.1	28.8	-2.6	23.2	7.0	15	4.4	-79	11.5	1.7	2.9	182.1	177.1	163.5
2	-3.5	27.0	-2.4	20.6	6.1	13	4.0	-70	10.7	1.5	2.7	175.8	171.7	159.2
3	-3.2	25.8	-2.3	18.9	5.6	12	3.8	-65	10.1	1.4	2.5	171.8	168.2	156.6
4	-3.0	24.9	-2.2	17.6	5.2	11	3.6	-61	9.7	1.3	2.3	168.9	165.8	154.8
5	-2.9	24.1	-2.1	16.5	4.9	11	3.5	-58	9.4	1.2	2.2	166.4	163.8	153.3
10	-2.5	21.6	-1.8	13.6	3.9	9	3.0	-49	8.2	1.0	1.8	158.6	157.0	148.4
15	-2.2	19.8	-1.6	12.2	3.3	7	2.7	-43	7.4	0.8	1.5	153.9	152.8	145.1
20	-2.0	18.3	-1.5	11.2	2.8	6	2.5	-38	6.7	0.7	1.2	150.3	149.5	142.4
25	-1.9	17.0	-1.4	10.2	2.4	5	2.3	-34	6.2	0.6	1.1	147.1	146.6	140.3
30	-1.7	15.9	-1.2	9.3	2.0	4	2.1	-30	5.7	0.5	0.9	144.3	144.1	138.3
35	-1.6	14.8	-1.1	8.5	1.8	3	2.0	-27	5.3	0.4	0.7	141.8	141.8	136.5
40	-1.5	13.8	-1.0	7.7	1.3	3	1.8	-24	4.9	0.3	0.6	139.6	139.6	134.8
45	-1.3	12.7	-0.9	7.0	1.0	2	1.7	-21	4.5	0.2	0.5	137.3	137.5	133.0
50	-1.2	11.8	-0.8	6.3	0.6	1	1.6	-18	4.0	0.1	0.3	135.1	135.4	131.3
55	-1.1	10.8	-0.7	5.5	0.3	0	1.5	-14	3.6	0.0	0.2	133.0	133.2	129.5
60	-0.9	9.7	-0.6	4.8	0.0	0	1.3	-11	3.2	0.0	0.1	130.9	131.0	127.6
65	-0.8	8.6	-0.5	3.9	-0.4	-1	1.2	-7	2.8	-0.1	0.0	128.8	128.8	125.5
70	-0.7	7.3	-0.4	3.0	-0.7	-2	1.0	-3	2.3	-0.2	-0.2	126.6	126.3	123.1
75	-0.5	6.0	-0.3	2.0	-1.1	-3	0.8	1	1.8	-0.3	-0.3	124.2	123.7	120.5
80	-0.3	4.4	-0.1	0.7	-1.6	-4	0.6	7	1.3	-0.4	-0.5	121.5	121.0	117.8
85	-0.1	2.5	0.0	-0.6	-2.1	-5	0.4	13	0.6	-0.5	-0.7	118.1	117.8	114.5
90	0.1	-0.1	0.3	-2.3	-2.9	-7	0.1	20	-0.1	-0.7	-0.9	113.6	114.0	110.5
95	0.6	-4.3	0.6	-5.0	-4.1	-11	-0.4	31	-1.2	-0.9	-1.2	106.6	107.9	104.9
96	0.7	-5.6	0.7	-5.8	-4.5	-13	-0.5	35	-1.5	-1.0	-1.3	104.1	105.5	103.1
97	0.8	-7.3	0.9	-6.9	-5.0	-16	-0.6	40	-1.9	-1.1	-1.4	100.5	102.2	100.7
98	1.1	-9.9	1.1	-8.2	-5.7	-19	-0.9	46	-2.3	-1.2	-1.5	95.0	96.8	96.6
99	1.5	-13.6	1.4	-10.1	-6.9	-25	-1.3	55	-3.1	-1.4	-1.8	80.5	79.7	78.4
100	5.5	-38.2	3.8	-19.7	-13.5	-40	-4.1	156	-9.3	-2.5	-3.9	1.3	38.6	21.2

I have increasing confidence in the (ASBV) results we get back, mainly through the volume of information we have built up.

It is healthy to question each step of the process, starting with the things able to be directly influenced on farm, such as sire and dam pedigree, single sire matings, reducing syndicates as they are hard to deal with from a statistical analysis - data quality, percentage of animals tested, age stages and correct management groups, birth and rear type.

Sometimes compromise has to be used from a practical farming point of view but understanding the impact of management decisions is important. **B.J.**

After years of questioning the people at sheep genetics as to why my ASBV data was not a lot better on my ET bred progeny and why all ET progeny appear on Merinosselect as 'unknown dam' they finally told me that the computer disregards dam info when there is too many progeny from the one dam (ie. it must be a mistake).

I have only just learned that the progeny have to be specifically entered as breed type ET!!! So from now on my ET data should be more accurate. **P.W.**



Animal ID	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	YWEC	NLW	EBWR	EBCOV	LDAG	LMY
MERINOTECH WA-122295	13.1 97%	13.2 92%	0.7 95%	0.2 92%	28.5 97%	-0.6 98%	-0.6 97%	2.8 97%	2.5 95%	-32 93%	-	-0.6 90%	-0.7 88%	0.4 94%	0.98 91%
	IMF	SHEARFS	INBREEDING	BREED	POLL	FP	FP+	MP	MP+	DP	DP+				
	0.75 74%	1.7 71%	0%	1.00 100%	PP	147 53%	175 74%	172 48%	205 69%	170 38%	226 63%				

Now is as good a time to insert the above chart which I think is too often neglected in most discussions as it is not often well understood yet imperative in to making on property breeding decisions. That 50% decile line is the average for the industry at that given time which shown here is April 2017. Refer to this when looking at a sire's ASBV's to see where he sits nationally.

There is concern amongst a few that the average should be 0.0 throughout but with so much data being entered monthly this is an impossibility particularly when there is so much that makes up an animal's ASBV including large amounts of pedigree information. Progeny from one sire could be 0.0 for fat one month and then slide into new territory at 0.3 once pedigree information is obtained. Those concerned need to be more aware of the accuracies involved and understand percentile charts as a preference.

The Merinotech ram with a YWT sitting at 13.1 and the average nationally at 4.0 puts him in great stead. In fact if you go up the YWT column you will see that 13.1 puts him in the 1% decile or top 1% in the country. YFAT 0.2 slides him into the top 45% across the board and so on.

YCFW shown here at 28.5 is a big figure and as previously discussed is a percentage number

so in this case this guy will throw progeny that will be 14.25% above progeny from a sire that sits at YCFW 0.0. Percentile wise he sits nearly in the 1% best in the nation. Too often progeny with such a high Clean Fleece Weight lack horribly in the Eye & Fat stakes but slowly there are progeny expressing well in both traits.

Notice this is a Clean figure - even though there is a huge amount of studs who do not test for yield but offer greasy weights, this clean figure is still arrived at using the average percentile as a tool to arrive at a clean weight. This raises a few eyebrows which I understand yet I believe it's almost irrelevant considering that when you have a chance to see YGFW & YCFW figures side by side (top of page 17), there ain't much in it. Have a look at both ASBV's from the mentioned 'Tuloona' trial from the first five studs - Yield was arrived at by measured means in this case: Billandri YCFW 9% YGFW 9%, Bogo YCFW -10% YGFW -8%, Bundaleer Poll YCFW -9% YGFW -7%, Bundilla YCFW 15% YGFW 12% & Centre Plus Poll YCFW -6% YGFW -4%.

YSL at 2.8 doesn't set the world on fire considering the national average of 6.3 yet there would be a 1.4mm bonus with progeny should this sire be used. Six month shearing enterprises may be affected by this figure and choose another sire. YDCV is close to the national average with no great gains.

A negative figure is preferred here with the higher (negative) figure shown the less variation within the fibre there is. This figure is closely linked with skin attributes. In it's raw form a higher CV & SD generally equates to animals with higher amounts of skin/pin wrinkle and shorter staple and more fibre variation. For an example a favourite sire of mine, L858, was -1.1 YDCV & 11.2 YSL, very free growing off the skin with zero waste and low SD. The sire described here at -0.6 YDCV & only 2.8 YSL could suggest an issue with skin.

It has been suggested that a high physical CV figure (or positive ASBV) has a high correlation for animal health or fitness, to be able to breed under the extreme conditions thrown at it - the higher the figure the less chance of superstardom! High CV figure/more skin issues and shorter staple length.

With all of our laboratory testing since 1972, following up animals with high SD's & CV's usually interprets to lower lambing percentages in group form. Classing in the 70's & 80's saw many 'stud' mobs perform less admirably than their lower classed counterparts which were usually downgraded for fleece weight alone. Those flat skinned lighter cutters with low CV/SD were always the fertility performers! Tight bastards didn't stand a chance!

YFD here at -0.6 doesn't necessarily put him into micron reducing stakes with the national average sitting at -1.2 but should you have a flock that sits well here it's of no great concern.

These are sometimes the tradeoffs in finding the ideal sire. There is a sire in the current Elders Harrow trial that swims through every meat trait ASBV yet has the highest micron physical by streaks. His current ASBV for YFD sits at 0.7 which is in the bottom 4% nationally. The **accuracy** associated with that number is 98% so there's no arguing that there would be nothing to gain if you're after micron reduction. In saying that considering that most flocks we handle have no micron issues whatsoever it would be easy to take a punt considering this sire's YEMD 3.2 & YFAT 2.0 easily thrusting him into the top 1% categories for both traits!

YSS Yearly Staple Strength has a preferred positive figure with the Merinotech fella at YSS 2.5 in the top 25% for ASBV. His progeny will reflect a 1.25 N/Ktex improvement in staple strength to a sire sitting at YSS 0.0.

I believe YSS might now be a dangerous one considering that many of our clients are now six month shearing and experiencing the enjoyment of 'through the roof' N/Ktex clip results. Is there a high correlation between twelve month shearing and six month shearing from the same animal? If not then YSS could be the fool's measurement within the system and need not apply.

ACCURACY basically refers to the amount of information incorporated to create the numbers generated. That percentage figure below each trait i.e. YWT 97% with the Merinotech bloke suggests that the success rate of using this sire for improved weight is highly likely, heritable and accurate. A lowly sire figure improves with more data mustered due to stud or evaluation results as they come to hand or from pedigree information and siblings.

YWEC (Yearling Worm Egg Count) needs a negative number to qualify interest! The higher the negative number the more potential genetically there is for the progeny to resist possible worm burdens. This bloke at -32 is a good figure with reasonably high accuracy and sits in the top 30% nationally. For higher rainfall breeders like Aphid, Tracey and Jamie Heinrich's Ella Matta at Parndana Kangaroo Island, this is a big number and select semen from new sires with this figure high on the agenda. Their local clientele are situated in crap/worm prone properties thus rams with large negative worm numbers are sought after. The Merinotech guy wouldn't be resistant enough for the Heinrichs but their last A.I. sire, Anderson 120282 has a figure of -85!! This stud has enormous WEC results.

NLW Number of lambs weaned although no number represented with the Merinotech ram suggests a sire's female progeny when positive will produce a higher percentage of weaned lambs. **NLB** represents the same except for lambs born.

EBCOV Early Breech Cover is a tool to help select animals that have less cover around the breech area. There is a physical breech cover scoring system that is a visual assessment of animals straight after lamb shearing - score one being the plainest and score five the worst. A great fact identified with all data collected is that score ones wean more lambs than score fives. The Merinotech ram at EBCOV -0.7 suggests progeny not over covered.

EBWR or Early Breech Wrinkle and assessed via a similar system to EBCOV prefers a negative figure. This guy at EBWR -0.6 is ok but leaders of this trait within the ASBV system hover around -1.5. Score fives at physical assessment once again indicate low fertility performance which comes as no surprise.

Those tight show ring animals may win the ribbons yet their economic performance is too often disastrous. Tight skins, high SD/CV's, short stapled, less lambs and moisture trapping animals deserve the same fate as any dorper!

A **LDAG** score ASBV? New to the system and well I dunno! I know through classing for years that sporadically a sire group will pop up that has more dag than others but to chart it through the ASBV system I'm not sure...



I can see the worth in the Merino Select ASBV'S if done properly with accountability and integrity but please don't ignore the physical attributes of a well bred ram i.e wool whiteness, pigment, structure, testicles, frame!! **P.W.**



Martin Oppenheimer's Main reasons to be on SheepGenetics:

- You can achieve the fastest rates of genetic gains in desired traits, plus at the same time watching/holding/improving other traits eg CFW v Fat
- We can improve CFW in 1 year what used to take 10 years plus improve Fat!
- Breeders need to keep ahead of clients. It can be a problem if a client knows more about our sheep than we do. How can we survive or grow if that is the case?
- We can easily improve traits we select for.
- We have the ability to benchmark our flock, sires & genetic progress.
- DNA flock profiling, Ramselect & ASBVs mean that breeders can easily benchmark their flocks & individual rams.
- DNA genomics testing (using TSUs now) mean more accurate early selection & use of ram lambs = faster genetic gain
- **This is a biggie: ASBV's mean less business RISK for us & our clients.**



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I'm going to skip past Intra Muscular Fat (IMF) Shear force (SHEARFS) Inbreeding and Breed due to the non relevance to this piece at this time.

Depending on your desire and preferences there are Indexes designed to suit your breeding strategies hinging on which of you focus is directed. The main indexes are listed at the start of this piece in graph form. Just a note that the average for all of the Plus Indexes (FP+, MP+ & DP+) sits around 135.

FP Fibre Production - Incorporates YFD, YCFW, YWT, YDCV.

FP+ Fibre Production+ - Incorporates YFD, YCFW, YWT, YCDV, YSS, WEC

Both FP & FP+ have a huge sway toward micron and its reduction and lesser with fleece weight.

MP Merino Production - YCFW, YFD, YWT, YDCV

MP+ Merino Production + - YCFW, YFD, YWT, YDCV, YSS, NLW

Both MP & MP+ are more targeted to lifting fleece weight, lesser for micron and some for body weight.

DP Dual Purpose - YCFW, YWT, YFD, YDCV

DP+ Dual Purpose+ - NLW, YFW, YWT, YEMD, YFAT

The DP+ index and the MP+ are widely used by most of our clientele.

MerinoSelect's take on the two in descriptive form goes like this:

The **MP** indices are aimed at, *"Those producers whose sheep income is a balance of both wool and surplus sheep sales. It is for self replacing merino flocks who do not keep their wethers to produce wool."*

The DP indices are aimed at, *"Those producers whose majority of income comes from sheep sales. It is for self replacing merino flocks that do not keep their wethers and also join a portion of their ewes to terminal sires for lamb production."*

There are excellent economic forecasts for each trait which I will not reproduce here but are easily viewed on the MerinoSelect website.

FP	FP+	MP	MP+	DP	DP+ ↓
147	175	172	205	170	226
53%	74%	48%	69%	38%	63%

To summarise the Merinotech sire has very few flaws with his numbers through ASBV world and obviously physically heading in the right direction.

There's an animal out there somewhere who knocks him off his perch at DP+ 227 ranking

this guy number two in the nation with Dual Purpose traits yet here is my query that was not agreed with by most stud principles that I approached.

Keep data as data was the response generally. This is only hypothetically as I don't know the Merinotech sire but... what if his progeny are prone to being hocky, blemished with pigmentation concerns around the eyes or lips or slightly slanted with the front pasterns. If the client is resourceful enough he can dig into Superior Sire information from the evaluation classing but sometimes that wanted sire is not listed due to not partaking in Evaluation Trials. At this stage there is a total reliance on stud principal honesty or their valued classer/advisor.

There's the next issue and this occurred with a favourite SA client a couple of years ago. On classing/culling **out** all available progeny bar one from an A.I. sire that was highly acclaimed (due to the worst hocks I have ever experienced) the stud owner was notified and the hocky result was of no surprise!! Geezus as if A.I. is not expensive enough here's the owner of the \$50 per dose ram knowingly aware of a serious structural problem!

This is where the Sire Evaluation system is essential for integrity of the accuracy of classing results as to determine the physical aspects of represented sires.

I believe this is the main flaw in the system albeit my full support for something that is revolutionising the industry. Something that has been aggressively supported and condemned by so many since the great SRS workshops or the advent of Punk!

I also believe that there is such an enormous uptake of the system by more and more growers that the core group of SheepGenetics/MerinoSelect staff are under huge pressure that could affect their ability to respond to everyday wool grower requests.

On a final note it must be realised that all of the sire data, ASBV's and commentary is in respect to individual animals, usually rams, that are stud bred but don't necessarily represent the breeding tactics of that same enterprise. Most studs have entered a dud sire or two in Sire Evaluations for example that have no bearing on that stud's breeding direction. Should it be the other way around there's no doubt that we will all be the first to know!!

I now have the go ahead from the hierarchy to use the current, just released figures from the second Elders Balmoral (Harrow) 'Tuloona' classing of the 2015 drop ewes as part of the Sire Evaluation/MLP trial. Due to a slightly tough start with the ewe weaners which I classed as part of the first stage in early 2016 and figures shown in this article, I believe the classing of the same stock early this year (2017) was more concrete with the following graphs more representative of each sire's progeny.

Shown at right is the list of sires used in the trial as well as the corresponding sire number in the far left column. Shaded figures represent trait leaders for Flock Breeding Values within this trial only but once again I will post up some ASBV's for selected animals as to ascertain any parallel between the two.

Refer to this list to see who's who and what sire's doing what in the following trait quadrant graphs.

Sire Code	Breeder's flock, Sire name	Number of Progeny	Flock Breeding Values (deviations)										Classer's Visual Grade ¹			
			GFW %		CFW %		FD µm		WT kg				Tops %		Culls %	
			Y ^A	A	Y	A	Y	A	W	P	Y	A	P	A	P	A
1	Billandri Poll, 130087	41	9	6	9	6	0.8	0.9	-0.1	-0.8	-2.4	-2.7	16	0	-3	-5
2	Bogo, 111424	50	-7	-1	-8	-1	-1.4	-1.4	-1.0	-1.6	-1.1	-0.5	-12	26	3	-19
3	Bundaleer Poll, 13V741	54	-6	-2	-9	-3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	0.6	-0.1	0.4	-7	-14	-7	5
4	Bundilla, 111265	37	13	9	15	12	0.9	0.7	2.6	4.6	7.3	6.5	28	-17	-8	12
5	Centre Plus Poll, 207316	44	-4	-4	-6	-6	-1.3	-1.3	-1.4	-2.0	-1.9	-1.3	-19	-9	22	3
6	Darriwell, 130941	49	5	6	7	7	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.8	-0.2	0.2	5	-10	14	-2
7	Glenspaen, 120042	49	2	4	-1	1	-1.5	-1.5	-0.6	-1.2	-2.1	-2.4	-12	-15	7	29
8	Greenfields Poll, 130599	48	7	8	9	9	-0.2	-0.2	-0.8	-1.4	-2.2	-3.0	-10	8	22	-9
9	Hazeldean, 11.43	56	7	9	9	11	-0.1	0.0	1.5	2.7	4.9	4.9	28	13	-13	-5
10	Kurra-Wirra, SR5681	48	-2	3	-1	3	-0.5	-0.1	-3.1	-5.8	-7.7	-8.1	-8	6	28	4
11	Leahcim Poll, 090918	59	-12	-13	-12	-12	-0.2	-0.1	-0.4	-1.3	-1.4	-1.6	-9	-9	1	17
12	Leahcim Poll, 123153	40	-10	-10	-9	-8	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	1.1	-4	-15	-5	3
13	Merinotech WA Poll, 100081	55	1	-1	2	1	1.0	0.8	-2.2	-2.6	-1.6	-2.0	-1	19	-9	-12
14	Mokanger, 120092	37	3	1	5	4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.6	-1.6	-2.1	-3.6	-28	-27	14	36
15	Moojepin, 100248	48	9	2	9	3	2.2	1.9	3.4	6.8	10.5	11.2	-17	-9	15	14
16	Mumblebone, 130389	29	-8	-7	-7	-8	1.1	1.1	-1.0	-1.7	-2.3	-1.9	-12	10	-5	3
17	Mumblebone, 130850	27	-4	-9	-5	-12	1.2	1.2	2.9	4.8	4.5	5.9	43	18	-28	-12
18	Nareeb Nareeb, 130380	45	1	0	1	-4	0.3	0.2	1.3	2.0	0.0	1.1	23	1	-11	-15
19	Nerstane, 130467	44	7	11	5	8	-0.6	-0.4	-1.1	-2.4	-2.1	-2.9	-8	24	3	-11
20	One Oak No. 2, R56	57	-1	4	-1	5	-1.1	-0.9	-1.2	-2.2	-2.7	-3.2	-5	-11	5	0
21	Roseville Park, 140019	34	-5	-1	-6	-2	0.6	0.6	-0.2	0.2	-0.2	1.1	-4	-10	-10	-8
22	The Mountain Dam, 11/ESA004	57	-4	-9	-3	-8	-0.4	-1.1	0.0	0.3	-0.1	-0.5	-2	-5	-15	0
23	Tuckwood Poll, 121021	48	9	4	10	4	0.4	0.3	2.9	4.6	5.9	5.6	4	17	-7	-6
24	Yalgoo, 120043	57	-6	-9	-6	-7	-1.9	-2.0	-1.2	-2.0	-3.0	-4.9	13	9	-11	-10
25	Yiddings, 130374	49	-5	-3	-5	-4	0.7	0.7	-0.4	-0.2	0.7	1.5	-1	2	-5	-12

If we look at Sire 4 - Bundilla 111265 in the table above there is quite a bit of shading across the table suggesting some leading traits within this site. (FBV's only.) Do they correspond with this ram's actual ASBV's? Considering this sire is a 2011 drop there might be a fair bit of information on him. At 15% he is the actual leader for FBV for fleece weight of the group with the closest to him three sires that were all sitting at +9%. See the dot #4 which represents the Bundilla ram and the corresponding high fleece weight axis.

Animal ID	↑	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	YWEC
BUNDILLA-111265	HSS	10.5	9.1	0.2	0.2	30.4	-1.2	-0.2	5.0	-1.7	-26
		97%	96%	96%	95%	94%	96%	94%	93%	89%	84%

Band	Yfd	Yofw	Yfdv	Yal	Yaa	MLW	Yac	Ywee	Ywt	Yfat	Yemd	DP+	MP+	FP+
	u	%	%	mm	Ndex	%	cm	%	kg	mm	mm			
0	-5.8	43.9	-4.0	32.3	12.0	22	6.5	-93	16.6	3.9	5.2	227.6	213.4	191.3
1	-4.1	28.8	-2.6	23.2	7.0	15	4.4	-79	11.5	1.7	2.9	182.1	177.1	163.5
2	-3.5	27.0	-2.4	20.6	6.1	13	4.0	-70	10.7	1.5	2.7	175.8	171.7	159.2
3	-3.2	25.8	-2.3	18.9	5.6	12	3.8	-65	10.1	1.4	2.5	171.8	168.2	156.6
4	-3.0	24.9	-2.2	17.6	5.2	11	3.6	-61	9.7	1.3	2.3	168.9	165.8	154.8
5	-2.9	24.1	-2.1	16.5	4.9	11	3.5	-59	9.4	1.2	2.2	166.4	163.6	153.3
10	-2.5	21.6	-1.8	13.6	3.9	9	3.0	-49	8.2	1.0	1.8	158.6	167.0	148.4

Looking at his actual ASBV for YCFW there is a strong correlation between his FBV & ASBV suggesting YCFW 30.4 which when looking at the Percentile Chart puts him in the top 1% across Australia - He is most definitely in the top 1% in the trial as well.

YWT now for both FBV's & ASBV's. If you look across the shaded sire column at top of page to WT and then the Y column for yearling you will see that he is 7.3kg above average and second only to the Moojepin sire at a massive +10.5kg. Another great tangle with the ASBV chart where you see the Bundilla ram at YWT 10.5 remembering that you halve that figure because of the mother influence will reduce his progeny down to 5.25kg. In the scheme of things very close results. (10.5 when you look at the deciles for YWT shoves this fella into the top 3% nationally.)

I could fill this newsletter with comparisons until the final extinction of the pharkin' disease threatening Dorper and that would suit me fine except for the fact that I have to get the skeleton of Cullings' 17 to the printers so it's ready for distribution at Bendigo Sheep Show.

I'm hoping that this piece has been some kind of introduction to the world of ASBV's and how they are arrived at. Picture all stud data entries done similarly to Sire Evaluation where their individual sire progeny data and initially pedigree information is handballed on to Sheepgenetics to add to existing data as to lift accuracies on traits across sires. Those great quad graphs aren't part of the stud routine but are great for this article as to aid the understanding of something that looks rather complex from a distance.

Please go to the Sheep Genetics website www.sheepgenetics.org.au for back up explanations

and introductions into other key areas in the understanding of the full system. That website is the only tool I had for backup understandings and sire searches used here and I would throw a BBQ using dorper for firewood in appreciation to those who set that site up. There is a very stripped down basic version of ASBV's for the commercial grower to see where he/she sits with their own enterprise on a comparison basis. This was reported in Cullings 2016 but so far we don't have a client who has had a go so nothing to report this end.

Now that accuracies are becoming greater overall and in particular for sires of interest plus (and many animals actually look like their measurements) and through the Sire Evaluation classing in Victoria, I now have a greater understanding of the schemes complexities and totally subscribe to the fact that it's a great thing for the merino industry.

In my eyes there is only one tangle but I think with education and further research things can be ironed out and I'll get back to an original point which exists on the following graph.

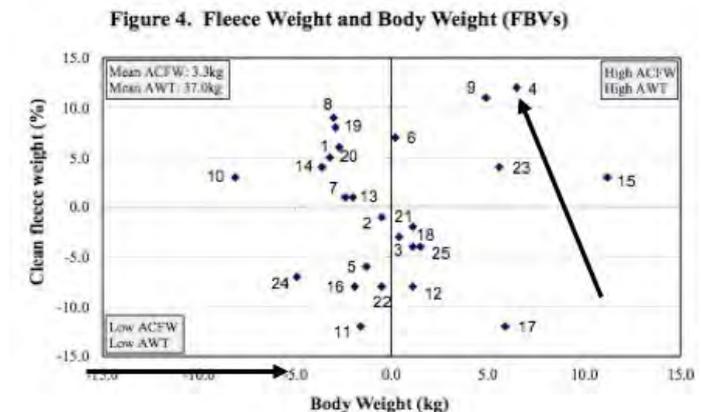
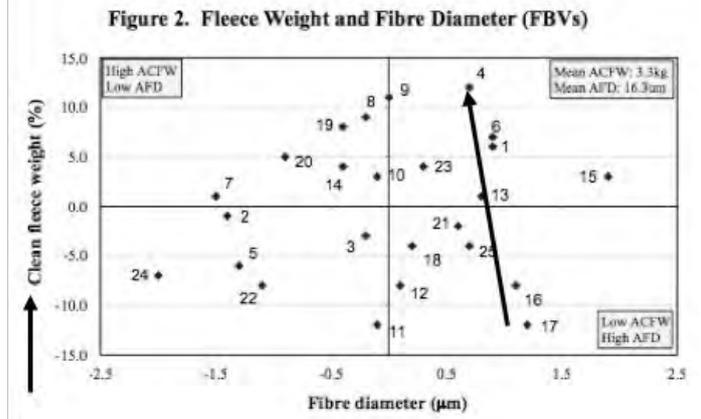


Figure 1b. Visual and measured performance (MP+ index)

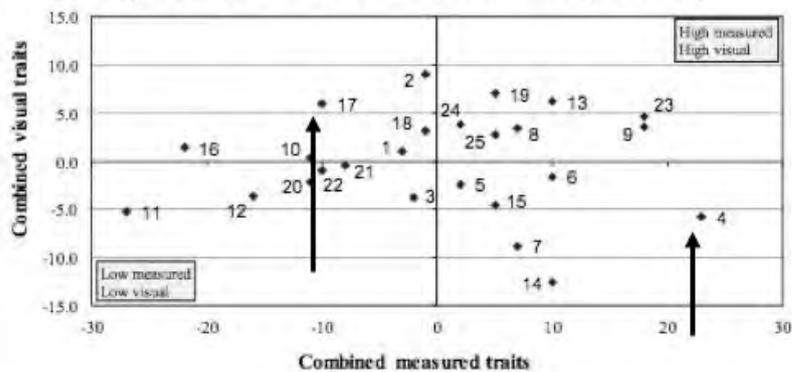


Table 3. Other Measured Traits

Sire Code	Breeder's flock, Sire name	Number of progeny	Flock Breeding Values (deviations)												
			FDCV %		SL mm		SS N/tex	CURV deg/mm		FAT mm		EMD mm		WEC %	
Y	A	Y	A	Y	A	Y	A	Y	H	Y	H	Y	H		
1	Bilindr Poll, 130087	41	0.6	0.2	1.9	2.8	0.0	0.8	-6.9	-6.7	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-32
2	Bogo, 111424	50	0.4	0.8	-7.8	-6.2	-4.5	-7.9	3.2	1.8	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.8	-10
3	Bundaler Poll, 13V741	54	-0.6	-0.8	-11.8	-8.5	0.5	3.0	5.6	3.9	-0.4	-0.7	-0.5	-0.8	-3
4	Bundilla, 111265	37	0.8	1.0	-0.7	-2.5	-2.8	-1.6	-0.1	0.3	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	34
5	Centre Plus Poll, 207316	44	-0.6	-0.7	0.3	-0.5	-1.4	-1.8	-0.9	0	-0.2	0.3	0.4	1.0	-35
6	Darriwell, 130941	49	0.7	0.4	-5.0	-6.6	4.4	5.3	-2.1	-1.2	-0.7	-0.9	-1.1	-1.2	34
7	Glenysen, 120942	49	1.3	1.0	-9.4	-7.5	-1.9	-1.5	7.7	7.2	-1.6	-2.1	-2.4	-2.7	68
8	Greenfields Poll, 130599	48	2.1	2.0	-1.4	-0.2	-0.6	-0.6	-2.7	-3.6	-0.6	-0.9	-0.9	-1.2	54
9	Hazelbean, 11.43	56	0.5	0.5	5.0	5.4	-4.0	-4.4	-2.2	-3.6	0.0	-0.2	0.3	-0.4	11
10	Korra-Warra, SR5681	48	1.9	1.3	-8.3	-4.5	-2.3	1.8	-1.2	-1.6	-0.6	-0.4	-0.6	-0.2	-9
11	Leuchin Poll, 090918	59	-0.1	-0.1	1.9	2.9	-2.8	-3.0	0.1	0.8	0.4	-0.2	0.8	0.5	-19
12	Leuchin Poll, 123153	40	-1.1	-1.1	4.4	5.0	-2.7	-4.2	-5.5	-6.4	1.4	2.0	1.8	2.9	-13
13	Merinotech WA Poll, 100081	55	-1.3	-2.2	10.3	6.3	12.3	9.4	1.0	2.1	1.5	2.5	1.8	2.4	-28
14	Mokanger, 120092	37	1.4	1.4	-13.7	-14.4	1.0	2.6	2.5	2.7	-0.1	-0.5	0.1	-0.1	12
15	Moojup, 100248	48	-1.1	-0.7	25.1	21.2	-0.9	-0.5	-5.7	-4.4	1.7	2.1	2.1	2.2	-38
16	Mumblebone, 130389	29	-1.8	-1.1	5.4	3.2	4.3	1.6	-4.4	-3.7	0.4	0.9	1.1	1.6	-22
17	Mumblebone, 130850	27	-2.1	-2.3	9.3	7.2	4.2	1.6	0.7	2.3	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.9	-24
18	Nareeb Nareeb, 130380	45	-0.1	-0.5	-2.6	-4.2	2.1	3.1	0.2	1.8	-1.5	-1.5	-2.3	-2.5	20
19	Nerzane, 130467	44	0.7	0.5	2.8	6.0	-2.6	0.3	-0.6	-2.7	-1.4	-2.1	-2.2	-2.7	50
20	One Oak No. 2, R56	57	3.6	3.1	-12.5	-9.1	-10.3	-9.2	5.1	3.1	-0.8	-1.3	-0.2	-0.4	-42
21	Roseville Park, 140019	34	0.3	0.3	-0.5	-1.6	1.8	3.3	0.6	1.8	-0.1	0.1	-0.3	-0.2	14
22	The Mountain Dam, 11/ESA004	57	0.5	0.9	4.4	0.5	-3.6	-5.1	-0.1	1.2	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.8	-7
23	Tuckwood Poll, 121021	48	-0.6	-0.6	11.7	9.4	1.6	0.1	-1.8	-1.8	0.0	-0.4	-0.3	-0.7	63
24	Yalogo, 120043	57	-0.4	-0.7	-7.1	-3.4	-1.8	-1.2	4.2	3	0.3	-0.1	0.4	0.0	-22
25	Yiddings, 130374	49	13.0	-2.5	-1.2	-0.8	9.4	8.8	3.9	3.6	0.6	0.9	0.1	0.2	-21

Animal ID	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	YWEC
BUNDILLA-111265	10.5 97%	9.1 96%	0.2 96%	0.2 95%	30.4 94%	-1.2 96%	-0.2 94%	5.0 93%	-1.7 85%	-26 84%

Animal ID	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	YWEC
MUMBLEBONE-130850	8.5 97%	8.6 96%	0.2 94%	0.3 92%	11.9 94%	-0.2 96%	-3.1 94%	17.1 95%	5.3 91%	-14 73%

“Twenty years ago we started using Lambplan in our White Suffolk flock and once Merinoslect was started we also entered our Poll Merino flock as well. At the time when Lambplan started there were a lot of critics knocking the Lambplan system, much as today with Merinoslect.

Some said it will breed short sheep, others even saying we will end up with flat lamb chops because we are only measuring eye muscle depth and not width as well, (funny one that was, have seen this effect yet).

We used Merinoslect firstly to lower our micron with the aim in maintaining our wool cut, we lowered our micron from 23.5 to currently 18 micron and have also seen a increase in wool cut, which at the time of starting a lot of experience breeders said this was not possible. Our stocking rate was also increased at the time from 10 dse ha to currently 16 dse ha.

ASBVs has given us the opportunity to benchmark our flock against other flocks, this gives us the opportunity to see what our strengths are and were we need to make improvement. We use ASBVs in selecting what sires and ewes to use in our mating program as well as visual classing.

We don't really get caught up with the critics of Merinoslect, we just breed sheep the way we believe they should be bred for the best genetic gain possible. A good friend of mind said to me once, “Don't be worried about the critics on using ASBVs, by the time they realise it works, you will be that far in front, they will never catch up!” Andrew Heinrich - Ella Matta Poll Merino S.A.

There are two sires represented here that I have used throughout this article. Sire 4 is the just mentioned Bundilla 111265 and the other Sire 17 is the highly visually acclaimed Mumblebone 130850 that the classer's results put him in superstardom status as a trait leader for High Tops/ Low Culls (see arrow) yet his fleece weight and micron didn't match that accolade. Now notice where Sire 4 is positioned sitting enjoyably high for combined measured traits but not leading the visual stats entirely. Who do you choose if you had no other choice. I will add another trait summary that might persuade you in one direction.

Note the extra measured traits in this table and look at both sires 4 & 17 in Table 3. With many of our clients now opting for a 6 month shearing as opposed to 12, 8 or 7 month events, staple length and the progressive breeding-of is of paramount importance. The Mumblebone sire was third of 25 for YSL (+9.3mm) as he was again at adult shearing showing 7.2mm above the average of the group. With these free growing, free skinned animals there tends to be a huge boost for staple strength (SS) simultaneously.

Note the Mumblebone sire here with highlighted traits for YSL, YSS & YDCV. That staple length figure puts him in the top 5% in the country and the staple length in the top 4%. No fluke that the CV met the same trophy with -3.1 including him in the Peter Stuyvesant set at top 1% across Australia. The Bundilla sire was much outpaced in this area although he makes up for it with a top 1% performance in the YCFW area (+30.4). Mumblebone 130850 and Bundilla 11265 were similar for YWT/AWT for FBV's (Tulooona). Bundilla slightly leads that trait nationally but similar for ASBV's (National) for EMD/FAT measurements.

This is what the charts can do for you - send you up the wall in deciding the perfect sire with all the traits on hand or be the final quick denominator to aid that final decision!

There is a proportion of growers out there, commercial and stud alike, who won't have a part of the ASBV 'circus' just as many didn't when that feared word 'micron' came into play in the 70's or Jim Watts stormed to notoriety when wool was smouldering at 400 cents! I can tell you that if it wasn't for this article and my familiarisation with Merino Select/ Sheep Genetics through the likes of Ella Matta and the Sire Evaluation connection I might still be dubious like them but I've been cured! The more and more data that enters the system the more transparent things are becoming.

I went to a Bred Well Fed Well workshop at Borung Poll-Waikerie two days ago where twenty five mostly commercial growers attended. Other than the mighty Jason Trompf guiding us through ewe nutrition/lamb survival it too was an introduction day for ASBV's. By day's end most had a better understanding of what all the fuss was about and vowed to utilise ASBV measurement wherever possible. Jason did mention to me that there is a certain public that have voiced negatively their opinions on ASBV promotion with some nervous of just what may be exposed!

There are wise ones out there with balanced opinion who have studied the evolution of ASBV's and their association with today's breeding techniques and different interpretations on just what is the perfect animal. In reading Jim Gordon's excellent views I realise that this article needs to be bigger! There needs to a better understanding on the various techniques of meat measurement including fat and eye muscle and its application through ASBV's and this maybe followed up in next year's publication. I will conclude with Jim's thoughts:

I am a great fan of the ASBV's, however the most serious thing in Australia at the moment, is sheep producers spending more time looking and being influenced by the ASBV's and less and less time looking at the sheep! If you look closely and you have been taught all the markers, everything you need to know is there in front of you on the sheep. The problem with following the ASBV's closely, is that there is so many traits that are not measured, so are not on the ASBV's list and a lot that are, thus not the job well enough.

If you are working with the likes of Bill and Rose Walker, then you will have a lot of them covered. For example, you can give Bill the CFW figure and he can tell you by looking at the sheep if that particular sheep has the right skin. If it has the wrong skin you will end up with a horror. (Hence YCFW can be a dangerous trait without visual)

If you are chasing figures only, early growth (high Weaning Weights), If Bill is involved, he will make sure you keep neck extension, the

right shoulder width and length of body in your sheep. If you are not concentrating and Bill is not involved, you will end up pulling lambs (the stubby shape compared to the wine bottle) and having less weight in your lambs because of less length. Concentrating on WW's is a dangerous road, if you push hard you will breed more of a terminal animal but the sisters to these sheep aren't much use. It can be done, but one needs to be very diligent on shape (keep looking at the sheep or get Bill to).

Eye muscle measurement is a useful tool, however I think the AREA should be measured instead of depth. The shape of the chop is more important.

Fat depth ASBV is very highly rated. I disagree. The butcher and the house wife only wants a thin cover of fat. The selvage fat on the chop is what is measured. This fat deposit is hard to shift, the sheep finds it hard to claim back. The fat we should be measuring is the intra muscular fat or IMF. This fat is good for you (the right omega fats) and is very fluid. The sheep can lay it down easily and reclaim it in times of need. The best IMF animals will be unselfish mothers with great lambs. (High butter fat milk).

Feet and width between the back legs, how important are they, no ASBV's, once again look at the sheep and listen to Bill. The man understands wool and structure big time. He should be doing workshops on all things not covered by the ASBV's from time to time.

The big one is growth, YWT. The ewe that is able to pack on the meat (ninety kg's) in top condition, however in the course of the year, having two heavy lambs, in difficult conditions, she runs her self down to fifty kg's and grows two quality fleeces. This ability to make use of her reserves is priceless. On the other hand the ewe that is ninety kg's and has two miserable lambs and won't give up her reserves, is an absolute dog. You will only find this out by looking at your sheep. (No ASBV's for this). This is becoming more apparent as people chase growth (12 to 15 on the ASBV's). One is heading towards a terminal animal.

I could go on about many other ASBV traits, however the message I am trying to get across is put the piece of paper in your back pocket and start looking and feeling the wool and skin on the sheep.

Regards Jim Gordon

Westwood

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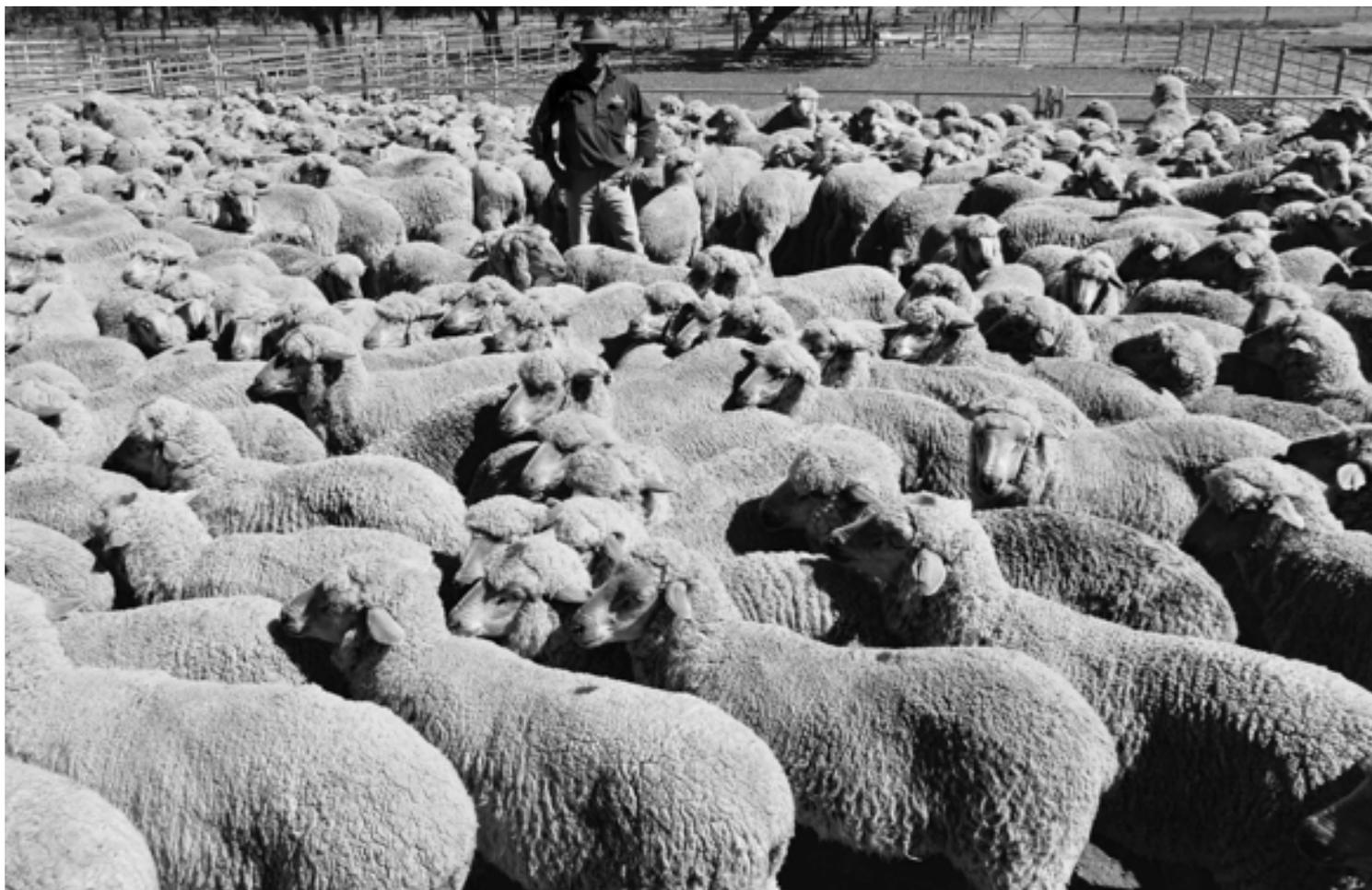
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CLASSINGS CLASSIC '16 MURRAY BRIDGE RACECOURSE

TOP \$16,000 AVERAGE \$4,489 82 OFFERED 81 SOLD



What may go down as the best Classic Sale as far as general crowd numbers go, the 2016 sale was another proud moment for Rose and I.

New stud entries had a great debut, many of the long time supporters had their best day out in ages and the extra displays that graced the Murray Bridge Racecourse lawns due to the shared day one with the World Merino Insight completed a memorable day. Add to this a sound average of \$4,490 with only two rams passed in of 82 offered from 26 studs and a top of \$16,000, what else could a host ask for.

Considering the studs success the year previous, **GUNALLO-PINNAROO SA** kicked the show off with yet another cracking team of six well grown polls. Their first, 150702, took the eye of many due to his proportions and pedigree (ET bred by Gunallo's top mum who was also ET bred and a full flush sister to Gunallo Pride that sold for \$22,000) and managed to top the sale! Stuart Croft-Hatfield Station-Balranald NSW realised the ram's virtues and outlaid \$16,000 with the ram to be used a ram breeder to help satisfy 6,000 ewes on the station.



It should be mentioned that 150702 was never intended to be the lead off Classic '17 ram. 150460 'Sir Cumference', a ram that we and many others had suggested was Gunallo's best ever poll, failed to complete a healthy semen test two weeks prior to the sale and was reluctantly withdrawn. I'll never forget Ray Schroeder's voice on the phone yet he showed a lot of integrity in making the right decision.

(There's the story of a ram that made shitloads that was known to be a 'dry blower') Sir Cumference is now in full health and has a trail of quality lambs out in the paddock and may become the stud's top semen sire.



couldn't make the sale and had asked me to keep an eye out for a ram that met their criteria. 150360 cracked \$8,000 which was well within the realms of the boy's budget. Great real time figures of 17.2u 2.4sd 14cv 0.1pf backed up with ASBV's of YWT 6.4 YCFW 22.4 MP+ 159. This bloke was ET bred and sired by Gunallo Lustre 55.

Local identities, the Hilliers-Druilat Pastoral secured the next two Gunallo's for \$5,000 & \$6,000 the first sired again by Lustre 055 and the second by Kamora Park 37, the ram Gunallo bought at Classic '10 for \$14,000 with a share to Sohnic Vic. A big square back ended Pride 008 son with a YWT 9.6 sold to Jascalim P/L-Mildura Vic. for \$6,500 and Calcookara-Cowell SA latched onto the last of the lineup for \$8,000, a ripper Pride 008 son with YWT 9.7 & MP+156 as well as 18.3u 2.2sd 12.0cv & 0.2 real time figures.

GLENLEA PARK - PINNAROO SA entered another strong four ram team to continue on with their great form at all previous Classic sales without exception in my memory. Their first, a productive Poll Boonoke son, 150411, sold to A & S Dye -Bendigo Vic. for \$4,000 with a YWT 8.0 and a ram with plenty of cutting ability and nourishment. A GP739 son, 150304 was next on the plate who showed enormous potential as a stud sire. With a YCFW 22.9, outstanding figures of 18.0u 2.2sd 12.2cv & zero pf and filling the pen the poll was finally knocked down to Giles Pritchard-Griffith at \$8,000 with Angus McLachlan-Rosebank SA the runner up bidder.

Keyneton Station SA were next to purchase and secured Glenlea Park's third on offer, 150130, for \$8,500. Bred by top GP sire, 130137, with more superb figures of 17.5u 2.4sd 13.7cv & 0.1pf, I saw this fella the other day at Keyneton's young ram classing and he still looks great for stretch and scale.



Astute buyer, Rob Gibson, outlaid \$11,000 for a GP130891 son and the last in the catalogue with Rosebank again the losing bidder.

There were a few potential stud sires represented in the **RIDGWAY-LAMEROO SA** lineup with two of the best reaping the dollar rewards expected. The first, 150609, Ridgway 204 sired

and ET bred had white, lustrous fibre on a great frame that tempted Calcookara-Cowell SA to outlay \$10,000. YCFW 22.0 helped. Second in the lineup and another screamer for all good things merino, fetched \$14,500 and sold to a major West Coast force, Bert, Barb, Dion and Chelsea Woolford's Karawatha Park Merino. YWT 8.1 YCFW 23.0 and bred by a great numbers ram from Ryan Kluska's Kiandra Poll, K644, there's a lot of expectation from this big bloke.

Giles Pritchard, who had already picked up an excellent Glenlea Park poll did it all over again securing Ridgway's third for \$5,000 and bred by the mighty Leahcim 858 who wacked five rams into the eleven strong Ridgway team. Mt. Boothby-Tintinara SA bought two of them at \$3,000 twice, both ET bred and filling the pens. Jeff Baldock bought another ET bred 858 son at \$3,000 and couldn't believe his luck.

Liam and Jen McInerney-Keith SA spent \$2,500 for another with great real figures of 17.5u 2.7sd 15.4cv with MP+152. Pioneer Bend-Parndana SA and Hansen Farms-Cooke Plains SA picked off the last at \$2,500 & \$1,500 to complete a good outing for the Ridgways.

The **ROEMAHKITA-CUMMINS SA** lineup featured two sons from JC&S 130242, the ram that Collinsville sold to Luke Lebworth WA for megabucks a couple of years previous yet it was a Gunallo Lustre 055 that took price honours at \$5,500. The poll sold to loyal Classings' clients Geoff and Sue Zacher-Coonalpyn SA. That flock is high on the list for quality of all 'our' commercial flock classing.



Darryl Frahn-Murray bridge bought the first in the lineup for \$4,500 bred by the JC&S ram with the other selling to Houghton Family Trust near Cummins SA for \$3,000.. McPiggery-Lameroo SA and appreciators of the 'great fibre' stole the Roemahkita number two for \$3,000 and bred by RO11156.

The **RIDGWAY ADVANCE-BORDERTOWN SA** team, fifteen members strong, had a great day out selling all of them to average over \$5,500 to a top of \$14,000. That poll, B003 and ET bred, looked tremendous on the day and O'Brien Poll-Kyancutta SA fought hard to get him. Bred by Advance's own sire RA80 and from an ET mother, his elite fibre represented his great figures:

CLASSIC SALE CONTINUES.....

19.1 2.5sd 13.0cv & zero pf. That same RA80 sire also bred the second highest poll in the team at \$13,000 selling to Coreena Stud-Barcaldine NSW. They also bought the 3rd highest priced poll, Y100, for \$12,000.

Cooroonboon Merino-Deniliquin NSW paid \$8,000 for a GP891 son.

It's hard not to revert the conversation back to that RA80 sire though - eight of the fifteen offered were from this sire who in turn was bred by RA 532 and both carry the double poll gene. He influenced over \$46,000 worth of stock with those eight sold. A worthy semen sire consideration I would have thought!

Big supporters, O'Brien Poll-Kyancutta SA paid handsomely again outlaying \$13,000 for a stunning RA082 son with typical top figures. More RA80's selling well: Peter Mosey-Eudunda SA \$5,000, Gerard Woidt-Coomoondook SA \$3,000, TI & LH Grossy-Roseworthy SA \$3,000, McPiggery-Lameroo SA \$5,000, Pioneer Bend KI \$2,000 & Ramsgate-Tintinara SA \$1,500 for the bargain of the group.

The two **KAMORA PARK-KAROONDA SA** polls looked tremendous and were well supported. A & S Dye-Bendigo Vic. put the front foot forward and paid \$13,000 for a hulk of a poll bred by KP38. Appearing the goods for fleece weight and YCFW 21.0 for reassurance the Dye family should look forward to exciting results. An ET bred KP522 son with lustrous bold crimp and YCFW 22.3 & YWT 7.6 sold to collector of good things, Chad Burbidge-Bowhill SA for \$6,000. KP522 was the Escalator son that Brookdale WA bought for \$10,000 at Classic'10 who went on to breed some of the best that stud had to offer.

SOHNIC - ST. ARNAUD VIC. entered three of the longest stapled rams in the catalogue of which the trait is one of the stud's main breeding objectives. All three rams exhibited great crimp and fluid nourishment. I think the huge staple length confused many as they didn't meet expectation and sold for \$1,200, \$1,000 & \$1,800! Andrew Mitchell-Mintaro SA and Trevor Gameau-Cummins SA couldn't believe their luck with Glendon Hancock as disappointed as the stud master in picking up the \$1,000 bargain of the year!

Supporters of six month shearing need to keep Sohnic on the radar as they do breed the longest fibre in the territory without exception. ASBV's or no ASBV's!

ELLA MATTA-PARNDANA SA entered three top rams that could have raised more funds had more buyers been concentrating! All bred by high performing L101259 the three made \$2,500, \$1,500 & \$1,500. The Ella Matta rams are well looked after but not shedded for a considerable length of time compared to other studs. I believe this affected the outcome due to the fact the group were surrounded by longer prepared stock thus making them look comparatively smaller. With ASBV's of YWT 6.9 & 7.1 and YCFW 18.5 &

20.9 for two of the rams, these numbers should be enough to get people over the line who are confused by shedding differences.

Again keep an eye out for this stud as they are breeding some of the best rams going 'round as well as some of the best ASBV's in the nation due to the Heinrich's diligence with recording every animal's move on the property!

LORELMO-KEYNETON SA sold their two for \$1,500 & \$1,000 with **LUCERNBRAE-CALLINGTON SA** selling four good flockies - one for \$1,750, two at \$1,500 and one at \$1,000 with Netallie Station securing two. Chad Burbidge jumped in and bought **HYNAM POLL'S** first for \$1,600 and Andy Marr-Penong SA the second for the same bargain price.

NK & LJ Dunn-Nyngan NSW bought a very good **RICE'S CREEK-TINTINARA SA** poll, their sole entry for \$7,500.

BORUNG-WAIKERIE SA entered two rams of the calibre we have to come to expect from this upcoming quality stud. The first, bred by Wallaloo Park 567 had the best figured of the entire catalogue: Try this: 16.0u 2.2sd 14.1cv zero pf! Critter Freeman was on hand to recognise the quality and nabbed him for \$2,000 with the second selling again for \$2,000 and picked up by a happy Bryan Ingram-Aston Station NSW.

MERNOWIE-MARRABEL SA sold their sole entry to all time supporters the Groves family for \$4,500. He was bred by Glenlea Park 739 with the great ASBV's of YCFW 21.0, YWT 9.9 & MP+ 157.

WOODOONA-BORRIKA SA found a new client in David Woodard and sold their MP58 bred thumper for \$3,000. Loaded with nourishment and density, fleece weight with progeny should not be an issue.

FLAIRDALE-COOKE PLAINS SA had their best Classic sale ever since topping Classic'05 at \$9,000. The ever supporting Burgess family from Gladstone SA secured the first for \$4,000 for a Flairdale 120003 son at 18.9u 2.7sd 14.3cv with the same long term support from the Slape clan buying the second square back ended poll for \$3,500 - a JC&S Regal 242 son.

PEPPERWELL-KEYNETON SA sold their two to Richard Henschke and Bill Evans for \$1,250 & \$1,000 both from Pepperwell sire 3099.

O'BRIEN POLL-KYANCUTTA SA made a solid debut selling their first for \$2,500 to Chad Burbidge-Bowhill SA and their second to Grant Wagenknecht-Murray Bridge SA at \$2,000. Both polls bred by their top purchase at Classic'13, RA120830.

PENROSE-CASCADE WA have been determined to enter the Classic for quite a few years and made the break this year by entering two after a 2,400 km trip from their property direct to the Classic sale pens!!

They looked great considering their 'ordeal' but met with interest only due to being the new kids on the block and sold easily to Netallie Station for \$1,500 each.

ORRIE COWIE-WAROOKA SA were also first time entries and fared well selling their lone star for \$4,000 to Jeff and Jenny Baldock-Kimba SA. YCFW 18.2 & MP+156 added to the attraction.

Another Classic debut and worth the journey, **TERRICK WEST-PAIRIE VIC**, blitzed the back row selling their first for \$11,000 to John Lamb Pastoral Co for one of the whitest wools in the catalogue and bred by Coddington Uardry 135034. Terrick's second sold to Greg Zadow-Karoonda SA at \$6,000 with the third going to Ramsgate-Tintinara SA for \$4,000 and both bred by TW 3.381.



Whilst on debuts and wool quality, **CODDINGTON UARDRY POLL - CUMNOCK NSW** realised great competition with their lone entry and managed to muster \$11,000 for their white woolled poll and selling to Calcookara-Cowell SA who were desperate to latch on to him considering his great presence and fibre quality. As with the Terrick West sale topper, this ram was also bred by CU135034 which in turn was bred by Wallaloo Park's Real Deal.

I was happy that Classic debutant stud **ASHROSE** now owned by the Graetz family selling their entry for \$1,750 to Delro Pastoral.

Another successful debut was by Bruce Dean's **FOREST SPRINGS VIC.** that easily sold both pens of two great polls at \$2,500 & \$1,750 to the McClean and Roughead families from the St. Arnaud Vic. area.

CLASSINGS CLASSIC '17

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4th 2017 AT 1.30pm
Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

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CLASSIC 2016 SALE SUMMARY (2017 SALE ORDER)

STUD	OFFERED	SOLD	TOP	AVERAGE
CODDINGTON POLL NSW	1	1	\$11,000	\$11,000
KAMORA PARK SA	2	2	\$13,000	\$9,500
GUNALLO SA	6	6	\$16,000	\$8,250
GLENLEA PARK SA	4	4	\$11,000	\$7,875
RICE'S CREEK SA	1	1	\$7,500	\$7,500
TERRICK WEST VIC.	3	3	\$11,000	\$7,000
RIDGWAY ADVANCE SA	15	15	\$14,000	\$5,667
RIDGWAY SA	11	10	\$14,500	\$4,900
MERNOWIE SA	1	1	\$4,500	\$4,500
ROEMAHKITA	4	4	\$5,500	\$4,000
ORRIE COWIE SA	1	1	\$4,000	\$4,000
FLAIRDALE SA	2	2	\$4,000	\$3,750
WOODOONA SA	1	1	\$3,000	\$3,000
FOREST SPRINGS VIC.	2	2	\$2,500	\$2,125
O'BRIEN POLL SA	2	2	\$2,500	\$2,250
BORUNG SA	2	2	\$2,000	\$2,000
ELLA MATTA SA	3	3	\$2,500	\$1,833
RAMSGATE	4	4	\$2,000	\$1,750
ASHROSE SA	1	1	\$1,750	\$1,750
HYNAM POLL VIC	2	2	\$1,600	\$1,600
PENROSE WA	2	2	\$1,500	\$1,500
LUCERNBRAE SA	4	4	\$1,750	\$1,438
SOHNIC VIC.	3	3	\$1,800	\$1,333
LORELMO-KEYNETON SA	2	2	\$1,500	\$1,250
PEPPERWELL SA	2	2	\$1,250	\$1,125

CLASSIC '16 OVERVIEW



The 2016 Classic sale was yet another one of success, loaded with registered potential buyers, a high average of around \$4,500, many rams over \$10,000 yet many in the \$1,500-\$2,500 range and great support and atmosphere. There were many stud sire sales and even more commercial purchases whether it be for home ram breeding programs or simply high quality multiple flock ram purchases.

The sale is awkwardly compared to the Adelaide sale where there are distinct differences - most rams entered into that sale are specifically done so for stud sire purchasing even though at times... This bleeds into point two - the studs involved in any Classic sale and rams that make the cut are selected by one person only.

Specific parameters are adhered to especially in the quality of fibre box and just as important, conformation.



Sure sometimes post selection things can alter and we then rely on the stud master to keep a close eye on legs, feet and hocks in particular where, with animal maturity things may go slightly askew. Some rams have been withdrawn within days of sale day due to dissatisfaction with visual attributes. Ray and Brad Schroeder's astute

withdrawal of 150460 'Sir Cumference' from Classic '16 a week before sale due to low sperm quality says it all - our sale catalogue can be changed two days prior to sale if need be to cater for such 'accidents.' Some rams simply slide over with their bite.

I was overjoyed with the results from studs that made their debut in Classic '16. Coddington-Uardry, Terrick West, Orrie Cowie, Forest Springs, O'Brien Poll, Ashrose and Penrose sold everything they had to offer with a range from \$1,500 up to \$11,000. All have suggested that they will be back for Classic '17 after those successes.

Maybe there was a small minority of rams where more homework could have been done prior to sale to raise a few more funds for an animal that deserved far more competition. Strangely post sale it was frustrating to hear some purchaser comments suggesting that, "If they knew the ram was going to only make \$1,500 they would have had a crack!" or from the stud master, "We thought Bob Smith was coming but it was his dog's birthday!" Homework! I believe too many of the buying public get to the sale way too late, not giving themselves time to really establish some kind of bidding structure that if they miss on one they know exactly what's coming ups next to have another crack.



The swell in numbers from the World Merino Insight part of the day in my eyes was mostly due to stud exhibits and industry service providers. We are used to a sizeable crowd and most agreed that there were only slight adjustments to previous sale numbers. I'm hoping for a continuation of the service provider support for this year's sale as most were very happy with the response in 2016.



For commercial buyers the sale has appeal in the fact that so many very good commercial polls were well in budget range, typically between \$1,500-\$2,500.

The day's most memorable moment and probably every year is the atmosphere that's created in that carnival like marquee! We could never change the format - rope and pole with the tent sides automatically

dropping with any serious breeze! The great range of supporters from across the nation has been a great thing to witness its evolution.

I thank everyone involved in making the Classic Sale a highlight in the nation's Merino calendar.



CLASSINGS CLASSIC '17
 MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4th 2017 AT 1.30pm
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GUNALLO - PINNAROO SA

OFFERED 90 SOLD 88

AVERAGE \$1,665

TOP \$8,750

SIRES IN USE: GUN 'PRIDE'-008, GUN-'LUSTRE' 055, GUN88, GUN16, GP345, GP 769, KP37, RC146, L438, L190, L2918.

When lot one in any On Property sale makes \$8,750 there's a fair chance the rest of the day is going to be a success as was the case with Gunallo's 2017 sale.

Lot 1 was a bloody ripper of a poll that I've forgotten now just why he wasn't part of the Classic team but that didn't matter as he made serious spondoolee at home and sold to new admirers the Glen Farr family-Wunkar SA. A twin L2918 son, at 112kg, the poll was as long as he was deep and was hard to resist as the competition reflected to see him cut out at \$8,750 - a Gunallo record by streaks. ASBV's YCFW 21.8 & YWT 8.7.

Three pens later another Farr purchase yet this time it was cousin David's turn as he secured a Gunallo Pride 008 son for a 114kg \$4,000! Another long bodied monster with a clean head this bloke had the great figures of 17.9u 2.5sd 14.0cv & 0.1pf.

Stud mates Brenton Smith-Calcookara SA and Hansi Graetz-Pepperwell SA looked ominous all morning and a partnership was built over a good smoko which eventuated in their purchase of lot 7, a Gunallo Lustre 055 son for \$6,800 and a meat machine at that! Bruce Dean's Forest Springs Vic. got into the act early and bought lot 2 for \$3,000. A bold crimper at 116kg he looked the part hence his pen 2 positioning.

Nothing except for two sold for under \$1,500 (except for two in the first forty pens) which was a sure sign that this stud has got it together in the quality and clientele stakes.

Stuart and Gavin Brophy-Tintinara SA liked what they saw at Gunallo to compliment their ever quality building commercial flock at Tinti. They bought four starting at lot 3 for a square, upright Lustre 055 son with impeccable fibre for a surprising \$2,000 weighing 114kg. Follow this with another Lustre 055 for lot 11 and yet another beauty for \$2,000. A white finer crimper two pens later for \$2,400 and bred by the mighty KP37 weighing 120kg saw the quality of this team on the build. Another elite fibred poll in lot 45 completed their team which will great effect on this flock.

It must be a relief to see Marra Farms-Netherby SA pull up at the gate on sale day! They bought eleven across the whole



sale to average just under \$1,900. Throw in Blairgowrie Trust-Ararat Vic. amongst the same conversation with their nine ram haul to average just under \$1,500. The McArthur's Glencoe Station Vic. were also great with support picking up six as was Craig Smith-Yanac Vic. with five including a very good lot 77 for \$900.

Two Murray Bridge SA identities Glen Richards and Wayne Schenke have had great results from the Gunallo genetics and it's always interesting to watch them in action on sale day. Glen started at lot 12 for a Lustre 055 twin son for \$2,000 that weighed 128kg! Wayne followed at lot 19 for an excellent yet rare WP185 son with great crimp and presence. Another WP185 son (maybe not that rare!) was next on Glen's list for \$1,800 at 113kg and 17.5u 2.5sd 14.3cv & 0.3pf and add lot 34, a L190

son at \$2,000 and in my view his pick ram of the trio. Wayne's lot 40 pickup at \$1,800 was a favourite of mine due to a square backend, great fibre, YCFW 18.2 YWT 7.6 and bred by a hero in Gunallo Pride 008.

Was good to see Peter Gilbertson-Lameroo SA present who is a great admirer of good wools on great stock of which he was surrounded by! He casually secured lot 22, loaded with lustre and bold crimp, YCFW 21.2 & YWT 10.4 for \$3,000 and bred by L2918 at 122kg!

The Sheldon, Krause, Dabinett, McPiggery, Parakeelya Station, Neil Wormold and Atze's were all there for their ones and two's that make up an integral part of the sale for the day's competition.





Bruce, Trudy and
Thomas Pengilly
(08)90786062

Please feel free to drop in, say g'day and have a look over this years offerings at the following venues:

17th-18th of August at the Katanning Sheep Expo

25th of August for our On Farm Field Day

1st of September is the Esperance Ram Sale

And to be confirmed

4th September for the Classings Classic Ram Sale

Murray Bridge SA.



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POLL FLOCK NO: 601048

ON-PROPERTY SALE

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ASBV's: My questions - your response...

As I have done with other studies on OJD and lice control I felt it essential to ask for feedback from a random group of stud and commercial growers regarding their thoughts and discussions re ASBV's. The first answers to each question come from Karawatha Park's Dion Woolford whose response really typified the general sentiment out there for the positives and negatives.

What made you take on the Merino Select ASBV system in the first place?

Client demand (or perceived future demand). Our initial reaction to them was probably the default reaction of many 60y/o plus blokes who know all there is about all there is to know about the merino. Who do these young bucks think they are mucking around with my strongly held, well ingrained beliefs about genetics?? Bombarding me with these newfangled statistics... they've gone mad. There's no way they can work in this here country, (its unique and therefore we can avoid all scrutiny) leave me alone!

Now we understand them to be another tool in sheep selection. They've been used in cattle/pigs/poultry for years (three industries that think we are mad for not using them) and we sheep are starting to catch on. I would suggest there is more to the merino than other breeds so potentially everything can't be quantified in numbers, but the fact is most key profit drivers (micron, weight, fleece weight) can. **D.W.**

We took on ASBV's in an effort to use all the tools at our disposal to improve our flock without compromising our breeding direction. We were also looking to import semen from progeny proven sires rather than classer recommended or just best guesses. **B.J.**

Firstly, I am really pleased you are going to give this topic of ASBV's some attention because it urgently needs to be addressed for the good of the industry.

Challara was using the raw data information of FEC and muscle scanning since 2005, well before we began being a part of the Merino Select System around 2010 (I need to confirm). We proved over years of testing that benchmarking works, so we wanted to support a national standardized system for the good of the industry and from a marketing perspective when selling rams. **P.W.**

Wanted to tap into a system that took the environmental noise (& stud breeder bullshit) out of measurement. **C.T.**

We had come from a objective measure background. ASBV's seemed to be the next step in that breeding pathway. When we started in 2001 the breeders involved were very performance orientated - more wool, quicker growing, lower fibre diameter. **C.P.**

I like numbers, facts and figures. This was a way to focus our breeding objectives into something measurable, to show progress. It also allows us to benchmark our genetics against others in Australia to see where we are at... **T.P.**

We had been collecting lots of data & pedigree info & were having difficulty getting best value for our work. Also dealing with birth/rear status & damage was an issue. ASBV's solved this plus included linkage & sibling data. The Merino Validation Project in early 2000's helped get us going & introduced new traits eg Fat/Muscle scanning & growth. Also helped with WEC.

During the 1990's & early 2000's there was a lot of debate & tension in the industry SRS/Elite v Index v Trad. ASBV's gave us the ability to select the traits that were important to us & our clients, rather than an industry index or classer's whim. **M.O.**

Do you use ASBV's as the final selection criteria in keeping reserve rams?

Not as yet, because our figures are not yet of high enough accuracy to be heavily relied on. Moving forward with our current plans, yes, we will be able to choose from rams that our holy classer has identified as being bangers, and select the best of those using ASBV's, depending on our breeding objectives. I agree that this isn't really a 100% commitment of faith to ASBV's, but at this stage we can't get our head around keeping an ugly animal based on great ASBV figures! **D.W.**

We use visual appraisal and ASBV's to select our sires. There is no room for unacceptable faults no matter the index values. **B.J.**

ASBV'S is a selection criteria in keeping reserve rams alongside raw data and many other traits to be considered. **P.W.**

We use about half measured & half visual. ASBV's are an essential part of identifying top performers & reserve rams. **C.T.**

Originally we used ASBV's as our main selection taking out obvious faults. Even when we first got a classer in we would run two mobs: Classer's choice (Top classed ram with best ASBV's) and a high ASBV mob. This continued on for a few years until we saw that our high ASBV mob was producing more culls and not far enough in front of a mob combining the classing and ASBV's. Now we class the rams (or Bill does) then look at the top rams for ASBV's using a combination of both to select our reserve rams. **C.P.**

Once phenotype traits have been established to be correct, yes the ASBV's are then considered. Especially for traits that can not be accurately established from visual assessment ie. fat and eye muscle. **T.P.**

Yes sometimes for sires, but mostly to sort sheep into different grades, then make final decisions. With Matesel ASBV's are a very powerful tool for selection & mating decisions, to optimise genetic progress & manage inbreeding/co-ancestry, assuming accuracies are high. **M.O.**

Is the adoption of ASBV's also taken seriously by your clientele? At what percentage?

I would say not really. We haven't been doing the ASBV thing properly in the past (only entering ram-lamb data). As of 2017 we will be entering the entire drop, and mothering up our AI lambs to achieve better accuracy of our figures with double pedigree. It will take a couple years to get it happening, but when it does, look the fuck out! **D.W.**

Our clients are improving their use of breeding values, estimates would be 20% active users with good knowledge, 40% want to use and need to be updated each year, 20% curious, 20% wonder why the hell we bother with that rubbish. **B.J.**

I would say more of the younger generation of sheep producers are interested in ASBV'S, but the jury is still out for plenty of people. **P.W.**

Yes, about 80%. All new business has good understanding of figures & wants that information so that % will continue to increase. **C.T.**

Yes most of our clients have been with us from the start or have had a background in ASBV's. I think most of them understand them but use them more as a guide than gospel. If a ram looks like he has wool and the ASBV backs that up they are happy with the figures but if the ASBV is high for fleece cut and the feel is that it doesn't have the wool then they will question the figures. Around 70% use them as a guide to narrow their selection down. **C.P.**

Depends on the clients and what they believe is important in their breeding objectives. For a lot, it is just another tool that can help in their selection process. I would say 60% of our clientele use ASBV's in some way or another. **T.P.**

Yes more & more. It is now difficult for us to sell rams with poor ASBV's, especially CFW, WEC, & now growth, fat, muscle. With web searches on SG & now Ramselect is generating sales from people we did not previously know. **M.O.**

Have you had trouble with the interpretation of results - ie. Your top sire loaded with fleece weight is low for YCFW even with high accuracies?

We Probably have. Does this mean another sheep with better CFW figures would cut more wool in the identical environment? Probably. Was it a single lamb? Probably. Maybe the figure was incorrect (the 60y/o coming out in me), maybe we fed the sheit out of it and that's why its cutting heaps of wool. We all know what shedded sheep vs paddock run sheep look like. What goes in a sheep's mouth has a massive bearing on what it looks like. **D.W.**

Yes we have had queries re the ranking of various animals, remember rubbish in, rubbish out. Improving our genetic linkage via sire evaluations, using outside sires with high progeny numbers, and semen sales to other flocks has reduced the

incidence of queries - and maybe our own data management has improved. **BJ**

Yes, we have had trouble in the last two years interpreting the results. Even with good physical fleece weights and pedigree information, we were struggling to get above 20 CFW last year.

Three years ago quite a few rams were above 20 CFW, but something seemed to change in the system apart from accuracy levels and they are not admitting to it. I know other Merino Studs have had the same problem.

The fat and muscle figures also seem to be under rated because Challara has been muscle scanning for 12 years and getting strong physical data and trending upwards, but the Merino Select figures are showing up to -1 difference with our sons of top semen sires with high accuracy.

The ram progeny from syndicate sires provide no ASBV data? This is very frustrating when we are trying to sell rams with good raw data and good physical attributes.

Another thing is because our average FEC last year and this year is below -200 they will not give us a number???? Another important measurement with a blank box! Raw data is essential on sale day to clear things up for the ram buyer. **P.W.**

Sounds like "stud breeder bullshit". If the figures don't look right at a young age, adding progeny will improve the accuracy & see the figures adjust with time. If high accuracy figures still don't look like the animal, then trust the figures. (must be high accuracy figures though) **C.T.**

Yes. My main problem is Early Breech Wrinkle, as we don't mules and this is an important part of our selection. 2015 drop rams majority had positive ASBVs for EBWR and a close by stud who muleses (needs to) and body scores wrinkle had negative scores for his rams. It is not so much if your sire is loaded with fleece weight the real question are his progeny loaded with fleece weight? If we have had any queries it generally has been that a ram we have used his progeny have cut less wool but have had higher ASBVs for wool cut. When we have looked into this it is generally due to the ewes the ram is joined to the number of multiple births. **C.P.**

There is the potential of human error in these cases and I would advise looking at flock entry exclusions in result summaries. Animals like the above may not meet validation requirements meaning there data is substituted with the flock average. I believe that the Sheepgenetics system does require re-evaluation to be able to process and include these extreme animals.

Our main discrepancies are based around multiple born animals with the same parentage. Lack of accuracy around syndicates, but that is expected. **T.P.**

Yes with pedigree problems (ie only half pedigree) & where new flocks are ranked on SG has caused problems. Good pedigree accuracy, linkage & progeny testing usually sorts these problems out. If you use high performance sheep then you will get high performance, but your data quality must be good. SG systems have continued to improve ie single step. **M.O.**

After contact with Sheepgenetics regarding queries have you been totally satisfied with the response?

No. They cannot explain what they do to the layman (me). They are very smart people, and work hard at what they do, but if I want to know how they can compare CFW of sheep in Wagga with 14 months wool to sheep from Buckleboo with 6 months wool, they cant explain it. Neither can I! **D.W.**

Not always happy with the response from sheep genetics, especially when my query is why is my best ram not the top indexing sire in Australia?! **B.J.**

I have communicated with Sheep Genetics a number of times. They did not give me direct answers and it seemed like I was falling on deaf ears. I even wrote a comment in the Farm Weekly last year to express my frustrations, which was understood by some and not by others. I understand the accuracy argument, but Sheep Genetics should be doing more to guide stud breeders to higher accuracies without just pointing to DNA testing when that option is expensive. Syndicate matings are essential in a Merino Stud and this must be considered by all concerned. **P.W.**

Yes. Over a number of years we have used rams with good ASBV's and the results have followed what was predicted by them. Body weights have been very accurate due to the number of times we weigh the rams prior to selling - weaning (3 months), early post weaning (6 months), yearling (10-12 months). Fleece weights tend to vary more due to the fact we only take the result once at the 10-12 month age. **C.P.**

I am personally yet to have a problem with the staff or responses I have had from Sheepgenetics. (how could I? Us sand gropers have to stick together!) That being said, I haven't had much need to call them either. Most of my queries are generally related around data entry. **T.P.**

Yes SG team are a good, but small team, with a growing number of studs & sheep (particularly merinos) to service. (SG have graphs to show the numbers) My main issues have been questions/technical issues with the SG website & Matesel. **M.O.**

Are you confident of the results you receive and if not why?

Not initially, but as I understand them and the process more I am beginning to see why we are getting the results we are. Its pretty easy to blame the process (and not ourselves) but this isn't productive. I believe we will initially take a hit on figures as we put more data in per year but as time goes on we'll rocket away.

Its our responsibility to our clients to provide them with the highest level of genetic gain that we can. Ignoring the ASBV concept and hoping it will go away is irresponsible on our behalf. Remember when, "These young bucks want to micron test every animal?? ...they've gone micron-mad"!! **D.W.**

Sometimes my sheep aren't as good as I think they are and benchmarking is the only way to know for



After topping the Classings Classic sale three years running it's always intriguing rocking up to Gunallo in February for first ram classing to see what's in store for the new year.

Many tag numbers are stored away in the memory bank yet it's the next viewing in July that cements a discerning few. 008, 007, 055, 460, 360 still stick in my mind over the last few years and all went on to be top sires. Could 152 be the next hero?



There are so many reasons that I'll be classing merinos until I'm 80 and this is one of them. Trevor and Craig Gameau's commercial flock near Cummins SA is booming along so much so that there are regular photo shoots all day long! Based mostly on Roemahkita genetics with infusions of SWM, Southrose and Lucernbrae via realistic budgets this is a flock to behold!



The second classing of the Merino Lifetime Productivity Project (MLP) 2015 drop ewes took place 27th March'17 at Tuloona - Harrow VIC.

They had grown out well since the initial 2016 classing with the approaching shearing important for data collection as to summarise which ewes bred from a ram from different bloodlines suit the territory now and for many years to come.

These are the same ewes used for the Elders Balmoral Sire Evaluation Trial which is more of a total study of first cross results-only as well as bloodline comparisons.

Bloodlines include Billandri, Bogo, Bundaleer Poll, Bundilla, Centre Plus, Darrell, Glenpaen, Greenfields, Hazeldean, Kurra Wirra, Leahcim, Merinotech, Mokanger, Moojepin, Mumblebone, Nareeb Nareeb, Nerstane, One Oak, Roseville Park, The Mountain Dam, Tuckwood Poll, Yalgoo & Yadinga.

There is a detailed report from the 2016 classing/assessment but results will be more concrete after shearing from the recent 2017 effort. For those who would like that report let me know and I'll get hold of multiple copies.

Do we rely too much on results from trials that study only young, first cross results-only instead of those from on-going yearly recordings of ageing stock?

The MLP project will reveal all over time.



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sure. (remember that my breeding goals may be different to yours!) **B.J.**

I admit our accuracy levels were below the Merino Select minimum standard, but there still should have been better advice to get us up to a more acceptable level before it was effectively too close to sale day.

I will give Merino Select another chance this year with a big effort with lifting our accuracy levels. If there is still no difference in our results when there is a noticeable positive change in raw data, we will be forced to step aside from the system of Merino Select in 2018. Our ram sale results were negatively affected in the last two years in part because of the system let us down. **P.W.**

Not always it's the time take to get an answer. Greater industry funding & more staff would help instead of finding excuses to withdraw funding. **C.T.**

Yes, because I accept that they are a good guide but not an absolute answer. (until accuracy has been built) **C.T.**

Many traits are calculated by correlation if this is the case then it should be stated that this is not a measured trait. For example Staple strength is generally calculated from the CV. Many people also don't measure yield therefore CFW is only an estimation of GFW and that should be stated! **C.P.**

For the most part, yes. My only confidence issues are based around the inability to process those extreme animals and the lack of quality control for data submission. This system can only work if everyone in it collects data to the same standards, there can be no grey areas. **T.P.**

Yes I am confident, but always check accuracy as some sheep may not have data collected or may have lost data or not yet entered. Never take ASBV's at face value, always check the accuracy especially with stud sires. **M.O.**

Should there be added information to all of those numbers? If yes what? ie. This ram will not handle high stocking pressure!!

Well I would like to see an ASBV for length of cannonbone. I see it as a real hole in the data!! **D.W.**

It is difficult to add too many numbers as there needs to be enough information to give predictable results. Put simply if you wish to improve something, measure it. Keep it simple. **B.J.**

It should be made clear that these figures are a guide, if it has great figures and you don't like the looks of the ram the figures wont magically make the rams and his lambs look better. **C.P.**

[Absolutely not. Let data be data. Don't confuse it with someones personal, visual assessment. Thats just stud breeder bullshit. **C.T.**

"I agree with your strong comments regarding the bullshit involved with the stud industry, I'm surrounded by it! But please accept that there is

a minority of classers/advisors who know their shufft and enjoy the tangle between high accuracy ASBV's and a great animal! I think there is room for both yet the commentary side need not come from anyone - the high tops/low cull quad graphs answers all." **B.W.**

"I take your point. The tangle between high accuracy ASBV's & a great animal is exactly the space we want to be in & it's good to understand where you're coming from with regards to that question. I still have concerns with adding commentary from a classer, even the likes of experienced classers such as your good self, as it clouds the value of the figures. Please keep in mind that the figures make up about half of our selection process with the other half being visual, or commentary! My concern for the industry is to do with the variation in who's commentary to listen to." **C.T.J.**

I don't believe added information is required, just better user education. The "numbers" that will tell you if an animal can handle stocking pressure are cfat... You can actually tell a couple of animal phenotype traits, just by actually using asbv's correctly! More problems are caused in this system from people knowing a little bit of information and going off half cocked, rather than actually educating themselves fully on the system. By this, I mean stud masters incorrectly displaying data or incorrectly educating clients on what that data means. **T.P.**

No. Breeders should be able to interpret ASBV's. Eg High WEC or Low Fat/Muscle are not suited to high stocking rates/high rainfall! Breeders need to keep up with tech info. **M.O.**

Are you confident that all members are towing the line as far as data recording and accuracies?

There will always be someone who tries to fudge their results, they will be found out as their drop as numbers accuracy increases. **B.J.**

No, I don't believe all members are towing the line with data recording and accuracies. **P.W.**

A stud can manipulate an individuals data, or even a whole drop, but its hard to keep doing that for each generation that he breeds. So, the data will eventually find its right level. **C.T.**

This is the biggest worry, the data that comes out is only as good as the data going in. The breaking down into management groups is critical to the data quality. As more collection programs such as Sapien, Breed Elite etc, come along it makes the collection and recording easier and more accurate. **C.P.**

Of course there are different levels of data collection & quality. Most breeders do the best they can & some use data managers, which is a good thing. The better the data, the better the acc, potentially faster gains. **M.O.**

NANTOURA - WHARMINDA SA

OFFERED 60 SOLD 60 AVERAGE \$1,986 TOP \$3,600

SIRES IN USE: N130085, N130845, N130113, N120672, GP013377, L123005, L132009, L132345.

Have been classing the Nantoura Poll flock for awhile now yet this is the first sale that I have been able to get to due mostly to W.A. commitments as well as clashing ram sale dates. Was a great day to rock up on debut due to the stud receiving its record highest average and top price with everything in sight sold!

There were quite a few Leahcim **132009** progeny in the sale. This sire was bought from that stud by Nantoura in 2014 with YCFW in mind of which he is 22.5 which at that time was in the upper reaches for both studs.

Lot 4 which topped the sale at \$3,600 was one of these (**L2009**) and a great ram to boot! YCFW 17.6 & MP+144 with plenty of density - the duck's nuts and sold to Jeff Briggs' Westvud-Wudinna SA. He also bought lots 1 (YWT 8.0) & 5 at \$2,000 & \$3,000 and then went missing for the rest of the sale! No complaints as what great support he was for the sale startup!

Bengor Props owned by Paul Jones of Melrose bought (arguably) the best ram of the day. Lot 3 had it all in my opinion and sold for \$2,400 and bred by **L2009** with a YCFW 16.1. He bought three others and averaged \$2,200.

Cory Berryman-Lipson SA, a client since the stud's auction inception, bought a very good GP377 for \$2,900 with a DP+ 151 (highest in the catalogue) He added another in lot 12 for \$2,500. A very good Nantoura 85 son with a YCFW 16.3 sold for the second highest figure of \$3,400 to John Sampson-Kimba SA.

Ed, Caroline and Evan Hunt bought their first at lot 6 for \$2,700 for a **L2009** son at YCFW 18.8, the

highest in the catalogue. Another **L2009** fit the bill in lot 10 for \$3,200 followed by two L2345 sons in succession in pens 13 and 14 for \$3,000 & \$2,600.

Darren and Fiona Millard-Wharminda SA lent great support gabbing six for the day including a very good lot 41 bred by L2345. I read that they had been with the stud for 39 years! Might be time for a freebie or two next year hey Chris and Andrew!

Client, **Tim Ottens**-Wharminda SA made his break at lot 22 for a well woolled **L2009** son in pen 22 for \$1,800 followed by another from the same sire in lot 42 for \$1,200.

I had an order the night before the sale from Dirk Stephens' Broughton Vale Station-Little Topar NSW who had redone calculations and needed a few more 'mules free' poll rams for his vast enterprise. His flocks are now mules free and he has now ticked the box on his wool species to suggest that all his genetics are from mules free studs as well. I bought nine good value polls from the auction and another nine from the selection pens to meet his budget of around \$900 each.

Wade Ramsay-Arno Bay SA bought a ripping lot 7 for \$2,800 bred by GP377.

John Flavel, Jeff and Helen Cromer, Mark and Sue Pfitzner of whom we have been fleece testing for many years, Clinton Charlton, Troy and Megan Grosser, Isaac Telfer, John and Mel Masters and Stuart and John Richardson all bought one or two each to keep the sale's momentum at full flush until sale's end.



Classer's paradise! Two races side by side, 450mm wide so no need to get in, as long as you can bear, slight upward gradient, as many in-race gates as practical to avoid smothering, vertical bars to avoid any pulled tendons or broken bones (on stock!) and cement a good metre out from race with rubber matting on top (not shown!) for walking comfort!

Numbers are growing in most flocks and this merino thing is skyrocketing which has given many the incentive to redesign and pushover existing monstrosities and get with the flow and often then wonder why it hadn't been done years ago. Me too!



Ever had the unenviable task of:

- Walking into a trophy shop and keeping a sane face whilst admiring ... nothing.
- Actually finding a trophy that suits the occasion.
- Finding a trophy that has association with sheep!

The two trophies above I think fit the bill with the one at left awarded to the highest valued fleece and the one at right to the Classings Choice Fleece (with visual appraisal paramount) at the Karoonda Farm Fair Fleece Competition.

Both perpetual trophies, they will adorn the cabinets of those who celebrated wins this year in those two categories.

Classings Choice Fleece: Boughen Family - Kamora Netley Park

Most Valuable Fleece: Titley family - Sherlock



FLAIRDALE - COOKE PLAINS SA

OFFERED 64 SOLD 58 TOP \$6,000 AVERAGE \$1,732

SIRES IN USE: FLAIRDALE 020 (x GUN 230), FLAIRDALE 003 x (WP 779), WP908, WP130132, L858 A.I., WP110054 A.I., JC&S BEGAL 242 A.I.

This sale was a cracker and started off with the bang that it always has due to fierce competition at the upper end by super loyal clients.

Trevor and Fred Laske-Orroroo SA for example burst out of the gates with a competitive bidding



frenzy and outdid everyone to secure Lot 1 for \$4,800 and marched on to buy seven more across the sale to average \$2,838! So let's reel them off: That first bloke bred by WP132 had a monstrous GFW% 153, as in he cut nearly half as much again as anybody in the shed when shorn as a weaner!

A \$2,000 FL020 at Lot 4 was next followed by another WP132 son for \$3,200 in pen 5 with a DP+ 147 which at that moment in time was in the top 20% nationally. This followed in pen 7 for another WP132 son for \$2,400 and then gold...Lot 8 bred by that SuperSire L858 with a super bold crimp

and well made sold to Trev for \$3,400. MP+ 145, Yemd 0.48, Ywt 6.36 and 130% GFW he was arguably one of the best in the lineup...without bias naturally! Another ripper L858 was stowed away down in Lot 26 and was well ranked in my catalogue. GFW% 116, Ywt 6.28 & MP+ 143 and selling for \$2,900 with yet again the bold crimped silky fibre we all aspire to. Add 18.6u 2.7sd 14.8cv & 0.6pf and you have the complete package.

Back to that first row and were talking \$6,000 for the top fella in Lot 3 and sold to longtime supporter Jeff & Ashley Burgess-Gulnare SA. Bred by WP132 that had a huge influence on the sale team with 28% rep-presented in the 64 offered. This guy was a thumper and filled the pen along with good fibre, MP+146, Ycfw 19.7 Ywt 6.7 WWT 3.37

and great realtime figures of 19.1u 2.5sd 13.1cv & 0.1pf and GFW% 147!! A WP054 son was his only other grab down in lot 40 for \$1,800 with a Yemd 1.22.

Graham Buchanan-Karoonda SA began his account with a stretchy FLAIRDALE 003 son with great density and staple length with ...GFW% 157!! and MP+145 FOR \$3,800. He added a WP908 son for \$3,000 and another WP132 for \$1,200 in pens 12 & 13.

Dale Paxton-Parndana K.I. always in good

competitive bidding form at Flairdale picked up six starting with a very good, stretchy WP132 in pen 6 for a big \$5,200 and second highest price for the day. This poll had a giant GFW as well sitting at 144% geeezzzus!

The best figured rams in the whole sale was Dale's next purchase at lot 11 for \$4,200. Try these numbers...

MP+ 154 YCFW 26.53 YWT 7.85 and real time GFW% 139 and bred via A.I. to WP054. Density plus!!

A WP908 son at GFW% 146 in pen 25 was followed by a WP132 son in pen 34 at GFW% 140 & YCFW 18.2 for \$1,600 and another in pen 49 at GFW% 141 & Ycfw 21.23 at \$1,300.

Steph Booker-Jones-Lucindale SA bought a few including Lot 10 for \$2,400 and lot 28 for a WP132 son for \$1,300. John Lehmann bought four to add to his ambition in returning Redcliff Station-Morgan SA back to its true merino origins! Praise the lord!

The Crouch, Clarke, Peter Battersby, Pitlochery, Slape, Feast, Kleinig and Feast names were all present to ensure the sale's continuity and bolster it to be one of the stud's best since its move to Cooke Plains.

CLASSINGS CLASSIC '17

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4th 2017 AT 1.30pm

Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

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Poll Merinos & White Suffolks

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- ✦ Using the most suitable genetics Australia wide through AI & ET programs
- ✦ Not offering rams at Classings Classic in 2017 (due to Jamie being away with the Nuffield scholarship)

✦ Annual on-property ram sale Friday 13th October 2017
Offering includes 40 Poll Merino rams

Enquiries Welcome - Andrew, Tracie & Jamie Heinrich

✦ Andrew: 0427 596 108 ✦ Jamie: 0427 361 830

Email: ellamatta@bigpond.com

Check the website for details: www.ellamatta.com





41st

Annual On Property
Auction

60 Quality Rams 60

Rams April / May drop 2016
With all current 2017 test figures
on display

Wednesday
30th August 2017
1.00pm

Inspection from 11am
- lunch at 12 noon.



Brenton & Penny Kroehn

9km south of Waikerie, Maggea Road

Brenton: 0427 414 494 Ph/Fax: 08 8541 4494

Email: bkroehn@hotmail.com

BRUCELLOSIS
FREE

CALCOOKARA



MERINO & POLL MERINO

Annual On Property Ram Sale

Thursday 24th August 2017

Inspection from 11:30am, Auction at 130pm

Open Inspection Day Friday 18th August 1pm-4pm

- Auction team paddock run with current tests
- Brucellosis free and vaccinating for OJD for 13 years
- Ewe flock currently sitting at 18.3 micron average



Brenton: (08) 8628 5039 Mobile: 0427 285 039

Email: info@calcookara.com.au Website: calcookara.com.au

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ON-PROPERTY INSPECTION DAY

11th August 2017,
12.30pm - 4.30pm

ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE

18th September 2017
Inspections 10am Sale 1pm

ASBV'S ON ALL RAMS AVAILABLE
OJD MN3 Vaccinated

WAYNE LEHMANN
0408 896 877

MATT LEHMANN
0417 843 063

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Flock rams available by appointment post sale

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Gunallo
MERINO & POLL MERINO

ANNUAL ON PROPERTY AUCTION



THURSDAY 31st
AUGUST 2017

INSPECTION 11am
SALE 1pm
SA TIME

Gunallo 702 was sold to Vic buyer Stuart Croft for \$16,000 at the Classing Classic 2016

90 POLL MERINO RAMS AVAILABLE



Ovine Brucellosis Accredited & MN3

ALSO SELLING AT

Bendigo Australian Sheep & Wool Show

Location: Bendigo
Dates: 14-15-16 July

South East Field Day

Location: Keith Showground
Date: 19th July

Hamilton Sheepvention

Location: Hamilton
Dates: 7-8th August

Classing Classic

Location: Murray Bridget
Dates: 4th September

Adelaide Ram Sale

Location: Adelaide Royal Show Grounds
Dates: 8th September

Ray Schroeder
0427 778 485
ray@gunallo.com.au

Brad Schroeder
0400 335 660

Bill Walker
0428 973 804
Stud Adviser



Michael Lawrence
0439 078 872

David Daniel
0407 975 773

www.gunallo.com.au

“Gunallo gives greater gains”



RIDGWAY

Poll Merino Stud

On Property Sale | Monday 14th August
160 Poll Merinos

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Displaying at Bendigo, Keith & Murray Bridge.



Ric, Gail, Matt & Rachel Ridgway

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Mobile: Ric 0459 432 679 Matt 0439 460 554

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www.ridgwaymerinos.com.au



Wallaloo Park

MERINO & POLL MERINO STUDS

Here at Wallaloo park we offer a tethered sale structure which is client friendly. This allows buyers the opportunity to compare all attributes and evaluate structure without the hindrance of straw or gates.



The Wallaloo Park bloodline is recognised as one of the leading suppliers of merino genetics across Australia, having proven results over all bloodlines. We aim to maximize constitution, wool cut, temperament and milking ability to increase profit for our clients.



Top priced ram sold On Property to Franklin River Grazing Co.
From Left: Bill Walker - Classings, Andrew Sloane - Landmark, Kate and Trent Carter - Wallaloo Park.

The 2017 season is shaping up to be very exciting.

For the first time in over a decade, all rams being offered by Wallaloo Park will be presented only at our 26th On Property Ram Sale. This will enable clients to have the opportunity to view the standard of stud offerings side by side.

The sale rams this year have been run in the same management group. No itemised special feeding or shedding for specialist groups or foot pairing until 12 months of age.

Classing at Wallaloo park, as always, is done through both visual and measured appraisal, and is not distorted by additional treatments. We have successfully measured and gathered total drop data for 3 years now and we are ready to indorse and improve our ASBVS trends with specially selected joinings through the utilisation of our newly formed 'Walladale' family. The first lambing of all Walladale ewes came through with a 0.2 increase in a pre-lambing condition score.

We are all extremely excited about the 2017 drop & the cannot wait for the genetic progress and results in years to come.



2016 SALE RESULTS

On Property Sale – Top \$26,000 with 18 stud rams av \$7,222 and flock rams averaging \$2,534

2017 DATES

7th & 8th August
Wednesday 6th September
Thursday 14th September
Thursday 21st September

Hamilton Sheepvention – Site 369
On property pre sale inspection day
On property Ram Sale – “Top of the Drop” – 150 Rams
Marnoo Field Day – Grade Rams for sale



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John 0427 501 431

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Trent 0427 776 114



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Take A closer Look at our Rams

Nantoura Poll Merino Stud

Offering

60 Poll Merino Rams 60

29th August

1:30 pm

All rams with ASBV's and current wool tests



Contact - Chris Prime Ph (08) 8688 0015 or 0427 289 021

GLENLEA PARK
MERINOS & POLL MERINOS



Michael Lawrence
0439 078 872



On property sale
Friday August 18th
150 Poll Merinos

Offering rams in 2017 at our 51st On Property Ram Sale, the Classings Classic Ram Sale and the Adelaide Ram Sale

Displaying rams at Bendigo, Keith and Hamilton

Peter and Marianne Wallis
M: 0428 766 126 | peter@glenleaparkmerinos.com.au

Left: 2016 top price ram GP170, sold for \$33,000 to Len Matthews, Bulgandri, NSW

www.glenleaparkmerinos.com.au

KAROONDA FARM FAIR FLEECE COMPETITION



The inaugural Karoonda Farm Fair Fleece Competition was a huge success with 79 fleeces displayed. Sponsoring this great event was very satisfying with full marks going to chief organiser Wade Boughen and side kick Ray Bald for putting it all together seamlessly.

That intriguing looking trophy which we have found out since its purchase, was hand crafted in a mossy dungeon below old Dubrovnik town in Croatia many years ago, was awarded to our 'Choice Fleece of the Farm Fair'.

The Boughen's Kamora/Netley took that gong with a prem shorn shedded ram fleece that exuded great luster, extreme boldness of crimp and length and was hard to ignore.

Wes and Andy Titley's Sherlock stud took out our sponsored Highest Valued Fleece trophy. 12Kg's at 19 micron

equates to over \$170 at the minute indicating just how hot this wool market is at present. They also took out the most successful stud exhibit.

Since awarding that trophy it's been exposed that the golden ram attached to it is actually a pure gold nugget as a gesture of kindness by the guru who created it in that faraway land. Now to get it back from them...

Ray, Lynette and Gary Bald took out the most successful commercial exhibit with fleeces that weighed well with great staple length.

A great event that we will continue to sponsor and an aim that will see the competition double in size by 2018!

Please keep this in mind for the 2018 equivalent with any upcoming shearing. There are many choices of classes hinging on wool growth etc.

This could easily become the nations biggest wool competition and display.



CLASSINGS CLASSIC RAM SALE 2017

MURRAY BRIDGE RACECOURSE S.A.

Monday 4th September

90 POLL MERINOS 90

Inspection from 10am and sale commencing at 1.30pm



- CODDINGTON POLL - NSW
- KAMORA PARK - SA
- GUNALLO - SA
- GLENLEA PARK - SA
- RICE'S CREEK - SA
- TERRICK WEST - VIC
- RIDGWAY ADVANCE - SA



- RIDGWAY - SA
- ROEMAHKITA - SA
- ORRIE COWIE - SA
- FLAIRDALE - SA
- WOODOONA - SA
- FOREST SPRINGS - VIC
- O'BRIEN POLL - SA



- BORUNG - SA
- RAMSGATE - SA
- HYNAM POLL - VIC
- PENROSE - WA
- LUCERNBRAE - SA
- SOHNIC - VIC
- PEPPERWELL - SA

"Rams specially selected for fibre & frame as to further enhance progressive stud & commercial flocks. 90 hand picked Poll Merino Rams from South Australia, Victoria & Western Australia's leading progressive, free skinned studs".

Enquiries to: Bill & Rose Walker – Classings - Merino Advisory and Fibre Testing Laboratory



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LUCERNBRAE MERINOS

ANNUAL RAM SALE - CALLINGTON

Thursday, 3rd August 2017

Inspection - 10.30am, Auction - 1pm

Breeding plain wrinkle free merino
sheep with elite wool.

ALSO OFFERING RAMS AT CLASSINGS CLASSIC
DISPLAYING AT KEITH AND MURRAY BRIDGE

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web: www.lucernbrae.com

VR4110382

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Easy Care and Striving Ahead

Displaying at **Dowerin Field Days** - August 30th & 31st, 2017

Displaying rams at **Wagin Woolarama** - March 9th & 10th, 2018



Offering 140 Rams On-Property

Thursday September 7th 2017

Inspection from 10am. Sale starts at 12pm.

Lunch to be provided.

Ron & Deanna Wilkinson and Peter & Emma Wilkinson
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E: challara2000@outlook.com M: (Peter) 0427 427 691

6 years vaccinating against OJD in all ewe & ram lambs.

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★ Dual purpose selection since 1963



⇒ Yes, definitely worth a look! ⇐

⇒ Inspection Invited ⇐

◆ See our sheep on display at
Bendigo, Keith & Murray Bridge (July); Adelaide (Sept)

⇒ Your Chance to Purchase ⇐

◆ Annual On-Property Auction - Sandalwood

Friday 4th August 2017 11am

◆ approx 200 rams ◆

Offering 2 top rams at Classings Classic on Sept 4th
4 rams at Adelaide ram sale on Sept 8th

Enquiries always welcome:

Colin, Julie, Wade & Katelyn Boughen, Kamora Park

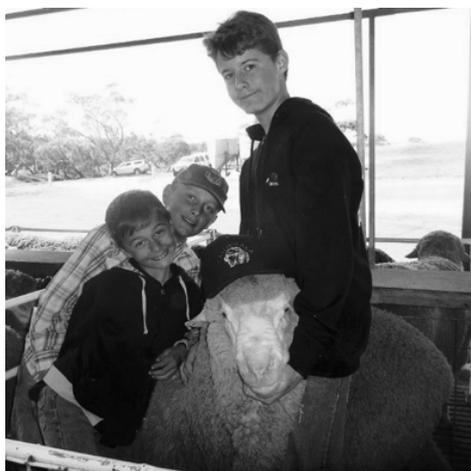
Ph (08) 8578 3456 Mob: 0434 051 686

CALCOOKARA - COWELL S.A.

OFFERED 78 SOLD 73 TOP \$5,000 AVERAGE \$1,324

SIRES IN USE: FRANKY x L858, GP769, RA 'NELSON', GP H001, CAL 00

Great to witness another successful Calcookara sale in lieu of the fact that Brenton and Jane are breeding great poll and horn rams that suit well across many environs. Station, in tandem with higher rainfall results suggest the plan is working well - to bred a skin and associated long stapled, lustrous fibre to meet wool market premiums and subsequent meat equivalents.



Another great sight was the enthusiasm of the Smith kids who didn't stop all day with their assistance and good nature, adding to this vibrant sale.

It was a sale where quality equalled the best spondoolee so let's go straight to the highest price - an absolute rip snorter of a poll in lot 6 bred by 'Franky' a mighty son of L858. Paul Turner of Cleve recognised the quality and bid competitively to make sure he became the new owner. 18.6u 2.6sd 14.1cv & 0.4pf helped the deal.

Another 'Franky' star but this time a horny, graced the pen in lot 11 and sold to long time Calcookara supporters Ian & Di Haggerty-Prospect Thoroughbred Pastoral-Wyalkatchem WA. Some great figures again boasting 2.5sd 12.4cv zero pf for a 20.1 micron - not a regular occurrence suggesting a great quality skin.

Now angling back to the sale as a whole - loyal clients the Hannemann family from Mangalo SA started the sale on a role with a great lot 1 purchase bred by GP769 (Purchased at GP On Property 2015) for \$2,200. Great figures attached with this guy and hadn't it been for a slight blemish, may have been stud retained. A L858 Syn bred lot 18 was next in line for \$2,200 with zero pf and a massive stretchy frame. Their last was down in lot 47 for an elite woolled horny at an easy \$1,000.

The everlasting support from the enjoyable Byerlee family from Orroroo SA needs rewarding and if the Smith clan don't do it I'll send them to our little joint in Penneshaw-Kangaroo Island for a short break in lieu of their great support in purchasing nine!

They bought Lots 3 & 4 at \$1,600 and \$1,800 for two polls positioned where they were for maximum exposure as to the nature of their quality. Successive purchasing ensued with lot 7 \$1,800, lot 8 \$2,000, lot 9 \$2,000 & lot 10 \$2,000 all going to the Byerlee's who were on an obvious mission to procure absolute quality. All of the mentioned six were spread evenly amongst Calcookara's sires with three bred by a L858 Syndicate, two GP769's and the one 'Franky.' The became selective after the aftermath and bought lot a bold crimping Lot 26 for \$1,100, Lot 59 at \$800 and a good spring drop at \$700 to complete the nine.

Following next in the bulk buy stakes was the Eckert family from Quorn SA who snatched eight rams across the sale starting late but with a ripper in lot 32 at a meagre, surprising \$700! This bloke had a little bit of protruding stub which must have been weirdly off-putting for the masses! His fibre was impressive and he exhibited the perfect hindquarters. Fibre? 18u 2.8sd 15.7cv 0.2pf. They did it again with an impressive pen 42 at another \$700 with a horn ram of immense density bred by the L858 SYN. Their next six purchases at \$1,000, \$800 & 4 @ \$700 was just what the doctor ordered to ensure that the Eckert's bulk order need not be too pricey per quality.

The Wake family from Darke Peake SA were valuable with their support as well with a seven ram pickup for the day up to \$1,200 but averaging around \$1,000 for a good bag. Cooyerdoo Station-Iron Knob SA supported well with their five purchases.

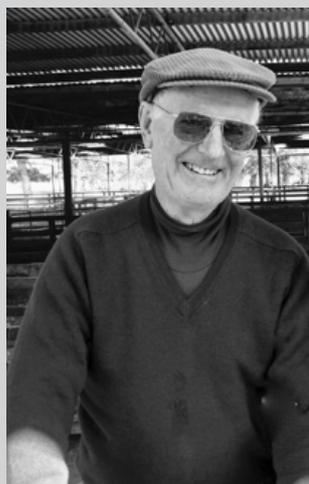
The Hunts from Mundulla SA supported well again with five including a top of \$2,200 for an L858 Son bred lot 22 as well as another at lot 40 for a big square hooper.

"Where's your heart", was the call from the master auctioneer, Gordon Wood, when at lot 29, the young Smith boy's favourite pick of the catalogue, was slowing down in the bidding at around the \$1,000 mark! I can guarantee that his plea added another \$600 to finish at \$1,600 bought by M.Hanneman.

The Puckridge, Elson, Wallace, Rod Hanneman, Story, Cathrow and Willis names were called throughout the sale to help make this a rewarding sale for Brenton and Jane with lots more to come for 2017.



The industry lost two of the best in 2016 with the passing of Brian Jefferies and Malcolm Macdonald with both of them great supporters of the Merino Industry.



Brian's work with PIRSA and as a private sheep consultant saw him become recognised as a leader in his field. His excitable and enthusiastic delivery on most sheep topics was an experience that I'll miss! He also advised Willalooka with their breeding strategies for a time and bought strongly at the combined stud partnership of Willalooka and Lorelmo studs.

Malcolm who managed Willalooka Pastoral for six decades masterminded the success of the property with cattle but particularly the instigation of the Lorelmo - Willalooka Partnership which entailed a huge Embryo Transfer program. This placed the stock in a better position with fine wools that handled the local environ and gained premiums for a then popular fine wool market.

An instant stud ensued with early sales catapulting the new partnership into extreme popularity.

Brian is survived by his wife Betty. More bad news from the Macdonald family with the passing of Malcolm's wife Alison shortly after his death. Our condolences to Betty and family as well as Deb and Helen and families.



GLENLEA PARK - PINNAROO SA

OFFERED 162 SOLD 152 AVERAGE \$2,467 TOP \$33,000

SIRES IN USE: GP395, 455, 004, 739, 367, 137, 891, 885, WP988, PB3.0040, JC&S 242 A.I., MP306 A.I.



What can you say more about a sale that is rock solid all the way through with 150 rams sold averaging near on \$2,500 to a top of \$33,000! In what was one of the highest averages for the year nationwide, the place was packed with clients and prospectives from all wool growing states.

I might as well start with the top priced fella. The great Len Mathews-Bulgandri Poll-Rand NSW was lurking all morning revisiting certain pens as the sale grew closer even asking for commentary and views on selected animals from selected people. At somewhere around 1.45pm the highest price ever recorded at Glenlea Park's On Property sale had eventuated with lot 14, a GP137 son, making \$33,000. Built like a rock with production

written all over his skin this bloke exhibited ASBV's of YCFW 24 & MP+ 159 at 18.6u. The losing bidders headed by Rob Russell and a Tasmanian consortium put up a great fight! Len also purchased lot 6, a WP988 son for \$5,400 and lot 8, a GP004 son with YWT 7.9 for \$4,000.

Roger Vogelsang-Lucindale SA bought a GP739 son in lot 2 at \$4,200 with a YCFW 21.8. Rob Thiele-Murray Bridge SA secured a snorting lot 3 for \$3,200 and next to him in lot 4, ol' mate Will Lynch-Boorana Vic. latched onto a free, square, long bodied pearly bred by GP367 with great pedigree for \$7,000.

Astute quality collector, Peter Gilbertson-Lameroo SA bought lot 9 for \$6,200 with a

YCFW 21.8 and MP+ 162. He also bought well at lot 26 at \$4,600 at YCFW 21.1 & YWT 9.6 - both ram bred by GP739.

SWM's Richard Harkness-Tintinara SA bought an ET bred lot 17 for \$7,200 with the highest YCFW of the catalogue at 32.5!! The rams skin and fibre makeup was all class and we all look forward to outstanding results. Sire? GP367 as was Richard's next purchase in lot 51 for \$3,800. **Ramsgate-Tintinara SA** were after backup to AI sires and outlaid \$2,000 and \$6,000 for the privilege. The highest priced fella was at lot 46 and had YCFW 21.3 and bred by MP306.

Munrose Nominees-Colbatch SA, now ably managed by Aaron Freeman since ol' mate Ric Munro's passing was there to select a handful to further lift the accuracy of a three way bloodline trial he is running on the property. A very good lot 33 at \$3,200 with lustrous bold fibre was followed by a GP891 son at \$3,000 with the same fibre commentary. A ripping July drop at lot 119 was the surprise package at only \$1,600 with a YCFW 21.6 with even more stunning fibre.

Both Boolapucky and Keilira Stations at Kingston S.E notched up 18 rams between them which kept the momentum of the sale in full swing added to by Lake Hawdon-Robe SA who grabbed maybe that many again off their own back!

The Heusler boys-Janmac P/L bought one of the sale's best in lot 34 with great lustre and length at a very squarely made 115kg and including a YWT 8.9 for \$4,000.

Dilemma Investments, Dean Pearson, Humphries, Schiller, Joe Gilbertson, Heathdale, Colwell, Heinicke, Mill Park, Nadia Farms, Allan Bennet were all familiar names that have been lending their support for many years and once again were another reason this sale was the best you could ever wish to witness.

Superior
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Elite Wools on Plain Bodies



ANNUAL RAM SALE
1st September 2017

TINTINARA SA

Elders

Richard Harkness: 0428 758 028

richardharkness@internode.on.net

Bill Walker: 0428 973 804

ELLA MATTA - PARNDANA K.I. S.A.

OFFERED 31 SOLD 31

TOP \$1,800

AVERAGE \$990

The Ella Matta sale falls right amongst some heavy duty classing in Western Australia making it hard to attend. This year no matter what I'm attending as the quality here is very good combined with some of the best ASBV'd poll rams in the country in most traits. If I'm not well the Heinrichs will receive a box of beer of their choice! Ian Turner, an avid supporter of the Ella Matta enterprise always writes great summaries of all the sales he attends so I am relying on his version for this year's writeup - Thanks Ian.

The sale's draft of 36 Poll Merinos comprised rams specifically bred to suit Kangaroo Island's higher winter rainfall conditions. Despite an extremely wet winter this year, the wools on these impressive young Poll Merinos were pearly white and well nourished.

Mike Smith, Kingscote paid the \$1800 top price for his only purchase in the section. This Poll Merino ram, EM150016, sired by Leahcim 101259 was +21.2 for clean fleece weight, +5.2 for yearling staple length and culminated in a Multi-Purpose index of 163.3.

Four other buyers dominated the volume purchases. Geoff Nutt, Parndana purchased eight Poll Merinos from \$700 to \$1000; Simon Kelly, Mine Creek Partners, Parndana, successfully bid from \$800 to \$1300 in purchasing seven rams, while Simon Veitch, MacGillivray and Adam and Carly Bussenschutt, Parndana each purchased four Poll Merino rams, paying up to \$1400.



If there is such a thing as an ideal sale result, then Ella Matta's three breed sheep sale on Kangaroo Island in October went very close.

Operating on more select lots was Mitch Willson, Willson River Partners, Penneshaw. His three Poll Merino purchases were to the section's second top of \$1600.

The Heinrich family penned a wonderful lineup of Poll Merino rams for buyer competition and received a high clearance rate; the prices were solid to very good, yet the buyers were still happy considering the elite performance levels they were able to purchase at relatively good value.

Ella Matta's senior principal Andrew Heinrich was delighted with the result saying, "It was just a really good honest sale with both good value for buyers, yet an encouraging reward for us to continue full throttle with our breeding and improvement program."



The ram that really did it for me and one that we were actually able to purchase without too much resistance was Tag# 51289 (151289) in Lot 45 at Sohnic Merino's on Property Auction in 2016 and bought for the Prime's Nantoura Poll on our West Coast.

The boldest crimp per micron ever witnessed by the new era humanoid, his shape, presence, bone and big numbers were hard to resist. All this for a sale topping \$2,500, all parties were happy but mostly me!

Rose and I had to leave the sale prior to the sale completion so I relied on trusty mate, Glendon Hancock to bid on our behalf - he rang when we were around Tintinara on our way home to tell me that he topped the sale which nearly sent me off the edge of the Dukes' as our budget wasn't huge!

I believe his crimp was so bold that a lot of people didn't know how to take him to be honest yet at 19.2u 2.9sd 15.1cv & EMD 44 at a hundred and something kg's what could go wrong!!

FOREST SPRINGS MERINO STUD

4th Annual on Property Sale.

Thursday September, 28th @ 1pm.

2017 Diary

- March 3rd Loddon Valley Field Days
- July 14-16th Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo
- August 7-8th Hamilton Sheepvention
- August 11th Riverina Sheep Expo, Deniliquin
- September 4th Classings Classic Ram Sale, Murray Bridge
- September 21st Marnoo Merino Field Days

New sire, Mumblebone 850 will be on display at Serpentine.
Mumblebone 850 was a standout performer at the 2016 Balmoral sire evaluations.

Real Dual Purpose Medium Wool Merinos

All rams are brucellosis
accredited and gudair vaccinated

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Glendon Hancock, Elders, 0429 829 613

Inspection by appointment at any time

KARAWATHA PARK

OFFERED 80 SOLD 80

AVERAGE \$2,040

TOP \$5,000

SIRES IN USE: WP2401, WP0053, L2740, L282, GP395 A.I.



Angus McLachlan's Rosebank-Mt. Pleasant SA gave me strict instructions to keep an eye out for the best ram in the sale, loaded with density, nourishment and of huge stature and presence so that's what I bought him! Yet another **WP2401** son at paddock weight of 109kg and YCFW 21.2 & DP+ 147, he just fit into the pen due to his depth and stretch. His fibre alignment made him an easy choice at \$4,400.

There's something about that shearing shed that lends itself to great atmosphere, people, organisation and bloody successful sales! The Karawatha Park quality is right at the top of the tree due to the diligence from the Woolford clan in securing top genetics from Wallaloo Park and Leahcim annually with small infusions from outsources to compliment in one way or another.

Wayne and Sam Young-Orroroo SA once again made their presence felt to those who were bidding against them by securing four top rams in the first nine offered. **WP2401** has had an enormous impact at the stud with this first drop. Lot 1, a stretchy, square backed son, made \$2,800 and sold to the Youngs with a YCFW 16.4 and live body weight of 110kg from the paddock and set the sale off well. They followed this up at lot 2 with a 113kg thumper bred by a Leahcim Syndicate for \$3,000. Lots 8 & 9 at \$3,200 & \$2,800 entered the Young's stash with two more to follow later in the sale.

A **WP2401** son sitting in pen 3 followed by another in pen 4 were arguably two of the best in the sale along with another son that topped the sale at pen 16. Hannah (ex Woolford) Davey's fella, Tom, fought well to secure a ripper at lot 3 for \$4,400 with YCFW 17.4 @ 19.6u & 2.9sd. He displayed huge staple length and a boldness of crimp that I thought may affect people's minds! The competition suggested otherwise and I'll be keen to here of excellent results down the track.



Shannon Larwood-Kimba SA secured a GP395 son, a sire that featured prominently in the 2015 sale, for \$4,200 and busting the pen with his 117kg frame. He bought two others including a \$4,000 L2740 son with the typically outstanding measurements of 17.9u 2.7sd 15.3cv & zero in lot 44.



Jack and Tim Larwood-Buckleboo SA, long time Karawatha fans secured the top priced poll for \$5,000 and bred by the day's super sire, **WP2401**. 17.5u 3.3sd 18.6cv & zero with a DP+ 152 (highest in the catalogue) including YCFW 18.2 plus a high body weight of 119kg he photographed well due to a body of seemingly endless length!

Wilkatana Station-Port Augusta SA ably represented by Andrew Smart bought six to \$2,600 averaging over \$1,800. A few more bucks than normal yet to pickup up great quality on the day that was about the figure required to compete. The Karawatha genetics are being used to try and conquer an age old Wilkatana problem - that of yield.

Paul Schaeffer's Nalino Props-Buckleboo SA usually ends up with trailer

full of quality and began his collection with a free grower in lot 19 with a body weight of 114kg add silky fibre with crimp and that's \$3,200 thanks. Maybe their best pickup was down in lot 35 for a choice horny for \$2,800. Once again bred by that **WP2401** hero sire, this blokes stance was as square as a tram! Slippery fibre at 17.6u 2.8sd 15.7cv & 0.3 with YCFW 19.5 & DP+ 149 all helped the cause. They averaged \$2,450 for their four.

Andrew Polkinghorne-Lock SA opened his account with a heavy cutting lot 15 bred by that boy, **WP2401** again for \$3,200. Try these figures mid north! 16.9u 2.6sd 15.7cv zero with YCFW 21.7. Fine wool can cut! Andrew went on to buy another two including another ram of top figures for \$2,200 at lot 77. 16.7u 2.6sd 15.5cv zero with scale ad density just reminds us how far we have come with new era genetics yes!

Matt Cook-Minnipa SA and **Butch Dunn**-Penong SA picked up four classy flockies between them to add even more boot to their respective high end for quality flocks.

New clients are welcome at any stud especially with this support... four rams to \$4,000 averaging \$2,350 and ten rams to a top of \$1,700! Matt Brown all the way from Lameroo SA bought well and started account at lot 20 for \$4,000 for a stretchy Syndicate bred beauty at 119kg and followed with three more purchases by sale's end. Paul Humphris-Gladstone SA was the other newby and bought, amongst a red hot sale, ten rams whenever the chance arose at his chosen budget.

Brett Zibell and Rayson Ag. bought well as did Woolford Brothers, Robert Koch, Brooke Seale, Bienke and Grocke families to make this sale one of the most memorable in the stud's short fourteen year existence.

Now that's a ram photo!!



O'BRIEN POLL - KYANCUTTA SA

OFFERED 50 SOLD 50 TOP \$3,800 AVERAGE \$1,182

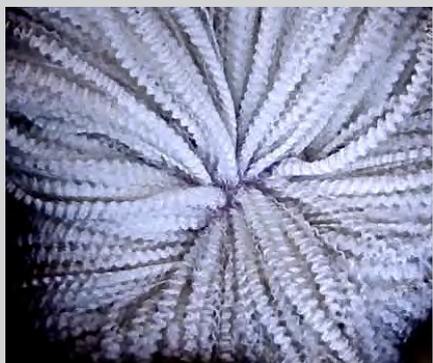


Classing in Western Australia from February 5th-10th saw me keeping one step ahead of some serious rainfall events.

Westwood Poll at Cascades had over 200mm in a nine day span with 175mm falling over four days. We just completed classing when it hit the fan and had I been a few days later with the schedule it would have been an early exit and return home.

Classing at Penrose Poll, Roger & Jo Nankivell and Fred Leo saw outside yard classing but by the time I reached the Dempsters-Karabein at Northam it was a day in the shearing shed with makeshift yards and race.

These rains set up paddocks for feed and nutrition to bolster in-lamb mums in readiness for drop. Talking to Scott Welke today (10.5.17) it's only now that he is suggesting another few drops would be handy.



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I was unable to attend the O'Brien Poll sale due to classing pressure elsewhere but have included the SJ report here and I thanks them for that. Due to a date change, this year will be a first for me to attend on Thursday 27th July.

O'Brien Poll Merino presented 130 rams for sale at their Annual Sale held at the Wudinna Show Grounds, with a good crowd of local and regional buyers. The sale started with a bang, with two O'Brien Dohne Merino rams making \$2500. The Poll Merinos saw excellent competition with Tom Freeth, Buckleboo out bidding his mates for the top priced ram \$3800, a long bodied heavy cutting stylish wool with an YWT of 5.8 and YCFW of 16.5, the son of Glenlea Park 0004.

The Tomney boys, Chandada went to \$3000 for 150422 a ram with excellent eye muscle, stylish wool, and a body weight of 111 kg, YWT of 6.7 and YEMD of 1.0. Tomney's purchased another 4 Poll Merino rams.

Damien Mullan, Kappacoola Park, Kyancutta took 2 to \$2000, Bucky and Josh Beinke, Beingawa, Koongawa purchased 3 to \$2100.

Nigel and Lauren Oswald, Moonlight Flat, Yaninee, stocked up their new merino enterprise with 10 rams to \$800, Trevor Bartel, Cleve a regular buyer took 4 rams to \$1700, Wombi and Brad Hazelgrove, Wombi Enterprises, Mt Hope took 3 rams to \$1800 including 150465 a well-nourished high yielding ram.

Westwud, Wudinna saw Jeff Bigg purchase 3 rams to \$2200 including the heavy cutting ram, sired by Ridgway Advance 130088. Dan Vorsty, Arunta and Spud and Kane Murphy, went to \$1900 to add to their sire banks. Andrew Polkinghorn of Kingara Farms went to \$800 for two young well-nourished stylish woolled rams.

Penna Bros, Mt Wedge again snapped up the few horn rams on offer. Don Hoare, Grant and Jake Sampson, Kopi West purchased 4 rams to \$1600 including a heavy cutting Ridgway Advance 120830 son, Joe Willis, Wanilla took 2 to \$1200.

Overall a successful sale overall, selling 45 of 48 Dohne rams offered, averaging \$1286, while all 50 Poll Merinos sold at an average \$1182. The mini auction also had strong bidding, with 15 out of 22 sold to \$800, averaging \$547.



O'Brien Poll-Kyancutta SA run two separate studs - Merino and Dohne. It's no coincidence that Darren selects Merinos as close as he can to match the Dohne meat component qualities.

The above photo depicts this with these Merinos set for Wudinna sale glory and the bloke closest to view, a debut in the Classic '16 sale.

There's no argument that the Dohne 'kills' us for backends and hock structure albeit sometimes not great for pasterns, suint, wool density and quality.

The cross between the two breeds is never successful in combining ultimate eliteness of fibre of our Merino with the

tram like backends and sheer scale of the Dohne.

The equation generally:

Better Dohne wool = Smaller animal.
Thumping Dohne = Average quality wool/fur.
Thumping Dohne/Elite fibre with density = Never!

It's only happened once and that was about twelve years ago from a lower West Coast Merino stud that didn't get the semen extracted quick enough.

That industry game changing bastard was always going to die!



WALLALOO PARK - MARNOO VIC.

120 OFFERED 199 SOLD

AVERAGE \$3,325

TOP \$26,000

SIRES IN USE: WP 100061, 110054 x WP988 (G/Pk purchase \$21,000 on prop), 'Eureka' 121357, 121065, 120912 x Nerstane Jock, 120391 x 'Magic', 120960 x Casper, 120419 x Casper, 130036, 130438, 132781 x 'Real Deal', 130321 x WP188, 130260 x WP188 x R1137, 132899 - (SWS purchase \$30,000), 134068 x WP110054, 130013 x One Oak, Blue Hills SYN

A.I. - JC&S Premier x Glenlea Park 004, M/Park 306 (Kerin Purchase \$53,000), Kerin 425 (PP Poll)

That usually dry creek bed that adds to the scenery at Wallaloo Park was in full celebration during the Wallaloo Park On Property sale with fears that it might have flooded the sale area as to shift to another spot! With the Marnoo Hotel grounds not big enough to host such an event the Wallaloo's principles and staff's prayers were answered and the tide remained constant during the sale's proceedings.

...and crickeys what a day it was! A \$1,000 lift in average from the year before (although 172 offered in 2015) and a S&L reported lift of \$16,000 on the year previous top ram which I guess means mmm not much really!



Our clients were once again in full force and as mentioned in last year's writeup I will go for it with their purchasing prowess reporting yet generalise more so on all the other great activity.

Rose and I were impressed with the general lineup at the WP Field Day a week previous but one poll took our fancy in pen 13 - lucky for some, extra lucky for **Frankland River Grazing's** 'Westfield' owned by Adelaide/Perth's Roach family and ably managed by Jon and Felicity Beasley who secured this great animal for \$26,000.

Remember this tag number for future reference: 150245 or '245' I believe he was the best ram we've been able to purchase for a long time at WP - fluid nourishment, white, lustre, supple skin yet loaded with density visually and measured.

Try this: Ycfw 25.12 (Top 5% nationally at that moment) Ysl 16.0 (Top 10% nationally) PWWT 4.26 (Top 20% nationally). Add that this guy was the heaviest greasy cutter of all of the April/May drops at 9.1kg with the nearest rival sitting at 8.0kg at 7.5 months growth. Actual test figures you may ask: 19.0u 2.6sd 13.9cv & 0.2pf.

Despite Jon's realistic budget, with the way most people were eyeballing '245' all sale

morning I thought I might play it safe and call for support if needed which came in handy considering the \$26,000 price tag! Four stud clients came to the rescue and the rest is...

Stuart Everett-Lone Gum Poll SA also attended the WP field day and was impressed with lot 2, bred by WP 'Magic', a well structured poll, great for bone, legs and feet that stood like a rock on both days. Come sale day and \$14,000 later he was part of the Lone Gum sire battery and we look forward to this year's results.

Richard Harkness' SWM-Tintinara SA liked what he saw in pen 1 and, as the sale wore on, he may just have picked up one of the bargains of the day at \$5,500. Yfat 0.05 Yemd 0.43 & YCFW 17.5 and bred by the very heavily influenced Glenlea Park 004 sired JC&S 'Premier', this ram stacked up well. Premier really?! Richard also procured lot 60 for \$3,500 bred by WP130036 whose father was the legendary L858.

Roemahkita-Cummins SA had their eyes on lot 6, an MP306 bred goody, with WWT 5.17/PWWT 5.78 & YWT 6.14 at an outlay of \$6,000. This poll

was well structured and 'filled the pen' albeit harnessed to a rail!

The success story of the Riverland, Brenton and Penny Kroehn's **Borong-Waikerie SA** has had enormous response in this stud's flock from Wallaloo Park genetics. Once a thumping carcass stud with a slight resemblance to quality fibre on their backs, this joint is now loaded with both the goods including a cracking elite type fibre on every second animal yet still retains the meat traits that was always in existence.

Brenton started his collection at lot 15 at \$6,000 for a Premier son with a great backend and presence - much to do with the grandfather GP004 and a great WP mum undoubtedly! Another bonus... Yfat 0.27 & Yemd 0.72. Six pens later he was at it again securing lot 21 who I believe was the second best ram in the front row for \$7,000. Bred by WP120419 (x Casper), his fibre side was terrific backed up with a great shape and get this - Ycfw 23.73 & Ysl 18.72 - both sets of numbers in the top 5% nationally backed up with 7.9kg at 7.5 months growth real time figures. A WP 'Eureka' son completed the trio of great purchases in lot 58 for \$4,000 that was a great all rounder and will be single joined

along with the two others to see who rules the roost with progeny as to ascertain who may be the stud's first A.I. candidate.

I bought lot 69 for **Paul Schaeffer-Kimba** at \$3,000 for a WP132781 x 'Real Deal' son with top fibre backed up with Yfat 0.18 Yemd 0.1 Ycfw 17.1 & Ysl 13.1. Paul has a very good commercial flock based on Karawatha Park genetics with infusions of Wallaloo Park to keep things circulating in the gene pool.

That's it for the clients but there was alot going on with all of the other WP supporters obviously. Bella Lana-Wellington NSW were in full flight kicking off their mission with an 110054 pearly in pen 9 for \$9,500 @ Ycfw 26.7, followed with a MP306 son with WWT 5.79 PWWT 5.96 & YWT 6.62, all great growth performance figures for \$6,000.

Mark and Kay Barr-Newdegate WA, racked up fourteen rams this year and with astute buying throughout the sale ends up with a great looking bunch, this year averaging just under \$2,500. His \$4,500 purchase had a Ycfw 19.4 and loaded with density. I liked their lot 40 purchase at \$3,250, bred by 130036 (x L858) exhibiting all the good things that keeps our support for this stud on the go for many years to come.

I presume it was the Schenschers Brothers-Naracoorte SA who snavelled a 'Eureka' son at lot 11 for \$4,000 with some seriously good ASBV's for growth and fleece weight. A newly formed NSW stud, Belathery bought a Premier son for \$10,000.



That's it! Only because I could have a separate newsletter for the goings-on of the day with so many supporters of whom I don't know that well. All the familiar WP client names were there and can't see any difference for this year due to a rock solid wool market at the minute and a reasonable start to the growing season. Bring it on....

SWM - TINTINARA SA

OFFERED 80 SOLD 78 AVERAGE \$1,501 TOP \$4,100

SIRES IN USE: SWM 141 (xL858) SWM 159 (x L858) SWM 097 (x WP Bartel) L282 (SWM), WP Bartel (SWM) GP395 A.I. (\$51,000 Classic sale), WP 998, WP 179, WP36 (x L858), Gunallo Lustre 055 A.I.

Great sale this! A variety of clients from a wide variety of environs suggesting that the chosen name of the stud suits the reasons for all of the support. Highest average and record top price a testimony to this as well.

James, Sonya and Jamo Irwin's Bonshaw-Keith SA were the successful bidders on lot 2 at \$4,100 to further enhance their home ram breeding program that in turns breeds rams for their station Balah-Morgan SA. This fella was bred by SWM 159, a direct son A.I. bred by that SuperSire L858. GFW% 114 at 18.1u 2.6sd 14.6cv, square, bold crimped and great on all fours we all look forward to outstanding results.

Colara Farms-Colebatch SA managed by **Aaron Freeman** needed to secure around three rams to maintain a special project we have own the go in benchmarking three different bloodlines just to see what future directions need to be taken as to consolidate and maintain the excellent results thus far. Lot 1, a Gunallo A.I. bred Lustre 055 son was a great start at \$3,100 with the top figures of 17.9u 2.3sd 13.0cv and GFW% 120. He followed this up with an excellent lot 6 for \$2,400 also at GFW% 120 and bred by WP998 a purchased sire from the Wallaloo Park On Property'15. A SWM159 completed the trio at \$2,700 for a mighty GFW% 135 at lot 14!! That's 35% above the average fleece weight here folks!

Neil and Jo McKenzie-Tintinara SA chose lot 9, a WP36 A.I. son at \$3,000 and an excellent late pick at lot 65 for a Gun Lustre 055 son at \$2,200 and GFW% 112 which was on most people's list suggesting why so late in the sale?! Both rams exuded the quality fibre we are accustomed to at SWM. Add another at lot 39 for \$1,600 with

figures 17.6u 2.2sd 12.7cv - not exactly figures you find north of Adelaide!

Mt. Boothby Pastoral-Colebatch SA leant great support typically and began their haul at lot 7 & lot 8 for \$2,700 & \$2,400. both bred by WP sires and both great for density proven with GFW% 129 & 125. They added a big square fucker at lot 25 bred by L282 (the SWS sire purchased for \$38,000 at Leahcim On Property.)

Gary Hansen-Hansen Farms-Cooke Plains SA bought a bagful including a ripper lot 54, a rare horny, for \$2,600 with a giant GFW% 131 and bred by L282. His first pickup was in pen 12 for a productive WP998 at GFW% 129 for \$2,300 followed three pens later with another 998 son for \$2,200 and another for \$1,100 in pen 36. At this sale there was still competition right to the end where at lot 76 Gary still had to fork out \$2,200 for a great flocky bred by SWM 141.

Peter Burge of Burge Trading Trust-Padthaway SA were hopefully thrown a few rams for nicks due to their huge support in securing fifteen rams throughout the whole sale and paying up to \$2,000. I liked their cheapy at lot 30 for \$1,000 that had all the makings and bred by WP998. C'mon Richard what was his reward other than good genetics?!!

The Mittons-Willalooka SA deserve the same accolade with their posse of ten rams. A lot to like about their lot 22 pickup for \$1,700, bred by L282 and GFW% 115. They weren't nervous in shelling it out for horn rams either and at a sale like this that was where the bargains were due to the general huge swing to polls by SWM clientele.

Four rams went to Tasmania via Elders' Damien Whitely. An SWM 141 to PB Mann in lot 4 at GFW% 113 was added to at lot 16 at \$2,100 for a giant cutting GFW% 138 bred by SWM 97. NL & MJ McGee also bought two including a ripper lot 3 and bred by WP36, another one of L858's famous sons. for \$3,500 at GFW% 121. Two pens later, a great horny for \$3,300 bred by WP179 at GFW% 121 as well.

Treetop Estate, another volume buyer chipped in and bought seven including a very good lot 24 for \$1,800 and topped at \$2,000. I bought six for **Peter Kuhlmann-Ceduna** which were naturally all fantastic including another well woolled horny at lot 54 for a flukey \$800 but probably averaged \$1,500 for the six.

Trevor Gameau-Cummins SA snuck into nab two goodies in pens 37 at \$1,200 for a WP998 and pen 46 for a SWM 159 for \$1,900 with a 2.8sd and GFW% 103.

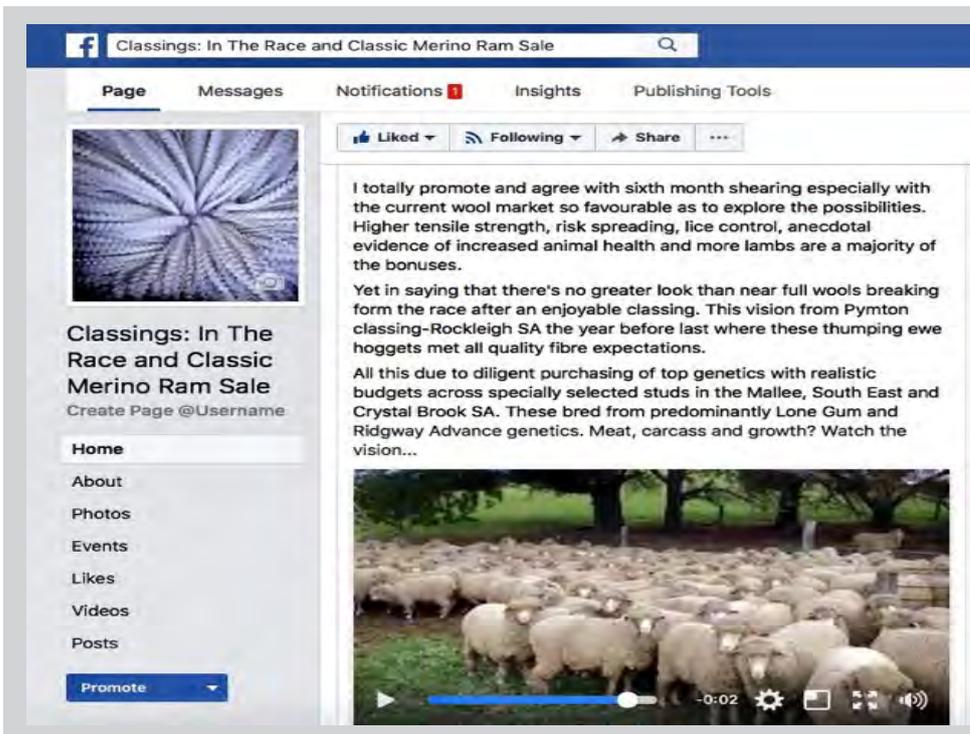
Vanesa The ...nice girl secured six up to \$1,800 which was a SWM 141 bred lot 47 with GFW% 118.

The Norman family I thought selected very well for their five or so which could have easily snuck into any of 'our' flocks. A productive pen 17 backed up with GFW% 131 for \$2,100 would be interesting to follow.

The Kennet, O/Malley, Marsson, Richardson Bros., and Blacket names infiltrated the whole sale helping it become the best on record. Could it be pipped this year considering the great state of the merino industry? I reckon!

There's a lot to be said about Facebook where amongst the food shots, dogs (guilty), cats, bad photography and way too many shares of the ever meaningless food, cat, dog and bad photography shots there's some seriously good shtuff.

I aim to ramp up our own page 'Classings: In the Race and Classic Merino Ram Sale' as the response to items worth posting receive a lot of views and aid whoever we might be promoting - not always us!



 Find us on Facebook

CASE STUDY: 113% LAMBING VIA A.I. - PADDOCK JOINING 131% - FROM ALL EWES JOINED 'MOONAH' COMMERCIAL FLOCK - OWNERS: DARREN AND FIONA SANDERS

I classed the Barry and Pat Simmons flock at Moonah-Coombe SA (Between Tintinara-Keith) for quite a few years before Darren and Fiona Sanders took over the place. The quality of the flock was something we were both proud of. To continue classing under the new ownership this was a great relief as one would hate to see a flock like this fall into the wrong hands and be converted to a 'prime' flock and lose its true identity as one of the best commercial merino flocks in the state! The Sanders' had an awesome A.I. percentage result two years ago, way above any sort of industry benchmark even in comparison to good paddock joinings which generally offer better on the deck results. I felt the need to delve into their heads as to ascertain any particular reason this occurred - fluke or good management techniques. The following was put together by this dynamic pair as to possibly cough up the reasons behind the success. Read on.....

"We moved to Moonah in 2009 after purchasing the property on a Walk In Walk Out basis from Barry and Pat Simmons. Barry was a keen merino breeder and became involved with Superior Wool Syndicate to produce plainer more productive sheep. We were the beneficiaries of Barry's foresight and good judgement and the 19 micron flock continues to perform.

The flock base is Wallaloo Park and Leahcim. We have been breeding our own flock rams for the past 5 years. Single paddock joining was used for the first and second year with low conception/marketing rates. Also during this time we shared expensive sires with other producers. Although we reduced outlay we contracted lice so AI has been used the last three years with far better marketing results, 113%, 74% (ewes AI'd) respectively (2017 results still to come) and our bio security objectives are intact. We now only use high ranked ASBV semen sires for AI. Recently an infusion of Anderson W.A genetics has occurred in an attempt to increase wool weight, staple length and reduce standard reference weight (SRW-adult body weight).

Three seasons ago we joined a Lifetime Ewe Management (LTEM) group facilitated by the esteemed Ken Solly. I could complete a full article on how awesome Ken is but I'll have to leave that for another day! LTEM was a turning point for our flocks' reproductive performance!

The key take home message from LTEM is, maintain your ewes in condition score 3 (CS 3) all year 'round. CS3 is the ideal condition for optimum ewe performance during conception, pregnancy and lactation. You may choose to allow them to drop back to 2.7 while dry but be ready to increase FOO to ensure CS3 at joining and beyond. If ewes happen to fall back leading up to lambing, use condition scoring as a tool to separate more needy ewes (low CS) and increase their grain ration accordingly.

Since implementing the learnings from LTEM we have lifted conception, marketing and weaning rates considerably. In two years marketing rates rose by 28.5% from 103% (2014) to 131.5% (2016) (ewes joined). (2017 results still to come in). Albeit pregnancy scanning for multiples has been a practice for some years, we now calculate the potential foetus' and aim for a high survival rate through providing adequate ewe nutrition. Added to this, dry's are culled on a "one strike, you're out" basis except maidens, who get a second chance. This ensures non-breeder genetics are being deleted from the flock.

A key skill developed through LTEM is Pasture Assessment. Ample ewe nutrition is imperative for high ewe and lamb survival. Knowing what feed is on offer (FOO) in the paddock on a dry matter basis, allows for more informed decision making regarding stocking rate leading up to and during lambing. Knowing the extra requirements of multiple bearing ewes is key to increasing marketing rates. They have a 14.2% greater requirement at day 120 pregnancy, 16.5% increase at lambing and a 29% increase at peak lactation (day 20). Adequate FOO is crucial to ewe intake. If a shortfall in FOO exists, supplementary nutrition supplied through grain is good practice. Multiple bearing ewes if managed correctly and fed adequately can give a very sound return on investment through boosted flock production.

Some other strategies we use that I believe contribute to our results are; the use of teasers for 14 days prior to joining-remove teasers for joining, a no dog policy in the first 4-6 weeks of pregnancy, avoid high nitrate pastures such as fresh Lucerne while joining, lamb in pregnancy status mobs i.e. singles separate to multiples, lamb in small mobs where possible, especially multiples (note: small mobs, not small paddocks), avoid disturbance during lambing unless grain feeding is required, match peak ewe requirement to peak feed period or be prepared to feed grain to supplement shortfall, know your pasture base, quality and quantity i.e. FOO and your ewes changing requirements.

One other practice that has anecdotal evidence leading to increased reproductive performance is twice yearly shearing. After some years of selecting for staple length in the flock we finally made the permanent change in March 2015. September 2017 will be our 3rd full year of 6 month shearing.

There are numerous benefits with 6 month shearing but you need staple length of 60mm minimum to justify the practice.

Benefits include:

- As mentioned above, increased reproduction rates.
- Crutching no longer necessary (we don't crutch pre shearing, instead we provide adequate shed staff to ensure any stain (very minimal) is removed on the board).
- Increased fleece wool (more growth and less skirting).
- Ewes are shorn 4 weeks pre lambing and receive vaccine booster while in the yards.
- Easier to visually assess ewes condition throughout the year (although there's no substitute for condition scoring down the race).
- Able to market wool twice yearly to spread risk/income.
- Allows shearing before grass seeds in October and lambing in May.
- Ability to control lice infestations early.
- Higher tensile strength and currently a strong demand for shorter high tensile wool.

The down side:

- Extra shearing costs (nearly cancels out with no crutching).
- Lower yield with summer fleece (same amount of summer dust/VM in half the amount of wool) and that's about it! We believe its very beneficial to our business.

Some other points of interest include:

When discussing marketing percentages, always refer to "ewes joined". A dry ewe is of no value to the lamb enterprise and should be culled. Using "ewes present at marketing" as a guide to your flocks reproduction capacity is dangerous. This doesn't account for dry sheep or dead sheep all which cost you money. It might sound better over the bar at the footy club but you're only kidding yourself.

When selecting flock rams, use ASBV's to ensure you're purchasing the rams that will deliver on your breeding objectives. If your ram supplier is not measuring traits you require, put pressure on them to do so or change supplier. The merino industry is dragging the chain on genetic gain and measurement implementation. There's a whole raft of traits that are measurable and your business will benefit from selecting the correct rams for your breeding objectives.

Ensure your lambing dates are in line with your main sheep enterprise and peak feed demand. Years ago we lambed in March to beat the "spring flush" decline in prime lamb prices. This equated to about 20% of our total sheep enterprise income. There was a significant feed and labour cost attached to this strategy. We now lamb all ewes in May/June on Lucerne based pastures. Our supplementary feed and labour costs are minimal yet our lambs are still finished in time to be marketed by September!

Big sheep cost more to run! A standard reference weight (SRW) 80kg ewe will eat 33% more than an SRW 60kg ewe. On a production per hectare basis (which we should all be working from) big sheep are less efficient and less profitable! I can hear you booing and hissing but it's a fact. They may cut more wool, but do they cut 33% more? They wont produce 33% more lambs! And I know for a fact shearers are getting tired of dragging "great big mothers". "Early maturing" is often used, but this is a misconception. Lambs from large frame sheep are naturally going to reach a given weight sooner as they start out heavier to begin with. Genuine early maturing can be achieved by using rams with a high ASBV score for weaner growth (WWT). Bottom line is you don't need massive sheep to be profitable, in fact quite the opposite applies.

Merinos are often maligned for their poor reproductive ability and ill thrift. This need not be the case with some simple knowledge and a little attention to detail. Nor is it necessary to infuse Dohne or SAMM to improve meat production at the cost of wool production. The humble merino can do it all if she is allowed. Adequate nutrition is the key, followed by focused breeding objectives, some low cost strategies and attention to detail. We're not gurus or master breeders, we simply follow some basic rules. The skills we developed are available to everyone. Give it a go, you'll be pleasantly surprised how easy it is!

Thanks for taking the time to read our story. Now is the right time to apply a little more effort and be rewarded with a high performing merino ewe flock! Best of luck!"

Regards
Darren Sanders

TO SHEAR OR NOT TO SHEAR TWICE PER YEAR: TOM SILCOCK



I offer this article with the knowledge I am persuaded by my customers needs, the wool processor and measured performance. I have learnt a lot from messages passed on from a grandfather and uncle as wool buyers, then growing my own wool and batching and delivering it in woolgrower processing consignments.

If it's not broken, don't try and fix it, unless you can improve it!

Most woollen mills have their processing machinery set to accommodate the specs of the wool they buy. If you are producing wool outside of wanted specs, think again. Know your market and what they want.

Clear extreme examples of this are Burlington in America who traditionally purchased long, white, stylish, greasy wool 100-115 mls long. That was the settings for their machines, while most traditional Italian mills have their mills set for even length, fine crimping fleece 75-80 mls in length. Wools being spun with possum or cotton, need to be shorter and in the 45-60 ml range depending on the mill.

But greasy wool length is not the only critical issues in processing performance. In addition to micron ranges and consistency of length, staple strength and vegetable matter (particularly if it is shive, typically from silver grass or barley grass) may be the next most important limitation.

If your VM is more than 1.5 in your fleece lines and your SS is lower than 35, regardless of how good your wool looks, your wools will not be wanted by many mills because it is outside the greasy wool specs that they need to efficiently produce their given product. Will you get more competition if you produce short wool with low VM and good SS?

Facts:

- If you shear twice a year you produce more wool. Possibly up to 18% more for some genetics.

- If you shear just before seed set, you will minimise VM.
- If you shear twice a year, including at the Autumn break and pre lambing, you will increase SS.
- Shearing 6-8 weeks pre joining optimises conception rates.
- Shorn sheep shelter from the cold and if lambing, will lamb in most sheltered areas.
- Lambing shorn ewes, reduce death rates of ewes and new born lambs, compared to woolly ewes.
- Short wool preparation requires less classed lines and less wool handlers.
- Sheep management improves with only shorn or short wool she ep.
- In most cases, no crutching is required when shearing sheep twice a year.

In summary: Sheep welfare definitely improves when you shear twice a year, but some people don't cope well with one shearing per year, let alone doing it twice!

The bigger issue of long term sustainable mill demand remains unclear and therefore a concern. There is no doubt there is good demand for current prem produced wools, but

can that demand grow and will this lead to an even bigger shortage of full grown wools?

Are mills changing their needs to match a growing availability of shorter wools? I have had difficulty in finding answers to these questions and the industry would do well to investigate these questions, providing a greater understanding of our future for us all.



KARABEIN POLLS

YOUR PROFITS ARE HIGHER WITH A KARABEIN SIRE

BREEDING OBJECTIVES

- Fast growing lambs
- High fertility
- Quality Merino fibre
- Maternal efficiency

DANIEL & EMILY DEMPSTER

0429 433 070

Northam WA

@KarabeinPolls







SOHNIC - ST. ARNAUD VIC.

72 OFFERED - 71 SOLD

TOP \$2,500 x 2

AVERAGE \$1,460

Rose and I actually made it to the Sohnic sale but had to get a move on directly after thus my note taking on purchasers on the day was a bit scattery! I'm going to rely on the Stock and Land summary with a few bits added relating to the corker Lot 45 pickup for Nantoura Poll-Wharminda S.A.



INCREASING the number of rams on sale day is a risk Sohnic Merinos stud co-principal Scott

Nicholson believes has paid off. Of the 72 Merinos on offer, 71 sold, to a top price of \$2500 (twice), av \$1460. "We put a few more in, and all but one sold, the risk definitely paid off," Mr Nicholson said.

Mr Nicholson, who runs the stud with co-principal Greg Hose, said it's important to offer a balanced number of rams, so you don't scare off prospective buyers. "We're relatively new, so we don't want to scare people off with a high average, it's about finding a balance," he said. "If the average goes up too much, you may lose clients, and you want them to be affordable so you don't scare anyone away." He said overall it was a successful sale, with about five or six new buyers.

"We're trying to breed sheep that suit people who focus on the maternal side, those who want to increase their lambing rate, for example," he said. "We want lots of numbers, and sheep with great wool."

Mr Nicholson said he'd seen some of the new buyers at shows in Bendigo and Hamilton. "It's hard to judge the worth of showing at shows, I can't imagine it's directly resulting in clients, but it's definitely putting our name out there and increasing exposure," he said.

Bill Walker, Classings Pty Limited, Murray Bridges, SA, purchased Lot 45, one of the two top-priced rams, on behalf of the Prime family, Nantoura, Wharminda, SA. Mr Walker said the family would be using the ram as a top stud sire. "They'll be using it to increase their density and

fibre quality," Mr Walker said. He said they liked the ram's shape and length. "He had a huge length and body, he really filled the pen," he said. "He had great density of fibre, and the boldest crimp in Australia."

The April/May-drop ram had a 19.2 micron, a current weight of 108kg, a weaning weight of 32kg, and weighed 70.5kg at 10 months. Mr Walker said that the Prime family purchased a Sohnic ram last year, and were really happy with its growth rates.

The other top-priced ram was purchased by Mr Nicholson's father, Robert Nicholson, for their family farm, Bretton Estate, Campbells Bridge. Mr Nicholson said the easiest way to buy from Sohnic was to bid at auction like everybody else, so he was buying at market value. The April/May-drop ram had a 19.1 micron, a current weight of 102kg, a weaning weight of 39kg, and weighed 61.5kg at 10 months. "We picked the ram for its numbers, in particular its eye muscle depth (42mm), fat and growth," Mr Nicholson said. "We run a commercial flock and breed replacements."

Geoff Parker, Hazelwood Nominees, Balranald, NSW, purchased eight rams at the sale. Mr Parker runs 3,000 Merino ewes, and has been buying rams from Sohnic for "as long as they've been selling". "We buy for the wool, they're plain-bodied, good Merino sheep,"

Mr Parker said. "They're usually the best wool sheep available."

Sohnic aims to produce rams for the commercial market to help producers maximise their combined returns from wool and carcass.

Hamilton Sheepvention
7th-8th August
Display Only

Classings Classic
Monday 4th September
Selling 2 Rams

Inspection Day
Wednesday 6th September 2017
10am to 4pm

Ram Sale
Friday September 15th 2017
Inspection from 9am - Sale @ 11:30am

Welcome to Sohnic Merinos

Our 2016 sale results reflect the evenness of the rams we were able to present for the 2016 sale. It was pleasing to put up more rams while maintaining a strong clearance and a healthy average. We pride ourselves on breeding rams which are of high quality while being very true to type and predictable. All rams are guaranteed, affordable and currently represent real value for your dollar.

www.sohnic.com.au | email: enquiries@sohnic.com.au | Scott Nicholson 0438 086 403 | Greg Hose 0427 507 151

@sohnicmerinos

RIDGWAY - LAMEROO SA

OFFERED 128 SOLD 123

TOP \$4,600

AVERAGE \$1,737

SIRES IN USE: RIDGWAY 339 x KIA 250, 204 x R422, 112 x R1137, 269 x R422, 763 x R204, 715 x L858, 432 x SYN, 599 x R204,, 525 x KIA 250, KIANDRA 644 x L714, LEAHCIM 858, x L445 WP160 x WPSYN, GP739 x GP739.

It's a luxury to slot in a sale report written by someone else to be honest! When you reel off around twenty five in one hit which I torture myself with every year writing this thing, I welcome Ian Turner's well written summaries with open arms. I was actually at this sale too but was busy with clients helping with their selections mid sale to complete as much as I wanted.

while it was also positive for fat and muscle and had Yearly Weight EBV of +8.3, with a Multi-Purpose index of 160 resulting.

A full ET brother is the lead ram in Ridgway's Classing Classic sale team next month, while another two were penned in this sale at lots 2 and 5. Lot 2 sold for \$3400 to Dopen Pty Ltd, through Landmark Mt Pleasant. Lot 5,

Maroona. Simon Brady, Rhymney purchased one of Ridgway's Hamilton Sheeppvention sale team, then added four at this sale to \$2400 and at a \$1700 average, also through AWN. Simon Allen, through Rodwells Horsham rounded out the Victorian buying with five to \$3000 and at a \$1780 average.

Steven Paech, through Landmark Murray Bridge was another regular strong bidder with seven rams to \$1800 and at a \$1200 average, while Chris and Andrew Johnson, Mt Boothby, Tintinara and buying through SAL averaged \$1885 for the seven rams they purchased.

Bill Walker, Classings Ltd, Murray Bridge, picked up six rams to \$2800, with four of these going to Chalk Partners, Keith. Other prominent buyers included Glen Hampel, GMR & J Nominees through Landmark Loxton (five to \$3200, ave \$2400), Michael Altus, Altus Pastoral through Landmark Lameroo (five to \$3000, ave \$2160), GL & SL Auricht through Landmark Pinnaroo (four to \$3800, ave \$2525), and Walkerville Pastoral, through Landmark Lameroo (four to \$2700, ave \$1950)

A little aside to Ian's great report regarding our clients who were active at the sale and some of whom Ian has already mentioned:

The lot 2 purchase of the Pym family's Dopen P/L for \$3,400 had the excellent figures of Ycfw 26, Yfat 0.4 Yemd 0.6 & DP+ 154. His fibre quality was extreme especially in the lustre stakes.

Narilla-Brian and Glen Landseer-Milang secured three at \$2,800, \$3,000 and \$4,000. This bloke in lot 58 was outstanding for growth and fleece weight represented by a Ycfw 27 for ASBV's.

Through my bidding on the day Geoff & Mark Baldock-Kimba SA secured a ripping lot 54 for \$2,800. One of the pick skins and wool quality on the day, the poll had Ycfw 25 Yfat 0.1 and MP+ 156. I also bought four for Rob and Sonya Chalk - Willalooka SA. All white wools and bold crimping which has been the perfect recipe as to maintain this high calibre commercial flock.

Mount Boothby with the Johnson family-Tintinara bought some screamers during their seven ram haul including a L858 bred scorcher at lot 38 with lustre plus as well as MP+ 152 and Ycfw 17 @ \$2,600 and another in lot 58 for \$2,400.

I bought one for new client Andy Mahar-Penong SA one off the collection that I mustered over a few studs specifically to free up some over productive skins. Lot 46 ticked the boxes including huge staple length and super free yet Ycfw 20.0 ensures fleece weight retention.



The Ridgway family's passion for outstanding wools with long stapled, white, crimping wool on a big dual purpose body was clearly evident through their wonderful offering at Kulkami on Monday. They offered 128 Poll Merinos in the main auction, plus a further 33 in the mini auction.

With 47 registered bidders from three states actively competing for this offering, 10 more rams sold than last year; the quality was well rewarded with a 96% clearance; and the average price also increased by 11%.

123 cleared in the main auction to a top of \$4600 and averaged an impressive \$1737, then 14 mini auction rams also cleared to \$750. The total sales of 137 averaged \$1627.

While the top price was down \$400 on last year's Ridgway on-property sale record of \$5000, the main auction average increased by \$167, mainly on the back of increased confidence in the industry, the improved seasonal outlook, and the very solid middle ground bidding that resulted.

Duane Simon, McPiggery and buying through Landmark Lameroo sustained strong bidding competition before placing the winning \$4600 bid on lot 1, Ridgway 643. This very impressive ET born ram had outstanding wool figures of 17.1 mic, 2.3 SD, 13.9 CV, 100 CF and a Yearling Clean Fleece Weight of +23,

Ridgway 670 was ultimately the sale's second top priced ram when it sold for \$4400 to WF Ryan Pastoral, through Elders Hay.

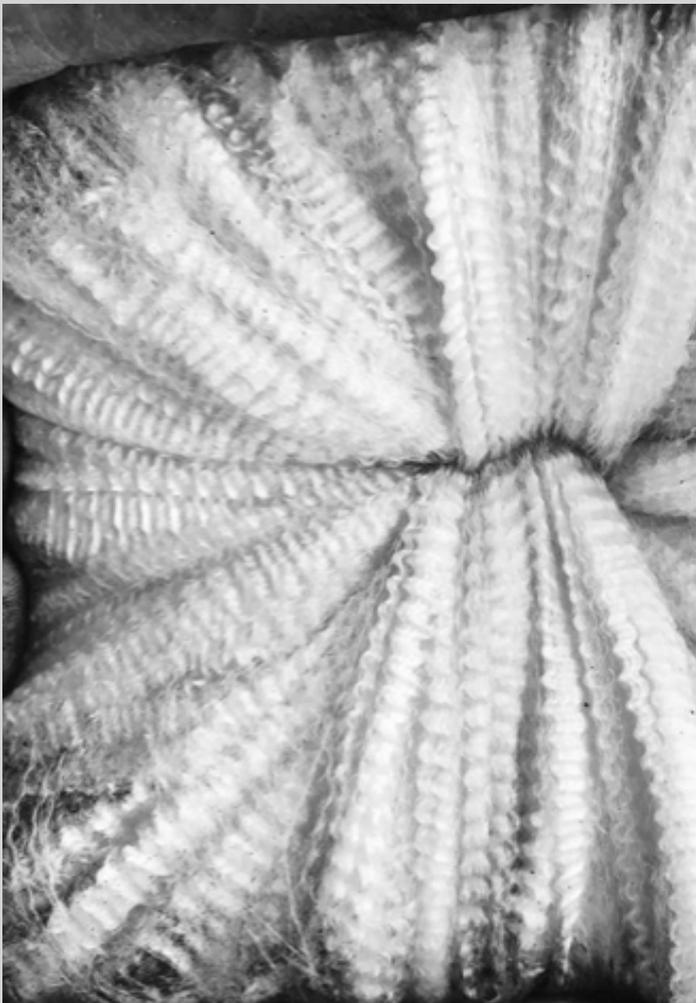
Also buying through Elders Hay, NSW was Doug Comb. He purchased lot 3, Ridgway K508 for \$4200 (the 3rd top price) and later added another at \$2800.

The only other ram to make \$4000 was R602. With the highest clean fleece weight EBV in the catalogue of +27, it was purchased mid catalogue by Narilla Pty Ltd, Milang. They also invested in two other top rams for \$2800 and \$3000 and averaged \$3267 for their 3 top purchases.

Three repeat buyers with 10 rams each, played a huge part in the overall result. Lynton Barrett through Quality Livestock, Lameroo paid to \$2000 and averaged \$1590; Rob and Sharon McCarthy, Yalpera Station, Orroroo averaged a great value \$880; and Tim and Matt Brown, Mallee Produce, Lameroo averaged \$1000 for their 10, including three from the mini auction.

Victorian buying strength was significant and came from four repeat clients purchasing a total of 19 rams.

Kelvin Shelley, AWN Wool Technical Manager, Highton, Vic purchased seven rams to \$1100 for KD & G Fagg, Mt Mercer and three at \$750 each for GG, GM & TG Philp,



David and Gwenda Eckert's - Mentara Park - Malinong near Meningie S.A. dishes up some of the best wools in the Murrayland.

Classing around 800 ewe hoggets was bliss with gear like this popping up constantly throughout the day. Seven months growth and loaded with fleece weight and softness on huge frames, the Eckert's, (and sons Tim and Matt), are members of the Superior Wool Syndicate. This ten member partnership secure top genetics via co-operative spending and A.I. with sires purchased across all flocks.

Six month shearing could be a worthy option here yet doesn't quite match this large enterprise's yearly planning with cropping another major player.

RAMSGATE

**POLL MERINO STUD
TINTINARA SA**

Displaying

SE Merino Field Day Keith
Karoonda Merino Field Day Murray Bridge
Hamilton Sheepvention

Selling Classings Classic

**ON PROPERTY AUCTION
TUES 15th AUGUST 2017**

1pm Sale team with ASBV's 1pm

First time progeny Brookdale 12,
Gunallo 007 BOND & Willandra Desmond

Keller Partners

Jed - 0427 691 858

Craig - 0418 259 049

ramsgate@activ8.net.au



www.ramsgatepollmerinos.com.au



Fibre & Fertility on Frame



There was no shortage of labour for the two A.I. days at Keynton Station S.A. with 14/15 different people making themselves available over two days concerning the SA Sire Evaluation Trial.

Numbers like this ensure the flow of enthusiasm keeps at a good momentum due to not just one small group doing all of the work.

Ditto all of that for the sponging/tagging of AI ewes where the task was completed in one day.



Shown in the photo right: Toby Rosenzweig, Graham Keynes, Roger Fiebig, Joe Keynes, Wayne Lehmann & Matt Lehmann.

The Keynes family are hosting the trial and don't necessarily have to be present but its hard not to be inquisitive!

RAMSGATE - TINTINARA SA

OFFERED 60 SOLD 55

AVERAGE \$1,225

TOP \$2,600

SIRES IN USE: WP115, WP243, RA350, RA60, GP767, KP777, GP395 A.I.



You may have noticed on the 'Classings: In the Race and Classic Ram Sale' Facebook page, quite a few short footages of yours truly doing 22 push-ups for a great cause.

This became quite a challenge as it was during the heart of the classing run in August with clips posted from our driveway, Port Augusta, Burra, Esperance, Lake Grace, Arthur River, Crystal Brook (pic) Boyup Brook and one last hurrah in Perth which became the most (in) famous.

The effort in Scott Welke's-Westwood sheep yards was probably the most memorable with four alpacas in close proximity for all 22 pushups.



That beer after the sale is a welcome sight after a serious day's concentration yet now more and more on the back burner due to drink driving hysteria. It's a rare opportunity to really unwind with clients just to make sure everything is on the level with one's breeding strategies and PR as well as any valid grizzles a client may have.

Pictured here is popular Landmark auctioneer and good guy, Gordon Wood, surrounded by a disgruntled clientele who suggested that there were too many rams during the auction that took way too long to knock down to hopefully them!

Two beers later all sorted!

CLASSINGS CLASSIC '17

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4th 2017 AT 1.30pm
Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

www.classings.com.au
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Ramsgate are slowly been 'found out' by new and old faces alike as the stud that has a huge amount of quality within the bounds of realistic budgets. For the 2016 sale to average \$1,225 yet only have a top price of \$2,600 suggests huge depth of quality where there are extra choices should one miss out on first pick animals.

The Mayor of Brinkley, **Dean Pearson** with CEO Mark Humphries knows a top poll from the ram sale car park and noticed lot 3 on approach to the sale shed. Bred by the SuperSire GP395 via A.I., 150001, had a super stretchy body just like the old boy and coated with the same quality gear! \$2,600 was all it took - the poll had a GFW% 123 as well as YCFW 15.25 & DP+ 146. Dean also bought lot 8, a GP767 son at a bargain \$1,000 at GFW% 121 & YCFW 21.0.

Barossa lad, Richard Henschke, also has a keen eye for quality and fleshed out \$2,400 for a WP243 bred ripper with a DP+ 151 with absolute whiteness and fluid nourishment.

Thomas Farms-Murray Bridge SA bought lot 4 for \$1,000 yet was one of the highest ranked polls for ASBV's - YCFW 23.54 Yfd -2.18 & DP+151.85 as well as real time fleece weight of GFW% 137!! Not a bad bit of gear coming off the skin as well.

Keilira Props-Kingston SA are having a good run with the Ramsgate genetics and returned as bulk buyers with 11 purchases to average \$1,400 including a ripper lot 29 bred by GP767 that had all of the attributes that's making the merino famous as we speak!

Netallie Station-Wilcannia NSW are also pleased with the Ramsgate durability in the bush and allowed me to grab five beauties to average a realistic\$680. Quality like this at

that price won't last forever. I bought lots 9 & 10 for \$800 each!

Mt. Boothby-Culburra SA were strong and competed healthily to secure their four including a big bold crimper at lot 7 for \$2,100 bred by WP243 at GFW% 123 and three more at \$2,100, \$1,800 & \$1,000.

Michael Guthrie-Gumeracha SA was great support and bought nine rams avreaging just over \$800.

I bought on behalf of two Penong SA clients **Butch and Jody Dunn** and **Andy Maher**. Lot 1 was in that position for a reason - A GP767 son, long and deep bodied with great nourishment and at \$2,000 met the mark for Butch. I added a KP777 son in lot 32 at \$800 with GFW% 119 & YCFW 18.8 for \$800. Andy Maher's flock needs just a little fine tuning so finding 'free' genetics at Ramsgate made the task easy. A super free lot 14 for \$1,300 yet fleece weight stats of GFW% 129 & YCFW 21.17 is 'just what the doctor ordered' type stuff!

Mark Humphries paid \$2,200 for a WP243 bred lot 21 with Yfat 0.06 & Yemd 0.96, a stretchy GP395 son for \$600 and another \$600 bargain in lot 51.

The Marsson, Kennett, Vowels and the Foster family with five were all great support throughout the sale with the most realistically priced per quality rams as you'll find anywhere in the state.

CLASSINGS CLASSIC '17

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4th 2017 AT 1.30pm
Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

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WESTWOOD POLL WA - ESPERANCE RAM SALE

OFFERED 20 - SOLD 20 TOP \$1,500 AVERAGE \$1,015

SIRES IN USE: LEAHCIM 3153 A.I. , GP 004 A.I. (Classic sale \$10,000) , GP 395 A.I (Classic sale \$51,000), WESTWOOD 273, WESTWOOD 479, L1444, BROOKDALE 34.

The Westwood sale, incorporated under the Esperance Ram Sale banner, didn't quite reach the heights of the 2015 sale where they topped it with a record \$5,000 effort, but needless to say they still sold everything put in front of their loyal clientele.



To only have their top seller hitting the \$1,500 figure, the stud's \$1,015 average was commendable I thought - and that ram to be the third last sold out of the twenty is more remarkable in the fact that usually the very best are not generally in the last 1/4 of the sale team!! (Who catalogued these rams!)

I assume Scott and Odile Welke have treated **Leigh and Karina West-Gibson WA** and **Mark and Liv Walter** - Cascade WA to a break at Ningaloo Reef for a long weekend due to their on going support in the purchasing of Westwood genetics in particular at the Esperance sale where they bought thirteen of the twenty offered. Add the two that **Daniel Dempster-Northam WA** purchased and that completes a 75% clearance to Classing's clients!

Daniel Dempster was selective with his purchases as he only needed two to bolster the sire stakes at his newly formed Karabein Poll at Northam WA. Lot 1, bred by a Leahcim sire of notoriety, L3153, due to his massive growth and meat ASBV's, sold for \$1,200 and include Yemd 0.2. The other bred by that SuperSire GP395 sold for \$800 with a Yemd of 0.5

Mark Walter's seven ram haul began at Lot 4 with another GP395 son with the goods for \$1,200 followed by a GP004 son with Yfat 0.3 & Yemd 0.7 for \$1,300. His lot 13 purchase was well figured for fleece weight a Ycfw 17.0 and MP+ 149. The top priced ram at \$1,500 and bred by meat machine L3153, featured well in the ASBV charts exhibiting Ycfw 16.0 Fat 0.4 & **Yemd 1.2**.

Leigh and Karina West didn't have the greatest of merino flocks once and now they do due to Westwood Poll genetics. The seven they procured at this sale can only add to that enjoyment. I need to get to the Esperance sale just to see how it works because for Lee and Karina to nab lot 2 for \$800 for a L3153 belies belief! Great fibre typically add Ycfw 16.0, Yfat 0.5 & Yemd 0.7 and that's the bargain of the year! Follow this with lot 7 for \$1,200 for a Westwood bred thumper, \$800 for a Brookdale sired lot 10, \$900 for a L1444 ram with sensational real numbers - cop this - 18u 2.2sd 12.4cv and 0.0pf and two more for \$700 & \$1,200 and the Esperance Ram Sale is your oyster West clan!

Two Esperance enterprises, the Russell family and Hargate Park grabbed the other four between them to conclude a successful sale as far as clearance goes yet competition for the excitements stakes at the top end nearly absent.

The 2017 sale team are travelling very well due to last year's prime feed conditions so I look forward to a more vibrant sale for Westwood in 2017.



Peter Kuhlmann's Mudamuckla property 'Mudabie' not far from Ceduna is a giant not only for crop acreage but also for a quality flock. In an area renowned for soil challenges the wools here appear to resist low yield issues considering local comparisons where dust from tip to base can occur.

Bold crimp and fluid nourishment (without a dark emulsified tip via traditional breeding that attracts dust like glue) has been the big fix via SWM genetics at Tintinara SA.

Photos represent a great 800 hogget classing day on June 7th in newly built yards that saw the job done by late lunch due to the spot on race dimensions - and

what a lunch form the yard building duo themselves, Andre and Clint, great feast thanks chaps.

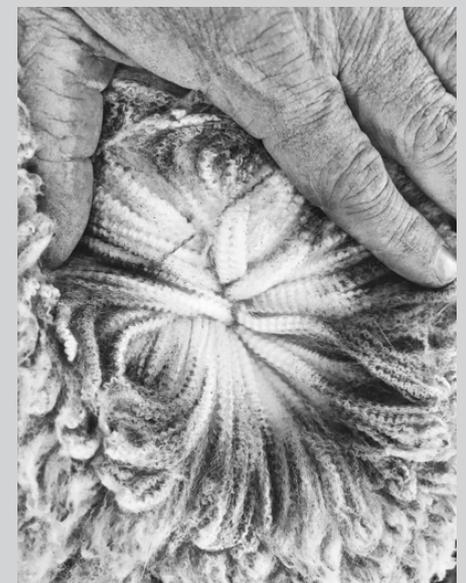
Great news to hear of the positives with the Charra Hogget Competition in June where ten teams were entered. Due to different lambing drops and shearing, all teams were adjusted on a per day basis as to equalise teams for the final shearing meat value result.

Happy to hear that clients Critter and Bec Freeman did well on the day with their entry of three hoggets. The three, with a gross value for wool and fibre of \$761.38 was a mere \$3 per head from the second placed team at \$752.14.

The Freeman's budget has always been realistic allowing me to secure rams from two studs and at the top end.

Borong and Lucernbrae's well bred animals from their On Property sales and Classings Classic teams seem to have the required fluid nourishment and constitution to handle this terrain which at times can dish up some of the worst dust penetration in the state - by streaks!

An early SRS workshop at the Freeman's property in the early 00's was a huge awakening to most involved at just how deep the local 'powder' could sift its way through the fibre onto the skin. I believe this can be conquered but only with a few select genetics that breed the fibre necessary to handle these fibre 'atrocities'!



PENROSE - ESPERANCE RAM SALE WA

OFFERED 40 SOLD 37 TOP \$2,500 AVERAGE \$1,275

SIRES IN USE: PENROSE 110050, PENROSE 110102, WP 110303, WP 110303, WP 140085 A.I.
GP 395 A.I., LEAHCIM 132464, LEAHCIM 122528.



I think every year without exception, Penrose has increased their average from the year previous since frequenting the Esperance Ram Sale.

The Penrose team started at lot 151...

L2464, a Penrose purchase from the Leahcim On Property sale in 2014 made his mark in the 2016 Esperance sale with the first five polls on offer from this potent sire - all of them going to different admirers. WP110303 bought in 2012's WP sale for not much has left a huge mark on the stud for many years.

Will Harvey-Moorine Rock WA outlaid \$2,200 for the first, put there for a reason due to his scale and snobbery! He also bought the fifth in the lineup for \$1,600 and weighed 102kg from the paddock.

Will also went on to buy two more, both WP110303 boys in lot 156 for \$1,600 and the other at lot 168 for \$1,600.

Mark Walter-Cascade WA was next in cue at \$1,300 for a Yfat 0.0 & Yemd 0.3 with great fibre and YCFW 19.0 for \$1,300 in lot 152. He also bought the second last of the run in lot 189 for \$1,000 yet he had the highest ASBV for YCFW at 23.0, MP+ 150 & Yemd 0.4. One nut? Better check that Mark!

Lot 161 went to ol' mates **Leigh and Karina West-Gibson WA** for \$1,100. YCFW 18.0, 100% Comfort Fac-tor and built like a Greek shithouse, this ram was an absolute bargain!

Christine and Will Lewis-Brisley Park were next for a L2464 with a YCFW 17.0 at lot 153 for \$1,000. They added a thumping GP395 at 107kg in pen 166 for \$1,200 and Yemd 0.4

Paul and Tanya Ietto - Allannaluke - Grass Patch WA bid for another L2464 for \$1,600 in lot 154 exhibiting zero prickle for 19.7u - that's not a common occurrence I can tell ya'! This bloke also was YCFW 19.0, Yfat 0.1 & Yemd 0.1.

Here's the reason the family deserves a weekend break to Margaret River due to their great support throughout the sale!

This followed with lot 162 for \$1,600 at 101kg and lot 164 for \$1,400 ay YCFW 16.0. Add on their top priced pick at lot 169 for \$2,500 then YCFW% 18 in lot 173 for \$1,800, YCFW% 19 in 180 for \$1,900 and finishing with lot 184 at \$1,100 with an 0.0 for lot 184. Drinks and food included!

Lance Norwood-Lort River WA secured two, both WP303 boys, the first at \$2,000 in lot 163 and the second in lot 176 for \$2,100.

New clients, JA Russel and Sam and Allison Horley were appreciated with their three ram support in their first year. The Hargate, Sullivan, Leske, Sassella (lot 159 @ 103kg paddock, YCFW 17 & Yemd 1.1) all contributed to make this the best Penrose sale ever.

Coddington Uardry Poll Merino



CU15-5098 sold to Calcookara Merino - Cowell S.A for \$11,000 at Classings Classic 2016

Specially selected for CLASSINGS CLASSIC 2017:

CU16-5057 - Sire is Roseville Park Poll 0072 March shorn

Micron	SD	CV	Comfort Factor	Curv	S / Fineness
18.1	2.7	14.9	99.8	52	16.8

Shearing tag No. M28165. (This ram will be on display at Bendigo)

CLASSINGS CLASSIC '17

MURRAY BRIDGE RACECOURSE SA - MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4th

Also offering 20 Coddington Uardry Poll rams at
Hamilton Showground - Wednesday 1st November 11am
along with Matthew Coddington Roseville Park Merinos. (Landmark/Elders)

CODDINGTON UARDRY POLL MERINO

"Mt. Nanima" 6773 Goolma Road, Wellington NSW 2820 | Ph: 02 6845 2772
M: 0428 638129 (Graham Coddington) | 0457 340041 (Susan Coddington)



Auction

Thursday 27th July 2017 @ 1pm

Wudinna Show Grounds

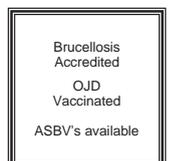
Inspection from 10am

Light luncheon provided

50 Dohne Merino Rams
50 Poll Merino / Merino Rams

Enquiries:
DOB (Darren) 0419772173
E: dobandjodie@activ8.net.au
W: www.obrienmerino.com
W: www.obriendohne.com

Quality Livestock: Scrub: 0427804002
Landmark: Bill 0429802206



3% rebate to outside agents. Notice in writing 24 hours prior to sale.

PIMBENA - WIRRULLA SA

OFFERED 96 SOLD 72 TOP \$1,900 AVERAGE \$707

SIRES IN USE: PIM 339, PIM 141, L858 A.I., SR 405, SR 687, CAL 132, KP 149, RA453, RG 390, KP 37, GP 395.

Pimbena's on property sale for 2016 is still a mystery to me! Yes too many rams were penned on the day (17 more than 2015) compared to the amount of competition yet a healthy 72 were sold, three more than what were sold in 2015 - the average dropped \$300 due mostly to the lack of competition on early, quality front row pens where the year before they were sort after!

I bought half of the first ten offered for **Netallie Station**-Wilcannia NSW which are usually the best in the lineup and averaged \$1,000! Usually I can only 'get in' for their purchasing about a third the way through the sale. The following descriptions all purchased for Netallie...

rise and the meat market was rocketing!

A welcome sight at Pimbena was the arrival of The Shiphards' - Broand Family Trust-Penong SA who won the holiday to The Whitsunday's for as long as they like for their great contribution in purchasing fifteen rams across the sale. They started their bidding foray at lot 8 at \$900 and finished at lot 71 for \$600 for a handy July drop.

The July drops started at Lot 64 and it was here that most were caught napping possibly viewing them as slightly smaller and losing interest. These rams were three months younger than the first 63 penned and met with little bidding fight which



Paul Schaeffer's 'Nalino' just out of Kimba and not far from Buckleboo is based on Karawatha Park genetics so these fibre shots shouldn't come as a surprise.

A realistic budget sees Paul and ol' boy John (my era!) pick up some of the best woolled animals on the 'Coast.

Paul's hogget classing on June 10 was an enjoyable 'monotony' as shape after shape and a stream of exotic 'silk' flowed relentlessly all day long!



Lot 1, a ripper Calcookara 132 bred July drop which looked as big as any April drop for bang on \$1,000. Next, same low comp bidding which was plain weird- pen three, a long barrelled L858 at 17.1u 2.6sd 14.7cv and zero..another \$1,000. Pen 5, an absolutely outstanding Southrose bred 130405 (Classic'14 purchase \$7,000) for \$900 exhibiting one of the wools of the year with these stats: 17.5u 2.9sd 16.5cv & zero swell as Ycfw 17.1. Pen 6, arguably the best in the sale for \$1,100 - Ywt 6.0 Yfat 0.2 Yemd 0.3. This fella had fibre plus, carcasse, nourishment - all the ingredients to handle what this harsh environment can throw at it. Yet another cracker, a L858 son again in lot 9, fell into my lap for the McClures at a disappointing \$900 - Ycfw 15.0.

The top priced ram came at Lot 23 for a Ramsgate 390 bred beauty and sold to Scott Trewatha For \$1,900. He also picked up lot 7 for \$700 at MP+ 144

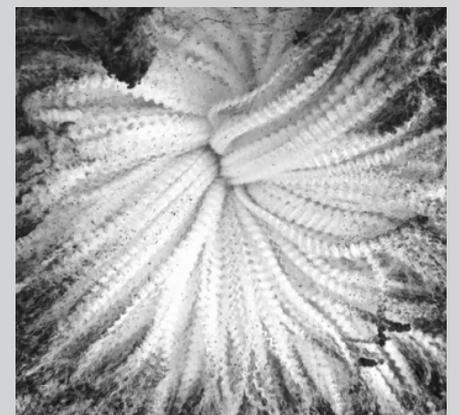
Was it the fact that the previous probably three years worth of rams in that first row had always hovered around the \$2,000 mark that became off putting for some? All this when wool was on the

allowed me to pick them off at around a \$700 average for **Broughton Vale Station**-Little Topar NSW. Their quality was top notch and although sign posted as to what month drop they were, there was little resistance.

Milton Tremein-Smoky Bay SA was in typical supporting form and picked up six including one at lot 6 for \$600 for a SR 405 son and lot 10, a big square hoover by SR 405 for \$900.

Trevor Pittoway-Haslam SA was good for six and picked up some great quality along the way including lot 37, a L858 son for \$1,000 with a YWT 9.5 & 17.6u 2.9sd 16.7cv & 0.2pf.

The Tomney, Burden, Kelsh, Oats, Lawrie & Willaloo (L858 son @ YWT 9.2 - \$800) names familiar over the years all helped to clear 72 of the best rams on the day which was great - just a weird day for competition which led to Netallie and Broughton Vale ending up with their best pickups of all time!



No **Nantoura Poll** visit is complete without the odd prestigious fibre shot with this one representing just what can happen with staple length due to genetics at only seven and a half months growth - and the happy Prime architects of such good things!



BORUNG - WAIKERIE SA

OFFERED 54 SOLD 37

AVERAGE \$1,078

TOP \$3,400

SIRES IN USE: WP545, WP130043, WP567, LUC965



Calcookara-Cowell SA produce some of the most consistent fibre on their mostly Poll (& Horn) Merinos than anyone on the Peninsula due to a long association with whiteness and quality skins through a rigorous selection process for decades.

This young April shorn poll bred by a son of L858 (yet purchased from another stud) exudes fibre density, length and correct nourishment for the, at times, testing nature of the Eyre Peninsula environ experienced as we speak.



CLASSIC'17 GUNALLO TEAM (8)



CLASSIC'17 KAMORA PARK TEAM (4)
Kamora Park 367 x KP333

Despite a slightly disappointing clearance, there were some great highlights within the 2016 Borung sale.

112 & 17.9u 2.2sd 14.1cv & 0.2pf for \$1,000. Lot 7 from the same syndicate for \$800, Lot 8 for \$1,500 via Kelvale & Kamora Park Syn, Lot 9 for \$1,500 by WP657 and Lot 23 with FWT% 112 for measly \$800.



All of the Aston rams were on the money for staple length, nourishment and structure and considering they were some of the best in the lineup. Their average of \$1,120 was realistic yet usually untouchable in other scenarios due to quantity required per price combined with first class quality.

Another Quality Wool client and new to the stud bought two including lot 2 for \$1,100 with a FWT%

107 but check these wool stats: 17.8u 2.5sd 14cv 0.0pf!!

Not bad for a Northern Mallee stud that couldn't get S.D's below 3.5 once upon a time. The skin makeup, length of fibre and a bold lustrous crimp are all transitional markers that are pushing this joint into new territory with every new drop of lambs - exciting!

A Borung On Property/Classic Sale record was broken which stood at \$3,000 for a ram that sold at Classic'15. The 2016 equivalent and obviously on property reached \$3,400 and sold to loyal supporter Brian Hampel-Loxton SA. Bred by a three ram stud syndicate including Kamora Park 769, the ram, well positioned at lot 4, created a lot of bidding interest including myself. Superlong body, square backend and great fibre combined with above average fleece weight and 7% above the average for body weight, he ticked alot of boxes.

It was also the highest average the stud has received in its short history under the young brigade's ownership.

It was a day for great rams bred from syndicates - most of these rams started their careers as single joinings but are teamed-up after proven making way for incoming single efforts. Fifteen of the first twenty on offer were from special syndicate joinings.

As was lot 3 which managed the second highest price for the day which matched the old stud record of \$3,000. This ram bred by the GP/WP SYN and sold to a Quality wool client, for \$3,000 exhibiting 107% FW. From the same Syndicate they also bought lot 1 for \$2,600 at FWT%116, another at lot 13 for \$1,400.

Adding to the group but from different sires was two from Lucernbrae 965 for \$1,000 in lot 15 and lot 25 for \$900 as well as a WP567 bred goody for \$1,800 in lot 39. This bloke had the great test figures of 17.3u 2.4sd 13.8cv & 0.2pf as well as FWT%107 & BWT% 101.

Aston Station-Pooncarie NSW have had a good run with the Borung's and returned via my bidding for five great polls that didn't break the budget. Lot 5, GP&WP SYN bred, at FWT%

The Hoffman family were at their best for support and bought four including an impressive lot 6 with sensational fibre from a great skin with nourishment for \$1,000 and bred by the GP&WP Syndicate. Look at these figures - 16.3u 2.6sd 16.3cv & 0.4pf - all that and a body weight at 104%!

I bought two for Critter and Bec Freeman-Penong SA who have had outstanding results from both Borung and Lucernbrae with the two rams procured here another to add to the quality pile. Lot 17 at \$2,400 was in a strange position on sale day and could have been penned much higher in the catalogue! Bred by the KEL/KP Syndicate although he was a splitter for what I think was the father in KP769, he was met with great competition and had I not picked up the bargain of the day in lot 11 for\$600, I would have been at my last bidding gasp on behalf of the Freemans!

Mick Evans-Spearlands SA picked up his five without too much fuss as did the Arnold family buying four up to \$900.

A good sale yet just lacking a few more new clients but as the word spreads on just how well this stud is travelling and more Field Day exposure, the sky is the limit!

LUCERNBRAE - CALLINGTON SA

OFFERED 60 SOLD 45 TOP \$2,500 AVERAGE \$949

SIRES IN USE: LUCERNBRAE 'MR ELITE', L282 SWS (\$38,000 purchase - Leahcim, WP 'BARTEL', GUNALLO 1, ROEMAHKITA 2, WALLALOO PARK 3.



What no legs! Possibly the worst photo ever taken of one of the best rams in the country!

Let's face it! This is the stud more people need to get to know as to source some of the most well bred genetics in the state with full pedigrees (albeit not part of SheepGenetics) at the most realistic of pricing. Members of the Superior Wool Syndicate, thus accessing some of the best genetics money can buy as well as their own astute purchasing of top sires, this joint is worth an inspection!

There is a flock that I class at Penong S.A. that is a true testament to all the above. **Critter and Bec Freeman's** commercial flock of which three picked ewe hoggets usually win or are in the top two placings of the Charra Hogget Competition annually, tick all the boxes for growth and fleece weight.

They were responsible for the competition on Lot 1 at the On Property Sale which eventually went in their favour at \$1,700 for a Lucernbrae 'Elite' son at 19.6u 3.0sd 15.2cv 0.6pf with class fibre. Added to this was Lot 16 for a L282 son with typical great stretch and quality skin for a mere \$800.

Kym & Denise Frahn-Mannum SA and Netallie Station-Wilcannia NSW bought over 1/4 of what was sold on the day between them and it's always a sigh of relief to see both their attendance!

The Frahn's latched onto the sale topper right down

at pen 20 and outlaid a deserved \$2,500 for a son of the everlasting WP 'Bartel' that the SWS Syndicate bought back before even Obama was president! Expressing figures of 16.9u 3.0sd 17.5cv & 0.4pf and 96kg from the paddock this fella was a big square meat machine! Zoom right back to Lot 2 where a super stretchy Gunallo 1 bred son made \$2,100 and then a second highest price of \$2,400 in pen 6 for another Bartel boy, the Frahns were

on a mission to pickup the best rams at still a very realistic fee. Realistic because here what happens next to breakup the average price paid. Lot 10 for \$600, a ripper lot 24 for \$900 (Bartel again), lot 34 for \$900, Lot 36 for \$600 and lot 48 for \$800.

So despite higher prices early at \$2,500, \$2,400 & \$2,100 those later one's mentioned brought their aver-age down to \$1,671. With the then and current wool and meat market escalation, chicken feed!

The six for **Netallie** will repeat what's been happening up there for yonks where at around \$700 average for six, these genetics flourish and create stretchy animals of constitution and way above average wool quality for the bush. Three of the 2016 pickups were from the extremely heavy cutting Lucernbrae 'Mr Elite'. This guy's progeny have often been off the scale for fleece weight like nothing I've seen elsewhere for a few years now and naturally once we started to get keen and extract come semen, he turned his pharkin' heels up!

Kym and Michelle Thiele - Pompoota S.A. know quality and value for bucks and that's why they're here at Lucernbrae. They picked up lot 9 for \$1,000 smothered in fine crimping white fibre more reserved for super high rainfall but would suit anywhere. Next, a scorching, heavy cutting lot 15, bred by 'Elite' with great fibre for ...\$800! A WP 'Bartel' of which I had earmarked for anyone who appreciates

all things of quality to do with the merino, went to the Thiele's as well for \$1,700. Typical Lucernbrae figures of course, 17.7u 2.7sd 15.1cv & 0.2pf. A stretchy yet square Gunallo bred lot 27 was next for \$1,300 followed by a Bartel for \$800 and another Gunallo at lot 31 at 97kg for \$1,200. Following this, and there's the average break-ers at \$600 & \$500.

Liam and Jen McInerney-Keith SA bought a few to bolster their own bred ram supply that influences their high calibre quality merino flock. I'll class around 800 ewe hoggets there next week - always a fulfilling classing loaded with well grown stock and wool density.

The Wegener family-Colrae-Callington SA could walk their purchases home if they felt the need but played it safe after securing some beauties. In fact try third highest for the day - Lot 11, another fine 'Bartel' son - square behind, long bodied with dream fibre with a micron 2.2u finer than the mob average selling for \$2,300. He also weighed the 2nd heaviest of the group at 103kg. They followed this with a L282 son for \$2,000 with the same dimensions and fibre quality. Another L282 son followed at \$2,000 in lot 13. The actual heaviest of the group at 105kg in lot 30 was also part of the Colrae collection, a L282 thumper again for \$1,700 - very square backend on this fella which was a feature in the sire's purchase by SWS in the first place. Their final sneak at lot 53 at \$1,100 topped off a great collection

Andrew Mitchell - Mintaro SA dropped in to the sale on his way to another event. Not a client but he found a couple irresistible not to have a crack at with success. This 'kid' has a great eye for merino stock an have always enjoyed our discussions over the years regarding all things merino! At a mere \$600 & \$500 the smile on his face said it all! Two 'WP' Bartel sons in lot 18 & 51 slipped through the net, both with super elite fibre and skins at 18.4u and 18.0u. He added another bargain with the third last in the catalogue for \$500 bred by WP 3.

The sale reads well but another three or so clients to compete on those lots passed would stabilise this could-be ripper sale.

PEPPER WELL POLL MERINOS

ON PROPERTY AUCTION 1.00PM TUESDAY 29TH AUGUST 2017
50 JUNE 2016 DROP RAMS



- Avg 100 day WWT 39kg
- Grass Fed
- Minimal Shedding
- No Foot Trimming
- ASBV's
- Very Fertile
- Good Doing
- Large Framed
- Early Growers
- Long Bold, Deep Crimping White Wool
- Mature Ewes 19 Micron
- Brucellosis Free
- OJD VAC since 2006
- PFC 350 OJD FREE

Pepperwell, 84 North Rhine Road,
KEYNETON SA - 1 km North of Township

For more details contact Hans Graetz MOB: 0427 790 676 PH: (08) 8564 8337 EM: pepperwell1@gmail.com

VR4101064

ROEMAHKITA - CUMMINS SA

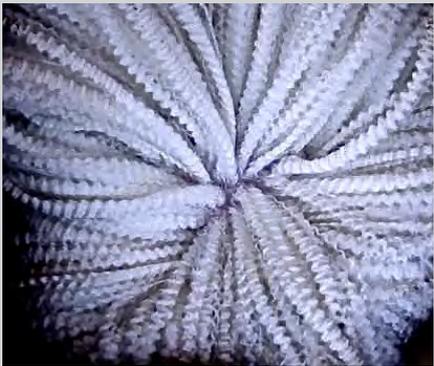
OFFERED 91 SOLD 64

TOP \$5,000

AVERAGE \$2,112



CLASSIC'17 GLENLEA PARK (4)
GP160129 x POLL BOONOKE 3.0040



CLASSIC'17 RIDGWAY ADVANCE TEAM (20)



CLASSIC'17 O'BRIEN POLL TEAM (3)

I'm going to try something different with the Roemahkita sale report in this edition of Cullings and add my client's purchasing prowess at the end of the official Stock Journal report. If met with criticism I'll revert back to the regular format of an informative, sensational, researched with extra detail that you have been accustomed to!



A record average of \$2112 was achieved at the Dahlitz family's 26th annual Roemahkita Poll Merino sale at Cummins on Tuesday July 26. The average was \$356 up on last year's \$1756. The top price paid was also \$1400 up on last year's \$3600 high, at \$5000.

But, a few more volume buyers were needed with clearance at 70 per cent, and 64 out of the 91 rams offered sold under the hammer. Studmaster Joe Dahlitz said it was pleasing to see a few new faces bidding this year, along with plenty of repeat clients. "I'm very pleased with the line-up and happy with how they sold, we just ran out of competition towards the end," he said.

The top price bidders at \$5000 were the Watson family, Tooligie, who have been buying from Roemahkita for about 20 years. The highest price ram weighed 109.5 kilograms, with eye muscle depth of 40.8 millimetres and fat score of 6.9. Its fleece measurements were 18.2 micron, 99.7 per cent comfort factor, standard deviation of 2.6 and coefficient of variation of 14.6.

Aaron Watson said there was plenty his family liked about the ram, including its very white, crimped wool, and its overall size. The ram was sired by Roemahkita Big Joe 066449. The Watsons also bought a further three rams to \$3800.

Other long-time clients, the Baines Brothers, Cummins, were volume buyers this year, buying nine rams to \$4800.

Buying near the top of the catalogue was return buyer Geoff Wurst, Laura, who bought three rams to \$4000.

Another regular client Maurice Collins, Mount Pleasant, bought two rams to \$3800.

Classings Limited's Bill Walker was another volume buyer, purchasing for clients including Netallie Station, Wilcannia, NSW, Aston Station, Wentworth, NSW, and Rod Germein, Port Vincent. Mr Walker bought seven rams to \$4000.

The sale was run jointly by Elders and Landmark. Landmark stud stock manager for SA – and sale co-auctioneer – Gordon Wood said it was good to see

the sale attracted bidders from across the state. "The front end of the sale was very solid, people weren't frightened of expanding their budget to secure the rams they had selected," he said.

Elders stud stock manager for SA – and sale co-auctioneer – Tony Wetherall said it was a very good line-up of rams, showing terrific growth for age. The rams were all 15 months old and the average weight across the 91 sires offered was 104.5kg. "They're a real dual-purpose animal, with extremely well-nourished, stylish, medium wool," he said.

"Before my bit regarding our client support, the top priced ram of the day was a beauty and deserved the accolade of king price for the sale. Bred by Roemahkita Big Joe boasted the figures of 18.2u 2.6sd 14.6cv & 0.3pf with an Ycfw 15.9. I'm sure I was the runner up due to big player on the Coast giving me that kinda' money to spend if the animal was right...but no more than \$5,000!!"

Our 'clan' made their appearance first at Lot 16, a Roemahkita syndicate bred ram that Trevor and Craig Gameau-Wanilla SA secured for \$2,600. Great figures naturally with an actual EMD of 40.6. They added another at pen 42 and bred by Big Joe for \$1,400 with even better actuals of 18.2u 2.7sd 14.6cv & zero! A Lot 73 cheapy at \$800 was the average breaker for the Gameau's.

A Syndicate bred lot 19 and Tag# 150724 really took my eye and went too the same fella who missed on the pre mentioned top priced Watson purchase for \$5,000. I took ownership of this ram hinging on what would happen at my clients regular purchasing sale should that erupt making it harder to buy a top ram within his strict budget!

That sale did erupt making this bloke at \$4,000 not a bargain but very much in line with the top price at the other sale! The other stud? Karawatha Park. The client? Jeff and Jenny Baldock - Kimba SA. Try these figures as well to add to his value: 18.0u 2.5sd 13.9cv & 0.3pf, EMD actual 40 and a twin! I added another at lot 40 for \$2,200, bred by Gunallo Lustre 55, elite woolled and once again listen to this my people! 18.3u 2.9sd 16.0cv & zero! Add 40.5 EMD and Bob's yer uncle!

Rob Germein-Port Vincent SA usually asks me to buy one or two from Roemahkita with the one in lot 45 at 17.4u 2.6sd 14.9cv & zero and bred by Big Joe the winner! Bred by Big Joe he exhibited some of the best fibre on the day with just the right amount of nourishment and density to suit coastal Yorke Peninsula.

I also bought for Netallie Station-Wilcannia NSW starting at lot 22 for a Roemahkita sired beauty for \$1,500 and maybe the steal of the day. Typical Roemahkita figures added to with a massive EMD 42 and as square as John Denver. Another followed lot 27 for \$800, Lot 46 for \$800 & Lot 53 for \$800. Good value buying at \$800 which is well in the order of the budget.

A near \$15,000 and '14% of rams sold' support from Classing's clients on the day as well as competition on probably the same amount again."

LONE GUM - CRYSTAL BROOK S.A.



Craig Rule-Wurrulla SA bought Lot 1 for \$2,600, another 130107 bred son, that was a great all-rounder for meat and fibre - GFW% 116 & 102% for BWT%. He also bought a Leahcim 667 son for \$2,000 with the great measurements of 18.0u 2.6sd 14.2cv & 0.4pf.

Butch and Jodie Dunn-Penong SA, long time supporters of the stud started their four ram collection at Lot 2 for a well positioned ripper for \$2,300 and bred by the man, 130107.

The Dunns followed this with another son from that sire in pen 8 with an elite woolled screamer for \$1,000 with GFW% 109. The next two were bred by L132769 at \$1,000 each and both good for GFW% 110 & 115 in lots 11 & 12.

Wilkatana Station - Port Augusta SA grabbed a couple at \$800 each both 130107's.

I bought for **Netallie Station**-Wilcannia NSW ending up with four all at \$800 each, three from Leahcim genetics and one Ridgway Advance 'Holy'.

The Pym family's - Pymton - Rockleigh SA were selective and bought just the one to compliment this outstanding flock in the Adelaide Hills. Bred by that ram, Gunallo 130107, his elite wool and body at \$1,500 made him one of the bargains of the day.

John Franks-Port Pirie SA bought a very good lot 3 for \$900 bred by 132769 and another in Lot 24 for \$650. Paul Beyer from the same area bought two as well at \$900 & \$600.

Long View bought well in Lot 5 for \$1,200 and Lot 25 for \$800 and the Seidel's contributing with one at \$600.

Not a bad day out really with the sale of twenty five or so keeping the loyal clientele very interested for future private sales in the years to come.

In what was Lone Gum's first sale away from the traditional auction system, their first attempt at a Helmsman system sale could be deemed as a success.

A \$4,000 top which exactly matched the record paid the year previous dispelled any fear that something new might take awhile for public uptake.

The yellow tags in the sale lineup was the sire tag colour for the second progeny from the SuperSire that Stuart Everett bought (130107) at Gunallo's On Property sale in 2014 for not enough!

The top price was bred from 130107 for \$4,000 and went to Peter & Sue Charlick-Denial Bay SA. They wanted the best that Lone Gum had in their midst and that's what they got! Lot 7 at GFW% 104 & BWT% 104 at 19u 3.0sd 16.0cv & 0.8pf.



CHALLARA POLL - BADGINGARRA W.A.

	Offered	Sold	Top	Gross	Average
Poll Merino	142	124	\$2,700	\$139,350	\$1,124
Merino	19	13	\$2,900	\$14,750	\$1,134
Total	161	137	\$2,900	\$154,100	\$1,125



CLASSIC'17 RIDGWAY TEAM (12)



CLASSIC'17 WOODOONA TEAM (2)



CLASSIC'17 FLAIRDALE TEAM (2)



CLASSIC'17 LUCERNBRAE TEAM (4)

Challara Poll W.A. is so new on the Classing's radar that I've only seen a few ram & ewe lambs and had a great discussion with Peter and Ron Wilkinson in October 2016 that lead to our appointment as classer/advisor. The following is a Weekly Time's summary of the Challara On Property sale edited by Peter. I'm looking for-ward to the first classing in August as this stud is already 'kicking goals' just to see what new level we can explore!

"Last year's on-property ram sale saw increased offering of 161 rams compared to 148 rams in 2015. We believed the number of good standard rams was improv-ing, but unfortunately some potential ram buyers didn't understand the improve-ment that is evident at Challara. Consequently, the clearance and average was down a bit from the previous two years. That being said, regular clients who bought rams at the sale are satisfied with their genetic progress and plenty of good value rams were sold.

On a positive note, there was seven new buyers registered on the day and a new client bought 13 top private selection rams on the Sunday before the sale. There were 26 regis-tered buyers, two fewer than last year, who faced the challenging weather conditions.

One reason why the sale was not as strong as it could have been is the fact that the Merino Genetics ASBV'S were not as favourable as the raw data figures were suggesting. This was in part due to a larger than desirable level of syndicate sires. Challara has depth of genetics and proven results, which is better than just relying on the science of figures from the Meri-no Select system. Yes, there are a few things we need to work on, but the desire is to breed a well-balanced, plain-bodied and productive Poll Merinos.

Wayne Girando from Donnybrook is a client who bought three Merinos at the sale, including the top price Merino for \$2,900. A client who has done the right things with our breeding system and achieving credible results. "I've been buying Challara rams

for about five years now, mainly for the wool. They produce good white wool and it stands up to the wet weather down where we are. They are very fertile too."

Glen Tapscott from Morawa purchased nine higher priced Challara Poll Merino rams to a top of \$2,300, who had some good feedback. "It's a good free-flowing wool style that suits us and their progeny are very good too. They are good paddock-run sheep and they re-pond well. I've been buying these rams for three or four years now.

Alan Harris from Lancelin was a volume buyer, who bought 14 rams to a top of \$800. "We have been buying them for years – they have good bloodlines, good on the fly side, the lambs put on weight quickly and they are a good length. They also handle wetter conditions well.

Other volume buyers were JF & MM Brennand & Sons bought 10 rams from Southern Cross and K & M Eastough from Chapman Valley, Dennis Martin from Badgingarra and PJ & AJ Clohessy from Walkaway bought eight rams.

Challara supported YouthCare Moora by donating the proceeds of the sale of the Lot 45 ram. It was bought by Dennis Martin, Badgingarra for \$1,000.

I (Peter) believes 2016 was the best year for selling private selection rams. Close to 80 pri-vate selection rams were sold. Several new clients along with regular clients chose to buy their rams privately. Three other late enquiries for rams in the summer period had to wait until the following season because we were sold out! The future is looking promising.

The Wilkinson family also welcomes Bill Walker into their team, as their new stud classer & adviser.



PEPPERWELL - KEYNETON SA

SOLD 25

TOP \$1,500 x 4

AVERAGE \$1,034



Due to a clash of sales I didn't get to Pepperwell's On Property Auction so I've left the report in the hands of the willing principle, Hansi Graetz, who presented me with a warts and all point form sale description and I dank him for dat or noh!

Summary of the 2016 Pepper Well, 2015 June drop, On Property Auction:

Lot 1 tag 5293 sired by PW99 (who by the way is the sire of 22 rams in this sale) mic. 16.8 SD 2.8 CF 99.5 100 day WWT 44kgs YWT 91kg. Sold to repeat client S. Warnest for \$1000.

Lot 2 tag 5007 a twin sired by Calcookara 12. (son of super sire Leahcim 858.) with white lustrous nourished wool and cut, sold

to B. Verrall for, break my heart, \$800!

Lot 4 tag 5098 sire Calc 12. With 16.5 mic. super elite mother of pearl lustrous wool on a long meaty body. Stolen for \$1,200 by Ferret Smith Calcookara Stud - Cowell SA.

Lot 5 tag 5032 sire GP 383. A beautiful wooled ram with meat and wool cut snapped up again by B. Verrall for a, shotgun in the face, \$800.

Lot 7 tag 5081 by PW99. Mic.16.9 SD3.1 CV 18.6 WWT 42 YWT 90 knocked down to R.Hensschke for a, knee capping, \$1000.

Lot 8 Tag 5176 by GP383. Mic17.2 SD 2.6 CV 14.6 CF99.7 YWT 90 kg with

long well nourished white wool with density and the heaviest wool cut in the sale. Sold to long standing client P. Kleinig for a" bank manager just smiling more like a snear" \$1500!

Lot 10 tag 5141 by GP383 Mic17.1 SD 3.7 CF99 with wool cut and a massive WWT46 YWT 100 kg sold to Ramsgate stud for \$1,500.

Lot 11 By PW99 meat and wool sheep. Sold to H. Hein for a 'garrotting' \$800.

Lot 12 tag 5156 another big bloke by PW99 with Mic 17.4 wool selling to R Hentschke \$1,200.

Lot 14 Another PW99 Mic 17.1 SD 2.8 wool, with a massive WWT 52, YWT90 sold to White Park for \$1000.

Lot 15 by Calc 12 to DW Kubenk for \$1000.

Lot 16 \$1,100 to White Park, gaining momentum.

Lot 17 by GP383 Mic.18.5 SD2.7 CV14. WWT41 YWT95 to DW Kubenk for \$1500.

Lot 18 by Calc 12. Mic.18.8 SD 2.6 WWT 42 YWT 93 wool and muscle ram sold to R Hensschke for \$1500.

Summing up the sale, with 25 rams selling to a high of \$1500. 4 times, 2 studs buying and an ave. price of \$1034. Clients had no trouble filling their ute with quality, genuine, meat and fibre rams. After the sale I spent a few days in hospital recovering from my wounds but live to fight another day now looking forward to Mallee merino field day 28th July and sale day Aug 29th.





I write to introduce you to Karabein Poll Merino stud. Selecting the best genetics is one of the most critical decisions for commercial producers to capitalise on the current prosperity embracing the sheep industry.

Whilst every sheep producer aspires to breed the perfect animal, the relative contribution of wool, meat and lamb production to profitability from the merino must be known to select breeding objectives. At Karabein Poll Merinos' we aim to breed a fertile (130% lambing), quick growing (60 kg at 12 months), plain bodied animal that grows wool of quality (17.5 µm, lustrous and white) and quantity (6.5 kg/hd) from an efficient animal at commercial stocking rates (aim 3 DSE/100 mm of growing season rainfall).

- **Fertility** – (130% Lambing) - Pregnancy scanning for has assisted our selection

for a more fertile ewe. Further the use of a Pedigree Matchmaker to allow identification of hundreds of lambs to their dams, thereby tracking actual performance, not just potential.

- **Quick Growing** – (60 kg at 12 months) - By weighing lambs, weaners and hoggets, and submitting weights to the Sheep Genetics Database, we obtain ASBVs for our sheep that allow genetic comparisons with other across Australia. Of the sires we used for 2017 lambs, 3 were ranked in the top 5% for weaning and yearling weight and top 1% for post weaning weight.
- **Plain Body** – Sheep CRC and DAFWA research correlates more body wrinkle and greater wool cover with lower lambing percentages and more fly strike. We cull struck animals.
- **Wool Quality** – (17.5 µm, lustrous and white) – We annually test our rams and selected ewes for micron, yield and fleece weights. This has dramatically helped us improve our wool quality. Rigorous classing has also helped us attain desired style characteristics.

- **Wool Quantity** – (6.5 kg/hd) - Sheep CRC research has shown that fertility is compromised when a ewe produces more than 10% of its weight in wool compromises fertility. We aim to maximise wool value by producing quality.
- **Maternal Efficiency** – Selecting ewes that produce the greatest output (meat and wool) from the least input (ewe maintenance requirements), a more profitable animal is produced.

For more information:

This year, we will be displaying rams at the Dowerin Field Days, on site 5 at the Milne Marquee. Please come and visit to discuss the industry. Please call me on 0429433070 to arrange inspection. Sales are conducted privately after September 1st. We are located between Goomalling and Meckering in Western Australia and would love you to visit.

Daniel Dempster – Stud Master
0429 433 070

2016/2017 WOOL SELLING SEASON BY TREVOR SMITH - ELDERS WOOL

The Australian Wool Market has closed with the benchmark AWEX Eastern Market Indicator (EMI) finishing at 1507c, 210c higher (+16.2%) than the close of the previous season.

Finer wools have been keenly sought after this season with the largest gains being for superfine wools 18.5 mic and finer. Buyers are now looking at 21 mic wool as a cheaper alternative and medium merinos are the go to types to keep the woollen mills production ticking over.

The merino cardings indicator finished up 10% underpinning the market, and it was

only broader XB wools that have had no joy in the last 12 months and demand for these types remains poor.

Consumer confidence is rising in all our key markets and new products and innovations are further fueling demand.

- Double Faced Fabric - using merino cardings
- Fake Fur (19.5»21 mic) - swing against animal fur products.
- Active Wear - gym gear
- Technical Wear - high quality specific design sportswear.

- Clinical trials testing woollen products on eczema sufferers are beginning to show very positive results.

With 11% of China's population of 1.3 billion considered middle class and India's middle class expected to rise to 547m by 2025 our potential customers are increasing rapidly.

As Wool moves away from comparisons to cotton and synthetics and towards a luxury fibre status, I think we can all look forward to the new season with a very positive mindset.



MPG Comparison
Year on Year Movement

Week 45 2017
Last Year **6/05/2016**
Current **12/05/2017**

Micron	Last Year	Current	Variation	% Movement Y on Y
17	1550	2328	778	50%
17.5	1542	2278	736	48%
18	1519	2206	687	45%
18.5	1491	2127	636	43%
19	1470	1951	481	33%
19.5	1452	1791	339	23%
20	1422	1628	207	15%
21	1391	1509	118	8%
22	1370	1431	61	4%
23	1342	1398	56	4%
24	1320	1234	-87	-7%
26	1036	1051	15	1%
28	782	757	-25	-3%
30	682	588	-94	-14%
Indicator	1274	1553	279	22%

Thought this table supplied by Elders was an interesting one considering the huge price advances with wool in general in the last year but even more so for the finer end.

Most of our clientele sit right where the good things are happening where their product is not only at the finer end of the market but also loaded with crimp which equates to quality.



Roemahkita

POLL MERINO STUD

Joe & Tracey Dahlitz

Cummins SA 5631 Joe : 0428 295 706

e: roemahkita@bigpond.com www.roemahkita.com.au

Thursday July 20th

Inspection Day Roemahkita 10.30am-4 pm

Tuesday JULY 25th, 2pm

27th On Property Ram Sale

80 quality poll merino rams 80

Sale Rams Averages:

Micron 19.3 SD 2.9 CV 14.9 CF% 99.6

HFAT 5.8 HEMD 40.8 HWT 100.1

AWTA Wool Figures and HWT at 22/6/2017

Monday September 4th

Classings Classic Sale, Murray Bridge

TAG	MICRON	SD	CV	CF%
160126	21	2.9	13.8	99.2
160324	19.1	2.6	13.6	99.7

Friday September 8th

Adelaide Show Ram Sale

TAG	MICRON	SD	CV	CF%
160018	17.9	2.6	14.5	99.5
160118	21.7	3	13.8	99.7
160119	19.2	2.6	13.5	99.7
160206	17	2.9	17.1	99.7

Private Selections available from August.

ALL PURPOSE GENETICS: ROEMAHKITA

plain bodies with density, easy care poll merinos

MEAT, MUSCLE & FIBRE

Contact Joe at any time 0428 295 706

Inspections always welcome.



RIDGWAY ADVANCE - BORDERTOWN SA

OFFERED 100 SOLD 91

TOP \$5,200 AVERAGE \$1,709

26 MINI AUCTION AVERAGED \$958



This is one of the last sale reports for the Cullings'17 and there's a lot to mention regarding the successful Ridgway Advance ram sale for 2016. A good average and a \$5,200 top price cannot be sneezed at yet there's a lot more to it than that. After classing there this week, mostly sorting rams for the 2017 auction, twenty or so absolute rippers for Classic'17 and a couple possibly for the Adelaide sale it dawned on me just how good an operation this stud is.

Single joining groups from mostly all Ridgway Advance (RA from here on) sires and bred from the same, A.I results from all RA sires as well as E.T results from the same and from top RA mothers let me know that this stud is a genuine Parent Stud! A stud where not only top end commercial growers can access some of the best genetics in the country but also stud enterprises eager to source the next step in breeding strategies.

Sure there has been intrusions of Leahcim, Wallaloo Park and further back Charinga and Gowandale but this stud now has its own entity.

One of their own sires, RA80 (x RA532) and nicknamed will.i.am, who incidentally made it to the Classic'14 pens as a young spring drop, was passed in due to a realistic reserve the stud put on his head, put 27 rams into the 2016 sale. That's over a quarter of the top sale team and also included the top gong in pen 9 for \$5,200! Try this as well - a few weeks later eight of the fifteen Classic'16 rams were also sired by RA80 to a team high of \$13,000! He passes on skins of perfect density and lustre reflected in a fibre traditional studs can only dream of!

He has featured well again for this year's sale teams with Classic'17 and the On Property team loaded again with his genetics.

Then there's the intensity of the principles which needs to be experienced to be appreciated. David has been in this game for a long time now, selling rams, breeding rams, shearing rams, crutching rams, watching trends and fads yet has stuck firm with the product which has evolved into the best going 'round.

Organiser of E.T., A.I. sponging, CIDR's, wool samples, test results, advertising, stud bookwork, shearing shed work and four active kids, Karen needs some kind of medal as well!

Then there's this kid - Devon can look across two pens of poll rams with sun in his face, testing his parents with cheek, cataloguing rams and notice that two or three are in the wrong group in the third pen. On inspection there's no argument. He constantly looks at individual rams (sometimes from 10 metres) and instantly recollects them from a previous classing and lists off the mother's breeding as well.

A rare talent that has no parallel in my time or for anyone else's in my opinion. We've all had to put up with the stud master who bores you to the coffin with useless information from another part of history yet this kid's observations are far from that and often 'chilling.'

I'm not going to rant about the sale of which I could if I had the energy. All of the familiar local names were present and bought well. The interstateers push them along all day adding to the competition and enforcing the popularity

of this stud. Density, fluid nourishment, silk like softness and a meaty carcass abounds encouraging at times ferocious bidding all the way to lot 100.

Warrawee Pastoral - Kyalite NSW bought nineteen and averaged just over \$1,500 with GJ & KM Turner equally supportive with thirteen rams to \$1,154. How's that then! Pastoral NSW lending huge support due to frame and fibre quality as well as a nourishment that not only protects the fibre from moisture issues but also the dustier, harsher terrain that the bush can dish out at times.

Opperina - Barham NSW bought the \$5,700 top at 19.7u 2.5sd 12.6cv & 0.2pf and bought two more to average \$3,367.

Mt.Torrens S.A. grower and Ridgway Advance stalwart, Neville Rathjen and a return buyer for a long as I can think back supported well with around five including a very good lot 21 for \$2,200 with a great structured back end. RG Brown - Wolsely Vic. was again active with around the same number to a top of \$2,200.

I bought for return clients as well as stumbling into the enjoyable Pym clan from Rockleigh who bought well with a spring drop purchase for \$1,100 - possibly the bargain of the century and bred by RA82.

I jagged lot 10 at \$2,000 for Rob Germein - Port Vincent S.A. and bred by RA26 followed by lot 16 for new client Andrew Mahar - Penong S.A. for a \$1,000 fluke. I assume his extra bold, lustrous crimp (at 17.5u!) was a put off for most yet his intrusion over a more traditional flock will have enjoyable consequences!

A \$1,700 pearler in lot 51 was sent direct to Trevor Gameau-Cummins SA bred by RA80 to try and etch in to a quality flock. I added another to his list at lot 93 for \$1,600 with similar figures.

Another RA80 at \$1,800 in lot 78 was bought for Butch and Jodie Dunn - Penong SA who needed a few extra last year after a few mysterious losses in the paddock. I bought three for Netallie - Wilcannia NSW with two bred from RA sire RA82 all at \$1,000 each. Great great quality at meagre spondoolee!

Well done David, Karen and Devon. A good average to keep the masses coming back with all higher priced animals deserved of the tag yet all day there was some of the greatest quality going around for a budget that would suit most serious wool growers particularly in lieu of what's happening out there with a record high wool market in tandem with record meat prices. RA080 semen should be flooding the country producing the quality stock that Advance is full of taking the guesswork out of a lot of money for a younger version that just may throw not to his true potential.

KAMORA PARK - KAROONDA SA

OFFERED 150 SOLD 150

TOP \$6,200 TWICE

AVERAGE \$1,855

Special thanks to Ian Turner-Superior Selections for this effort. Not that I wasn't at the sale but I had to wizz off to class hoggets elsewhere and couldn't keep an accurate account of everything during and post sale due to a few purchasing commitments as well.

The season that had been dished up to most farmers in the SA Mallee in the previous 12 months up to the end of June gave little to smile about, but since then with a climatic change for the better, the outlook has improved dramatically. There were even more reasons to smile for Colin and Julie Boughen and family after their highly successful Kamora Park Poll Merino ram sale last Friday.



Buyer confidence, stemming from that climatic improvement and high sheep commodity prices, was expressed in strong bidding competition for the superb line-up of 182 rams penned for competition by the Boughen family.

57 registered bidders from four states actively competed for these big, plain bodied and soundly structured rams with bright, free growing, dense and well-nourished wools, particularly at the top end. That top end competition saw the first 30 rams average \$3450, twice topping at \$6200.

At the end of the main auction all 150 rams had cleared at an impressive \$1855 average, up 25% on last year's very strong result, while also selling 22 more rams.

In the mini auction that followed a further 22 sold to \$1000 and averaged \$645, producing an outstanding overall clearance of 172 rams at a \$1695 average.

Recent successes at the Bendigo ASBA show, especially in dual purpose classes, further enhanced Kamora Park's already strong reputation for producing high quality dual purpose rams. As a result, Landmark auctioneers Gordon Wood and Richard Miller had little trouble extracting bids from the large crowd.

Clinton Blight, Seymour Park stud, Highbury, WA, bidding via phone hook-up with John Dalla, kicked the sale off on a top note picking up lot 1, KP4 for \$5000, then added KP27 at lot 6 for \$4600. Both of these rams had outstanding free growing and bright fine medium wools of 18.7 and 20.2 microns; were well above average for Yearling Weight and Clean Fleece Weight and

had Dual Purpose indices with Merino Select of 151 and 140 respectively.

Bill Walker, Classings Ltd, Murray Bridge purchased five rams on the day for three clients, including KP2 for \$3800 for Penrose Poll, Esperence, WA to round out the Western Australian purchases.

[The Penrose purchase had a DP+ 156 and Ycfw 21.4 and a 7.8kg fleece weight at water shearing. He was bred by Leahcim 47. I also bought three for Willalooka Pastoral-Willalooka SA as part of a bloodline comparison trial and handballed on a top ram to Wallaloo Park that deserved more money at \$1,800. Lot 65 was an absolute snorter and bred by the legendary SuperSire KP37 that was sold to Gunallo in 2010 for \$14,000. Correct density and white, Trent Carter owes me a red!

The top price of \$6200 was achieved twice, both rams heading to the eastern states. Neal and Andrew Rizzoli, "Tooranga", Cape Clear, Victoria made the trip across to pick up KP358, a super impressive son of Roemahkita "Big Joe". With wool figures of 18.0 mic, 2.3 SD, 12.8 CV and 99.9 CF, plus impressive Merino Select figures highlighted by +4.8 for Ywt and +20 for Ycfw on top of an outstanding sirey phenotype, they had to battle hard to get him.

The Rizzoli family breed their own rams and this ram will go into service in their 400 ewe nucleus flock.

"He has great conformation, a sire's head and is so sharp and nourished in its wool. He is a son of "Big Joe" and this sire's progeny seemed to be so consistent throughout the offering," Neal Rizzoli said.

"We saw him at the Keith Field Day, which we actually attended to follow up on another ram we saw at Bendigo, but felt this bloke was the better proposition for our flock," he added.

The under bidders were Dallas and Helen Bright, Balaclava Station, Broken Hill, NSW. However they compensated eleven lots later when they bid successfully for KP505 by KP38, also for \$6200 to be equal top price. This ram was initially being retained but was put in as a late replacement when the original lot 19 ram had to be withdrawn.

Paech Bros, Callington picked up a top ram for \$3800, plus another at \$5000 for Shirley Willison, Modbury. Ulandi Park Props, Marrabel and JP & C Hein, Murray Bridge both purchased rams at \$4400, Paul Hendy, Belbournie stud, Melton, Vic purchased one at \$4200, while Ryan Kluske, Bordertown (\$4000) and Andrew Hall, Manoora (\$3600) rounded out the higher priced individual lot buyers.

Also significant at the top end was Alastair MacAllan, Red Creek who purchased three top rams for \$4000, \$3100, and \$2400, averaging \$3167. Regular top end client, Scott Dinham,

Tailem Bend completed his five ram purchasing foray by lot 25, paying to \$3400 and averaging \$3160.



Two regular key buying accounts stood out in the volume buying stakes with a combined 27% of the offering. Andrew Wall, Wall & Neindorf, Langidoo Station, via Broken Hill purchased the highest number with 24 rams from \$500 to \$1000, 13 coming from the main auction and 11 from the mini auction. These were secured at an outstanding value of \$658. John and Paul Wegner, Wegner Bros, Karoonda purchased just one less, with all but two of their 23 rams coming from the main auction. They bid strongly up to \$3400 and averaged \$1896.

Ray Kowald, Kevradale Pastoral Co, Tailem Bend and Neville Smith, Loxton purchased eight rams each, averaging \$1225 and \$825 respectively to also be prominent volume buyers. Ian Symons, WhyGee Pastoral, with six rams to \$2500 and at a \$1583 average, and JK Pfitzner, Wanbi, also with six rams at an \$1150 average were both strong contributors to the sale's success, also underbidding many other higher priced lots.

Brad Champness, Homevale, Kaniva was a prominent Victorian buyer with six rams from \$1200 to \$2000 and at a \$1600 average. Other key buyers with five rams each were David Crawford, Middlegrove Pastoral, Strathalbyn (\$1760 average), Richard Hein, Murray Bridge (\$1217 average) and NM & JN White, Cooke Plains (average \$960).



DONE AND DUSTED...



So ends another Cullings which seemed to take along time this year due in part to a June 1st season starting, classing on the 'Coast for two weeks without rain interruption (unfortunately) and without too much pen to paper.

Not enough moisture yet on both Yorke & Eyre Peninsulas yet there was hope a

fortnight ago with over an inch dropping onto several parched areas including Cummins and Maitland who have been nervous for the first time in quite awhile. Western Australia generally needs a tad more than just a soaker.

You could suggest that when Buckleboo and Penong were the two best areas of my 'Coast travels for rainfall that things are a bit askew!

The wool market closed the financial year off at a healthy 1507 cents which is 16% better off than the corresponding period a year ago. A quick breakup shows that the 21u gear barely raise a whimper with only a 7% lift, 19u a 26% lift and 18u realising a 39% lift over the last twelve months!

My ASBV study which had the chance to fill this entire booklet had I had no need to work for the rest of the year was a great learner for me. I hope that it may do the same for you if you have had no tangle with the subject or just new into it.

On completion of that article I've been at the

classing race for most of June and July and when high accuracy ASBV'd rams are used the results are very similar to that sire's information in particular regarding the meat & growth departments. Very similar to the studied here, ASBV/FBV comparisons.

My brief description of a majority of traits could have been expanded on yet, a closer study of the very good Sheep Genetics - Merino Select website will answer all. Away from that there are a great group of passionate people of whom I'm sure would enjoy discussing the finer points - particularly when it's their rams as the 'prime' point of the discussion - right Chris?!

The Classing's Classic'17 is shaping up to be another 'one of the best' of which I over quote regularly yet for good reason!

I have made selections from many Mallee and Upper South East studs as well as Eyre Peninsula and the quality of this year's entries is staggering. There will be return visits from all of those debut entries in Classic'16 due to that year's success for all.

New infusions are infiltrating some quality genetics with mixed results. At times throwing some quality animals yet there's a reminder along the way that there's suddenly an associated waste involved of which we haven't seen for a decade or more - all skin related naturally!

My only comment on witnessing so many of these 'intrusions' is that it's a must that neck extension prevails as opposed to the over width shoulders with a head sitting on them without a neck that's becoming prevalent with these joinings - picture the Pommy/West Indian cricketer Gladstone Small and you'll get my bearing!

Rose and the Classings Laboratory is now in full swing with samples coming from all wool growing districts of the nation and despite the gloom with lack of moisture in some areas,

many of the samples are best viewing ever due to diligent breeding strategies by fibre growing freaks like you and us!

Rose has honoured the next three years in support of the Laboratory - then we're done!

Thankyou to all of those people who supported this year's Cullings including supporting sale writeups from Ian Turner and Catherine Miller, informative views by Tom Silcock, Anne Ramsay and the Sanders family and special thanks to the Sheep Genetics with utilised information used as backup to my own understandings.

Hopefully the remainder of the year will improve for all in the moisture stakes and the wool/meat market sits right where it is for now and rising in accordance to CPI for the next fifty!

Special thanks to Jarrad Weyland for newsletter layout and Tony Samblich at Print City for the printing - medals await!

Glendon! This year's record of choice - Bernard Fanning's Civil Dusk grows on you with constant vehicle plays!

Go the Fibre!

STOP PRESS! Roemahkita On Property Auction averaged \$2,525 with all 80 sold!



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Please go to our website for sampling procedure :

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Office 08 8532 3065

Mob 0428 973 804

classing@internode.on.net



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ON PROPERTY RAM SALE FRIDAY 25TH AUGUST 2017

INSPECTION 11AM | AUCTION 2PM
BRUCELLOSIS FREE | OJD VACCINATED
100 RAMS



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Balanced Poll Merinos

Annual
Ram Sale
180 Sale Rams

WEDNESDAY 16th AUGUST 2017

Inspection & morning tea begins at 9.30
Ram Sale at 1.00 pm (SA time)

4363 Emu Flat Rd., Senior, Bordertown

David, Karen & Devon Ridgway



ridgwayadvance@activ8.net.au

08 87542028

0409 408 263

www.ridgwayadvancemerinos.com.au