

CLASSINGS

CULLINGS '19

RISKY EDITION 3

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CLASSINGS CLASSIC 2019

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 2nd 2019 | 1:30pm
Murray Bridge Racecourse
Maurice Road
South Australia
***See updates on
Facebook***

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 '18 sale averaged \$5,155 boosted by a top price of \$60,000 but included many affordable rams in the \$1,500-\$3,500 range to appease the budgets of the commercial buyer.

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Welcome to this year's Cullings '19.

I dedicate this newsletter to the great Jim Watts who influenced or challenged us to reconsider just what is the ideal merino in three testy environments.

One of those being the paddock where his styled animal is hugely fertile of huge staple length, lustre and hence, productivity.

Another, addressing the 'green' angle where stock are bred to handle the unmulesed tag and the ways and tangles of breeding these sheep to qualify as being the only answer. The other, and to the negative, have a look at some ribbon winners in the show circuit of late dammit!

If you're 'caught' mulesing in NZ now you are up for hefty fines in the \$10,000 vicinity I hear. That mind set and action will reach our shores before we know it.

The 'Steining'® technique of skin removal maybe the answer to those who choose to breed the extra skin and sometimes atrocities that require it yet genetics is the key and their are so many tools now to alter any flock direction to the positive for addressing the nearboiling mulesing issue.

The gap between the Merino show judging scene versus those who utilise proven genetics to maximise gains for productivity has never been wider and let's hope it keeps widening. Some show ribbon winning photos of late typify what was bred decades ago and those poor kids who have to hold them for the photo - a new form of child abuse?!

The last twelve months has seen the wool market still reaching record highs earlier and then switching to a more volatile effort of late. You can blame Brexit or Trump but considering the layers of red to grey dirt, dust and grit that

resides on our Laboratory's Coring Room floor after a day's sample coring (this year compared to most others), there's a fair indication clip yields across the nation are at an all time low add poor staple strength performance whilst your at it. All this due to a tough season almost nationally a true test of the great fibre we produce.

It amazes me how, amongst all social media channels right now there is a lot of commentary to the negative regarding AWI's performance in handling the recent decline yet nothing now considering the recent surge over the last fortnight! (12th July '19)

Speaking of that mob I can't help but applaud them in their (and your) funding channeling in the direction of sponsoring Merino Benchmarking across many forms but in particular with the MLP projects and the not so new Sire Evaluation Trials across the nation.

Our own SA Trial at Keyneton Station over two individual drops including around thirty sires has been a factual heaven! See the Culling's writeup on the '17 drops now complete and a quick summary almost as a 'Stop Press' on the concluded '18 drop effort.

The information gleaned from these trials is enormous and due to being active as classer at three of the sites with various classing responsibilities, I am privy to much of this data that in turn I can relay onto clients or anyone who is prepared to listen.

It's not only the sire or stud information but there is a lot of cutting edge technology out there that now sees commercial reality. Even the basic stuff in taking blood from a group of specially classed ewe hoggets and all sires responsible to find out who threw what via DNA testing is now taken on by many commercial clients.

I'm sure you will find this year's Cullings the most informative yet as I have outsourced a

lot of info from people who are on top of their game and loaded with facts that are then handballed to me luckily. Saves me making it up!

I thanks Jim Gordon, Mark Ferguson, Daniel Evans, Trevor Smith and all of those who contributed to the Jim Watts and Drought Feeding articles that really was a test for some.

The emotional side of the responses to the latter were obviously challenging and I thank those who responded at all in tougher times and hope it will be all up from here on.

The last twelve months in the Laboratory has seen a huge surge for Rosy and staff in handling thousands more samples. This due in part to many studs now testing stud ewe hoggets as to a build up of accuracies from collected data and pedigrees for ASBV's.

Enjoy the read and hope to see you all at Classic'19 on September 2nd at the Murray Bridge Racecourse. This may be our last year at this great venue that has hosted all of the Classic sales since 2002, before we shift to the brand new venue at Gifford Hill, just out of the 'Bridge for 2020.

Afterwards please consider staying on for a shindig at Riverscape Cafe as a celebration for Jim Watts and the benefits he created for the industry and our own enterprises.

A sad farewell to everyone's mate, Peter 'Windy' Gale, Landmark Esperance's young stock guru who's with us no more and will be sorely missed by all who new him.

I have a great memory of Pete in Sydney at an AWI Sheepclasser's forum a few years back without his Queenslander hat which to me made him unrecognisable. He had great joy in watching my pain as I strained my brain!

We offer our sincere condolences to his fiancé and family.

2019 RAM SALES & FIELD DAYS THAT COUNT!

July 8th EYRE PENINSULA FIELD DAY

July 19th/21st BENDIGO SHEEP SHOW

July 21st BENDIGO RAM SALE

July 24th S.E. MERINO FIELD DAY

July 26th MALLEE MERINO F/DAY
MURRAY BRIDGE SHOW GROUND

July 31st PIMBENA Wirrulla SA
Les Hamence 0428 268002

Aug 1st O'BRIEN POLL
Wudinna SA Showground
Darren O'Brien 0419 772 173

Aug 1st LUCERNBRAE Callington SA
Keith & Judy Paech 0415 701493

Aug 5th & 6th HAMILTON SHEEPVENTION

Aug 12th RIDGWAY Lameroo SA Ric 0459
432679 Matt 0439 460554 Home
0885 788039

Aug 13th RAMSGATE Tintinara SA Jed
Keller 0427 691858 Craig 0418 259049

Aug 13th BADERLOO SPALDING SA
DANIEL HAMMAT 0439 347362

Aug 14th RIDGWAY ADVANCE SA
Bordertown S.A. David & Karen Ridgway
0409 408263 0887 542028

Aug 22nd CALCOOKARA Cowell SA
Brenton Smith 0886 285039 0427 285039

Aug 23rd KARAWATHA PARK
Buckleboo SA Bert Woolford 0427 27403
Dion Woolford 0427 323583

Aug 23rd MARNOO MERINO FIELD DAY

Aug 26th PEPPERWELL Keyneton SA
Hans Graetz 0427 790676

Aug 27th NANTOURA Wharminda SA
Chris Prime 0427 289021

August 28th BORUNG Waikerie SA
Brenton Kroehn 0427 414494

Classings Classic '19 Monday September 2nd Murray Bridge Racecourse S.A.



Aug 29th GUNALLO Pinnaroo SA
Ray 0427 778485 Brad 0400 335660

Aug 30th SWM Tintinara SA
Richard Harkness 0428 758028

Sep 2nd CLASSINGS CLASSIC '19

Sep 5th CHALLARA Badgingarra W.A.
Peter Wilkinson 0427 427691

Sep 6th ESPERANCE RAM SALE including
PENROSE POLL & WESTWOOD POLL.

Sep 6th ADELAIDE RAM SALE

Sep 9th LONE GUM Crystal Brook SA
Private Inspection Stuart Everett 0427
362801

Sep 12th WALLALOO PARK Marnoo
Vic John Carter 0427 501431 Trent 0427
776114

Sep 13th SOHNIC Marnoo Vic
Scott Nicholson 0438 086403

Sep 16th FLAIRDALE Cooke Plains SA
Wayne Lehmann 0408 896877

Sep 20th HYNAM POLL Longwood Vic
Kev Hynam 0427 833262

Sep 25th FOREST SPRINGS Joel Joel Vic
Bruce Dean 0407 054342

Oct 11th ELLA MATTA Parndana SA
Andrew Heinrich 0427 596108



Great Result

The things that go on at that Classic sale when no one's watching!

Quality Wool rep Geoff Clark presenting David Eckert Mentara Park, Meningie SA with a highest price certificate for wool sold at auction in August 2018 M06 sale. (1820c/kg 17.5 micron 67.4% yield 86mm 47nkt).

This was taken at Monday's Classings Classic Merino Ram Sale. Well done to David and Gwenda! — at Murray Bridge Racing Club



Are Farmers Contributing to the “Harder Times” with their Management Practices.

An article by Jim Gordon



The purpose of this opinion piece is to ask the reader to think, not to tell them what to do. This piece is directed towards the farmer that is breeding females.

There is nothing better than a good female!

Climate has been changing for ever, and will keep changing. The important one is, humans have got to stop polluting the atmosphere and the oceans. The atmosphere is only 100 kms thick. Nothing except the odd space ship gets in or out. It's a sealed unit.

We are putting more into the atmosphere, than the various ways to purify it can cope with. To exist on this planet, humans need clean air, clean water and food grown without chemicals. Maybe some music, as well!

Every sheep born in Australia, at conception, receives a DNA blueprint. That blueprint determines, amongst many other things, what percentage of nutritional intake is distributed to wool or to maintaining the body. All sheep range from the professional wool growing sheep, which diverts most of the nutritional intake to wool and very little to maintenance, to the full blown composite sheep which is the opposite.

Here is the problem. If you ask every farmer that is running a sheep enterprise, what are your two top priorities the answer, more than likely would be that they would like more kg's of wool, on a better doing sheep. Maybe the odd composite person would say no wool.

A side issue The wool producer is paid on kg's of clean fleece weight and micron. The world wants LIGHTER FABRIC. The wool producer should be paid on METRES OF YARN PRODUCED, PER KG, not on the amount of kg's.

This would allow processing quality, to rise to the top, and then payment would reflect that quality, then everyone would have a direction what to produce as it was before Objective Measurement (micron testing) came in, in 1974.

Before 1974 there were individual wool buyers, buying for a processor, say Bradford in England. If that wool buyer, purchased wool that didn't perform (meters of yarn per kg), he would get his butt kicked and he wouldn't buy that wool brand again, or would pay less for it.

So we had this natural order in place, governing price/quality. This doesn't happen today. Price is driven by micron. The thing that every wool grower was conscious of then, was handle/softness.

This has been put aside with the introduction of figures to value/describe wool. Micron now is king. It is the quality/price marker that is being used. Micron is only useful to the spinner and weaver to tell them how thick the yarn will be the yarn count.

If you read Stephen Burns's book on Tom Culley, there is a common thread throughout the book. Mr Culley says, one needs to produce long stapled, bold crimping, soft handling wools.

The way everyone is getting around this now (no handle, scratchiness) is by going finer, but the Chinese want 18 through to 25 microns. They would love 21 micron wool with no itch. Very possible if the wool grower is conscious of

softness/handle.

When one produces softness/handle in wool, the spinner and weaver get more kms of yarn per kg, so they can make ten suits instead of seven.

What is it with humans? Why do we need to put numbers on everything. We chase higher CFWs but the processing quality goes down. We end up with a sheep with 40 for CFW and what do you do with the wool? Then, getting shearers becomes a problem.

Getting back to the main priorities, more wool from better doing sheep. The way to achieve more wool, is to fleece weigh, and micron test so microns are kept in check. This program is widely used, promoted by many, and has been in service since the 1950's.

Fleece Weighing and Micron testing, is a brilliant way to produce a professional wool growing sheep. Most of the nutritional intake going to wool, very little going to maintenance.

The reason this happens. The sheep that produces more wool, in the particular mob that is being fleece weighed, are sheep that direct more nutrition to wool, so the flock heads back towards the professional wool growing sheep type.

This type of sheep hasn't got a chance. It struggles to survive in a good season because it can't lay down enough reserves. There isn't enough nutrition getting into maintain the body. It's looking for somewhere to die all it's life.

Humans are very smart, this can be solved by the self feeder and the feed cart. Double the intake of the professional wool producing sheep and he is now getting enough to stay alive.

Like grain growers that are hooked on the white powder (urea) this sheep becomes hooked on the feed bucket and the ?% lambing, keeps propagating the same type. This is all good if you are chasing a max wool per hectare wool only income.

This brings me back to the start. The feed bucket has more influence on the bad doing sheep than the good doing sheep. The tail of the mob will be lifted approximately 60%, but the good doing sheep may only lift 15%. They all end up doing well. Some of the bad doing sheep end up being kept and bred from, compounding the problem.

Where will the flock be in ten years time? More dependent on the feed bucket! It is best to have animals working for you, not you working for them.

The other priority is good doing sheep. To produce a good doing sheep, one only has to select sheep that direct more nutrition to maintenance and less to wool.

In my opinion, THIS IS THE SHEEP THAT AUSTRALIA SHOULD BE BREEDING, to run a sustainable sheep enterprise over a long period of time, through droughts and good times.

The scales and the feed bucket, needs to be put away and the sheep given a chance to fail, then select the sheep that don't fail, good doing sheep that direct the nutrition, in a balanced way, to wool and maintenance.

After ten years, one will have a flock, that perform without the feed bucket, as opposed to sheep that perform with the feed bucket.

If one goes to the most worm infested areas in Australia and finds a mob of sheep that carry a high burden of worms instead of talking about, and doing worm trials that only help the people selling the drench, find the good doing low worm egg count sheep in that mob and breed from them. The less human intervention the better.

The other terrible thing that comes out of rewarding higher Fleece Weights, is the amount of extra skin that appears. The more skin area, the more wool, if you feed them, hence the Vermont's came into play. As soon as you put wrinkle on a sheep you have to call in, and pick up a pallet load of Click. If you are in an area where it rains, (flies need moisture), you have to dig out the mulesing shears. Remember, the skin is the single biggest organ on or in

the body, and a three kg skin is a lot easier to maintain than an eight kg skin in a drought.

"Knowledge Bares no Weight"

I have talked about a lighter skin being part of a good doing sheep. Now, I would like to talk about, some of the benefits. Notably, to the people that purchase products, from the owner or manager of that sheep enterprise.



1. The skin buyer. What does the skin buyer do with this skin?

The skin buyer would like to buy a sheep skin that is of an even thickness all over leaning towards being thinner and supple with no pin wrinkle (hard cord wrinkle).

The heavier the skin, the stiffer it will tend to be. The reason Kangaroo skin is so valued, is it's strength to weight ratio, and it's smooth and suppleness. Sheep skins could be very similar. When the manufacturer of sheep skin products puts pressure on those hard cord wrinkles, the skin tends to tear along the wrinkle making

the skin useless.

On a smooth skinned sheep, there will be slight differences in weight over the whole skin area. In the hip area, it will be the heaviest, stiffer, thicker and consequently, the worst wool. As one goes down towards the belly, the skin gets slightly lighter and more pliable.

The sheep supplies blood from the front, (head) first, then works back. That is why the best wool on a sheep, is on the front half. If nutrition is short, the hip area will be the last to get supplied, and add to that, a thicker stiffer skin is harder to get the blood through from the heart to the follicle bulb, to feed the cells that are manufacturing the wool fibres that the world so desires.

As one chases heavier skins, for rewarding fleece weight, one will slow the fibre growth, because of restricted blood flow, amongst other things.

Think about circulation in humans varicose veins. People losing legs because of bad circulation and sugar diabetes. The heart is in the middle of the sheep and the follicle bulb is in the outer two layers of the skin. Think about the journey the nutrient rich blood has to take, through all the restrictions, obstacles, etc, to supply that follicle bulb.

We need good doing sheep where there is absolutely no restrictions on blood flow if the sheep is to perform at 100%. The nutrient rich blood needs an efficient vascular system to get from the heart to the follicle bulb. If this is taking place, quality and quantity of wool won't be affected by extreme weather events, nearly as much.

There is a thought, the thinner the skin the faster the wool grows. Only compare similar microns, because, the higher the micron the easier it is to gain length of wool.

There is a tipping point though too thin and the skin loses its ability to protect the sheep.

2. The Processor and Retailer.

How do we make their job easier to sell more apparel. Our fearless leaders in AWI are setting all the policies, but they don't buy any wool. The wool grower is directing the traffic, but they don't buy any wool either. I think the processor, retailer and consumer should be directing the traffic.

If a garment came from crimped wool originally, then it will have elasticity. No other fibre in the world has elasticity stretch and recoil in the fibre, and then in the cloth. Elasticity allows a garment to give, when needed. Crimped wools have a very good memory, and they will try and return to their original form.

In a typical Yarn, the approximate number of fibres is, 45 in the cross section, that is, at any point along that yarn, one should be able to count approximately, 45 fibres. The Spinner and Weaver would like every fibre, in that yarn, to be the same length, and the same micron from the base to the tip of the fibre. This gives the yarn an even thickness, high quality and with less breakages when woven into cloth.

A terrible thing, if that fibre starts life as a 19 micron, goes thinner in the middle to a 17 mic then back out to 19 again. This is a poor quality fibre, which transpires into a poor quality yarn, and it will cause problems for everyone down the line.

This will happen if the blood/nutrient flow is interrupted, worm burden, no reserves, lambing, drought, sheep trying to maintain a heavy wrinkly skin and grow wool. Large variations in the fibre and micron is not good.

A good result for the industry, at the moment, is 45% of the fibres in the cross section are the same length. This is one area that wool grower could make a big difference.

Smooth skinned sheep with all the fibres growing at the same speed, and the shearers keeping the bottom tooth on the skin, if they can is spot on. It's very difficult to be anywhere near the skin on some sheep!

Imagine how many fibres would be the same length from a heavy, wrinkly skinned sheep. Add to that a beginner shearer! The yarn from this sheep would be of a very low quality. Thick and thin sections, all the way along the yarn. The retailer buys this low quality fabric, made from this inferior yarn exhibiting pilling, scratchiness and an uneven cloth, etc. They have a bad experience and are reluctant to purchase woollen fabric again.

The sad thing is, does anybody really care. Does anybody care if their wool makes inferior yarn.

If the wool producer can deliver this high specs wool the fabric will be absolutely beautiful. The better the raw product, the better quality apparel. Everyone is happy the industry grows.

The way to deliver this outcome starts with the right skin. (Come in Bill Walker, he understands skins better than most). If that skin is of an even thickness all over the body then all the follicle bulbs are at the same depth. Fibres will grow at the same speed and one ends up with an even length and even micron of fibre and a side benefit, high tensile strength. As always, I am trying to focus on the retailer's needs, because, they buy the wool.

3. The shearer and shed staff.

The plain bodied sheep are easier for the shearer to deliver a quality shorn fleece onto the board. The fleece that comes of that merino is good to work with. The heavier skin sheep, the shearer has to chisel the wool off and once the fleece hits the table, it is not easily sorted.

4. Flies.

One can reduce fly numbers dramatically by getting rid of the wrinkle. Moisture is the main ingredient for our *Lucilia Cuprina*. The wrinkles retain moisture, moisture becomes stagnant, bacteria grows, and in go the flies.

A smooth skin dries out too quickly for the bacteria to develop, so no flies. It can rain for a week. The good skinned sheep have natural drainage tracks taking the water down the body.

Running water won't grow bacteria only stagnant water has that ability. Bacteria is the key to flies, take the bacteria away and no more maggots. It is the same thing with breech strike moisture, then flies, or moisture, bacteria then flies.



Mulesing

Jim Gordon is using the pictured ram below to breed a flock of sheep that don't need to be mulesed.

Select for less skin, smooth bodies, bare heads, and bare/plain breeches will come. If one is going to stop mulesing, one has to get the excess skin and wool off the breech area, FIRST. You will leave the industry if you stop mulesing sheep that still need to be mulesed. It will be your worst nightmare. I don't think many sheep will be mulesed in twenty years time.

In my opinion, one doesn't want any wool below the elbows and knees on a sheep. Most of this wool is inferior, and full of grass seeds and has to be Carbonised. To Carbonise wool, one soaks the wool in Sulphuric Acid. The same stuff you put in your pool to drop the PH level.

Sulphuric Acid is not good stuff and trying to use wool after it has been soaked in acid?! Don't waste the sheep's resources growing wool in these areas. Only grow wool on a sheep where there is meat!

A bit about the author...

"I was born in Young NSW and still live/farm nearby.

I left school at the end of 1973 and spent the next 4 years working all over the world. Mostly rural jobs, New Zealand, America, Canada, England and Europe and some traveling between jobs.

I came home, helped my father and then leased the farm on the 1st of January 1979.

I have spent the last forty years trying to work out what sort of sheep I should be breeding. My father hated sheep so I didn't have a role model there!

Every person that has advised me along the road has had a vested interest. Wool agents, stock agents and studs. It is nearly impossible to get unbiased advice and I found it incredible that everybody wants you to do what they are doing.

Our flock had been based on Uardry in the Riverina forever. It was like an exclusive club in Young. We would travel down to Uardry, drink whiskey and load these horned, wrinkly Merino rams onto the ute that had been picked out by I'm not sure who!



I would spend all summer jetting sheep including the rams with Diazinon. The main conversation on social outings, was on the latest jetting machine. Being soaked in chemical a lot of the time it is a wonder that I could even breed! With a 26 inch rainfall the wool bins in the shed had colours up for the lines of wool. Blue, green, yellow and dermatitis. I thought this was normal.

I stumbled from stud to stud trying to work out these merino sheep. The obvious thing would have been, to get a classer but one needs to work it out first, because you don't know if the classer is doing a good job.

(It makes me sad, I am seeing young people with the same problem in 2019. I would like to hold workshops now and give all points of view, to help young people make the correct decisions for themselves, not for the benefit of other people.)

I went to one of the first SRS® workshops at Boorowa, East of Young, In about 1987. I thought the day made a lot of sense. I then followed Jim Watts down to Victoria and had the greatest disaster. Did 6k cold. Sold the rams and the progeny. One learns more from one's mistakes. It ended up being a positive.

The Jim Watts idea kept gnawing at me all that time, so 5 years ago I went down to Bowral and spent the day with Jim and many, many days since.

I got close to the full picture on what everyone in Australia is trying to breed and why, and there is room for everyone. I have had complete access to the last seventy years of CSIRO research. A very privileged position.

I get so frustrated with AWI's attitude, "keeping the status quo". There is so much politics and self interest, it is frightening. However I need to pull my head in, because they are only doing what most wool producers want.

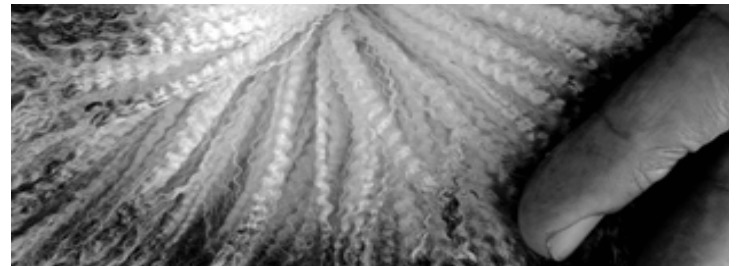
The sad thing is, if we don't change our attitude, we will lose this industry. Falling prices on diminishing supplies is not a good situation.

Does history repeat itself. 1929, the Great Depression, is only ten years away!"

I met Jim Gordon and Trevor Ryan of Richmond Stud in the Clare pub a few year's back prior to a sale the next day. Bert Woolford was with me and we all yacked for hours on the influences elite skins had in the building of the perfect merino...we also talked about the footy and Julie Bishop!

I have kept in healthy contact with Jim ever since and was rapt that he could concoct this piece especially for Cullings'19.

This commonsense article has led to the concept of inviting Jim to present a workshop styled event at Murray Bridge in the not too distant future. Stay tuned...



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S.A. SIRE EVALUATION KEYNETON STATION SA 2017 DROP FINAL ANALYSIS



After a good response to the article on the SA Sire Evaluation trial in Cullings'18 it's not hard to follow that story up in Cullings'19 due mostly to the addition of the associated trial fleece weights which weren't at hand at last year's publication deadline.

With the top end meat/growth traits already pointing to genetics that promoted correct staple structure, free skins, fibre quality, density & length, the jury was still out from a few sceptics! It's often assumed that the 'progressive' animal lacks fibre density and wouldn't cut their way out of a paper bag! The wait for the September shearing and subsequent fleece weights would be the tell all!

Much of the Sire Evaluation and SheepGenetics summaries suggest that high YEMD & YFAT animals don't cut it for fleece weight (see Triggervale discussion in Cullings'18) and on the other end of the scale that long term heaviest cutting stud in the nation, Hazeldean certainly can't match YWT, YEMD & YFAT of many (lower fleece weight) rivals.

The Keyneton trial conditions, as they were generally across the state/nation, weren't kind to any stock so there was a challenge here. The trial sheep were looked after under the same conditions as the whole Keyneton flock. There were minimal stock losses so the trial was still a test of doability such an important trait under pressured conditions.

Skin type under these conditions is of critical importance in my eyes as the twin lamb that fronted the classing race that had any form of serious pin/neck wrinkle was a disaster their plainer bodied counterpart irrespective of bloodline were doing so much better.

The results from this trial and the subsequent study of could fill this publication for pages which I'd happily do but there are more pressing topics to tackle such as the words, 21 micron and next to skin wear being allowed to be mentioned in the same paragraph in the recent glossy Woolmark publication... geez!!

The trial result was interesting in the fact that there was not much in it for 'range across all

traits'. Possibly the widest distance was the actual visual classing result where some results were mediocre compared to some outstanding efforts.

One of these was Ridgway Advance 150103, purchased and entered by Darren and Jodie O'Brien of O'Brien Poll Kyancutta S.A. The poll was purchased from Classings Classic'16 for \$13,000 and bred by RA082. His specs on sale day were 19u 2.7sd 14.3cv 0.2pf.

Regarded as an outlier in the trial due to his progeny excelling in many traits, he infamously became the pinup boy so much so that much of the minuscule reporting that Rural Press put forward only mentioned this one progeny result!

Fifteen other entrants and a committee had a lot of reasons to be frustrated! Considering the closeness of trait results a full report was warranted yet never ever executed.

To put things in context I will reproduce the Stock Journal's only report of the actual trial result under the SJ heading for the December 20 edition.

"Ridgway Advance sire tops evaluation."

"A Poll Merino ram bred by Ridgway Advance stud, Bordertown, is the top performer in the first year of the SA Merino Sire Evaluation trial at Keyneton Station.

In the final report of the 2017drop hoggets released last month, Ridgway Advance 150103 was the highest ranking sire across three Sheep Genetics indexes, from 16 rams. It had a Dual Purpose Plus index of +136, Wool Production Plus of +130 and Merino Production Plus of +123.

Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association executive officer Ben Swain says it is fairly uncommon for one ram to excel in both wool and carcass traits in a trial, as well as having the highest percentage of progeny visually classed as 'tops' of all 16 sires.

He said it was pleasing to see SA reestablish a sire evaluation site after a more than a decade hiatus, joining nine others run across Australia in major Merino breeding areas.

In June 2017, 553 progeny were born as a result of an extensive AI program and have been evaluated from lambing to hogget age for a wide range of visual and measured traits.

"What makes the evaluation trials so important is the sheep are being run together from the day they are born right through their lives so the environmental effects are taken out," he said.

Mr Swain said studs often used the evaluation results to find new sires, but commercial

breeders should not use the results as a benchmark of an individual stud's performance.

"Some studs go out on a limb entering a new cross or an unproven line and they don't always work, but they are the studs that are pushing the boundaries in their breeding program," he said.

Ridgway Advance 150103 was nominated for the trial by Darren and Jodie O'Brien, O'Brien stud, Kyancutta, who bought the ram at the Classings Classic ram sale in 2016 for \$13,000.

"We are a relatively new stud so it is good to know that we are on the right track," Mr O'Brien said. "You can feed them up but the genetics need to be there to start with."

"The progeny have proven themselves under the fairly tough conditions that the trial was run in but half the blokes we sell rams to are running sheep under these same conditions in at least 50 per cent of years."

The ram's first progeny sold well in O'Brien's 2018 sale and the stud will have more sons in its 2019 sale, despite the ram dying earlier this year."

Before I could put pen to paper one of our loyal clients and trial entrant rang to suggest his discomfort at what he had read yet was still in the admiration stakes for the well ranked sire progeny.

This prompted me into Letters to the Editor mode which after a few weeks my response was forthcoming!

Letters to the Editor: Stock Journal 4th January 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Whilst (your) report on the SA Sire Evaluation (SJ Livestock December 20) was accurate in regard to the success of one sire progeny result in particular for measured and visual traits, it's very important for readers to recognise and acknowledge that such a trial acts an information hub involving all facets of the ultra recordable, Australian Merino and in this case over sixteen sire entries.

As suggested at the conclusion of Catherine's piece, Merino Superior Sires is a very important website as to capture full trial detail yet rural tabloids such as the Stock Journal need to be the bridge between the informationless reader and the real deal involving more than just one result.

Ridgway Advance 150103 did have a very successful outing yet many other sire progeny results were outstanding over many measured and visual traits. Malleetech Poll 155180, Hazeldean 13.4936 and Collinsville Poll 135111 all had progeny that excelled for fleece weight

with all equally sliding in just 0.1kg below the top result. Incidentally only 0.7 of a kilogram sorted the top to the lowest ranked progeny submission.

Behind Hazeldean 13.4936 for the finest trial progeny for micron, and only 0.3 micron away from that group's average, was Flairdale 150078 and Gunallo Poll 14007. The range of micron over all sixteen sire groups was a mere one micron.

Only 10 millimetres of staple length separated all groups with Mumblebone 130850 progeny having a 0.8mm advantage over Kelvale Poll 150120. Malleetech Poll 155180 had a slight edge over Greenfields 140345 for Staple Strength yet only by a minuscule 1.3 N/ktex.

Several sire groups excelled in meat and growth traits with Hilton Heath 14Y447, Leahcim 152775, Poll Boonoke 150026, Ridgway Poll 140721, Malleetech 155180, Pepperwell 155227 and Ridgway Advance 150103 all coping a fair bit of highlight on the charts!

These objectively measured statistics are meaningless though unless tied in with visual assessment of which again many progeny groups hit their straps at the 'blind' trial classing. Mumblebone 130850, Ridgway Advance 150103, Ridgway R721, Leahcim 152775, Kelvale 150120 and Collinsville 135111 were in the preferred quadrant on the excellent Superior Sire graphs indicating High Tops/Low Culls.

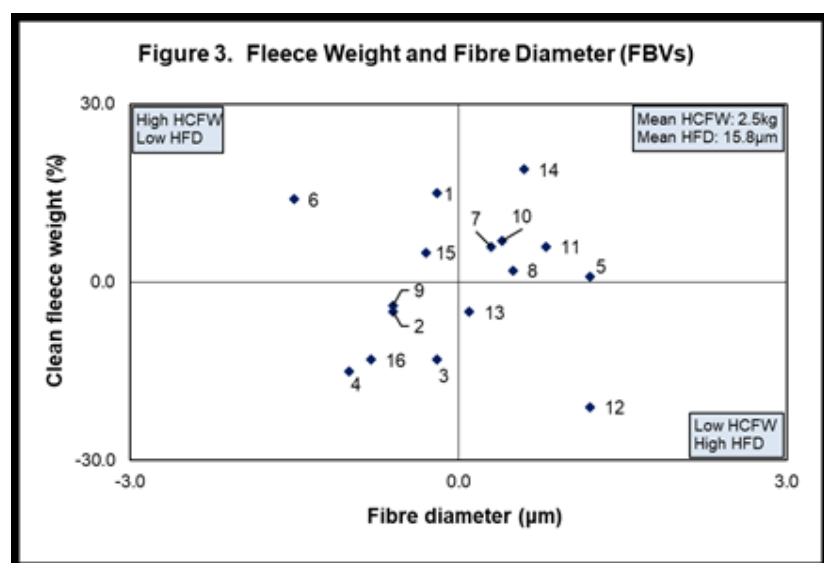
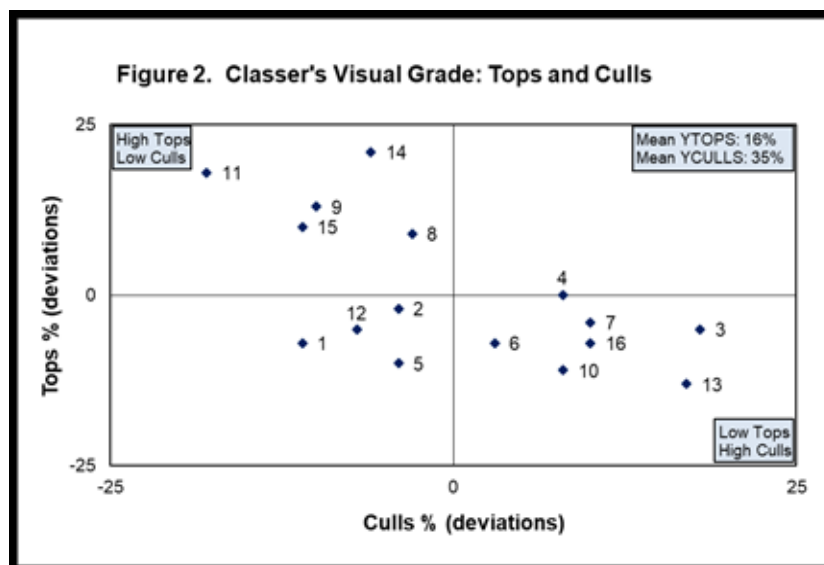
This commentary could go for pages so I would recommend all readers to view the full trial result at that informative Merino Select website. It's important to remember that all stud entries are represented by only one sire, there is a substantial fee to be an entrant and there is no win/lose table. Trial results require a good study as to ascertain which traits from what sire you may require to boost certain areas within your own enterprise.

I can also suggest attending the trial Field Days which are essential in grasping all there is to know in just how well these trials are run, accessing real time trial data and acknowledging those important identities that make such events click.

Bill Walker Classings P/L
(& member of SA Sire Evaluation Committee)

So politics aside it's time to explore how many of these studs featured in different trait areas. I will start by replicating a graph I used in Cullings'18 and then follow this up with additional information that wasn't in existence last year prior to newsletter print.

The visual assessment undertakes a ten trait scoring as well as a final three tiered classing Tops, Flocks and Culls. All classing is undertaken 'blindfolded' where no sire ID is apparent as to tempt a possible bias classer! High tops/Low Culls or the top left corner of the graph is the



desired place for your progeny to end up.

For graph familiarity have a look at Figure 2 Sire14 (Ridgway Advance 150103) as having the highest amount of tops and pretty good for low culls yet Sire 11 (Mumblebone 130850) ranks as well with nearly as many tops but a lower cull percentage. Sires 8 (Kelvale Poll 150120), 9 (Leahcim Poll 152775) and 15 (Ridgway Poll 140721) are safely in the zone yet naturally this is subjective and prior to any objective trait measurement. To be at the bottom right hand of that bottom right hand quadrant is not that desirable and a lonely place.

Now the new stuff due to the fleece weights finally being added to the trial summary. See Figure 3 There is that Sire 14 RA150103 at the top of the fleece weight axis with only an 0.1 breather from Sire 1 JC&S 135111. The striking dot on the graph though is possibly Hazeldean 13.4936 (004936 in Superior Sires) with an outstanding micron reducing group as well as nearly taking out the top gong for fleece weight.

The CFW/Micron quad graph depict quite a spread for both measured traits yet in real terms

there was only an 0.8 micron and a 1.3 micron range across all progeny groups. RA150103 led the way for greasy fleece weight at 4.5kg's but was matched by Hazeldean 13.4936 for clean fleece weight with JC&S 135111 only 0.1kg away. Sire 15 Ridgway Poll 140721, Sire 11 Mumblebone 130850, Sire 10 Malleetech 155180 and Sire 7 Hilton Heath 140447 were only a mere 0.2kg away from the gong. Remember CFW here and low due to low, crook season yields.

14 Ridgway Adv 150103	2.8kg
6 Hazeldean 13.4936	2.8kg
1 Collinsville 135111	2.7kg
15 Ridgway 140721	2.6kg
11 Mumblebone 130850	2.6kg
7 Hilton Heath 140447	2.6kg

Staple length is becoming more and more recognised especially considering there are so many growers exploring or utilising six month shearing genetics pending! Generally the longer the staple the more mules free ready a flock will be as well. Well bred plain bodies can easily be fleece weight productive and high incoming with the bonus of having plain easy care breeches.

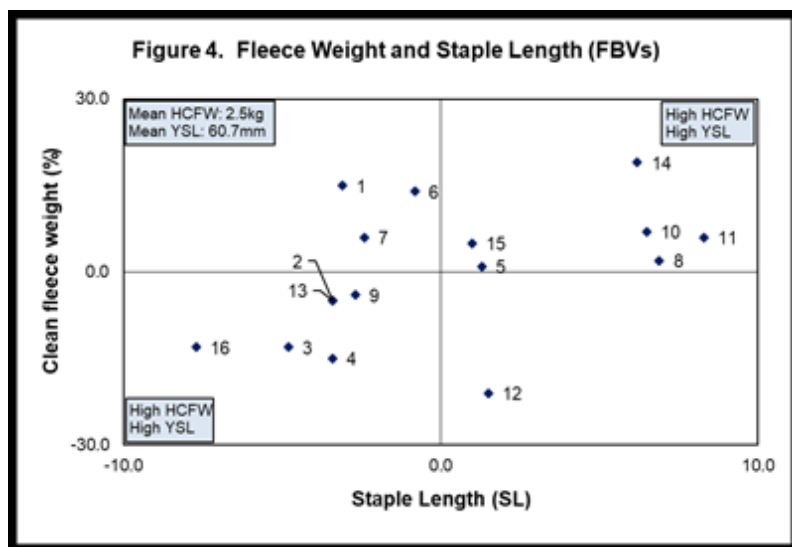
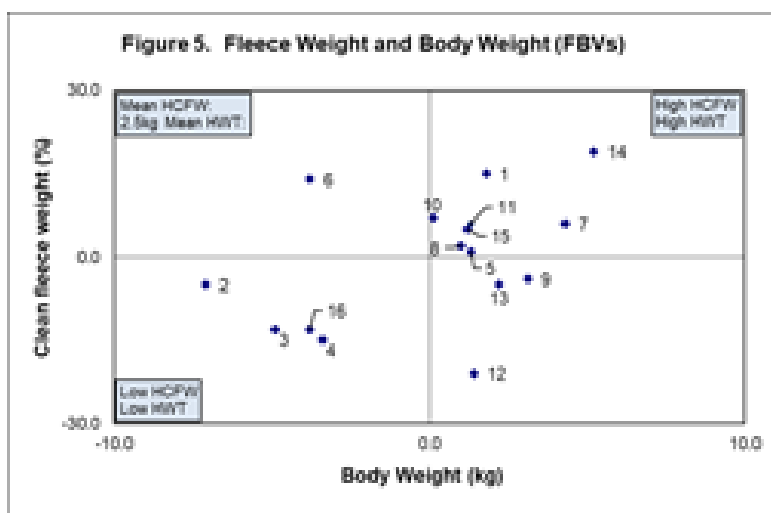


Figure 5 I'm hoping is now probably self explanatory. Like most graphs there's a corner to aim for and in this case it's top right. This is possibly the graph that did or should have got a lot of people over the line in thinking that the Ridgway Advance sire (14) was something special high body weight combined with high fleece weight, the graph was nearly resized to fit his stats on!

Looking at Figure 5 and featuring sire progeny that met both requirements:

14 Ridgway Advance 150103
 1 Collinsville 135111
 11 Mumblebone 130850
 15 Ridgway Poll 140721
 7 Hilton Heath 140447
 10 Malleetech Poll 155180
 8 Kelvale Poll 150120
 5 Hamilton Run 150600



Across all Evaluation Trials nationally it's often noted that animals that exhibit huge numbers for eye muscle EMD and FAT have a huge propensity not to stack up on the fleece weight side of things. Look at those progeny groups that almost cling to the above average fleece weight axis that are close to parody with EMD. Figure 7

Sires 3 and 12 and to a lesser extent 9 are more typical of the that trend. There are three standouts though that meet both criteria well with that great outlier RA150103 leading the field again with Mumblebone 130850 not far away and Kelvale Poll 150120 completing a band of three. Many are skeptical on just where the bonus's are in concentrating on lifting ASBV's for EMD. Yet as this graph suggests there are animals in the system that offer more lean meat yield over the whole carcass and in particular the choice loin area. This combined with high fleece weight just ain't too bad a combination!

The actuals for top six EMD:

Mumblebone	30.0mm
Pepperwell	22.9mm
Greenfields	22.9mm
Ridgway Advance	22.8mm
Kelvale	22.5mm
Leahcim	22.2mm

So just when you thinks it's safe to sneak into the Mullumbimby pub another fleece weight comparison graph appears this time with comparisons and associations with FAT

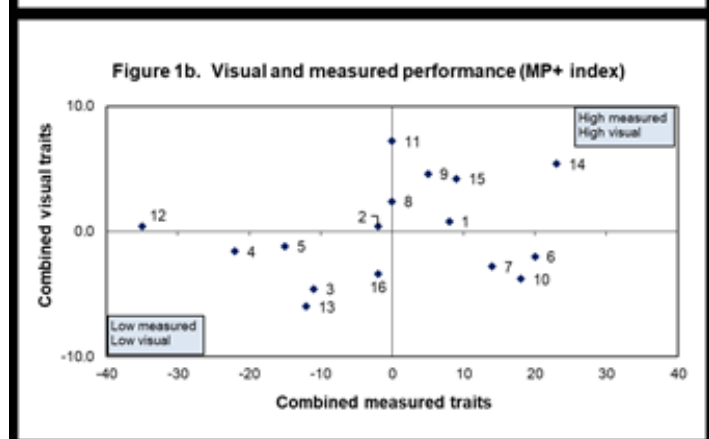
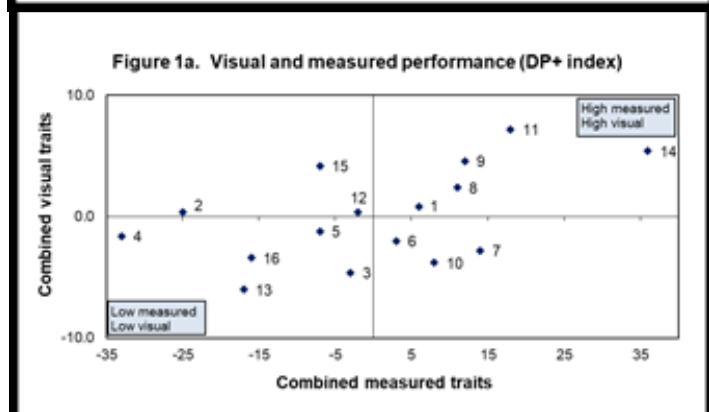
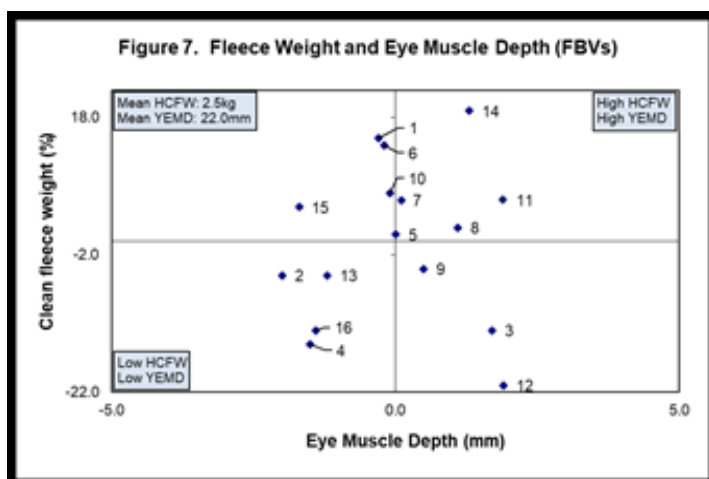
The bonus with being in the ballpark with FAT measurement is that it is an aid for stock when the shit hits the fan seasonally thus a help also with conception and repro rates. So...

These brilliant quad graphs are, in my eyes, a great portrayer and relayer of information which I believe at times aren't quite as pronounced

Three of the top six for fleece weight were also in the top six for staple length so see Figure 4.

11 Mumblebone	65.8mm
8 Kelvale	65.0mm
10 Malleetech	64.9mm
14 Ridgway Advance	64.8mm
12 Pepperwell	61.4mm
15 Ridgway Poll	61.3mm
7 Hilton Heath	61.3mm

Interesting to note here that of the above seven studs all but one were all above for average fleece weight. There is an odd concept still travelling well today that shorter so called denser fleeces are doing it all for fleece weight. With so many Evaluation Trials and MLP projects in full swing across the nation it's great that so many of these myths passed down by misguided classers, advisors and stud breeders are slowly being knocked on the head putting the whole industry in as good a shape as its ever been!



and in your face as some generated information expressed in tables. For example look at the previous described Figure 7 and the above inserted Figure 6. There are many similarities with Sires 12,3 & 9 leading the way with High Fat yet low fleece weight which again is no surprise to many. What is though is the appearance of four superstars that bely that trend.

Yep there he is (RA 15010300, up there like the proverbial full of fleece weight and fat yet bettered in fat by the common sighting of Mumblebone 130850 and Malletech Poll 155180 with reasonable fleece weight.

Real time top 6 fat measurements as follows:

Mumblebone	2.4mm
Ridgway Advance	2.3mm
Pepperwell	2.3mm
Malletech	2.3mm
Hamilton Run	2.3mm
Greenfields	2.3mm

So you are equipped with a lot of information here so to summarise and conglomerate it

all easily is no mean feat. It's obvious by the previous three page dribble that many progeny sire groups seem to appear on the positive side of many trait recordings.

All of this information is summarised in the form of indexes. Not one of these may be the exact ideal for you but generally one will be close to how you expect your enterprise to come close to replicating.

Two of the most common are Merino Production Plus (MP+) and Dual Purpose Plus with Fibre Production Plus (FP+) and Wool Production Plus (WP+).

I believe the latter is the most dangerous amongst the industry due to its huge swing toward fleece weight and not much else. Fraught with danger, skin, pin wrinkle, low lambing, short staple, over nourishment and wrecklessness! Dump it!

The MP+ Index is geared toward a balanced wool production system and includes cull hoggets to market, increasing fleece weight

and micron control with moderate increases in body weight.

The DP+ Index is more meat focused with surplus lambs are sold off with cull ewes joined to terminal sires. An increase in body weight and carcass traits and moderate lift in fleece weight is part of this regime.

So with all of our sire information from the trial, how do the sixteen sires perform amongst both Indices in this case as a comparison to the original physical classing on one axis and all combined measured traits on the other.

See Figure 1b reflecting all of the traits associated with that MP+ Index combined in parallel with the initial visual interrogation including not as much the classing grade but the ten traits that were scored at the classing day.

Not trying to sound like I'm supporting the lop sided Stock Journal report but strewth that Sire 14 RA 150103 certainly cuts the mustard in wandering off the graph and into another orbit! But alas there are other progeny results that are also very outstanding.

So to dangerously put a list together of the top performing sire progeny groups using the MP+ Index as well as the Combined Visual Traits graph from the information mustered at the SA Sire Evaluation Trial it could look like this...

MP+/Combine Visual Traits:

Ridgway Advance 150103
Ridgway Poll 140721
Leahcim 152775
JC&S 135111
Mumblebone 130850
Kelvale 150120

Yet on MP+ alone and with the actual index figure attached, things do alter a bit remembering all indices have no association with visual scoring. The graph naturally promotes how this list will look.

Stand alone MP+ : Index in bracket

Ridgway Advance 150103 (123)
Hazeldean 13.4936 (120)
Malletech Poll 155180 (118)
Hilton Heath 140447 (114)
Ridgway Poll 140721 (109)
Collinsville Poll 135111 (108)
Leahcim Poll 152775 (105)

I think it's obvious rocket science that to rely on any standalone index is fraught with danger yet to have the tangle of lets say an MP+ Index combined with combined visual traits is just the duck's nuts.

An over productive sire with progeny skin issues could still rank well on MP+ & DP+ but with the addition of recorded visual characteristics can

see that sire plot very differently on the above graphs or subsequent tables.

Now see Figure 1a with all sires replotted onto the DP+/Combined Visual Trait graph. The usual suspects are still hanging around the most favourable quadrant thus reflecting their genuine dual purpose attributes.

There are subtle changes though with Sire 8 Kelvale 150120 letting go of the parody axis for combined measured traits and into the Meccaville quadrant due to his meat trait advantage. Subsequently Sire 15 Ridgway Poll 140721 with the ideal position in the MP+/Combined Visual chart slips slightly in the DP+ equivalent.

So, to replicate what I did with the stand alone MP+ list as well as MP+/Combined Visual Traits, here's the DP+ version.

DP+/Combined Visual Traits:

Ridgway Advance 150103
Mumblebone 130850
Leahcim Poll 152775
Kelvale Poll 150120
Collinsville Poll 135111

Standalone DP+ : Index in bracket

Ridgway Advance 150103 (136)
Mumblebone 130850 (118)
Hiton Heath Poll 140447 (114)
Leahcim Poll 152775 (112)
Kelvale Poll 150120 (111)
Collinsville Poll 135111 (106)

It must be stressed that these index figures are FBV's or Flock Breeding Values which are generated within the SA site and not ASBV's across all flocks nationwide. This data is inputted to the ASBV system as to increase accuracies from added sires from this trial and other trials and stud entries.

If you compare the two there can be differences due to previous data from the same sires which include pedigree information from progeny that will be naturally different to this site.

The more data entered per sire and sire progeny (ewes and rams), the more accurate it becomes. This becomes even more concrete as adult data is submitted.

The MLP sites information where ewe data will be recorded for up to eight years will be a fascinating add-on to this.

Historically mostly young ram information has formed the bulk of the ASBV data set which is hugely swayed to the young ram second shearing in February/March (in SA) which in crap years with low yields and fleece weight is questionable. By the time of second shearing from the same animal it has either been sold or sent to TFI so no data is collated.

Ewe recording over lifetime is the Rolls Royce of the system of which the Merino Lifetime Ewe projects will become famous for.

Whilst on the subject of ASBV's have a glance at the Table 1 chart on this page and see two sires that were part of the 2017 drop SA Sire Evaluation. Two sires that featured well in the trial are listed. Ridgway Advance 1500103 and Hazeldean 13.4936.

The faint line is the 50% decile for ASBV's in late May or the average of every trait data mustered at that moment in time.

Considering the RA sire performed well in this trial and the only other data entry from the sire was from the owners, O'Brien Poll who also fared well with progeny, he zoomed straight to a very good place! See his YWT sitting at 8.0 which is almost double that of the national average at 4.1. His progeny's actual yearling body weight average in this trial was 35kg which I know was almost 3kg above the average of over 16 sire groups.

The Hazeldean fella's progeny with YWT 2.4, is well down nationally but his 30.5kg actual progeny average in this trial was below par by a mere 1.6kg reflected a better effort than his actual ASBV's suggest. His AWT at 1.3 but an actual hogget weight in his progeny of 46.3kg (2.2kg below group average) is a marked improvement than what his paltry ASBV suggests. The RA sire on the contrary blitzed the field at 51.7kg thrusting him into AWT 8.8 territory, well above the national average.

The Hazeldean progeny as shown here and on those expressive quad graphs fell short in the EMD & FAT arenas as well as in the trail yet this is what we have come to expect from huge cutting sires from a stud that has been

embarrassing most hopefuls for fleece weight) for decades! Add micron reduction.

Hazeldean genetics helped shape a better animal for production in this state, second to none, and proved themselves time and time again in comparison trials particularly in our Mallee in SA. First cross trials realised \$5\$10 per head better off by utilising these genetics. Stringent visual selection was critical though as some results were 'over productive' when the ram order was left to those unaware of that term and selected rams very much commission based!

The Hazeldean 13.4936 progeny typified his 'the next orbit' YCFW of 32.4 by nearly heading the list in the trial for actual CFW 2.8kg but was matched also by RA 150103 which boosted his ASBV to 25.4.

Some could ask why then the two sires weren't evenly matched with YCFW. Considering that figure is made up of data collected from progeny records across the nation, that fact has huge effect here.

The Hazeldean sire has 487 records of progeny and a fair chance was bred from a sire who had a load of progeny that excelled in fleece weight as well. The Ridgway Advance sire excelled in this trial by matching him for progeny fleece weight as well as good records from O'Brien Poll yet there are only 92 progeny records.

The biggest determinant though that held him back from possibly lifting even more for YCW was that there is no pedigree for RA 150103. According to SheepGenetics there is no sire or dam recorded which, albeit being a miracle sire similar to that great water parter, has a huge bearing on accuracies.

Go to Merino Superior Sires for more extensive information on the 2017 drop SA Sire Evaluation Trial.



Table 1 ASBV's vs Adjusted Sire Means : SA SIRE EVALUATION 2017 DROP

	YWT	AWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	ACFW	YSL	EBWR	MP+	DP+
50% MERINOSELECT DECILE MAY'19	4.1	3.4	0.3	0.1	12.1	8.7	5.8	-0.2	136	137
RIDGWAY ADVANCE 150103	8	8.8	1.2	0	25.4	19.9	13.1	-0.7	158	163
Actual Sire progeny averages	35kg	51.7kg	22.8mm	2.3mm	2.8kg	na	64.8mm	na	123	136
HAZELDEAN 13.4936 (004936)	4.1	3.4	-0.6	-1.2	32.4	25.3	6.1	-0.2	204	207
Actual Sire progeny averages	30.5kg	46.3kg	22.0mm	2.1mm	2.8kg	na	60.7mm	na	120	103

CLASSINGS CLASSIC 2018

Murray Bridge Racecourse

OFFERED 84 SOLD 81 TOP \$60,000 AVERAGE \$5,155



The success of Classic'18 was slightly overshadowed by a dismal Rural Press sale report post sale hence a fully paid advertorial that I hurriedly created for the Stock Journal followed the week after. I felt after all of the hard work by all who are involved in the sale that a true encounter of the day was warranted.

I also found out after the initial report that to have a Sale Table showing averages and top price to reach individual stud was at extra cost. This was new news unfortunately so that went by the wayside as well!

The following is a reproduction of that advertorial (with photos added) which also acts as the official Cullings Sale Report of Classic'18. Added to this will be that missing table including every stud's performance on the day!

"It would not be hard for any well respected rural journalist to get excited about a ram that not only surpasses the Classings Classic sale record by \$9000 to sit at \$60,000 but also a sale that records its best all time average of \$5,155.

In the same breath though it's vitally important to acknowledge that there were also twenty one other leading Poll Merino studs involved at that same very sale including 85 of arguably some of the best stud and commercial flock rams bred by passionate breeders from four states.

Classings acknowledge and respect their vital support. The same goes with our sponsors who help maintain the day's professionalism and aesthetics. TFI, Quality Wool, BreedElite, Dutton Motors, Ramsey Brothers, Rod's Stock Blocks and Reece Pearson Diesel Repairs we thank you.

The huge support of buyers from most states is flattering and gives us great impetus to march on annually.

We thank the agents for all of their auction

work, ram loading and pen destruction post sale.

Penrose Poll Cascade W.A. travelled over 2,200km direct to the sale pens of the Classic Marquee to earn the tenacity trophy for the day and sell all three well nourished cutters to three new clients at a realistic \$2,000 each. Their efforts are naturally appreciated but a high price in 2019 is called for as to keep up the Pengilly enthusiasm for more Nullabor traversing!

Lucernbrae Callington S.A. fielded a team that followed on from their Classic'17 success which included a \$7,000 sale to Sohnic Poll St. Arnaud Vic.

The stud's investment via the SWS syndicate in Gunallo 140026 for \$14,000 at Classic'15 paid off with his first son in the Lucernbrae team selling for \$5,000 to the Siviour family from Cowell S.A.

Two more Lucernbrae's sold for \$4,000 each with both big cutters bred by Wallaloo Park 150245, a \$26,000 snorter that Westfield Frankland W.A. bought in 2016 on property. Quality spy Nantoura Poll and the Baldock family's Tola Ag Kimba was the other successful recipients.

The Lehmann's Flairdale Poll Cooke Plains S.A. had their best ever Classic outing with two polls that epitomised what Classic sales represent. Supple skins, bold crimp and fluid nourishment of safe density on well structured frames.

Flairdale's first at 17.7u 2.8sd 15.8cv & 0.3pf and YCFW 19.5 sold to the McLachlan's Rosebank for \$8,000 and bred by Wallaloo Park 132. Long serving client, Dale Paxton Parndana Kangaroo Island S.A. secured the second for \$6,000 with YWT 6.8 YEMD 0.6 YCFW 18.1.

The St. Arnaud/Marnoo region in Victoria breeds the nation's best wools and skins with Sohnic Poll Marnoo East the perfect representative at Classic sales. Their four sold

to a top of \$7,000 to Traveston Farming Vic. with Ramsgate picking up a \$5,500 corker an exotically fibred masterpiece. Riskily I suggest that they had the best supple skinned team in the catalogue!

The Keller family's Ramsgate Tintinara S.A. sold to a high of \$4,000 to Karabein Poll W.A. for a long bodied, upright on all fours poll with the typical Classic type figures of 19.8u 2.6sd 13.3cv 0.2pf and YCFW 21.1.



Brenton and Penny Kroehn's ever ascending Borung Poll Waikerie S.A. made their first sale to a stud with an underrated Wallaloo Park bred poll with bold crimp and fluid nourishment selling to Ridgway for \$3,500 at 17.7 micron with a back end like yours.

Hynam Poll Vic. sold their top at \$6,500 to Pimbena Poll Wirrulla S.A. for a long bodied, well nourished, double polled 'tram' bred by Wallaloo Park 422.

New outfit on the block, Forest Springs Joel Vic. sold a double polled Gunallo bred sizzler to McPiggery Lamerook S.A. for \$6,000 which included the outstanding meat figures of YEMD 1.7 YFAT 0.6 & YWT 6.2. All that as well as wrapped in elite fibre which can be a task with meat trait figured rams like these.



Debutant stud, Belbourie Marnoo Vic. on advice to enter from Victoria's wool guru, Glendon Hancock, peaked out in the first year with a \$10,000 sale to Hodder Pastoral. If they produce more animals with absolute square backends similar to this fella down the track they will be welcome to sell at Classic sales until world's end!

I'm hoping that Ninuenook Whycheproof Vic. two sales at \$3,500 & \$2,000 for two exotic skins/fibred polls will help raise the profile of this much underrated enterprise. The Jackson and Hunt family's purchases were two of the bargains of the day in my eyes.

Ridgway Lamerou S.A. sold their top of seven offered to O'Brien Poll for \$6,000 with a massive YWT 11.0 & MP+ 158. Another, bred by Wallaloo Park 422 with a YCFW 24.1 & YSL 16.1 sold to Westwood Poll Cascade W.A. for \$6,500. Both rams were huge for staple length and bold luxurious crimp.

After topping the Classic'17 sale at \$21,000, the Daniell family's White River SA safely kicked the sale off with a \$5,000 ET bred thumper selling to Toland Poll Violet Town Vic.

The McGauchie family's Terrick West Vic. that nearly topped the Classic'17 sale with a \$20,000 snorter to Challara Poll W.A. settled for a more conservative \$6,000 figure this year. The ram of safe density and nourishment sold to an admiring Nantoura Poll Wharminda S.A.

We thank Coddington Poll NSW for making the trek and offering three white wools that averaged more than \$3,000 with one of them off to Nantoura Poll and bred by Wallaloo Park 'Real Deal'.

Orrie Cowie Warooka S.A. and Woodoona Borrika S.A. both offered singles with the Mercenary bred son of John and Heather Dalla's selling to Stefan Cross Milang S.A. for \$3,500.

The ever supporting Glenlea Park Pinnaroo S.A. who held the Classic record at \$51,000 until this year entered another fine pair including an ET

& Double Polled bred ripper with YCFW 25.9 & YSL 13.7 and sold to mate Will Lynch's Boorana Poll for \$8,000. Their second sold to Graeme and Travis Carter Serviceton Vic. for \$7,000 with a YCFW 29.7!

Roemahikita Cummins S.A. entered two typical bold crimpers with fluid nourishment meeting commercial appeal with the first off to Leigh and Karina West Gibson W.A. and the other to local 'Coast supporters, Cabot Family Trust. Both rams selling at \$3,500.

Ridgway Advance Bordertown S.A. have the depth of breeding that most admire to be able to fill twenty five pens of absolute quality in Classic'18. Highlights included yet another sale to Coddington Uardry Poll for \$11,500 for the longest staple in the catalogue and a ripping super styled beast to Ramsgate Tintinara S.A. for \$10,000.



A \$9,000 sale to Doc and Rob Johnson Lucindale S.A. for a superb wooled screamer and the cursory yearly purchase by O'Brien Poll Kyancutta S.A. for \$6,000 saw their team

winning accolades from all quarters.

(Ridgway Advance 150103 bought at Classic'16 by O'Brien Poll is ranking very well in the current SA Sire Evaluation Trial and a trait leader for FBV's for YWT by streaks.

Whilst on O'Brien Poll, they entered three of the best with their first, 170388 and AI bred by Wallaloo Park 150245 exhibiting the highest YCFW at 33.5. This took the eye of Daniel Dempster Karabein Poll W.A. who invested \$4,500 to enhance W.A.'s newest rookie stud.

Ironically the creation of this piece has a lot to do with the popularity of the following mighty enterprise. Gunallo Pinnaroo S.A. had the sale of their lives with a high of \$60,000 for a Sir Cumference 460 bred thumper selling to the Superior Wool Syndicate. A new Classic record since the sale's inception back in 2002. YCFW 30.0, YSL15.1 & YFAT a safe 0.3 he had won accolades over three states wherever displayed.

Incidentally his tag number is 170295 as opposed to the incorrect effort in the SJ report making it difficult to track him on the ever important Sheep Genetics ASBV search.

Three more Sir Cumference sons followed with two making \$13,500 to John Lamb Pastoral NSW and the other to that fresh new rookie stud of Victoria, Forest Springs Joel Joel whose purchase included MP+ 160. Gunallo's eight rams averaged \$13,375!

All Classic rams entered are specially chosen from selected studs that meet a criteria that is in the best interest of today's progressive stud and commercial fibre breeder.

Fibre quality, density, body structure and high trait ASBV's are a given but in particular of note is the general appearance of these animals free skinned yet productive as to address a once simmering yet now piping hot issue, MULESING.

The recent announcement of the banning of mulesing in NZ with huge fines incurred if one is caught out is world leading stuff and deserves attention.

One of the prerequisites of selection for all Classic sales since inception is the acknowledgement of the fact that this nation's flock may all have to follow suit not too far down the track.

Without the support of Rose and our two boys and their partners throughout the classing year and sale lead up, no Classic sale could possibly exist."

Bill Walker Director Classings P/L

CLASSINGS CLASSIC'18 : SALE RESULTS AND POSSIBLE 2019 ORDER OF SALE

	OFFERED	SOLD	TOP	AVERAGE
GUNALLO	8	8	\$60,000	\$13,375
BELBOURIE	2	1	\$10,000	\$10,000
GLENLEA PARK	2	2	\$8,000	\$7,500
FLAIRDALE	2	2	\$8,000	\$7,000
RIDGWAY ADVANCE (AUT)	13	13	\$11,500	\$8,346
WHITE RIVER	1	1	\$5,000	\$5,000
HYNAM POLL	2	2	\$6,500	\$4,750
SOHNIC	4	4	\$7,000	\$4,500
TERRICK WEST	3	2	\$6,000	\$4,350
FOREST SPRINGS	2	2	\$6,000	\$4,250
RIDGWAY ADVANCE (SPR)	12	12	\$6,000	\$3,833
RIDGWAY	7	6	\$6,500	\$3,666
O'BRIEN POLL	3	3	\$4,500	\$3,500
ROEMAHKITA	2	2	\$3,500	\$3,500
ORRIE COWIE	1	1	\$3,500	\$3,500
LUCERNBRAE	6	6	\$5,000	\$3,333
RAMSGATE	3	3	\$4,000	\$2,833
BORUNG	2	2	\$3,500	\$2,750
NINUENOOK	2	2	\$3,500	\$2,750
CODDINGTON POLL	3	3	\$3,000	\$2,666
PENROSE	3	3	\$2,000	\$2,000
WOODOONA	1	1	\$1,500	\$1,500

NEW CLASSING SEASON 2019 A MONTH IN THE LIFE...

The new classing season unofficially begins on June 1st when most have completed seeding and are thinking about that other great part of the enterprise!

This year's going to be a hectic one as I think it's the fact that I'm greyer, older, passionate and still upright suggesting that I could know a bit as I am getting a lot of new, unprecedented work across three states. The Laboratory is 'suffering' the same enjoyment with a distinct J Curve due to an increase in stud ewe testing for pedigree linkage and a build up for ASBV accuracies.

The following is my June travelling exploits.



The first job for the new year was at **Brian Landseer's** Milang S.A. property now in the very capable hands of **Glen Landseer** who yarded their best ever group of ewe hoggets bred mostly with SWM and Ridgway genetics. Wools were spectacular.



Glen Tilley's flock at Kapunda looks like it does due to astute sire selection from ASBV savvy studs. Any mid north stud would be proud to quote this one but they can't as it is pure Ella Matta blood as of this year with Ridgway blood previous to that. The hoggets pictured are only eleven months of age and booming and were a result of 114% lambing including dries.

Karawatha Park - Kimba S.A. first ram classing was a real feature with the 2018 drop ram looking saleable even in June!



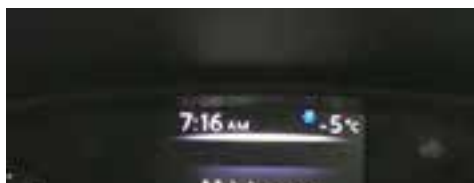
Great growth and fibre here due to the intelligent use and tangle of Wallaloo Park and Leahcim genetics. Dion Woolford pictured here with Luke Ramsey operating the BreedElite software in the yards makes classing a breeze. This program allows the user to import any trait required onto one page of which we used as part of the classing - Repeat...every trait required on one page!



Andrew and Jenny Polkinghorne's Lock S.A. ewe hogget classing reflected everything that was happening in the sire department with ram purchased from another tangle of two studs - Karawatha Park and Baderloo S.A. Density and fibre quality from one and above average backend build from the other. I'll leave it up to you! By the way check that perfect butt shape!



Terry and Rose Young's Ungarra S.A. flock is a relatively new job but it's always great to drop into a flock that looks like 'one of ours!' Their ewe hoggets exhibit great carcass traits and regularly pop up with fibre like this across 500 hoggets.



Yep that's -5.0 degrees on the temp gauge in the hire car near Paul Schaeffer's place on the Stringer Highway en-ree to the Polkinghorne job!



The **Butch and Jodie Dunn** - Penong S.A. flock is in great nick due to picking only the top end of Lone Gum's - Crystal Brook S.A. quality polls annually. Their fella, Luke helped out at classing this year and is tying himself up in the game by attending shearing schools with a desire to be the best!



Critter and Bec Freeman's - Penong S.A. ever ascending flock quality matches the same pace as how Critter drives this baby! Their second placing in the Charra Hogget Competition this year for meat and fibre combined is a testament to the Lucerbrae/Borong genetical tangle that sees me classing great ewe hoggets annually.



This fibre belongs to **Gunallo** 180019, a Gun 460 'Sir Cumference' young ram that was part of the incredible day's classing at Gunallo where this type of opening is common place yet never monotonous!

This joint continually pumps out Classic sale toppers with this year the stud possibly fielding ten screamers for your enjoyment!



Flairdale's great result in Classic'18 with a sale to Rosebank - Mt. Pleasant S.A. for \$8,000 and Dale Paxton K.I. \$6,000 should be followed this year due to the quality of the three entered with two coming from Mumblebone 130850, the sire that featured so prolifically at the SA Sire Evaluation 2017 drop trial.



This exclusive fibre shot belongs to **SWM** 180391, a young poll with way above average GFW, EMD & FAT traits and possibly one of the best boldest fibre of the year! A Classic'19 re-entry for the stud, what a way to make a come back!



Geoff and Sue Zacher's - Coonalpyn S.A. flock almost needs no introduction except for the fact that it wouldn't be them to boast all over the country just how great their flock is! Leave that to me but with two successive wins under the belt for Classings Sponsored Best Commercial Fleece at Karoonda Farmfair I need not say much. Ridgway Advance the predominant link here.



The Maroona - Keith S.A. flock of **Liam and Jenny McInerney** is such a proud classing day for all involved that any glitch is frustrating. Laser printed tags that had lost their paint and etching to make too many nearly unreadable was time wasting to say the least. EID tags are the answer but there is no excuse for this in this day and age! By the way the ewe hoggets were a major sensation due to these guys being part of the Superior Wool Syndicate that access only top end genetics due to a ten member syndicate buying power.



Pictured above is **Carolyn and son Evan Hunt** who know their stock and how to look after their investment when things are below par seasonally. Their containment fed hoggets were a dream to class despite presented a tad dustier than what they would be used to. Pure Nantoura genetics used here, one girl that we raved about later cut 9kg's unskirted...at eight months growth yeah!



Brenton and Jane Smiths' Calcookara - Cowell classing was almost a religious experience such was the wool quality of this year's sale rams as well as two reserves retained from last year. 180060 & 180400 are tag numbers to look out for in 2020. 400's fleece pictured. - and the orange hue? Brenton's high viz jumper!



Bevan and Cindy Siviour's Cowell S.A. flock is a ripper even amongst one their worst stretches of seasonal gloom ever. Leahcim, Lucernbrae and Ramsgate genetics keep the wool in tact and the stock were doing well considering the dire situation.



The O'Brien Poll stud at Kyancutta is blazing along well despite a less than favourable season last year. Things are on the up now in tandem with a great group of sale rams for 2019. The three coming to Classic'19 are trait leaders and will turn the odd head or two. Keep an eye out for 180510!





Les Hamence's Pimbena - Wirrulla S.A. has produce his best crop of youngsters ever. Well looked after they are a super team that deserve attention. Keep an eye out for 180417, bred by Kamora Park 160200 his fibre is exotic on a big square frame. YWT 8.3, YCFW 23.4 ACFW 17.3 & YSL which is no easy tangle. He might be for sale if Les has a weak moment! His grand mum was bred by L858.



Peter Charlick- Penong S.A. produces some of the best fibre in the Ceduna district but likes to keep it to himself! His hoggets had done it tough yet despite the gritty nature of the soil type the fibre has a resistance due to a well bred fluid nourishment.



Entwined with a hefty June schedule is the odd day/weekend giving Rosy a hand in the laboratory which is under full power at the minute. More samples from progressive breeders hit the coring table daily now with this one typifying what we are witnessing.

The following photos are from July to the present as a page filler without description as this publication is due for print tomorrow!



A small portion of Ridgway Advance Classic'19 sale team.



Pepperwell working hard big time on backend structure and meat traits.



Chad and Bruce Burbidge run a stud that's not a stud that should be and do!



Jeff, Daniel and Lincoln Evans - Wunkar S.A. See Daniel's Flock Profile article.



Gavin and Stuart Brophy with rellies Mark and Angus Richardson at ewe hogget classing and DNA sampling. See their DNA article.



There you go Wardy told your you'd make it - thanks for the Coorong Mullet bribe! Seen here with Aaron Freeman manager of Colara in the spirit of the great Ric Munro.



Peter Andre - Kangaroo Inn S.A. and a happy classer after the completion of classing 1500 ewe hoggets. Happy? Under cover, classing box, great family, great workman Shami, and Tweet's tucker!



Lucernbrae's Classic'19 team - say no more!



The Classings sponsored, Best Commercial Fleece of the Karoonda Farmfair Fleece Competition was taken out for the second year in succession by Geoff and Sue Zacher Coonalpyn SA.

At 18.1u 3.1sd, 6.24kg, 72% yield and a total value of \$104.20 it was the physical side of the fleece that took the eye of many admirers. Bold crimp of huge staple length and silk like handle with super whiteness, most agreed with our final judgement.

Good stuff Zacher's who also took out the highest \$ value section for three fleeces of which this winning fleece was part of.

Add to this a great writeup in the Stock Journal and the word's getting out that maybe soon these two will be selling tickets to allow you to

come and witness the shearing of some of the Upper South East's best fibre!

The Classings sponsored Stud Fleece of the Farmfair was taken out by not only the whitest fleece amongst eighty or so entrants but possibly the crimpiest and bred by Calcookara Merino Cowell S.A. of Jane and Brenton Smith.

17.7u, 68% Yield and cutting 7.07kg to gross \$113.97 in a shitty year is an accolade to the stud and their wool type.

Runners up to this fleece were three fleeces from Kamora Park yet it was the New England type whiteness that set the Calcookara fleece apart along with the super bold crimp, huge staple length and softness....

The Classings sponsored Highest Dollar Valued Fleece of Farmfair for the second year running went to Heather and John Dalla's Orrie Cowie Warooka SA.

Yep this ram and fleece has lived the motel lifestyle no doubt yet all the same check these numbers 18.3u 2.4sd 13.1cv 0.0pf at 17.9kg!

Valued at 1748c greasy to total \$312.89!!

The same fleece won all kinds of ribbon accolades but there's one thing for sure there's no way anyone could have bred a fleece like that twenty years ago with such outstanding numbers.

The Cassings sponsored Most Successful Commercial exhibitor went to Neil & Liz Loffler - Truro SA and Orrie Cowie was the overall winner of the day

About 40 punters had a stab at guessing the micron of a sample of a fleece that was actually in the Fleece Competition.

At 19.7u the closest effort was from Darryl Gravestocks who came closer than anyone with his 19.4u estimate.

Two bottles of Bird In Hand Shiraz and a pot of KP's Kangaroo Island Honey should see Darryl happy for awhile!

Special mention to Wade Boughen and his girl, Mel in making the whole Fleece Competition happen again in 2019.



Laboratory Bliss

Rose and I have many opportunities to view the best merino fibre grown in the world. We have always mar-velled at what many of the studs nation wide have dished up with their annual submissions to the laboratory particularly in the last decade.

It's the commercial version that gets us more excited though where we are seeing many results that are as good as if not better that the stud equivalent. I now witness this regularly in the classing race over four states as well.

The last 12-24 months for many have been the most difficult for decades in getting stock through every part of the season with some hand feeding bills reaching new on- farm records. The investment has been worth it luckily with fibre and meat prices still cutting the mustard well and truly.

Low yields unfortunately are all part of the tough year where we have seen a wide spread range like no other period. 55% - low 60's% are common place with the laboratory coring floor at days end, resembling parts of the Simpson!

Bold crimpers like the sample pictured, when density, length & breeding combined is correct, yield better than their fine crimping associates and always softer amongst the same submission.

The sample above tested 16.2u, cut 5.4kg in eight months and yielded 4% above the average of the ewe hogget group it was part of and was in the top 5% for lowest Curvature.

No fluke here as there were plenty more like it and was a sight to see.

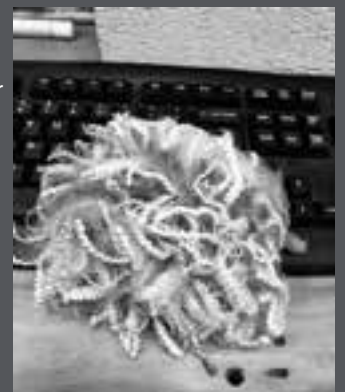
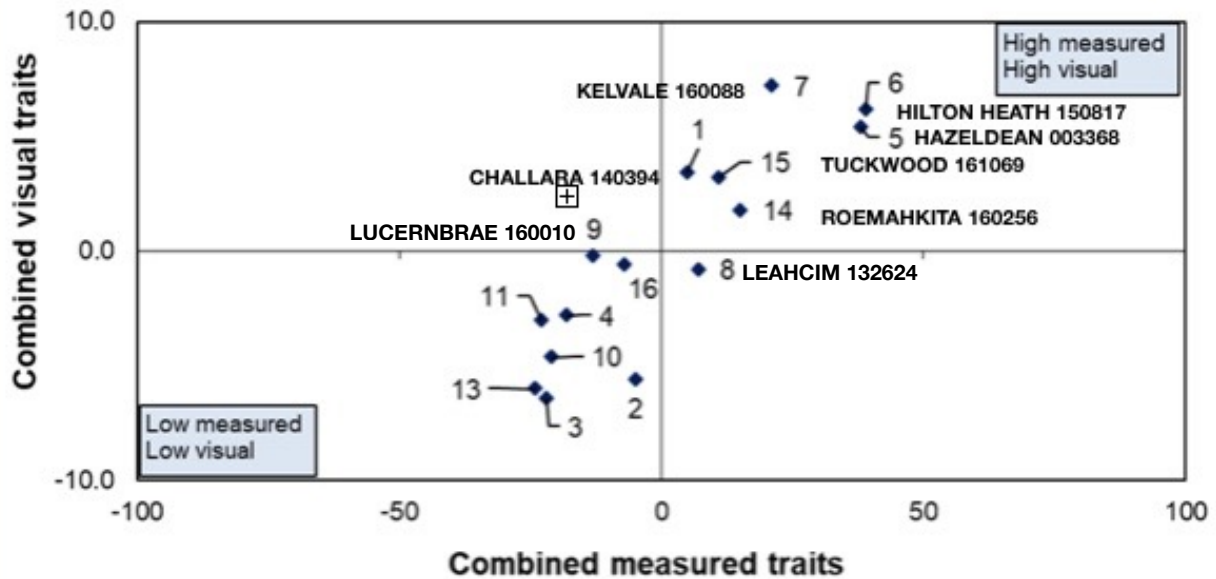


Figure 1b. Visual and measured performance (MP+ index)



S.A. SIRE EVALUATION TRIAL 2018 DROP QUICK SUMMARY!

The second Sire Evaluation Trial at Keyneton Station near the second greatest wine district in S.A. is now complete and all results can be studied on the Merino Superior Sire's website.

In the short amount of time I've had to receive the data and sift through it before print (tomorrow!) I think it's safer to recreate the meaningful Visual Comments/MP+ graph which closely assimilates a typical commercial enterprises' breeding objectives.

Let's look at the five sires that are well and truly in the best quadrant to be in relating to Combined Visual Traits (vertical axis) and Combined Measured Traits (horizontal).

I'm sighting other graphs and data that I haven't got time or the room to add to this page but will use here, to explain sire progeny positionings.

The Kelvale fella's (7) progeny are obviously very high on the Classer's Visual Trait graph. With the data I have this was due to 25% more tops than average and 11% less culls than the total average across all groups. Add to this the attraction of 12.8mm more staple length (trait leader), 7.6 higher for Staple Strength and the lowest curvature (hinting bold crimp) and 9% above average for clean fleece weight (hinting very high yield in this instance) the progeny were obviously hard to resist.

The Hilton Heath sire progeny (6) looked great in the pen at the Keyneton Field Day which warmed you up just a bit considering the more than fresh temperature that day!

The Hilton Heath 150817 progeny were 24% (tops) better off than the average of the group (trait leader) albeit the highest micron at 1.7u above average.

Considering the state of the wool market at the minute where all micron indicators have squeezed together for clean price, high micron is *nearly* irrelevant!! Knocking any Hazeldean sire off for Fleece Weight is no mean feat

considering their decade after decade standing as national leaders by sheizloads for that trait. *I said nearly!*

The classer liked them as a group with 21% more tops and 10% less culls than the whole group's progeny.

To me the first pen at the Keyneton Field Day as you walked in was the most impressive visually. The Challara 140394 progeny were very even especially considering they, on memory, hosted the most raised twins of all groups!

His progeny was right in the middle or slightly above average consistently across all traits including fourth highest for CFW% at 5% above. The Classer enjoyed them as well with a 10% Top and 7% less cull grading.

Similar commentary with the Tuckwood 161069 progeny with both visual classer and all measured traits coming in at above average to shove that number '15' dot in the right side of the ledger.

Scanning the data it's great to see some muscle and fat figures actually matching higher fleece weight numbers where the Hazeldean, Kelvale and Hilton Heath progeny had trait leading numbers for both and enjoyably still looked like a Merino! Add Leahcim 132624 to that list with very good YWT, FAT & EMD yet middle of the road for Classer's visual.

That's it otherwise I'll have to add another ten pages to this weighty thing! Every sire entry from sixteen studs need a mention here. All enter with a \$3,000 entry fee and most offer gratis labour for certain important days as part of the trial, for example the A.I. day which is quite labour intensive.

Next SA Sire Evaluation: 2019 drop at McPiggery - Lameroo S.A.

Jim Watts

A Testimonial



Somewhere in the late 90's, Bert Woolford who right now owns and runs arguably one of the best four studs on Eyre Peninsula looked at me sideways at the dinner table and suggested that if I didn't attend the next SRS® workshop at Roseworthy College, we'd still be friends but my, what I assumed, snug Sheepclassing position at Karawatha Park could be seriously compromised!

Subsequently I was first to register at that second workshop and last to leave! The success and popularity of the first workshop bled into the second such was the information fountain experienced by many.

Last to leave due to the mind blowing workshop that redefined previous understandings of the skin makeup and biology of the Merino.

An intriguing day in the fact that this fella with a research background spoke of wool follicle, fibre bundles, drape, horseshoe crimp, cauliflower tip, lustre, elite fibre, bold aligned fibre so much so that at day's end these were words and phrases that would in turn be used and still argued until this very day.

The new believers couldn't believe their eyes on what was on display and what lay ahead. A new direction on classing by skin type more than wool type took the eye of this writer and still uses similar tactics to this day.

The non believers suggested a 'been there done that' and a 'reinventing the wheel' psych and appeared nervously tough with their resilience in accepting that there just maybe something in this!

Wool wasn't popular at this time, in fact it may have been at its shittiest, due to a slow recovery from industry turmoil due to a collapsed reserve price scheme, high interest rates, over supply, low fibre quality amongst that over supply and the lure of cropping to a younger generation.

The workshops gave a lot of people hope that micron reduction with fleece weight retention or lift wouldn't be hard providing there were enough tools in the breeding cabinet to do so. And that tool? A skin that exuded long,

cylindrical, aligned fibre of bold crimp and softness due to the understanding of how the underskin factory actually worked.

A lot of this work was executed back in the 40's with microscopes as tall as 'Sauce' but redefined by many with exception to Jim who appeared to take it steps further with his CSIRO involvement and with his focus directing mostly toward merinos. This list would later include Alpaca and Mohair.

His main event styled workshops were revolutionary and by days end many were still eager to learn more as opposed to more mundane merino workshops where morning smoko was attractive as was the nearby hotel for a sipper for the long trek homeward!

However I will never forget his association with fibre alignment and a packet of matches where if the matches were crossed and out of kilter with each other there was no way of sliding them into the box. Should they be parallel and aligned...

I had the luck of touring the state with a few of these well constructed workshops under the SRS® banner as a fleece testing laboratory owner who had the advantage of testing the wools that Jim would promote. Softer, lower SD's, lower CV's, lower micron even with a visually bold crimp that was normally reserved for just the opposite!

A slight parallel here. My father Don began our laboratory foray in 1972 and he had a lot of evidence that a big bold 58's visual could actually test 23 micron and not it's so called par micron of 25u! He in turn was regarded by some as slightly rebellious in promoting bold crimpers of huge staple length that were positive to it's visual appraisal.

Remember his blue ribbon era amongst the 60's and 70's was a time when the prestigious Naracoorte Ram Sale was topped with a 28.2u horned merino that was sold to the Russians!

Jim's version in those late 90's workshops for the same visual was 1920u and the possibilities were endless of which we must strive. My father was fit enough to approve whole heartedly of Jim's conquests and really enjoyed his apparent standup tactics to tradition.

I think we all raised our eyebrows a tad for the first time when Jim suggested that 200mm of 12 micron was not only a vision but very doable! Yet right now amongst some of our clients who still shear at twelve months we are witnessing 160mm in the 1718u area at tops.

These are popping up amongst young animals that are regularly crashing through the 120mm barrier at that same micron. This micron range twenty years ago was reserved for two year old rams at Hamilton Sheepvention as tall as Sauce's water bottle!

Thanks to Jim we now have thumping quick growing animals that are always in that micron

range that tower over those skinned up traditional versions that are somehow still bred today in 'Deliverance' styled areas of the nation.

His disgust for pin wrinkle, neck wrinkle, breech wrinkle and traditional show ribbon breeding will go down in folklore as one of many industry saving attitudes of all time!

So the great man has exited without much adieu, celebration, acknowledgement or testimony of which may have been of his design.

Every day that I'm next to a classing race there are indicators and signs of Jim's great work in regard to skin/fibre makeup of everything I see. To begin the initial classing of a flock that has had no influence of his or associated past studs of his persuasion is enough to make this author realise that many don't give themselves the opportunity to explore this great elite fibre due to an over close relationship with the stud master a particularly dangerous one when shitty genetics are involved!

I guess these are the reasons for this piece. I have asked the thoughts from what will appear here as a group of anonymous supporters, admirers of which most owe their continued successful existence in part to this legend.



Most are Classings clients or some who are now away from farming but have fond memories of the era.

I'll get the ball rolling with this excellent response from a S.A. client who encapsulates the whole thrust of this piece in a mere few paragraphs! Ah to be a wordsmith of this calibre...

This is followed by various responses from other supporters of which I have added in a Q&A type format. I have initialed those responses where the writer was happy to be acknowledged yet asterisked those comments from those who did not.

"To be truthful I was unaware that Jim is no longer. If I had to think about my merino breeding involvement, Jim was inspirational in giving us all a goal to head towards or at least think about. For us who followed him, we had a purpose, an objective and an enthusiasm that we would not have otherwise had, had he not encouraged a different perspective.

Even the stud breeders who disagreed with him were encouraged, forced even, to examine their own entrails in the face of miserable wool prices and nothing on the horizon. If they chose not to follow or agree, they did at least strive to improve what they bred.

I admired his guts taking the industry head on.

I lost interest when he appeared to go out on a limb where I had no idea what breeds were involved and apparently you could class a sheep freshly shorn.

I haven't been there for years but would like to go back to Charinga to see what is happening at perhaps the stud that stayed truest to his original ideas."

1. Were you taken by Jim and the SRS® concept immediately as being the best thing since sliced bread or was it familiarity over time that got you over the line.

*We met him first when he came to our station as an unknown to us but with a story. As the wool market had collapsed we were interested to have his involvement in a small way initially.

*TR Back in the mid 1990's I returned home to the family property and bought a line of SRS®, Severn Park blood ewes. At the time I had never even heard of SRS® so I more or less fell into breeding these sheep by accident.

I liked the ewes because they were large, fertile sheep with a more stylish, defined crimp than many sheep at the time. As time went on I began learning more about the SRS® system and Jim's theories and became intrigued by the science and the manual application of it that led to an animal that seemed to me to have so many advantages over the traditional breeding methods of the time.

*PW For us, Dr Jim Watts and the SRS® concept proved itself over several years of breeding. We began changing our breeding in the mid 1990's when we really needed to source fly resistant wools. When the results did work, the science was evident.



*JC Jim asked if he could come and look at our sheep following a Southern New England Merino Field Days in 1994 where Peter Small was the guest speaker.

We had slightly different sheep to the traditional superfine merino but it was due to John Cordingley Snr's love for positive micron sheep. We were at a loss to continue progress past a certain point. Jim's understanding of the link between visual traits and skin biology was a ground breaking revelation to us.

*GW. Flashing light immediately and we knew this was what we had been looking for.

2. Can you describe or recount the facets of the system that intrigued you the most and were possibly opposite to what your best laid breeding plans were at the time?!

*The thought of improving the product we were growing had appeal. Soft rolling skins were achievable to a degree without huge changes taking three microns from the wool seemed meritorious.

*TR I guess in the early days the most noticeable change that Jim's methods brought about was the wool type and staple structure.

Back in the early 90's after a couple of decades of micron driven objective measurement the national flock seemed to be of fairly low overall quality.

The skins were thick and hard, staples were very big and most of the rams on display at field days had very poor alignment, probably lacked measurable density and generally had a very coarse edge on their wool tests with a high prickly factor. Jim's "new wools" were completely different. They looked better, they handled better and they tested better.

*PW Fertility In the 1980's, with a traditionally bred wool we were happy with an 85% lambing. Since implementing the SRS® breeding principles, we are consistently getting over 100% lambing.

Skin Type Breeding a plainbodied, productive sheep with aligned, deep bold crimping long stapled wools. This was opposing the heavy skinned, high wool cutting sheep of the pre SRS® days.

*JC Jim's ability to look at fleece traits and link them to heritable skin traits certainly set him apart from any classer we had ever encountered.

*GW. Proof that we were going to get the change in direction we were looking for.

2a. Where and when did you attend your first workshop and did you attend more over the years?

*As he was classing for us on three places we

didn't go to any workshops.

*TR Too long ago to remember the first one but have been to many over the years.

*PW I think my first SRS® workshop was at the Badgingarra Research Station in Western Australia, 1994. Over the years I have attended many SRS® workshops and organised some in the 2000's as well.

Dad first read about Jim in the Farm Journal in 1989 and was very impressed by what he was offering the wool industry through his science.

Our first SRS® workshop on his recollection was in 1991, at the Badgingarra Research Station.

*GW First one at Roseworthy in early 1995 then the local Ag bureau organized one. This met some resistance from some locals who were quite aggressive to the organising committee.

The sheep on display "were culls" and "he wouldn't have any of this crap in his flock." Then went on to say, "you can't grow fine wool sheep in this country", and, "I'll have more hair on my balls than you'll have on your sheep!"

3. There was a lot of resistance all of the way through Jim's tenure from certain growers particularly studs. Why do you think that was?

*Radical changes of breeding philosophy early on concentrating on the skin and follicle alone had a number of breeders thinking he was too fixated, ignoring the many other areas of a sheep that needed attention in selection of type.



*TR This is something that I've never quite been able to work out. Perhaps fear of change by a very traditionally minded industry has played a role.

I think also the mulesing issue has created tension with the traditional fleece weight focused growers who feel that the main part of their enterprise is being threatened by the push towards non mulesing with Jim most of the time leading the charge in this direction.

*PW Traditional wool growers seem to feel threatened by change. Some people also wanted to do things their own way, instead of having a clear direction of applying the

scientific SRS® principles.

Initially, there were very few SRS® type impact sires in Australia. Consequently, the improvement was slower than the Merino ram breeders would desire it to be

*JC Resistance to Jims work mainly came from growers married to a traditional type of super fine wool which Italian processors had become familiar with.

In fact his knowledge turned a lot of perceived knowledge and generally accepted wisdom on its head. Jim was heavily involved in wool processing trials as well as his skin biology – knowledge which stood him well apart from any other classers of the day.

*GW The traditional SA studs were scared they would lose clients and what Jim was advocating was opposite to the shit they were dishing up. A lot of studs did quietly introduce some genetics over time but in a very watered down version and generally couldn't get away from their traditional thinking.

4. In utilising the SRS® system what were the obvious early signs that it was the real deal and things were changing?

*The capacity to reduce micron and therefore get into a higher price range was the early attraction. It gave commercial growers an interest and object in their sheep breeding that would have not been there without Jim's foresight.

*TR Almost immediately our wool quality began to improve and continued to do so every year as we progressed further down the SRS® track.

This was also reflected in our wool tests as measurements relating to quality such as SD, CV% and prick factor all went into free fall.

It became obvious to me that there must have been some very powerful biological processes in action underneath the skin.

*PW After starting with a very high cull rate of over 60%, the culling rate decreased and there became more consistency with SRS® and flat type wools. We also noticed less reliance on using chemicals i.e jetting.

*JC Upon implementing Jim's classing system it was like a weight off our shoulders...at long last there were visual traits that were obvious and scientifically linked to measured skin biology characteristics. Absolutely ground breaking knowledge!

*GW Our shearers shuddered at first, but quickly came around, loved the way they combed and wanted to come back. Our shed is now very sought after. We lowered micron and increased cut in the first cross by more than we had done in ten years of trying.

5. Did the change in genetic alter the look of

your flock or was it the new classing regime that had early impact or a balance of the two?

*Yes sheep became smaller initially, tip became more nourished and quality improved clearly....

*TR Probably a balance of the two.

*PW It has always been important to have the right balance between sourcing the right genetics and good classing.

*JC. What Jim's classing system did for our sheep was to give us the tools to repeat the particular traits that we were fortunate to already admire. Jim was able to even out our sheep and give us classing tools previously not available.

*GW It did alter the look and as time went by it became easy to pick the sheep with the wrong skin eg. after shearing if the sheep was shorn roughly and didn't comb well we culled it. Also the cauliflower/ orange peel tip became obvious early.

6. Was it Jim who addressed your flock's skin issues or one of the 'disciples' he employed.

* Jim.

*TR From the beginning Charlie Massy was always our classer as I had formed a working relationship with him before I knew anything about Jim.

This relationship continues today with Charlie visiting each year to help select our sale team and keepers prior to our ram sale.

I have always classed the ewes and done the stud joining's while Jim generally called in each year to run his eye over our sires and young keepers advising us on which ones he thought should be used in the stud.

*PW We observed Jim Watts directly addressing our flock skin issues.

*JC I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been able to spend time with Jim observing then measuring skin traits. We would look at numerous sheep, describe what we were observing then Jim would take wool and skin samples and compare. This knowledge was invaluable.

*GW. It was Jim who embedded the belief in my head, but our classer became a disciple, which made the transition easy.

7. Can you recount a workshop scene that you'll never forget that was hopefully humorous?

*I have an atrocious memory!

*TR I remember years ago at one of the 2/3 day conferences Jim used to run at Wagga the SRS® program was in it's heyday and everyone

wanted to be involved. Jim was flat out driving from one end of the country to the other classing flocks and running workshops etc.

At the end of the first day Jim, who was sitting at the front of the room suddenly turned ghostly white and collapsed. They called an ambulance and carted him out of the room on a stretcher and as he was being carried away he stuck his hand in the air and gave the worried crowd a reassuring wave in a fashion similar to the Queen.

He spent the night in hospital but discharged himself next morning and made his way back to the conference albeit in a much quieter and reserved capacity.

Turns out he had been so flat out that he had simply run himself down to the point of exhaustion which although humorous at the time just goes to show the passion and commitment he had to the cause.

*PW No, only a soft rolling skin dog in a photo in the earlier years, which should have been left alone.

*JC Jim had the ability to hold the attention of even his harshest critics at a workshop. His depth of understanding of breeding trait heritability through to fabric was unmatched.

8. What was one theory/fact that blew you away at the time and has that concept held up?

*Pursuit of handle, depth of crimp and free growing long staple was appealing and remains.

*TR The building block of the SRS® system is Moores pre papilla distribution hypothesis which explains the science behind thin skins being correlated to higher follicle density, lower primary fibre diameter and thus better quality wools.

When I first heard Jim explain this I was able to connect the science with the visual fleece traits of these wools. This was the first time that I'd ever heard a scientific explanation of how fibres grow and it was the beginning of my learning process that is still happening to this day.

Since then I have learnt that there are many other biological factors that effect the end result however Moores theories still serve as an important reminder of the problems associated with the wrong type of skins.

*PW The strong correlation between skin and wool.

*JC. I know of no other classer nor stud masters that identified the science, linked it to physical traits which could be observed, then linked all these to particular positive processing characteristics and superior fabric qualities, literally linking the sheep we observe in the race to a final fashion garment.

Jim's work on SP ratio, follicle depth and his enquiring mind getting to understand what turns on and off secondary derived follicles.

The idea you could look at fleece characteristics, feel the fibre and link this to measurable skin traits. Nobody had tied all these characteristics together and used them in the classing race.

*GW. Jim produced scientific evidence of why SRS® was the direction the industry needed to follow to produce a superior product that was preferred by processors. The S/P ratio, was not sweat/suint even nourishment, closely aligned fibres, etc, etc, etc. The whole job was so obvious I can't believe the entire industry didn't jump on board immediately.

9. Neil McLennan's Banavie flock in my eyes



was the instigating flock in supporting all of Jim's theories. it was Collinsville based was it this genetic back then or the implementation of what to do with it that set that stud apart from the initial source and then in turn influence so many others in the Marnoo/St.Arnaud district?

*Banavie was at the forefront of the practical visual application of Jim's theories. Art Collins' brother was probably the architect of the SRS® in the 1920's!

*TR I have never had any direct involvement with the old Banavie flock so my knowledge on the subject is relatively limited.

However from what I have understood over the years I think it was probably McLennan's implementation of his breeding theories within his own flock rather than the original genetic source that created what seemed to be at the time a very unique flock of sheep.

Maybe by taking the renowned Collinsville frame and constitution and selecting the better wools and skins for his own environment he may have inadvertently produced an animal that was quite similar in both phenotype and genotype to what Jim was trying to create.

*PW The genetic background seemed to help the cause of the Banavie flock.

*GW. I think Neil McClelland selected a type/style of sheep from a particular family at Collinsville that possibly no longer exists due to the wrong beliefs in SA that saw the traits we needed get culled from the studs.

11. Did you ever have to vocally defend Jim and the concept aggressively?

*I'm not an aggressive person!

*TR In the last few years when Jim was active on the SRS® facebook site he received a lot of negative comments and feedback from his sometimes controversial but always informative posts.

Many of the comments were offensive and of a personal nature. Sadly this behaviour is all too prevalent in today's social media world where people know that they can hide behind their computers and say anything they like without any repercussions.

Jim always handled these situations very well, never getting dragged into arguments and always polite and courteous in his replies. There was however a few occasions especially towards the final days of his illness that I felt obligated to defend some of these on line comments.

Jim was such an intelligent man and possessed more knowledge regarding the science of sheep breeding than anyone in the country. It was such a shame that the industry in general never gave him the accolades that he deserved.

*PW Not aggressively, but I did defend his SRS® concepts in the lecture room while attending Marcus Oldham Agricultural College in 1998. I was given the name 'SRS® specialist' in the Ag College magazine!

*JC Supporting Jim was at least as risky as supporting Donald Trump! It seems that the 'sheep' need the benefit of hindsight to be convinced. It didn't take long before detractors became silent, and, interestingly, most of these detractors in the New England are no longer in the industry.

*GW. Yes vocally and often, but I strongly believed Jim's concept and supported it accordingly, mostly falling on deaf ears, but we ploughed on and happy we did.

12. Is the industry obviously better off right now due to Jim's timing and intrusion?

*Overall the quality of Australian wool is better across the micron ranges. If you looked at prickly factor alone, the handle of 2123 mic wool is dramatically different from 1990.

*TR The industry is definitely better off. Jim changed the way we looked at wool and even though a lot of studs wouldn't admit it I think

his influence can be seen everywhere.

Almost every successful stud in Australia have wool types within. At most traditional on property auctions the top priced rams nearly always have SRS® traits in their fleeces.

Jim also played an important role in the rise of the dual purpose sheep helping the industry's awareness of such things as fertility, fat, muscle and early growth. Of course he continued to be the driving force behind the breeding of a mules free animal which I'm sure we will inevitably all need to breed at some point in the future.

*PW Yes!! It is of no coincidence that most traditional studs in W.A. have plained their sheep up in recent years.

*JC There is no doubt that Jim's influence can be seen throughout most of the industry. There are very few tight traditional sheep now.

One thing that resulted is the lowering of fibre diameter across the board. This put pressure on traditional, finer and super finer producers to compete. No longer was a 17.5 – 18 micron sheep considered at the finer end. These sheep



were identified everywhere in what were previously considered medium wool growing areas.

This was possible entirely from Jim's classing approach. Unfortunately this revolution coincided with a serious downturn in the wool market and subsequent exodus of producers from the wool industry.

Notwithstanding this, Jim's stamp has been forever placed on our industry. There is not a single wool grower that has not got an opinion on Jim's work.

*GW I would say yes – processors would be much happier with the superior fibre to work with. Not sure if we are always rewarded financially for the better product but there is a sense of satisfaction on the wool table.

13. What does today's SRS® sheep look like and what are the benefits?

*Getting bigger, more fertile and increasing cut as the extreme end of Jim's early "look" broccoli and dishmops has been leavened.

Handle and colour is better, less complicated



lock creates freer, longer stapled, less flystrike prone animals. Feet have improved as have hocks from early derivatives of his work.

*TR Today's SRS® sheep is a medium to large framed, early maturing animal with above industry average levels of fat and muscle. It has an open face with clean points and is very fertile. Its fleece is bold and deeply crimped being finer in micron than its visual count suggests.

It has very fast growing, long stapled wool which is lustrous and silky to handle and forms smaller bundle like fibre groups as apposed to the traditional thicker staples. The skin is wrinkle free, soft and pliable with a growing percentage of animals displaying some degree of bareness on the breech.

The benefits of this type of animal are many. More lambs, equals more cull ewes, greater selection pressure, faster growing lambs, higher yielding carcasses, better doing more resilient sheep, better quality wools, greater worm resistance, greater flystrike resistance, less chemical use and mules free.

Unfortunately the industry pays us per kg for our wool which creates a situation whereby sheep are selected using the scales which in turn drives us towards producing a heavier fibre when we should actually be encouraged to produce a lighter fibre.

The SRS® sheep mostly grow longer stapled, higher density fleeces that actually produce larger volumes of wool per kg than their traditionally bred cousins.

I often wonder why the industry doesn't understand this and pay growers accordingly using a system that measures volume of fibre produced per kg rather than simply using the \$/kg method.

*PW SRS® sheep today have highly aligned wool with high value, which can be shorn twice per year, they are very fertile, and marketable with good carcass attributes. They are easier care and less chemicals are required.

*JC. We, at Lorelmo, firmly believe Jim would like the results of the implementation of his techniques. The average of our sheep are now what we dreamt of while working with Jim.

Free, open, fertile sheep with bold crimping, shiny, long wool. Totally addictive!! Sires producing a 210mm fleece after naturally siring 480 lambs...75% of which were twins!

*GW. Our SRS® sheep are like peas in a pod with a magnificent elite fibre and much more of it. A far cry from 6 kg of 24 micron harsh steel wool looking stuff!

14. Are you surprised or disappointed that Jim has passed without 'celebration' or much recognition? Would you support an organised event to rectify this?

*PW. Considering what Jim had achieved in the wool industry (including Alpacas & other fleece coated animals) I am saddened to know there was very little said about his passing. He also did achieve an Order of Australia at one stage to his dedication to the wool industry.

*JC It is a travesty that the industry was not given the opportunity to honour Jim Watts and his contribution. Agree or disagree with him, there was no more dedicated servant to the improvement of the wool industry through a quality fibre.

15. Is there a question that I should have asked?

*What would the Australian Merino look like today had Jim been a lawyer rather than a scientist?!

*Had Jim been a grazier/stud breeder do you think he would have had an easier time promoting his ideas?

*PW How do we celebrate the life of this great man? I believe it would be highly appropriate to hold a celebration event at this years

Classings Classic Ram Sale at Murray Bridge, S.A. This is because it attracts a big national attendance of whom are mostly interested in the SRS® breeding concepts. It is also quite centrally located.

*PW As a summary it is quite sad that pride, greed, ignorance and even animal right groups have partly blocked the pathways to amazingly well bred SRS® type of Merino sheep. Excuse me for any offence, but that is how I see it over 25 year of being involved.

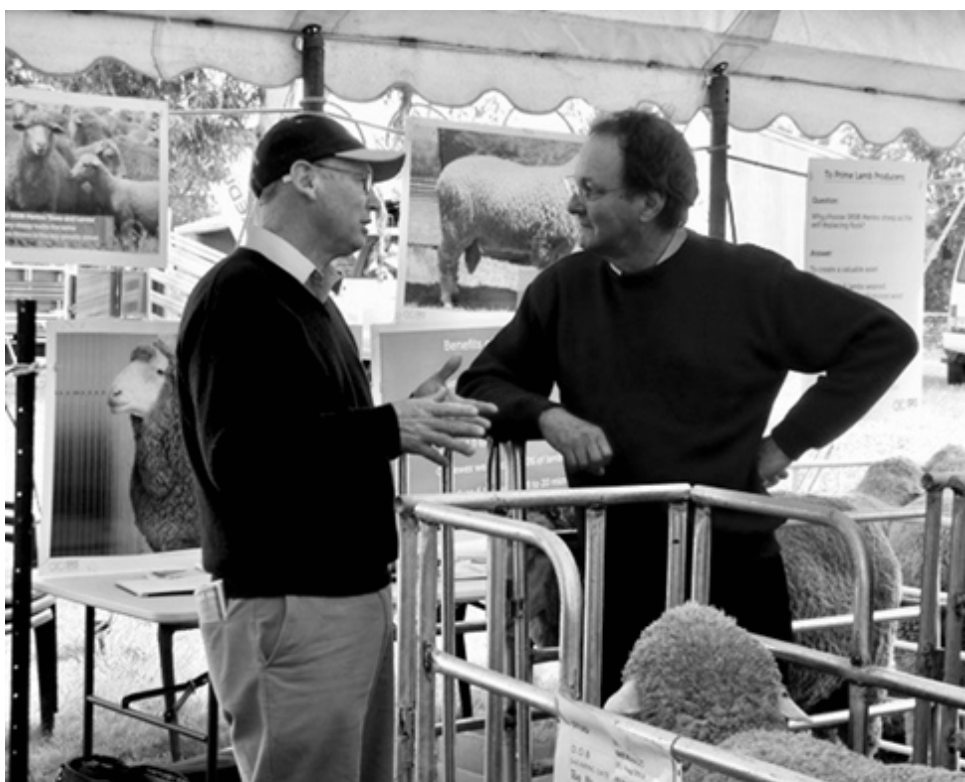
There has been plenty of mistakes along the way, but the original science from the SRS® principles definitely work! It astounds me every year how the SRS® Merinos keep pushing the production boundaries!

I am sure many more wool growers would breed SRS® type of Merinos if they understood the proven science behind it and applied it properly. The current national sire evaluations are further evidence of their worth.

*GW. I am not surprised by the lack of recognition, given the amount of opposition and resistance generated from the traditional breeders, but would definitely support some sort of event in his memory. His findings have saved us from embarrassment in the industry.

Dr Jim Watts in conversation with a client about the benefits of Breeding SRS® Sheep, at the SWS Field Day at Harden in NSW a few years ago. The photo was taken by Jim Gordon, JW will be remembered for a very long time.

A final comment Jim Watts single handedly



halted the stud merino industry from self destruction. Some of the dribble coming from the mouths of the traditional SA stud masters about, "re inventing the wheel," and, "we have had this stuff for years," is just absolute crap!!

In one cross we had more genetic gain than we had achieved in 10 years of attempting to improve our flock. We would have turned 80 and still not had the flock where it is today!

My lasting thought of Jim and the great workshops that he created and mastered that toured the country was one moment at the Collie Hall on Eyre Peninsula in the late 90's. He was midstream conversation and converting many of the thirty odd punters

that his system was to be considered. He signalled to a local grower that he could now go and get the sheep from his property nearby to fill the pens that were set up next to the hall. These animals were selected the day before to compliment Jim's discussion as part of the workshop.

Jim continued on and kept most in attendance captivated for the following hour. His voice then hit a crescendo as an introduction to what we were about to witness in the ewe filled pens outside. He excitedly slid over to the hall's double fire exit doors, swung them open for all of us to see. The sun beamed in and once we all refocused, squints turned to faces of disbelief as there were no stock to be

seen just empty pens on a crisp, clear West Coast morning!!

In the same motion that only scientific Jim could articulate, the doors were inwardly swung to a close and without missing a beat, he marched on with more on the same discussion concerning secondary derived follicles and the triggering mechanisms that springs them into action!

The stock did arrive within the following hour to complete yet another successful SRS® mission!

Thanks Jim!



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

SOHNIC MERINOS



Hamilton Sheepvention
4th-6th August
Display Only

Victorian State Marnoo Merino Field Day
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Classings Classic
2nd September
Selling 2 Rams

Inspection Day
Wednesday 4th September
10am to 4pm

Ram Sale
Friday September 13th
Inspection from 9am - Sale @ 11:30am

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SUPERIOR WOOL MERINO ON PROPERTY'18 TINTINARA S.A. OFFERED 92 SOLD 92 TOP \$4,900 AVERAGE \$2,580

GENETICS USED: SWM 768, GLENLEA PARK 063, 608,
WALLALOO PARK 247, GUNALLO 026, LEAHCIM 526, 965
WILLANDRA 1420, PYRAMID POLL, WP SYN, RL SYN



The photo looks innocent enough but what was actually happening right then was a sale that blew all previous SWM records apart total clearance of 92 rams, highest average of \$2,580 and a top price of \$4,900 and I didn't stay long enough for more than one beer dammit!

Top price trophy again went to Neville McGee Cressy Tas. for a long bodied Willandra 1420 Lot 4 at 118kg, 17.5u and GFW% 124 at a spiffy \$4,900. His agent Damien Whitely was on hand to make sire the selection was spot on.

But the real deal reward for multi support throughout the whole sale has to go to Garry Hansen of Hansen Farms Coomandook S.A. who slipped in to secure a casual thirteen! I assume he's just returned from a SWM sponsored Croatian holiday for he and Merriwyn due to his avid support for the stud!

Garry only buys quality and quite happy to pay for the honour with a \$3,269 average. I liked his Lot 28 pickup for \$4,000 took \$4,000 for a huge, bold crimping Gunallo 026 bred snoozer at 16.4u 2.6sd & GFW% 108.

Burge Trading Padthaway S.A. were equally as supportive with a 14 ram haul to average \$1,471 and could share the cabin with the Hansens.

Richard Storch Western Flat S.A. was handy as well to pickup ten to average \$2,810.

The Johnsons' Mt. Boothby Colbatch S.A. know their stuff and only picked out the beauties with

a realistic budget to further enhance a great flock. It was a great collection but I really liked a late choice down in pen 61 and bred by one of Richards' sires SWM 768. Typical numbers 18.3u 2.4sd 13.0cv & GFW% 104.

Colara Farms via top notch manager, Aaron Freeman, bought three screamers including Lot 2 at \$3,900 and bred by the excellent WP Syndicate which hosts a small list of top Wallaloo Park purchased rams.

The only one the Hansens, Colara and Mt. Boothby didn't get was Lot 10 which hosted one of the best fibres of the day. Extreme fibre, double poll, 42 EMD and 18.8u everyone competed up 'til \$4,300! Good effort Neil McKenzie Tintinara SA.

Brian and Glen Landseer Milang S.A. bought two, the first in Lot 5 for \$3,700 for a SWM 768 at GFW% 116 and the second in Lot 12 for \$2,500 even higher at 120%.

James, Sonya and Jamo Irwin Keith S.A. were after a ram breeder and got him in Pen 6 for a Glenlea Park 063 bred thug at 17.8u 3.2sd & GFW% 120 and \$3,600.

Trevor Gameau Cummins S.A. bought a \$3,000 GP608 son and Rob Germein Port Vincent S.A. was good for three including Lot 19, a very stretchy WP SYN bred fella at GFW% 120.

Rob has just purchased more dirt in the Tintinara area for future livestock considerations freeing up the YP farming for crop.

New client, Adam Merry Policeman's Point S.A. nabbed a big square Lot 1 for \$2,100 at GFW% 118 and 46mm EMD. He followed this with three more but I really liked his Lot 18 pickup for \$2,600 47mm EMD, 9mm FAT, GFW% 118 and bred by SWM 768.

Greg & Tanya Kennett Florando Tintinara S.A. was up for it with a four ram pickup and Doug Mitten great support with around five.

Kenny O'Malley was up to the task with four purchases and Peter Blacket Wynarka S.A. in the hunt with three. Add to that David Floyd Strathalbyn S.A. with a supportive five and Barb Reichstein with three including a \$4,200 SWM 768 bred thumper in Lot 42.

If I had a property without a name I'd call it Lone Star Livestock. I'd also call my record the same name! Owner Simon Bayne from Keith S.A. bought Lot 23 for \$2,900 and pretty handy too with GFW% 118, 46 EMD and good numbers for a 20.7u. Add 2.9sd & 13.9cv and Bob's yer Uncle.

'Vanessathe' bought a solitary one in my book so not sure...

The Bastian, Miles, Hall and Yurgo Farms bought ones and twos to ensure that every drop of ram was sold by day's end. Add to that twenty one more rams selling out the back to average \$800 and day complete! Excellent!

WALLALOO PARK ON PROPERTY'18 MARNOO VIC. OFFERED 194 SOLD 185 TOP \$52,000 AVERAGE \$3,681 Ho!

WALLALOO PARK 130438, 140261, 140411, 141018, 1401031, 140374, 150141, 150863, 151198, 150075, 150422, 150441, 150987, 150245, WANGANELLA 750, 836, POLL BOONKE 948, MOOJEPIN 59, 652, MOORUNDIE 008, 073, 044, KAMORA PARK 29, KAMORA/NETLEY 69, BLUE HILLS 'STATESMAN', WP 'REAL DEAL', WP EUREKA



When an 'out of fashion' horn ram bred by a Wanganella sire tops a merino ram sale for \$52,000 at Lot 1 it's a sure hint that anything could happen for the rest of the day!

Nothing came close to that figure again yet the sale was yet another ripper from this mother of all studs. 185 rams averaging over \$3,600 is a testament to the depth of the joint and the reasons why this is the nation's leading stud.

Had the horny been a poll he wouldn't have made the sale such was his stature, and instead would have been nestled amongst a group of young reserves in the members!

As I suggest with every WP writeup if I gave a totally detailed account of the day's proceedings I'd still be sitting here at Christmas time! First up I will give a rundown on our client's efforts on the day followed by some pick highlights.

After \$52,000 every good ram felt like a bargain! **David Woodard Eden Valley S.A.** thought the same with his Lot 4 purchase for \$6,000. YCFW 23.1 & MP+168 with realtime GFW% 117, progeny fleece weight shouldn't be an issue right Wazza?

David added another for \$4,000 at Pen 41 with a giant figure of WWT 5.1.

At a \$6,000 figure Wayne Lehman's 'Flairdale Poll' S.A. secured something very good including a double copy poll gene ram bred by Moorundie 150073. Add to this YCFW 32.4 YWT 6.4 WWT 4.1 MP+ 179 and GFW% 129 and all this ram needs to do is enhance what's happening at the stud and he'll be a bloody hero!

John Beasley who manages Westfield at Frankland W.A. for the Roche family offered me some good coin to secure the best poll of the day!

Lot 7 was bred by WP150422 a sire that threw good stock throughout the sale. A double poll, YCFW 20.3 YSL 10.7 YWT 5.3 & MP+154, yet it was this guy's presence and structural soundness that got me over the line backend and all feet spot on. Outlay \$14,000.

The Westfield flock is in more than great shape due only to Wallaloo Park genetics and a true merino showcase in the Mt. Barker/Kojonup/Frankland area. It wasn't a gem not that long ago though a leader for fleece rot, water stain, dermatitis and flies and any other skin induced atrocities prevailed.

New genetics, an aggressive classing regime combined with a realistic budget saw the pendulum swing to the positive in record time.

Speaking of outstanding flocks, Richard Harkness, SWM Tintinara S.A. was pretty chuffed to get hold of Lot 9 for \$5,000. A double poll and very deep sided with super aligned fibre the ram had some interesting test results: 20.0u yet 2.3sd 11.6cv & 0.2. Bred by WP'Eureka'.

Long time supporters, Lone Gum Crystal Brook S.A. saw Stuart Everett pick up a very well structured Lot 10 for \$7,000 with YCFW 21.4 & realtime GFW% 103.

Karawatha Park Buckleboo S.A. have a great stud based on a tangle between Wallaloo Park genetics and Leahcim. This recipe sees the stud raise the bar for depth and quality annually with it's average price and highest price running along the same track.

Bert Woolford bid to \$8,500 against other clients who were impressed with the PP ram bred by WP422 not only for presence but for some great ASBV numbers. Try these Leonard: YCFW 26.4 MP+ 167 PWWT 4.9 & YWT 8.4 winner! The stud added another for \$4,500 at Lot 51 for another well figured poll. YCFW 21.9 YSL 14.4 MP+ 163 and realtime GFW%111 and bred by old stalwart 120912!

I bought Lot 25, an impressive June/July drop yet syndicate bred so low accuracies for ASBV's yet YCFW 16.9 still put him in the top 20% for fleece weight. Paul Schaeffer Kimba S.A. was the recipient at a cool \$4,500. I found a ripper June/July drop way down at Lot 175 but so had

everyone else of my clients that were present so was forced to pay \$4,500 for the 'bargain' of the day!

Relatively new client, Wayne Girando Dinninup W.A. was so impressed with what he saw at Westfield after dropping in to say hello at classing the year before he gave me an order to pick up a beauty. Nearly everything was right with this fella in Lot 66 Bold, white crimp YCFW 27.7 & MP+ 165 and bred by WP422 for \$6,000.

A 'Real Deal' bred Lot 16 sold to Pat Milliar's Stud Park for \$16,000 which claimed the highest priced poll ram for the day. Trevor and Karina Voight Stansbury S.A. outlaid \$8,500 for a good square backed whooper in lot 13 with YCFW 20.2.

Dhuramein Nominees Balranald NSW won the gong for their mass purchase of 27 throughout the sale and averaged over \$2,300.

Mark and Kay Barr Newdegate W.A. bought a dozen up to \$6,000 for Lot 3 and bred by the same Wanganella sire that are the top priced horn ram. It was their Lot 34 pickup that took my eye though for \$5,000 coated with the good stuff and great structure.

Classic ram sale supporter, Bruce Dean of Forest Springs Poll Joel Joel Vic., secured a very good Moojepin 150059 sired poll in lot 71 for \$6,000 with huge staple length represented by YSL 17.4 and add YFAT 1.7 & YEMD 0.8.

Another great day of quality stock at a stud that was guided in part by the great Jim Watts and always seem to breed polls that are the next step in the evolution of that popular commodity, the Merino.



GUNALLO ON PROPERTY'18 PINNAROO S.A. OFFERED 96 SOLD 92 TOP \$4,800 AVERAGE \$1,698

GENETICS USED: GUNALLO 460/SIR CUMFERENCE, GUNALLO 007/BOND, GUNALLO 008/PRIDE, GUNALLO 374, GUNALLO 740, LEAHCIM 2918, LEAHCIM 2039, LEAHCIM 3052, LEAHCIM 2552, KAMORA PARK 738, KAMORA PARK 37 (PURCHASED CLASSIC SALE \$14,500), RIDGWAY 721 (PUCHASED CLASSIC SALE \$17,000)



The above photo won't show off enough just how good the fibre is at Gunallo. This is what the supple skinned poll produced in Lot 2 that was snapped up by McPiggery Lameroo S.A. for \$4,800, the sale topper, looked like!

19.0u 2.4sd 12.6cv 0.1 and a double copy poll at 120kg and bred by a sire that will feature right throughout this report, what else is required?!!

This sale was the first progeny produced by the now apparent SuperSire 150460. This is the sire that was destined to appear at Classic'16 yet was astutely withdrawn due to the semen collected prior was at that stage of low quality.

The sire was retained at the stud, semen came good and kabang Gunallo's best ever poll filled the sale pens with 25% of the bloody catalogue! I'll name him 460 from this point on.

Wayne Schenke Brinkley S.A. jumped in early and bought a ripper ET bred 460 son for \$3,400 at Lot 4 and followed this with Lot 41 for \$2,200 for a L2918 sired fella with YCFW 23.6. The sire was also the father of 460.

The first fourteen or first page in the catalogue listed many names that would feature throughout the sale.

D & L Investments bought seven rams yet probably bid on twenty to get their requirements. The list included Lot 2 for a

bargain \$2,200 at 120kg, 19.1u 2.3sd 12.0cv & 0.4pf. A fine crimper yet exhibited great staple length and nourishment.

But it was Blairgowrie Trust Willaura Vic. who earned themselves a two week break in the Schroeder house over looking the mighty Murray at Wellington S.A. due to their competitive haul of twenty two rams in the auction which was alsost 25% of the sale. Make that a month stay and I'll throw in the beer.

Note the destination here Willaura looks nothing like Ngallo yet the Gunallo wools are apparently holding up well in a lot higher rainfall. Their team averaged just under \$1,500.

Near local identities, the Rah Dabinett and Sons outfit under the guise of Longtrail Farms were again competitive all day to secure thirteen polls to average just over \$1,000 a piece. One of their purchases I want as I missed him during the sale for laughing at a pathetic joke when I should have been concentrating!

Peter Gilbertson Lameroo S.A. probably knows more than me about merino quality as he continues to bowl me and others over for top end quality acquisitions.

At \$3,600 he picked up Lot 10 for a poll that had a backend like a Dohne and bred by Gunallo Pride with a double poll gene. I liked his next



purchase more so which was in the next pen and sired by Ridgway 721 for \$3,200. Super long loined, one of the best wools of the day and a very pure snout, yes please.

Tony Martin Wynarka S.A., another astute fibre appreciator and master cod catcher bought a double copy poll in Lot 9 for \$3,000 with a YWT 9.5 and a twin. He followed this with a better one in Lot 21 and a 460 son for \$3,000 and a double poll.

I bought a 460 son for Tim Larwood Kimba S.A. who was on the hunt for something that would match his upcoming purchases from Karawatha Park Buckleboo S.A. Lot 6 had the density and nourishment that would suit their environment along with great structure.

Glen Richards and Deano Pearson both from my area and of whom both contest with Wayne Schenke annually to be the mayor of Brinkley. They also added great competition by securing six between them or eight all up if you add their mate Schenke into the mix!

Dean's best was possibly a 460 progeny he bought in Lot 33 for \$2,400 at 115kg while Glen's was at Lot 20 for \$2,000 and a Ridgway 721 son.

The Smith Yanac Vic.,family added their support with a seven ram pickup and it was the Altus, Atze, Amerylla P/L, Cotz, Phillips, Edwards, Eisen, Bennier, Day, Heintze, Sheldon and Colton enterprises that helped create yet another successful Gunallo ram sale.





For many and for too long these seasons have been a true test of tenacity and patience. This Q&A was sent to a few clients who have addressed these testing times with containment feeding and may offer a few clues as to how they did it. Some responses may help you refine what you are doing or offer suggestions on startup.

Prior to the actual Q&A I introduce a client's, at times, emotional take on the whole scene which is a must read on all scenarios involved with a challenging season at his property...

"... that was possibly one of my darkest ever days as a farmer. Hard to actually put into words how fucked up it really was on ones soul."

"We chose to build containment pens to lock up all our ewes ahead of last summer, primarily to protect our already baring and fragile paddocks.

Five identical pens opening up to a long race way at the front. Each pen 20m x 35m, water trough at the back, shade and hay in the middle and grain troughing at the front in the raceway. Each pen had roughly 200 ewes in it.

Approximate cost of project build including employee labour was \$11,500.

The advice we were given saw us use a straight

barley ration at 1kg head per day and straw ad lib. This ration was increased closer to lambing. The feeding cost of 7 tonne barley at \$340 tonne and 15 bales straw at \$45 a bale totalled at just over \$3000 per week, plus we were still hand feeding our hoggets and sale rams so were at about \$3600 per week just in feed cost without labour and water for 7 months November to May.

We syndicate mated in all 5 pens with rams in on Nov 7 for 6 weeks, they seemed very busy as ewes had no where to go.

Scanning results saw 8% ewes dry which we remated immediately and roughly 140% lambs in bellies to ewes scanned.

Initial losses were minimal in the pens we lost three which I suspect were shy feeders, to grain poisoning.

We also had a further 300 ewes in 2 mobs, in saltbush, joined over the same period.

We classed off and sold around 350 ewes in late December so were able to reduce mob sizes down to about 140 per pen, which in hindsight is still too many.

Around this time we introduced a pellet into the barley diet which was add lib between 12 kg a

day depending on the ewe.

We also introduced Magforce powder lick, and swapped their straw back to quality oaten hay. This was done too late as we started suffering losses to pregtox, even though they had ample feed.

We then started losing ewes to acidosis, even though they had been on grain for 5 months or more the bigger ewes carrying twins and triplets needed more barley then their system could handle.

We also lost a lot of ewes to prolapse which I'm told can happen in a high protein grain diet, and in a pen scenario like this where the sheep don't move around enough to maintain muscle strength to hold in their uterus this was all new to me.

Last year we lost 1.4 % ewes at lambing. Apparently the national average is 2%. This year we lost 7% and was probably the most confronting and challenging thing I have ever had to deal with.

Couple this ewe loss to the horrific number of lambs we lost and I became an emotional mess for the best part of 3 weeks. Main reason purely for the fact that this was all happening on the back of all the decisions I had made, no matter

how good my intentions were and how much I had planned and was organised, every day consisted of handling dead animals. It was not fun! I'm in tears as I write this.

The main difference to a more natural paddock lambing was that you don't tend to see what's happening out the paddock, and if you do a lot of the time it is from a distance whilst with lambing in pens it's in your face!

For the last 3 years average lambing % on our property was 110% lambs from ewes mated. This time we averaged 86% from the mobs in the pens and 103% in the two mobs that we joined and lambled down in saltbush.

If you use my two saltbush mobs as a measure or control for more normal lambing conditions, even though they were also on hay and grain, they were nearly 20% better than the pens.

I believe mismothering was the biggest issue. Even though the pens were small, once dark unless already mothered up, the lambs struggle to find their mothers, and if close to newborn with no fat reserve and shelter from mum, they die.

I would hear ewes bleating for lambs all night long. They would never settle, yet out the paddock all lambs mothered up and all was quiet and settled.

Predation we had no issues with foxes getting into the pens at all. I was warned this could be a problem. Fox baiting and spotlighting pressure helped here.

We kept things hygienic by picking up dead ewes and lambs each morning without fail. We also picked up all placenta twice a week, filling around 4 25kg fertiliser bags each time.

Learning! Over the years we have rarely had to trim ewes nails. Rams always regularly, but ewes have never been an issue.

I'm assuming on the back of less walking from being locked up, our whole flock needs a trim with some ewes having nails 3inches long.

All in all, I'm glad we did what we did regarding the containment pens. Although a massive challenge, physically, emotionally and financially, I believe we will gain in the long term by having protecting our paddocks from blowing away and losing topsoil.

One could argue to have sold off more sheep but we had culled into our mob as hard as we felt we could.

Keeping our ewe nucleus was our main priority. We felt the genetics and breeding goals we had invested in over many years were worth protecting.

Would I do it again? Yes, but now with experience, a whole lot differently."

ANONYMOUS

TOUGH OPTIONS IN A TOUGH SEASON

It's been a tough ride seasonally and for some of you more than two seasons worth.

1. What measures have you undertaken to keep as many stock on property as possible before eventual sell off?

*DO Scan, and shear culls, sell as early as possible, try to keep stock saleable and ready to go and watch withholdings periods etc.

*GT Containment feeding up until 2 weeks before lambing.

Combination of trial feeding and feeders through lambing worked fairly well.

*BH. Had sufficient stored hay, grain, and silage on hand to feed core breeding stock plus first pick ewe hoggets and first pick ewe lambs in containment for approximately 12 months at full maintenance ration. Chaff cart used for all crops. We've planned on 2019 being bad, so are still sitting on significant feed reserves.

*BI. We always try and have some trade sheep in our livestock mix, thus running less flock breeding ewes as we possibly could say in a straight selfreplacing flock.

Be it bought in ewes or lambs or simply keeping cull/scanned empty ewes and joining them to Xbreds or the cattle option. This way when things on the grazing chart and or on the ground show we are heading into being over stocked these stock are first to go, no strings attached.

Second is we start dribbling a little bit of grain into them long before things get difficult, that way we can ramp things up quickly if need be when things cut out quick ie. bad frost or week of hot north wind take the value out of things.

By this stage managing ground cover takes priority, so generally some rougher bush country or holding paddocks are sacrificed to supplementary feed in.

*DE We have been trimming numbers everywhere we can.

Selling scanned dry's and Lambled and Lost as soon as they are detected, a choice made easier by 6 month shearing, meaning they only have 03 months wool on them at these stages, so no need to carry them through to shearing.

Scanning Twins/Singles/Dry's has allowed more targeted feeding for different groups. LTEM course has taught us how much each of these groups need at different stages of pregnancy/lactation, which makes the most of feed that's there, hopefully not overfeeding or underfeeding anything.

This also involves condition scoring at least some of the ewes each time they are in and splitting up and target feeding when out of season to get the skinnier ewes up to score 3+ before joining, without overfeeding the fatter ones.

2. One member of this group mentioned to me not long ago that his feed bill was running at \$3,000 per day. Is this ball park for the rest of you or way out of kilter compared to your scenario? \$figure?

*DO We were using 20t to 25t grain a week in autumn 2017 and 2018 plus straw and bit of hay.

*GT I would use a cost per week figure Bill. Ewes \$6.00 per wk this year last year \$4.50.

*BH. Means very little – is it a 2000 or 50000 dse operation? \$21,000 per week is a lot, it must be a big business.

For the last 2 years on Eyre Peninsula, livestock earnings have consistently exceeded feeding costs, if feed was bought wisely – yet I continuously hear growers say they couldn't afford to feed. They now have fewer skinny sheep with large areas of degraded land that won't return to full production in some cases for years.

*BI. I don't doubt that \$3k a day is possible, depending on size of operation. I've budgeted this time around for the lambing period cost to be around \$4 hd/wk in feed.

*DE We hit \$800/day for 1800 ewes at peak lactation and 400 contained Hoggets.

It built up to that number, and pretty much maintained at that until weaning (weaned at 10 weeks this year), meaning 67 weeks at that level of cost, but have had lesser amounts of grain going out right through from March last year.

3. Containment feeding what did/have you learnt mostly about containment feeding as far as do's and don't's with stock procedure? Disease, stocking rate, joining etc.

*D.O. Use buffers, oats to get sheep onto barley and wheat etc. It's easier, you can wean lambs into the feedlot but if you have any green feed put lambs onto that and put ewes in feedlot.

We had lambs going well until pink eye set in and ended up putting a drop of penicillin into their eye for a cure in a day or two. (off label) We did about 400.

Bale and use as much barley straw as possible as it's cheap and local and make sure it's always available when feeding high grain rations. They don't like wheat straw but we will eat a cold pastie if there is nothing else!

*BH. Baled chaff heaps or straw fed ad lib inevitably have considerable 'waste' left in the yard. The deep layer of chaff and or straw all but eliminates dust but more importantly the tendency to mud at the break of the season – the part of the year whecontainment feeding is most difficult and unpleasant.

Supplementing continuously with mineral vitamin loose lick can get costly but having it



available at least some of the time seems to prevent the animal health decline or crash that can occur after long periods of less than good quality feed.

We had no pink eye at all and lower than normal sheep mortality after long periods of containment. Labour is an input that absolutely must be costed in – containment feeding can take very little time or be a massive time waster. Efficiency is critical.

Buy quality hay – hay racks are a waste of money with quality hay if conditions are dry. Good quality hay will be licked up clean without fancy feeding equipment. Joining in containment is a winner. Lambing in containment is torture.

**BI.* Due to starting to destock early and having heavy bluebush country that can be knocked around a bit while supp feeding the only class of sheep that we have full containment fed was our lambs last year.

We weaned 2 weeks after marking/mulesing. At preg scanning, split into early/late so only about 3 weeks age difference per mob, lambs already grain trained on mum.

Used AIMS weaning pellets mixed with 80% barley 20% lupins and good quality hay at lib, 200 to 250 per pen, trough fed twice daily for 2 weeks. Then into mobs of 600 and trail fed in holding paddocks.

Quite time consuming but good result with very minimal losses.

**DE* Containment fed 400 2018 drop ewe lambs from start of March this year, and they are still in there. Lick feeder running at 600g/day, 85% barley 15% lupins and trail feeding equivalent of 150g/day barley split twice a week + 250g/day of very poor quality canola hay.

Very happy with the result, although the trail feeding was meant to help the shy feeders.

If I did it again would run two pens split

into heavy's and lights and adjust rations accordingly, which we have done since classing the other week
definite tail in the mob, but top 75% look great.

Drench, Glanvac, B12, A, D & E and a 65% stock lime/34% salt/1% molasses homemade lick which kept them happy.

I know its common, but first time we have done it and I think we will do it for at least a short period every year from now on,

As soon as we did it, it took a lot of pressure of our paddocks and we had options for the other sheep.

Having said that we did try "containing" a mob of 280 twin bearing ewes in a similar way on 16ha of bush country. The plan was to feed up till point of lambing, then release onto a pasture paddock next door. By Midmarch (7days pre lambing), we realised that it was a waste of time letting them out, so lambed them in the 16ha.

Mismothering was a huge issue, we only lost a few ewes, but I was very unhappy with the lamb losses. At the end of the day they came back with 105% lambs, compared to a similar size mob of twins on 110ha of reasonable barley stubble and a similar feeding regime which returned 115% lambs.

Neither percentage is any good and is much worse than in a normal year for us, but I think I'd do it again if forced into it. Mob size in twins is the thing we will look harder at, especially in tough years. Splitting them down into mobs 1/3 to 1/4 the size would be preferred if possible.

3a. If not containment what measures in the paddock did you deploy for stock survival/paddock health?

DO We tried to keep stock off sand hills but they still blew!

**GT* Containment. Do it nearly every year.

Generally 610 weeks in May and June.

**BH.* The cheapest energy is inevitably in the paddock UNTIL cover diminishes to a point where soil health is compromised. Then it becomes unaffordably expensive.

Lick feeders are not magic, but they do allow a high level of control over feed consumption with very low labour input, especially if sheep are very acclimatised to them – important for maximising paddock feed utilisation if cover is sufficient.

**BI.* Used small paddocks under 200ha of heavy timbered or bluebush country.

I find feeding little amounts more regularly ie. every day or second day seems to make ewes utilize the bluebush country better and appear to have less grain wasted by trail feeding on the ground.

**DE* Containment was our main tool this year, although we did do things like shifting water points and feeders to encourage animals to graze different areas of paddocks.

4. What was the best bang for buck grain/fodder once/If off farm tucker was sourced?

**DO* Straw is the cheapest and closest way to make grain go further along with lick feeders which are a must in my opinion.

**GT* Pellets. Safety and value. Depends on lupin cost and the nutritional value of Barley. Last year used nearly 100% pellets. This year mixing some Barley in to reduce ration cost. Depends on ewe condition.

**BH.* Viterro sold F1 barley out of Wudinna in July 2018 for less than untested oats was selling on the private market – absolute value for money. We then sold barley at harvest for considerably more.

Untested feed, whatever it is, is a complete lottery. I've sold hay, straw and grain through this period – not testing means setting fair value is near on impossible. I cannot believe



how many people buy feed without so much as a care about quality.

**B.I. All feed purchased in was high protein barley, lupins/peas. Don't buy without feed test as there is so much variability if it seems cheap there's a reason!*

Vetch hay is very good if available. Cotton seed is good value and cost effective for dry sheep if setup to feed out.

**DE Grain and mainly barley - one big point that I learnt through LTEM is that no matter how good the hay/paddock feed is, it is almost impossible for a twin bearing ewe to fit enough in their stomach to maintain condition from about 30 days prelambling through to peak lactation. Don't worry about protein either, save that for young growing stock, for in lamb ewes it's all about energy and the cheapest way to get it and most years is barley.*

4a. Was PIRSA, SheepCRC type information of value in maintaining your stock? Same question with containment setup etc.

D.O. There are plenty of information apps for feed budgeting and design. My tip is to put containment areas near existing sheep yards and shed if possible as you will use them more then you think.

The only worry I have in being close to the shed is you have to watch small bits of string that the

baler cut off which are about an inch long and not great for contamination.

Yes, definitely, there is some tendency to complicate the whole process at times but no one can say they couldn't find out how to do the job well.

Containment feeding and drought management of sheep have never been so easy.

**BI Yep there is a heap of info out there but it can be time consuming to sort through though sites like Farm Table.*

Other pages with links listed saves time or ring someone that has had a crack already. There is some feedlot pages on FB that you can ask the stupid questions on!

**DE I can't recommend Lifetime Ewe Management enough! It takes a bit to catch onto, but once you start getting it, it is almost scary to know what a sheep needs, and to then look at a paddock and be able to work out fairly quickly how long it will last and what else might be required.*

Apart from that I find that the NSW DPI website seems to have the most information and is certainly the best set out for finding things that you aren't sure about.

5. Did you consider selling the lot? What made you not?!

**DO No.*

**GT Class young ewes early and sell.*

**BH. Never – the great difference in 2017/2018 was that returns from sheep and wool remained extraordinarily high.*

In past droughts, we've fed through hoping we could return the livestock enterprise to profitability. This time, it remained profitable the whole way through.

**BI Yes we made some critical dates that if there wasn't some meaningful precipitation we would fully destock, thus giving us a date to budget to.*

We probably should have made the meaningful precipitation amounts higher in hindsight but having some set dates at least gave time to prepare to either sell or re budget to carry on.

Probably second to maintaining ground cover, livestock and wool values has had the biggest influence on the decision making process to continue feeding.

If you put value for money ie. me and protein feed in at the right amounts, a productive fertile middle aged merino ewe is going to cover her board and keep!

**DE Selling them all hasn't been forced upon us yet, luckily, but we did prepare to sell a mob of 300 scanned in lamb ewes mated to White Suffolks. In expectation of this we mated 330 extra older ewes to Merinos, meaning more merino ewe lambs coming through.*

At shearing in February when it came time to make the decision there wasn't huge demand for in lamb ewes, and they came through in better nick than we expected, so we decided to try and carry them through.

We have since dropped our numbers by selling the 320 Lambered and Lost ewes that came through at tailing, which we had no hesitation doing, knowing that more ewe lambs are in our system than normal, and prices for ewes were exceptional.

5a. How many stock losses due to nutrition/energy reserves exhausted?

**GT No losses.*

**BH Nil. That's an animal welfare issue. Can't be let happen. Some of the media exposure of poorly maintained animals made me frustrated.*

**BI. I think losses may have been a little higher than normal through this last summer probably due to heat more then anything.*

In a larger area grazing operation I think we have the advantage that our stock are fitter coming into tough times as they are traveling further. As long as they are still maintaining

condition they don't drop off the cliff as easily.

**DE We have lost a few to lambing etc. as normal, but haven't lost too many to starvation/nutrition. In mid 2018 our ewes got down to easily the worst condition I've ever seen them, but they got through.*

We did sacrifice over half our sown crop to keep them alive though. (Not that it was much of a crop!)

6. Community wise did the harder times bring on local camaraderie and open discussions more than ever?

**DO There is always someone doing it tougher than you so don't be frightened to give them a hand and remember it will rain again!*

**GT Doubtful!*

**BH. No, stress on people is revealing some hidden fractures. Changes in social and community structures and an intensifying spirit of completion amongst farm businesses is in some cases diminishing resilience.*

Social media is a force for both good and bad. The mental health epidemic is a symptom of all kinds of challenges being faced.

Many businesses will take time to regroup and are far from 'out of the woods'.

**BI. Yes I think this time around there has been more open talk, maybe due to generational change in the area.*

A positive of this community is the number of us under 40, so this is the first real tough spell for most of us holding the reins. So yes there has been a lot of chat suggesting that asking how you are feeling aren't taboo! We've had a few days away playing golf or just a random meet in the middle mailbox beer!

Also outside influence there have been a few groups from outside the community donating goods. These days have brought people out of the wood work that wouldn't normally come to other community social events.

**DE Even though people talk about how tough things are, noone gets into too much detail as a rule. Conversations are more about sharing ideas to get things through or help with working something out.*

Everyone is doing it tough, some are a little deeper than others, but noone is doing it easy at the moment.

6a. Has it actually been a drought? Does old Frank down the road suggest it's the worst he's seen?

DO Worst feed years for a while. In 2017 it was first green in the first week of August.

In 2018 germination was in July, however it's

now May of 2019 and it's going well!

**GT A feed drought. Crops weren't too bad with profitable returns in a tough year.*

**BH Water was a constant issue with a lot of dry dams and had to pump a lot of water.*

The break of season in 2017 and 2018 are easily our two worst ever. In 2017, we were cushioned by the fact that 2016 was exceptionally good financially and left very large stubble cover, and we started the season with stored soil moisture.

Excellent rain in August 2018 and then record grain prices got us by in 2018. 2017 and 2018 will certainly be remembered as major drought but could have been so much worse. Soil erosion in many areas in early 2019 was probably the worst since 1978.

**BI It probably took a bit for people in this area to realize how bad it actually was, mostly because of 2016 being a very good season for the most part. Thus our dry feed reserves were good and everyone was cashed up, had to spend money at end of 2016/2017 Financial Year.*

So yes there is country in this area that people are saying has never looked so bad but is that because people are supplementary feeding in the paddock because of high commodity prices at the moment?

**DE From Sept 2017 through to April 2019 is easily the driest period in our rainfall records. Dad is 69 and says he's never seen it like this.*

7. Did your city mates understand the full brunt of what was actually going on out in the 'bush'?

**GT. No, but most knew it was pretty dry.*

**BH. Yes.*

**BI. I think there is certainly more awareness due to social media, which has forced mainstream media to pay attention this time around. But whether they actually care is another thing yes their chops are a little more expensive but they can still get them...*

**DE I don't think the drought is portrayed well to city people in the media, they need to make things into a headline story yes everyone is doing it tough, and there are some terrible circumstances.*

But a lot of what they show makes us look like backyard hicks with our heads in the sand. For the most part, Farmers are astute operators, we know how much feed we have, the condition of our animals and how much feed/water we need for any given time.

To see images of stock too poor to travel, night after night on the news, just makes us look bad. The vast majority have destocked the required amount before it gets to the tipping point or

found ways to meet the animals needs in other ways.

I'd like to see some news stories about how farmers are actually coping with the drought, not just being beaten by it, not as a bigger news story, but might actually gain some city people's respect, instead of their pity.

8. Concerning any selloff of stock did the agent factor in 'quality of stock' on top of 'numbers of stock' and 'condition of stock?' If so what was the value added figure for quality?

**DO Couldn't get a market for cull ewes so most got their heads cut off. It's worthy of note that selling early to save feed is fine yet it's before other breeders wanted them as they were in the same position. Over the hook was our only option.*

**GT Yes, they know we buy top genetics!*

**BH Yes, I think he did. He put time and effort into finding a buyer at a price I was more than happy with – maybe \$15 more than I expected, and for a small line.*

But more importantly, I met the buyer of the ewe hoggets I sold in 2018 not long after he purchased them and he couldn't believe how good they were. Better than him feeling done over!!!

**BI. Probably not frame still reigns supreme in traditional markets closely followed by fat cover. Unless you market to a wider audience, say Auctionsplus. Freight comes into the equation so you need to fill 4 decks ie. 400 ewes, so maybe quality gets eroded over numbers.*

**DE There is definitely a demand for good quality lines of stock. Quantifying an actual premium is hard to do, the meat demand is just that high. Most people that had capacity to buy have already done so, and I don't see restockers competing with the meat trade until there is rain up north and the spring goes our way.*

8a. I was offered 150 4.5 year olds in lamb for \$200 last week from a property that is only just coasting at the minute. Knowing the quality well, yet unsighted, I offered \$225 without hesitation. The \$200 was a meat value agent offer of which I found offensive but if they're only score 2...what's your take?

**GT Score 2. Will require more feed and attention. They will lose more lambs if feed and shelter is poor.*

**BH. Score 2? Why? Was the agent acting for the vendor or an unknown customer? Maybe someone punted on a break to the season. Letting sheep get to score 2 is always a gamble, and part of that gamble is running out of options. The vendor was lucky to have you!!!*

I would certainly need to know more to be offended by the agents offer – he may have



offered more than they were worth to him as a favour!

**BI It's disappointing when an agent won't market your sheep for you at the end of the day the more money they make the better the commission. My advise to this client of yours is to change agents. Why didn't the agent ring you or offer you to access them on Auctionsplus presuming the vendor was told they wouldn't get there money if put in sale yards due to condition score.*

My take, we sold yellow tag ewes, scanned in lamb to merinos at score 1 for \$176 and the purchaser paid over \$10 freight possible mutton value \$105 less costs.

**DE Not so much monetary compassion, but the good agents take note of what's around the place and ours has been invaluable in sourcing grain, hay, or whatever we need at the time on top of actually selling our stock.*

We get a call anytime he gets onto anything he thinks we might need, or every week or two he will call just to see how we are going.

10. Concerning outsourced fodder was there a bit of compassion inbuilt into the fee charged or was there a 'what goes around comes around' attitude?

**GT Locals here were helpful.*

**BH I thought Viterra's price for barley through July was absolutely fair and their service in out turning was excellent. I couldn't be happier.*

However, as a seller of hay and straw, counterparty risk is a major issue. People who pay late hurt and contribute to an atmosphere of distrust in the industry. Being done over makes one very hard very fast.

**BI Nah, there's a freight subsidy so we'll put the price up a bit and we'll deliver it so you can't help your local carrier out.*

**DE I think fodder has been priced pretty well under the circumstances, yes, it is all dear to what we are used to, and to be honest, under normal circumstances we are usually completely self sufficient for most of it, so it does hurt to write out the cheque.*

But everything we have looked at has been priced accordingly to its quality. If it's cheap, it's been low quality and dear stuff has been backed up with good feed test results.

11. Is there a question I should have asked where the response would be of great value for readers? If so hit me with it and I'll circulate it amongst this group anonymously.

**GT. Missing questions to do with splitting mobs into Condition Score groups and then feeding and managing accordingly. Measuring Condition Score and getting ration advice?*

**BH How much influence does luck have on the outcome of farm businesses?? I'm thinking lots!! And the older I get, the more sure I become of it!! I reckon being able to recognise some good outcomes as luck tones down arrogance and hubris, but accepting that some bad outcomes are just plain bad luck puts things in context.*

**BI When is the country going to have a good general rain?!*

12. No doubt there is an emotional discussion here regarding your own well being as well as family and friends can we discuss this or not? If yes anonymous except me!

**GT I was lucky Bill. Having sold some land March last year I was cashed up and buying feed wasn't stressing me.*

Having bought land this year I'm not cashed up and feed costs are higher. I did reduce ewe numbers by 100 last October and have sown more feed paddocks this year.

**BH. Yes. 2017/2018 has been a testing time. We bought the business in 2016 and "got lucky" that it was a sensational year. Otherwise, we may well have 'gone under'. Hence my comment about the role of luck.*

**BI. Yep personally I've been pretty up and down for 2 years and yes, there are probably some depression warning signs there. But probably the biggest things that allow me to sleep at night is that everyone in my family is healthy and I have a group of people/friends I can talk openly to. We know from the budget where we'll be in 26 months time good or bad and can plan for it.*

Our animal welfare is good and what we are feeding is worth money. Yes our community is probably drinking too much alcohol at the moment but if we're doing it together and talking at the same time, that's a plus.

13. Should I be probing such an emotional, testy subject?!!

**GT Yes. You are in a good position to do this. Your clients respect you and will appreciate your concern by the fact that you have raised the issue.*

**BH Yep.*

**BI Yes I think probably as a wider community the battle on approach is still there and it's good to bring it up. There are so many positives at the moment that the D word has been somewhat dulled down.*

14. What procedures will you put in place that would be different to what you have done in 2018 should the 2019 situation be of similar ilk?

**GT Spend more time planning and setting up feed out equipment. Locating feed silos nearer to containment pens. and changing a gate to give easier access to containment pen.*

Fixing a feedout trailer that can mix grain and carry more feed thus making the process of feeding easier.

**BI For 2019 our supplementary feed ration has changed mostly due to what can be obtained cost effectively, ie using more grain rather than good quality hay.*

Although this hasn't been done, feeding our dry sheep in a more enclosed containment situation would be more beneficial once something to accommodate larger numbers is constructed.





Displaying at:
SE Merino Field Day & Hamilton Sheepvention

ON PROPERTY AUCTION
TUESDAY 13TH AUGUST 2019, 1:00PM



Jed: 0427 691 858 Craig: 0418 259 049
ramsgatepoll@outlook.com
www.ramsgatepollmerinos.com.au

FIBRE & FERTILITY ON FRAME



**HYNAM
POLL
MERINOS**



July 19th - 21st Australian Sheep & Wool Show at Bendigo (display)
August 5th - 6th Hamilton Sheepvention (sale)
August 13th North East Merinos Ram Sale at Benalla (sale)
September 2nd Classings Classic Invitational Poll Merino Sale at Murray Bridge

2nd On-Property Ram Sale (sale/display)
September 20th
 Display from 10am, Sale starts 12 noon
 Refreshments provided

Check for updates! 

Hynam Ag Pty Ltd
 643 Carmodys Rd, Longwood Vic 3665
 Kevin: 0427 833 262 | Tracy: 0428 833 262
hynamkevin@gmail.com

CALCOOKARA ON PROPERTY'18 COWELL S.A. OFFERED 79 SOLD 72

GENETICS USED: CODDINGTON POLL 5098, LEAHCIM 100858, 3202, GUNALLO 0547, 336, GP858 SON, PEPPERWELL 5098, CALC 'FRANKY' L858 SON, GP HORN, CALC SYNDICATE.



Having just visited Calcookara to grade this year's young ram crop into Auction/Reserve teams it reminded me just how well this joint is travelling at the minute. Add a reasonable season and there is an air of confidence around the traps!

Calcookara has just joined Sheepgenetics and will have ASBV data available for the 2019 sale albeit at low accuracies at this stage so real time numbers will still prevail.

That 2018 sale was a corker and just rewards for Brenton and Jane who are a dynamic duo in ensuring the studs future with only quality genetics used for client confidence well classed too might I add! (Dickhead!)

As mentioned in Cullings'18, Neil and Emily Byerlee from Orroroo S.A. once again stepped up and bought a swag of goodens, eight in total, to ensure the sale was going to be competitive for top end polls.

They confidently poured \$4,000 into Lot 1 that was bred by my alltime favourite sire Leahcim 100858. His GFW% 125, BWT (actual) 122kg and real time EMD 37.1 at 18.4u wrapped in the glossy bold crimping gear saw competitive bidding.

Their Lot 4 buy at \$2,800 was great as well and bred by the Coddington Poll sire that the Smiths bought at Classic'16 for \$10,000.

Bruce and Josie Hunt Mundulla S.A. travelled the distance to average just under \$2,500 and topped their list with a \$3,600 ripper in Lot 12 and bred by that Wonder boy Leahcim 100858. Get these numbers 858 knockers!: 20.4u 2.6sd 12.7cv 0.0pf at GFW% 146 at 111kg!

The Hunts Lot 29 pickup for \$2,000 was adorned in the crimping gear as well with a GFW% 109 at 111kg.

Top price gong sat in Lot 3 and the outstanding poll made a whopping \$5,800 and went to Paul Turner who is an avid long time Calcookara supporter.

Big and square and bred by Gunallo 547 he had GFW% 119 and get these real time additional: 16.4u 2.5sd 15.2cv 0.2pf. Wool tops, frame tops and a backend this industry needs more of Smivvers.

Freeman Puckridge Port Lincoln S.A. bought well as usual with a trailer load totalling five by day's end as did the May family's Mayome P/L Wudinna S.A. I liked their Lot 36 pickup due to a big square butt and good fibre for \$1,800.

Foster and Waller Port Lincoln S.A. secured a gem in Lot 2 for a well deserved \$5,000 and bred by a L858 son that was bred and purchased at Glenlea Park a few years back. GFW% 140 and weighing in at 122 kg at 18.4u & 2.6sd, yes please.

The three Hannemann clans that were present certainly had huge impact on a flowing sale and bid well throughout.

I'm not sure which one bought Lot 7 but they should be happy that they only paid \$1,800 for him! He featured a huge meaty, square backend, great fibre and cutting ability.

Right next door in Lot 8 was another scorcher and bred by Leahcim 3202. Double circled in my catalogue, he sold to Grant Hannemann for \$3,800 with a GFW% 140, massive! Another great Leahcim 3202 sired son in Lot 19 went their way to average break the other guy at a realistic \$1,400.

Rod and Cindy Hannemann bought a couple including Lot 48, another L3202, for a steal at \$1,500 at GFW% 119. A bit of stubby horn possibly put the punters off but for a commercial ram what the hell Frank says!

Mark & Andrea Hannemann were good for a couple as well and their Lot 35 CP5098 bred bloke at \$1,800 had four legs and long white fibre. Freaky.

Mark knows his stuff concerning not only merinos but also on how to make some good homemade, uplifting spirit to keep the smile on a lucky few post sale. Perhaps pre sale could be a thought!

Matt and Peter Story are quality collectors. They bought a bloody ripper at Lot 5 which many suggested was the poll of the day. White, soft, square and up on all fours he cracked the \$5,000 figure again. GFW% 114 and bred by the Coddington sire, the wool was so pure that Calcookara retained some semen for their own use. I think Symon Allen Kimba was in there somehow for a share. Symon bought the best horned ram of the day in Lot 57 for \$1,600 and should he have been a poll, who knows?!

The Kilrow, Schumann, Berryman, Price Family Trust, Piggot, Willis, Elson, Gregory, Sinclair and St. Claud enterprises who bought since and double purchases are an essential part of the day to ensure it's success as they bid on many more to acquire their needs.



KARAWATHA PARK ON PROPERTY'18 BUCKLEBOO S.A. OFFERED 112 SOLD 112 TOP \$5,200 AVERAGE \$2,505

GENETICS USED: KARAWATHA PARK 150391, LEAHCIM 153624, 152798,
TURKEY LANE 150077, RIDGWAY POLL 150451, LEAHCIM/WP SYNDICATE.



HF what a great sale this was -highest average, most auction rams ever offered with all sold and the tucker... a major sensation!

This stud just keeps pumping out more of the sae - top quality, best woolled poll rams en masse. No fluke considering how the Karawatha team outlay the spondoolee for live ram genetics and consider-ably large A.I. programs.

The Wallaloo Park/Leahcim tangle here produces rams as good as anyone in the biz and this sale was a testament to that.

Something's going right when the first ten polls gross \$42,400 and obviously average \$4,240. Even more of a realisation of a good day out when the very last ten gross \$22,600 at an average of \$2,260 hence no surprise the whole shi-bang averaged \$2,505!

The stud is now in full swing with ASBV data with the only 'let down' being the syndicate bred results of low accuracy - this is across all studs involved in the system and there is no fix except for a hefty/expensive DNA program as to identify who dropped what.

This is when FBV's or Flock Breed-ing Values come into play which are accurate only within the said stud. Mostly this is still within the realms of accuracy yet not on a national basis. It's what most of us used for decades before the thank-ful arrival of Merino Select, Sheep Genetics or ASBV's.

Anyway Lot 1 was one of these Syndicate bred rams and there was no issue with him no matter what the numbers were! A big thug at a paddock 107kg and CFW 18.9 with 19.2u 2.8sd 14.6cv & 0.3, these numbers typified most pens. Tim Larwood - Kimba S.A. was the recipient at \$4,800 which set the tempo for the....day!

He went on to buy another three or so including a 116kg Leahcim 152798 son in Lot 3 for \$4,000. YCFW 22.6, YWT 7.3 & DP+ 157.

Lot 5 was his next for \$4,000 exhib-iting one of the best fibred skin of the day add YCFW 18.2. Lot 109 still made the dosh at \$3,400 and bred by L153624 had a MP+ 160 most in part to YFD -1.8, YWT 5.6 & YCFW 16.2.

Top gong went to a ripper Lot 4 and bred by L153624. I had him ear-marked for Ramsgate - Tintinara S.A. yet the frenzied bidding saw me wimp out with others! \$5,200 and sold to Kym, Symon and Josh Allen - Kimba S.A. Real time fig-ures of 17.5u 2.5sd & 0.0cf at 104kg coupled with a fibre that oozed fluid nourishment and a stark, bold crimp the top price was no real surprise. Add MP+ 157, DP+ 166 and a YWT 7.6 and Bob's yer Uncle, Frank! He was a twin also.

Mentioning Ramsgate, they were keen to access their first Karawatha poll and left it up to me to entrust them with some good coin! Pen 21 hosted one of the best of the day and \$5,000 his ownership was transferred to the Keller boys at Tintinara S.A.

Numbers? Big! YCFW 24.8, YWT 5.4, MP+ 161 DP+ 164 at 103kg and 19.3u & 3.1sd. Visual? Thumper of a twin with a backend like Julia's and fibre exotica!

The Allens bought another four including another snorter in Pen 30 and bred by Turkey Lane 150077 for \$4,200. Typical Karawatha Park figures to follow: 16.4u 2.4sd 14.4cv 0.0pf add YWT 7.3 YCFW 17.6 YFD -1.7 MP+ 161 DP+ 166.

The Rayson name pops up regular-ly at Karawatha sales and they supported well in securing six including lot 6 for \$4,000, twin bred at DP+ 158.

Same description for Wayne and Sam Young - Butler's Bridge S.A. who don't miss Karawatha sales for anything. They were again strong bidders and began their foray at Lot 7 for \$3,800 and bid on another five throughout the sale.

Rob and Joy Koch - Booleroo S.A. were in for around six including Lot 47 for \$3,000. I liked their Lot 76 L152798 pickup for \$2,400 with YCFW 18.9 and the crimp and 17.2u silk we're all accustomed to at this joint.

The Woolford Brothers - Kimba S.A. were strong with their five or so including Lot 46 for \$2,400 ex-hibiting YCFW 19.6 and looking like it!

Sophie Nuske of Hillseas - Sherin-ga S.A. picked up a swag with her old man after viewing the Kara-watha Park genetics first hand. Sophie spent a week touring EP with me on work experience via the Cleve Area School. It was no sur-prise to hear her commentary after classing the Karawatha ewe hog-gets and top rams regarding the fibre quality of which she had nev-er before witnessed!

They selected well with all rams showing off the fibre that she was accustomed to here and managed to come out alive with a realistic \$1,200 average.

Harry Rayson - Kimba S.A. was huge with his support averaging \$3,000 to a top of \$4,000. That was Lot 6 with all of the good numbers including DP+ 158 and bred by KPk's own sire 150391.

Shannon Larwood - Kimba S.A. knows his quality and nabbed an extremely good Lot 9 for \$4,000 and bred by L153624. Extremely white and bold crimped, shit he was good. Try these numbers to add to the fibre silkiness: 16.2u 2.7sd 0.0cf!

Tom Barlow - YP - S.A. loves his daughter as well as these genetics!

He bought four including lot 11 for \$4,000, a common figure and cut-off for many.

I was really impressed with what Tom Davey procured in lot 24 for another \$4,000. Bred by L152798 with trait leading stats including YCFW 22.6, YWT 7.9, MP+ 160 DP+162. Karawatha thought so highly of this poll that he was used in their 2018 fresh A.I. program. Tom also

snatched Lot 2 for \$4,400, another screamer! Mark Baldock - Kimba S.A. was good for a couple including one at a bargain \$2,400 in lot 74 and bred by the Karawatha sire with a YCFW 20.8, MP+ 163 & DP+ 170!!

Paul and Caitlin Schaeffer - Nalino - Kimba S.A. was another quality seeker and is always strong at these sales. Lot 13 at \$4,800 and bred by the Turkey Lane sire like the Mark Baldock purchase had some outstanding numbers: YCFW 20.7 with MP+ 154 & DP+156.

Matt Cook - Minnipa S.A. bought a couple with a bargain Lot 50 drop-ping into his grasp for a mere \$2,000 with a YCFW 22.3.

Zibell's picked up some rippers again with this year's special indi-vidual in the grab sitting at Lot 63. Catalogued possibly way too low yet still cracking \$4,000, this L153624 was a Bruce

McAvaney...special! At 16.8u 2.5sd 15.1cv & 0.0cf, if it wasn't for a bit of stub protruding from his scone, he just may have stayed at the stud.

I don't know the Humphris clan but they were great support with the four they grabbed including a \$4,000 corker in lot 43 coated in the good gear and YCFW 21.2 & YWT 7.5. Fibre great as well!

Similarly the Trengrove clan -Spalding SA purchase in Lot 8 didn't go unnoticed as a quality pickup for a casual \$4,000 either! He also was a contender for the Ramsgate clan who wanted the very best.

There were around forty actual purchasers at this sale so I've gotta stop the mentions as I may take up half the bloody newsletter with this bit!



Good on you the Boongala Ag, Watson, Girdham, Nev Simpson, Toogood, Inglis, Burns, Brooke and Cody Seal, Close Rural, Len Newton, Treloar, Berg, Neverend F/T, Gregory, Being, Price and Ramsay enterprises for rocking up to secure rams to ensure the day's warranted success!



Horseshoe and Cauliflower

Horseshoe crimp, elite fibre, cauliflower tip, Soft Rolling Skin, SRS® Workshop, smooth cylindrical fibres, drape, fibre bundles all terms identified and now part of the vocabulary used regularly by progressive breeders thanks to that master Merino skin technician, Jim Watts.

His ideals shaped an industry quite possibly when it was at its very worst instilling confidence into young aspiring Merino breeders.

He offered hope that there was actually a sound and exciting future with a supple skinned animal exuding a fibre that most of us had never witnessed.

CLASSINGS CLASSIC RAM SALE 2019

MURRAY BRIDGE RACECOURSE S.A.

Monday 2nd September

80 POLL MERINOS 80

Inspection from 10am and sale commencing at 1.30pm



- BADERLOO - SA
- BELBOURIE - VIC
- BORUNG - SA
- CHALLARA - WA
- FLAIRDALE - SA
- FOREST SPRINGS - VIC
- GUNALLO - SA
- HYNAM POLL - VIC



- LEAHCIM - SA
- LUCERNBRAE - SA
- NINUENOOK - VIC
- O'BRIEN POLL - SA
- ORRIE COWIE - SA
- PENROSE - WA



- RAMSGATE - SA
- RIDGWAY ADVANCE - SA
- RIDGWAY - SA
- SOHNIC - VIC
- SWM - SA
- TERRICK WEST - VIC
- WHITE RIVER - SA
- WOODOONA - SA

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For sale update and catalogue go to
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Mob: 0428 973 804
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Annual On Property Auction



Inspection 11 am
Sale 1 pm
SA TIME

Gunallo 170295
Gawny

Thursday | August
29th | 2019

*“Gawny” sold to Superior
Wool Syndicate for \$60,000.
Sold at Classings Classic 2018*

100 POLL MERINO RAMS AVAILABLE



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Location: Bendigo
Dates: 19 -21st July 2019

South East Field Day

Location: Keith Showground
Date: 24th July 2019

Karoonda & District Stud Merino Field Day

Location: Murray Bridge
Date: 26th July 2019

Hamilton Sheepvention

Location: Hamilton
Dates: 5 - 6th August 2019

Classings Classic Ram Sale

Location: Murray Bridge
Dates: 2nd September 2019

Adelaide Ram Sale

Location: Adelaide Royal Showgrounds
Dates: 6th September 2019

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

Brad Schroeder
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Poll Merino Stud

On Property Sale
180 Poll Merino Rams

Monday 12th August, 10am Inspection, 1pm Sale

Offering at Hamilton, Classings Classic & Adelaide Show.

Displaying at Bendigo, Keith & Murray Bridge.



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Wallaloo Park

MERINO & POLL MERINO STUDS

Wallaloo Park is recognised as one the leading studs impacting commercial breeders and renowned studs, with innovative leading genetics for over 40 years.



The Home of Wool Quality



Top Price Ram On Property Sale 2018: \$52,000 sold to Derella Downs Merino Stud, Esperance WA.

Our investment into predictability, is continuing into 2019, ensuring the genetics you buy are honest & reliable. Advancements into our adoption of the Smart shepherd mother technology, with improved results, averaging 95% for 2019. Total drop measurement of growth, wool & carcass.

At Wallaloo Park we have always prided ourselves on delivering a consistent, predictable product that clients have relied on for decades. In recent years we have been testing the waters of new traits. With those intact, we plan to deliver those back into the Wallaloo park wools that have stood proud for years.

“ Twenty years ago, at a workshop at Murrumburrah, we were impressed by both John and his sheep and chose to commit to Wallaloo Park genetics. It has been a rewarding dedication with big gains in wool quality, lambing percentages (120% for the last four years) and meat quality. The Carters client service is outstanding and their aggressive attitude to measurement puts Wallaloo Park ahead of many of the other studs. ”

- John Flanery, Boorowa NSW

Out & About

19th - 21st July 2019 - Bendigo Sheep & Wool Show

Display marquee of our leading 2019 sale rams & ewes entered for judging

4th & 6th August 2019 - Hamilton Sheepvention - Site 369

Display marquee of our leading 2019 sale rams & ewes entered for judging

Friday 23rd August 2019 - Victorian State Merino Field Day at Marnoo

Wednesday 4th September 2019 - On Property Inspection Day

200 head sale team tethered from 11am for inspection till 3pm

Thursday 12th September 2019 - On Property Ram Sale

200 Rams on offer at 1pm, inspection from 10am

**2018
SALE
RESULTS**

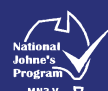
Last years sale was another successful sale with 186 sold of 194 offered, to a top of \$52,000 av \$3,681.

ALL WALLALOO PARK SHEEP ARE APPROVED VACCINATES, OJD MN3 & BRUCELLOSIS ACCREDITED

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BACKENDS AND PEDIGREE

I tend to harp on a fair bit about bad backend structure and its impact on both industries yet possibly not enough considering the multiplying effect that's obvious in the yards in much of my travelling.

The pictured poll ram, Brookdale 140012 has an incredible story really and rams like this fella are much needed to conquer structural problems.

Brookdale 12 was born at Brookdale Merino Arthur River W.A. and Embryo Transfer bred by a stretchy fibre/frame ewe ('Elle') that in turn was ET bred by Glenlea Park 090004.

That sire was bought at Classic'10 for \$10,000. His sire was Leahcim 33 and his mother, Tag 713, was ET bred and was a full flush sister to Glenlea Park 'Olympic' that held the Classic record price at \$51,000 until 2018.

Now back to Brookdale 12, she (Elle) was E.T. joined to Leahcim 100858, the ram that Calcookara bought for \$22,000 at Leahcim's on property on 2011.

Elle's five progeny never saw the official sale pen except for all together in a group at Brookdale's dispersal sale.

An enterprising Scott Welke Westwood Poll Cascades W.A. attended that dispersal and under my insistence bought Elle and her five progeny for around \$900 each.

At classing the following year the five lambs had all grown into hoggets with one absolute standout, a young ram with a tag #012 in his ear. Bold crimp with a back end structural setup not dissimilar to a Dohne!

On discussion I suggested to Scott that the ram was to be the start of a new family for the future success of the Westwood Poll outfit.

That discussion was going well until I mentioned that a ram like Brookdale 12 was easily worth \$5,000 and that I would have a queue of clients to pay it for such a structurally solid animal.

Subsequently Brookdale 12 was an automatic inclusion in the 2015 Esperance Ram Sale!!

I bid by phone on behalf of Ramsgate Tintinara S.A. to the reserve of \$5,000 and back to S.A. he came.

He was used extensively in that season to produce ewes and rams that mirrored his (pictured) backend qualities not regularly found in our breed. Add to that a super long, more than bold aligned crimp and the ram progeny were hot items in the 2016 Ramsgate On Property sale.

Some wools, despite the excellent shape of the rams penned, were that bold that some sale attendees were a little confused especially with the fact that they were all in safe territory for micron right down to 17u for some.

The backend discussion is worth tracing considering the increments of pedigree are well documented.

Brookdale 12 has the immaculate industry backend and his mother Elle was the same so the ET bred BD12 had no option but to follow suit. BD12's father L858 also had a very square backend yet possibly without as much 'chump' or roast as himself. We will thank mum for that!

Elle's father GP004 stood well on sale day and left immaculate progeny for all of those who used him via A.I. except for the odd bad hock that could show it's face. GP004's mother had a good backend yet the sire L33 had a few negative moments for backend structure.

In tracking this history it can be said that, with vigilance this hock issue can be conquered but 10/10 for back end structure is the only prerequisite.

On the skin/wool side there is huge impact, especially considering the non mules address with hocky sheep.

Knock kneed animals have crap sticking to their legs like glue acting as the perfect magnet for flies.

Buy genetics from stud principles that actually understand what's at stake here with poorly structured stock and are doing something about it. Any stud guilty of such atrocities should seriously look at the photo as a guide to an easy fix! Semen Available!!

TREV'S WOOL MARKET SUMMARY

Merino wool is the planet friendly choice of fibres.

We all know about its sustainability and comfort and increasingly our customers are becoming more aware of its many uses and benefits.

It has been a record breaking season in terms of price however, of late, the wool market has had rough ride. From a market peak in August 2018 where most micron categories hit record highs to a 1520% drop in prices by seasons end. Supply concerns brought about by the drought has seen wool sold at auction drop by nearly 300,000 bales last season. Low yields at less than 55% and poor tensile strength has seen many lots lacking competition and to some extent dragging the better wools with them.

The shrinking wool clip though has certainly shielded wool prices from an even great fall on the back of this weaker demand. A general decline in the global economy, the China/US trade dispute, Brexit, low business confidence and a lack of retail activity in China & Europe have given wool a reality check in the short term. However, with merino stocks remaining low and the undeniable quality of the product we are producing, the door is open for a substantial rally at some stage. It is worth keeping in mind that today's prices are still well up on where the market was just two years ago and there is still a good reason to be optimistic about wools future.

Good luck for the coming season!

Cheers, Trevor Smith Elders District Wool Manager





VICTORIAN STATE



MERINO FIELD DAY

**OVER \$7000
IN GATE PRIZES
TO BE WON!**



28 VICTORIAN MERINO STUDS ON DISPLAY

plus THE INAUGURAL VICTORIAN CHAMPION MARCH SHORN HOGGET RAM COMPETITION

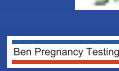
**BANAVIE - CHARINGA - GOWANDALE - BELBOURIE - OAKBANK - WALLALOO PARK - FOREST SPRINGS
SOHNIC - OLD DUNDEE - LONGDALE PARK - WURROOK - MELROSE - GLENDONALD - MONTROSE HILL
KERRILYN - KEDLESTON PARK - HYNAM POLL - TERRICK WEST - GLENARA - STUD PARK SOUTH - GLENPAEN
HANNATON - KOOLE VALE - MOUNT YULONG - ARAPILES PLAIN - TAMALUECA - NAREEB NAREEB - WILLERA**

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Friday, 23 August 2019

10am-4pm @ Marnoo Events Centre

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Short shank redemption...

Dr Mark Ferguson, Managing Director
neXtgen Agri Ltd



It is just over 14 years since my new wife and I packed up the Mazda and headed across the Nullarbor to start my PhD with the late Dr Norm Adams in Perth. I was keen to understand the implications of selection for carcass traits in merinos and 14 years on, I'm still learning.

The sheep we have today weren't around 14 years ago, they have evolved at the hands of dedicated breeders who have seen the benefits of a merino with a longrange fuel tank. I thought it was timely to provide a summary of what we currently know about a carcass traits in merinos.

The genetics of condition score.

I think the single most important factor associated with fat and muscle is their close genetic correlation with condition score. That is, the higher the genetic propensity for laying down fat and muscle in an animal, the higher the condition score of the animal will generally be. This makes perfect sense; you condition score an animal at exactly the same spot as you would ultrasound scan it for fat and muscle depth.

We see this genetic correlation play out clearly in the New Zealand Merino, Central Progeny Test site (NZM CPT; Figure 1).

Each dot represents a group of ewe progeny from an individual sire. The progeny had been running in the same group since conception, the sires were mated randomly to the same ewes, the only difference between the groups is the genetics of the sire.

Importantly, there is 0.8 condition score units between the highest and lowest performing progeny groups. This is a sireonly effect, the actual genetic effect would be expected to be double this (ie only half of the genes come from the sire).

Farming sheep that are naturally more likely to be in good condition is a completely different scenario than farming with sheep that are programmed to not hold condition.

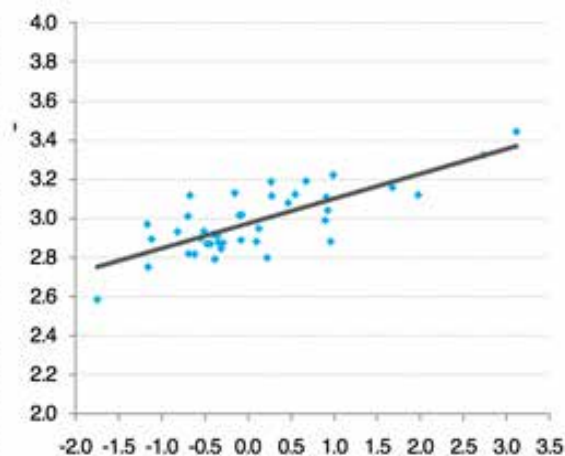
Figure 1. The breeding value for fat and muscle for an individual sire and the average condition score of it's ewe progeny at their first mating. New Zealand Merino, Central Progeny Test data.

Fat and muscle and reproduction.

There are now a lot of studies that show a positive link between fat and muscle and reproductive performance. Perhaps the most comprehensive recent analysis is that by Daniel Brown, Kim Bunter and Andrew Swan, published in the 2017 AAABG Proceedings and incorporating around 30,000 animals.

These authors show a strong positive correlation between muscle and fat and number of lambs weaned and a moderate positive correlation between fat and muscle and lamb survival. There is no doubt that if you want to improve reproductive traits then you select for them directly.

However, getting good information on reproductive traits isn't easy and



the majority of merino flocks in Australia do not currently generate this information.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the link between carcass traits and reproduction is around lamb survival. While there is clearly a lot of noise around these correlations, lambs with better carcass data are more likely to survive.

In the 2018 drop of the NZM Central Progeny test, the correlation was negligible in single born lambs but evident in the twins (Figure 2). The other aspect of this graph is the massive variation that exists between sires for lamb survival.

Figure 2. Relationship between a sire's breeding value for muscling (YEMD) and the survival of his lambs in the 2018 drop NZM CPT.

Tradeoffs, limits and all that jazz.

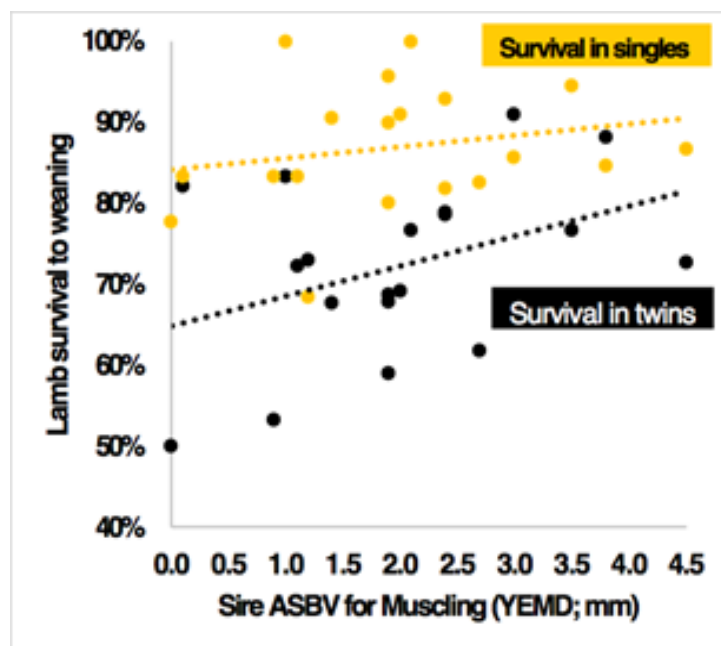
I see and hear a lot about the tradeoffs with wool associated with positive selection for muscle and fat and there is no denying an unfavourable genetic correlation between fat and fleece weight for example. There are a couple of points worth making. Firstly, by playing the long game and selecting within your preferred wool/sheep type, there need not be any compromise on wool quality or quantity.

Introductions of external genetics of a different wool/type are obviously going to throw off the home type for a generation or two. Secondly, this is uncharted waters and we are dealing with exceptionally complex biology, there are no arbitrary cutoffs or limits.

The combined selection strategy of carcass and wool has never been practiced with the precision that it is today, everything is possible it just takes time.

To provide some support to this concept I thought it would be useful to provide the genetic trend graphs of a breeder that has been selecting for fat and muscle and wool for almost 20 years (figure 3).

This breeder improved fat by 1mm, muscle by 2mm and fleece weight



by 10% over this period. I've also provided a graph of CV as one of the traits that is associated with wool quality.

Over the same period of time, the CV of the wool has been reduced by over 1.5%. So yes, there definitely are tradeoffs but none of them are significant enough to stop you making excellent rates of genetic gain across all traits.

Figure 3. Twenty years of genetic gain for fat, muscle, fleece weight and CV in an Australian merino flock. Short shanks.

Finally, we get around to discussing the title of this article! One of the things that is important to note is the body shape change that is associated with positive selection for carcass traits in merinos.

As we move to higher genetic merit for muscle and fat, we see reduced cannon bone length, increased width across the pins and increased depth through the twist. These animals tend to have deceptive weight and can be overlooked as being small, but a different story is told once they are on the scales.

The shape of the animal changes and it is important that if people are embarking on a carcass selection journey that they are aware that these changes will occur. Associated with this change is a shift to earlier maturity and a reduction in mature weight which all culminates in an improvement in maternal efficiency.

The most important thing in any breeding program is balance, different breeders have different perspectives on where the balance lies across different traits. Often this is associated with the type of country the sheep are running on and the stocking rate pressure they are put under.

Carcass traits are much less valuable in low stocking rate environments where sheep are always in good condition. They are much more valuable where frequent periods of drought are experienced or where sheep are run under high stocking rates.

There are now breeders in all states of Australia and both islands of New Zealand who are putting positive pressure on muscle and fat in merinos. Their stories are very consistent, as the generations tick over they start to find the sheep are more forgiving to a tough period, they respond more quickly when the going is good, they have more lambs that

stay healthier, they have less health problems and they stay in better condition.

This doesn't mean we should expect this to happen for ever, biological relationships are never linear, at some point there will be no additional gain for further improvements in muscle and fat and this selection pressure will be diverted to other aspects.

Let's hope we learn as much in the next 14 years that we have in the last 14!

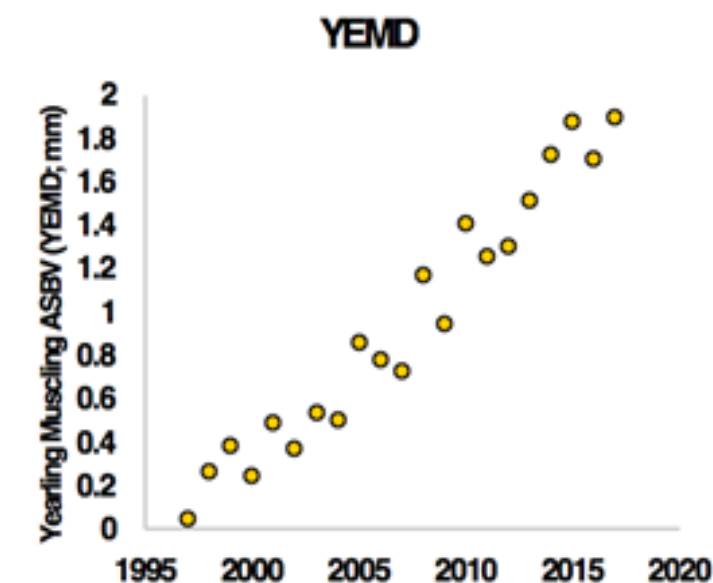
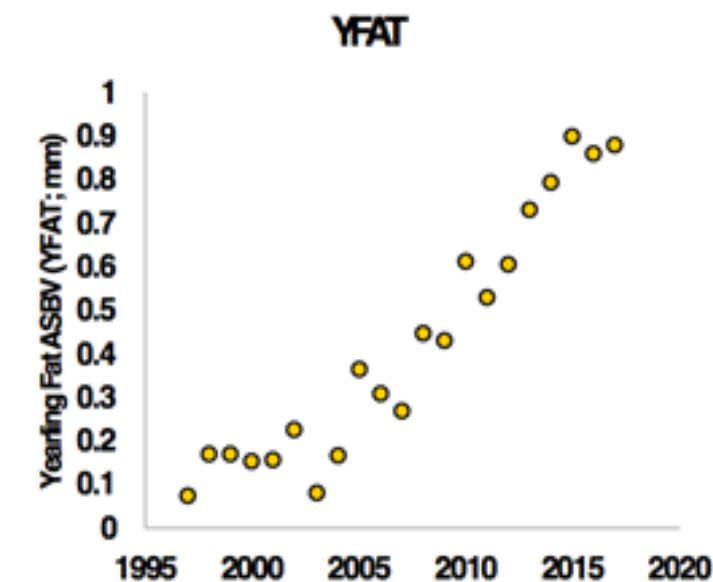
Mark grew up on the family farm in the Victorian Mallee and has spent his career in the sheep industry working throughout Australia and New Zealand.

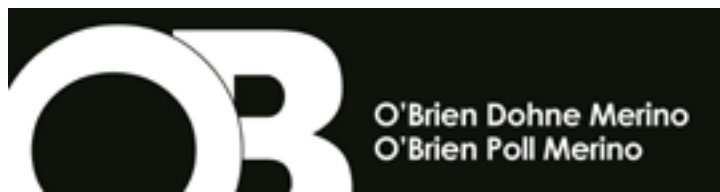
He completed a PhD in Merino Genetics in Western Australian before moving to New Zealand to establish a portfolio of genetic research and development on behalf of the New Zealand Merino Company.

In 2017, in partnership with his wife, Nisha, he founded neXtgen Agri Ltd.

Mark now works with progressive stud and commercial producers across Australia and New Zealand, helping them breed the best sheep and cattle for their situation.

neXtgen Agri also undertake research and development projects on behalf of a range of industry organisations.





Auction

Thursday 1st August 2019 @ 1pm
Wudinna Show Grounds
Inspection from 10am
Light luncheon provided

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70 Poll Merino Rams

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2019 Diary

July 19 - 21
Australian Sheep and Wool Show
Bendigo

August 5 - 6
Hamilton Sheepvention

August 23: Inaugural Victorian
Marnoo Merino Field Days

September 2: Classings Classic
Ram Sale, Murray Bridge

6th On-Property Annual Ram Sale Thursday September 26

Inspection from 10am - Sale starts 1pm - Refreshments provided

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"The best way to predict the future is to create it" *Albert Einstein*

Annual on Property Sale
Thursday 1st August 2019
Inspection 11am Auction 1pm

Keith & Judy Paech
0415 701 493
lucernbrae@internode.on.net

B Big, plain, wrinkle free, non mulesed sheep with elite wool

NANTOURA ON PROPERTY'18 WHARMINDA S.A. OFFERED 68 SOLD 62 TOP \$4,800 AVERAGE \$2,352

GENETICS USED: NANTOURA 150063, LEAHCIM 142654, LEAHCIM 132009,
LEAHCIM 153323, GUNALLO 360, GLENLEA PARK 130377



Nantoura, similar to not many studs has possibly one of the most paddock prepared Poll Merino ram sales in this state.

To average \$2,352 to a top of \$4,800 is a credit not only to the stud but more so the clientele who know exactly what to expect without the glitz associated with other pumped up versions found elsewhere.

Sure the Classic sales are exactly representative of that statement yet most of those rams are the entrant's absolute top end that often tour two states and need the subsequent diet to accomplish such a feat.

John Flavel and his boys, Billy and Josh were there I think to purchase the top ram as I'm fairly sure that's all they bought! Lot 2 was the ticket and bred by L153323, the ram exhibited on property real time GFW% 132, YCFW 17.1, was long, square, elite fibred, double polled and worthy of the big bucks \$4,800.

In writeups like these it's always hard on just who to rave about first! It's not hard to look at high price yet it is the multi ram purchasers that take the eye.

JL & LM Sampson from Kimba bought eight all the way up to \$4,000 and possibly deserves the 7 day holiday to the Maldives fully sponsored by Andrew Prime.

Their syndicate bred Lot 4 pickup at \$2,800 had a holy root GFW% 135 and was coated with the elite gear backed up with the same for test results. Ready? 16.5u 2.8sd 15.1cv 0.0cf. YCFW only 14.0 would suggest his syndicate breeding didn't help the ASBV analysis.

Not a hell of a lot of difference with the Sampson's next purchase either with Lot 7 exhibiting GFW% 123 at 17.4u 2.6sd 15.1cv & 0.0pf at \$3,200 and bred by Gunallo 360.

There is a residing Gunallo SuperSire named Sir Cumference (150460) and the Prime's purchased Gunallo 360 at the Classic three years ago. Naturally Chris has always had trouble I understanding just why his sire with the 360 circumference type figure wasn't named accordingly me either!

They also paid \$4,000 for Lot 17 yet I think the family's Lot 25 pickup for another \$4,000 was the pick of the two. He had everything including being placed too late in the auction!

Another screamer in lot 32 at \$3,600 and bred by L2009 all suggests that the progeny from this type of purchasing power would be top shelf.

Chris Prime could sponsor Paul and Jackie Jones' Bangor Props Melrose S.A. to their destination of choice thanks to their six ram support as well.

They started their buying foray immediately at Lot 1 for a bargain (by day's end) \$2,000 but it was their Lot 15, Syndicate bred ripper at \$2,200 that was a great pickup and great value for buck. GFW% 125 at 17.0u 2.7sd 15.6cv and yet again 0.0pf, there was definitely no goat hair floating around the Lab when we tested these!

I think their next best, a Glenlea Park 013377 bred fertile plus looking fella at \$2,400 represented just what the stud is aiming at. Profitable yet easy care animals that will

reproduce themselves easily due to their uncomplicated makeup.

Mark Pfitzner and boys from Pfitzner Farming Butler Tanks S.A. were there and picked up three goodies as did Damien and Fiona Millard who procured six for the trailer by day's end.

Tim Ottens Wharminda S.A. bought a great Nantoura 150063 (x the famous L858) in lot 9 for \$2,000 at GFW%116 and a double poll. Again check out these numbers 17.3u 2.3sd 13.1cv and0.0pf!

I bought six for Stevens Farming Broughton Vale NSW from the auction and five from the selection pens to be used in Seymour in Victoria. Yet due to moisture at last in the Little Topar/Wilcannia part of the world they maybe station joined up there in 2019!

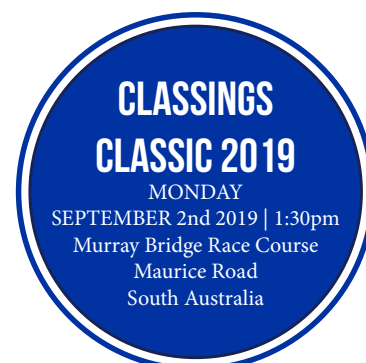
Evan Hunt Wharminda S.A. knows quality and that's all he bought with his three purchases. Lot 5 at \$3,000 with GFW% 123 and a double poll with defined bold crimp. Lot 8 with a GFW% 127 at 17.9u was always going to be a high priced seller and reached \$4,400 due to his dual purpose attributes. Lot 10 at \$3,200 completed the tale!

Dave and Karen Newton Tumby Bay S.A. and the two Telfer families were instrumental with the sale's success. Grantley and Jonathon Telfer bought easily one of the best of the day Lot 14. Geez what a poll ram and Classic destined should I have had my way!

Tag 170474 and bred by the Glenlea Park sire had it all. Double Poll, GFW% 140 what do I hear you say?! YCFW 21.0, DP+151 at 18.1u enough!

The Newton's Lot 22 for \$1,600 let everyone present know that not everything of quality made over \$2,000 along with their other value for dosh picks.

Coolalee P/C, Charlton, Ramsey, Fauser, Carr, Roediger and Masters all bought one to two each to form the base of the sale.





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DNA FLOCK PROFILE TEST: WORTH THE EFFORT?

The rate of progress in our game is at times mind boggling and none more so than in the area of genomics. Commercial Flock Profile Testing still stumps me as to how they arrive at their numbers so I enjoyed the fact that a client of ours, **Daniel Evans** in the Riverland was able to give me his version of proceedings, why he did it and a ram that may influence his future breeding directions.

His stud of choice, Mumblebone NSW, incidentally had just featured well in the first Keyneton Sire Evaluation Trial with Classing and Measured Performance Traits exceeding most.

Will add here a brief description from SHEEP CRC regarding Flock Profile Testing:

"Flock profile estimates the genetic merit of a merino flock or drop which can be prepared to the Sheep Genetics data base.

Flock profile results deliver genomic breeding values for key Merino production traits and then scaled to ASBV's.

This allows Merino breeders to track the genetic progress of their flock and make better ram buying and selection decisions."

"A Facebook post came up from the Sheep CRC a while ago talking about the DNA Flock Profile Test and I thought I'd look into it.

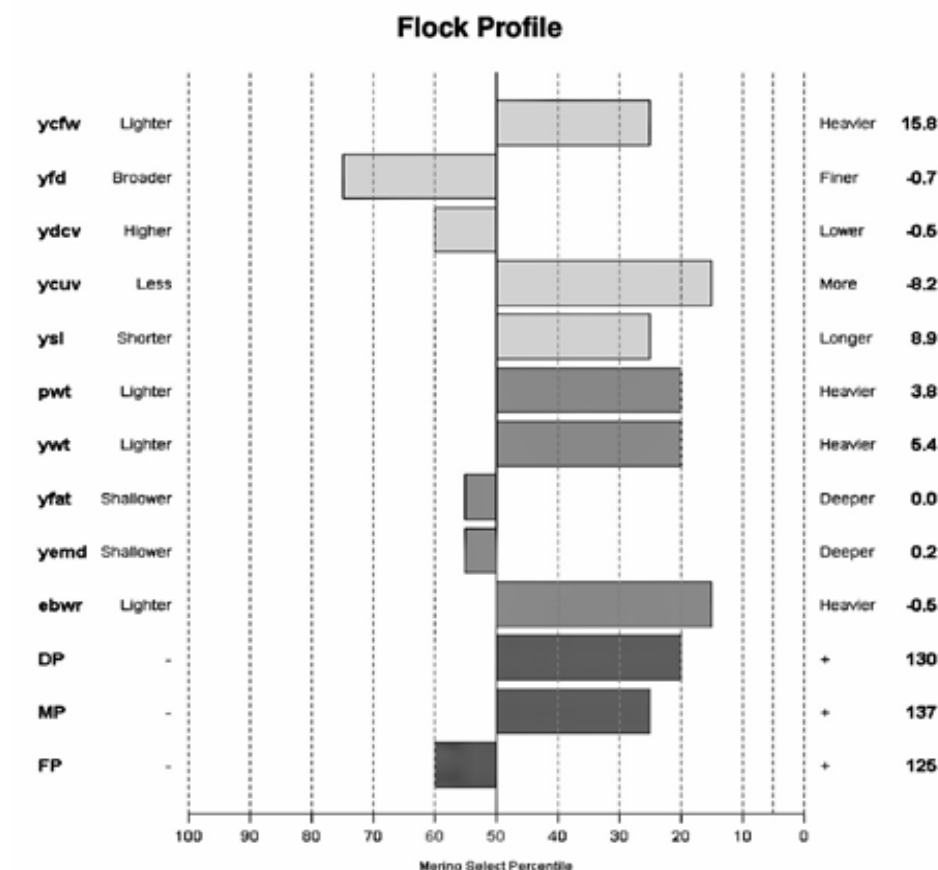
I thought before we bring in a fairly foreign bloodline it would be good to get a picture of where we are at.

On the SheepDNA website it has all the info about it. I ordered the kit which was basically 20 Blood cards and some instructions. We tested the 2017 drop hoggets, with a mixture of classes wools and flats. Culls were excluded.

I figured that that is what we are breeding from, so that's what we want to know about. This gave us 254, which we ran through the draft and took every 12th one off, making it as random as possible.

The bit that took a bit of working out was nicking the ears to get the blood. We dragged them across the board and cut the base of the ear, some bled easily, while others took minutes to get a drop!

We let them (blood cards) dry and posted them



back. It did Cost \$770 and took about 7 weeks to get our results.

I wanted to get a base line of where we are at before the Mumblebone infusion stuff comes in. At this stage I am a bit excited about his progeny as they have had a tough time until recently and look to have great shape.

One stands out especially, just went ahead of everything else right from the start. (Don't think he realised it was a drought!) Never tested lambs wool before, so not sure how to compare it, but he came back at 17.7u 14.3cv 2.5sd 0.0pf. Can't ask for any more than that at this stage.

We may get to see some progeny from the ram lambs this year. Just pulled two of them out of the ewe lambs a couple days ago. Will have to pregnancy test them to see if they left anything behind.

The ram we initially bought was Lot 10 in the 2017 Mumblebone sale, Mumblebone 160480. His ASBV's were YFAT 1.8, YEMD 3.0 & YSL 20.9 and exactly what I was looking for.

Wool figures of 19.8u, 3.4sd, 17.0cv & 99.7cf are on the edge of our limits, but the wool looked and handled well visually.

We are hoping to keep the 6 month shearing going and lift our lambing percentage, especially in the twin mobs where we have been having trouble.

Our agent, Pav and I went over a few days before the sale on a whirlwind trip as neither

of us could get there on the actual day. We left at around 4am, stopped only for fuel and got there about 5pm.

Chad had all the rams in, ready for us to look at, so we spent the 2 hours of daylight we had going through all 200 of them. My first thought was that they weren't overly big, but when we started looking through them you could see that they had the muscle and shape required.

After some discussion with Pav, we decided that it would be a good test of ASBV's as the figures suggested that the size shouldn't be an issue.

Also I'm not used to looking at paddock run rams that had had no hand feed in the tuff year they were having over there.

160480 was the ram that I had travelled over there to look at, sired by Moojepin 120652, with his figures and photos looking like what I was after. I was hoping that the wool was going to stand up ok, and was happy that it did.

Chad was generous enough to give us tea, some beers and a bed each for the night and we left at 3am the next morning to come home.

There was plenty of discussion about all the sheep on the 13 hour drive home. Set up to phone bid and got him at a fair price.

I probably did the testing the wrong way round, bought the ram I thought we needed, then did the test to confirm where our points to improve were.

Table 1

	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YCUV	YSL	PWT	YWT	YFAT	YEMD	EBWR	DP	MP
ASBV's 50% PERCENTILE	13.3	-1.1	-0.7	-4.1	6.6	2.6	4.1	0.1	0.3	-0.2	126	134
Daniel Evans Flock Profile	15.8	-0.7	-0.5	-8.2	8.9	3.8	5.4	0	0.2	-0.5	130	137
DEVIATION ASBV/DANIEL	2.5	0.4	0.2	4.1	2.3	1.2	1.3	-0.1	-0.1	0.3	4	3
TOP% PERCENTILE	25%	75%	60%	15%	25%	20%	20%	55%	55%	15%	20%	25%
MUMBLEBONE 160480	16.9	0.6	-1	NA	20.9	NA	9.1	1.8	3	NA	136	133

Has worked out pretty right though, so we'll see where it takes us."

So, profile test complete as to assist Daniel on whether his ram selection at Mumblebone was the correct one.

Daniel's on property profile test was pretty good in most areas but could do with some tweaking in the YFAT, YEMD & YFD traits. (see Fig 1.) Fibre diameter across the flock is in good order but his desire for more staple length, EMD and FAT were rewarded with his purchase of Mumblebone 160480. (see black highlight)

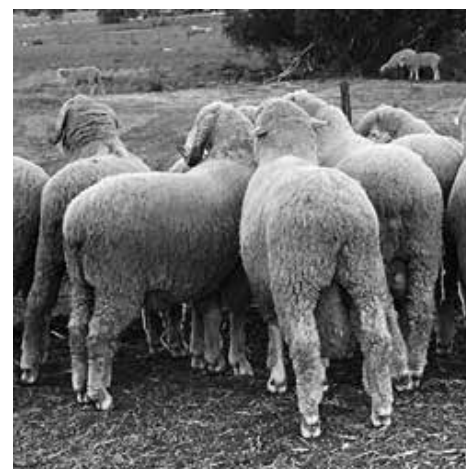
YFAT 1.8 is +1.8 higher than Flock Profile Average, YEMD 3.0 +2.8 & YSL 20.9 a massive +12.0. Also see the added bonus of YWT 9.1 which happens to be in the Top 5% Percentile nationally! At YDCV 1.0 CV will slightly improve as well as a suggestion that the ram is very free. Remember that the sire's input here is 1/2 that of the ewes so roughly halve these numbers as to reflect the sire's influence.

Within a couple of weeks I will be classing the Evans' flock at Wunkar near Loxton in S.A. and look forward to checking out his influence in the ewe and ram hogget progeny.

I have sighted the ram in question and he is most certainly different to anything that has ever been infused into the flock before. His meat virtues were very obvious then and when you study his ASBV's that is of no surprise. If this is all he adds to the this already top quality flock I'll be happy!

A few negatives: At YFD 0.6 he will not improve micron. At YCFW he's not likely to improve fleece weight. There is no ASBV for wool quality yet with the high chance of staple length increase with this bloke, he can only enhance the already great quality of fibre that exists here.

STOP PRESS: Have now classed the resultant Mumblebone progeny and the hoggets, especially the young rams were stunning with their meat virtue, wide backends and huge depth. Thanks to excellent mothers the wool quality component was generally kept in tact barring the odd super dry!



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2020 Ram Sale Team - Taken April 2019

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WESTWOOD POLL CASCADE W.A.

ESPERANCE RAM SALE 2018 TOP \$2,700 AVERAGE \$1,446

GENETICS: WP150245, LEAHCIM 2316, 2624, 2090, G/PARK 363, S1

Tag #	Sire	BWT	GFW	GFW %	Fat	EMD	Micron	CV	SD	YCFW	YEMD	Yfat	DP+	MP+	Buyer	Price
170248	WP245	95	5.3	137	3.7	36.5	18.5	18.5	2.8	20.6	0.26	0.3	146	149	W & C Walter	\$2600
170419	L 2316	83	4.2	109	2.4	33	19.8	16	3.2	17	-0.4	-0.1	133	140	W & C Walter	\$2700
170381	L2316	79	3.8	99	2.9	35.5	20.5	12.4	2.5	14.5	-0.2	0	133	138	A & R McIntyre	\$1500
170213	WP245	91	4.2	109	3.1	36.5	20.2	14.1	2.8	17.7	0.27	0.2	144	145	JA Russell	\$1500
170495	GP363	85	3.8	99	3.2	40	21	12.6	2.6	11.7	1.2	0.4	139	133	A & R McIntyre	\$1700
170003	L2090	87	3.9	101	3.2	36.5	20.7	14.1	2.9	14.7	0.2	0.2	137	137	W & C Walter	\$1700
170437	L2316	86	4.8	125	2.9	35	21.2	15.9	3.4	19.5	-0.1	0.1	136	140	A & R McIntyre	\$1700
170801	SYN 1	86	4.4	114	3.7	34.5	20.9	14	2.9	16.7	-0.5	0.1	128	136	Stevens	\$1000
170229	WP245	90	4.3	111	3.2	35	19.9	14.2	2.8	16	0	0.2	141	145	JA Russell	\$1400
170168	L2624	87	3.8	99	3.5	33.5	17.7	13.1	2.3	11.4	-0.4	0.4	132	141	JA Russell	\$1100
170702	SYN 1	90	3.9	101	2.6	32.5	19	14.1	2.7	12.4	-1.2	-0.4	124	137	A & R McIntyre	\$1600
170665	SYN 1	84	4.4	114	2.7	35.5	22.2	15.5	3.4	17.8	-0.2	-0.1	128	133	P & J Weich	\$1500
170180	L2624	85	4.4	114	3.1	38.5	21.8	15.1	3.3	17.9	0.74	0.7	136	134	JA Russell	\$1200
170620	SYN 1	87	4.4	114	2.6	37.5	21.1	14	3	18	0	-0.2	134	138	Stevens	\$1000
170158	L2624	81	4.4	114	2.9	34	21.2	15.4	3.3	15.8	-0.05	0.5	130	134	Stevens	\$1000
170040	L2090	86	4.2	109	2	36	20.4	18.2	3.7	16.4	0.06	-0.2	136	136	P & J Weich	\$1100
170226	WP245	85	4.4	114	2.7	38	19.3	14.5	2.8	15.2	0.7	0.2	145	145	W & C Walter	\$1900
170630	SYN 1	90	5	129	2.5	32	21.1	14.2	3	22.2	-1.4	-0.5	131	145	W & C Walter	\$1000
170259	WP245	83	4.4	114	2.9	33	20.5	14.6	3	19.8	-0.2	0.1	140	146	Karleigh	\$1200
170013	L2090	85	4.6	119	2.7	35	18.5	19.1	3.6	19.3	-0.25	-0.2	143	147	Karleigh	\$1200
170219	WP245	94	4.3	112	2.9	35	19.8	16.1	3.2	18.5	-0.2	0	143	147	P & J Weich	\$1500
170240	WP245	81	4.4	114	2.9	34	20	14.2	2.8	17.6	0.1	0.2	140	144	JA Russell	\$1500
170749	SYN 1	87	4	104	3.2	34.5	19.3	12.4	2.4	11.5	-0.6	0	126	136	A & R McIntyre	\$1100
170327	L2316	95	4	104	3	35	17.6	16.9	3	15	-0.5	-0.1	138	145	P & J Weich	\$1400
170760	SYN 1	90	3.7	96	3.9	38.5	19.1	16.9	3.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	JA Russell	\$1300
170659	SYN 1	87	4	104	3.7	34.5	18.5	16	3	13	-0.6	0.1	129	138	W & C Walter	\$1200



Westwood
POLL MERINO

CASCADE, W.A.
FLOCK 601490



SELLING 20 RAMS
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Not a bad way to summarise a ram sale when you can't actually attend it yourself!

Amongst the purchaser's list here were three clients who realise the value of the Westwood genetics at realistic pricing.

Mark and Liv Walter Cascade W.A. bought six including the two top priced polls which sat in the well positioned pens of 1 & 2. Mark also bought more later at Westwood.

Lot 1 bred by WP150245 who is possibly the heaviest cutting sire that we feel is safe for skin and low waste. This bloke's YCFW at 20.6 & realtime of GFW% 137 is indicative of that cutting ability.

Leigh and Karina West's Karleigh Gibson W.A. were good for two including another WP150245. They also bought more On Property to enhance what is now a great flock of mostly Leahcim genetics.

I bought three via Landmark's Windy Gale for Dirk Stevens Australia who then added another thirty that I had previously selected at the Welke's whilst classing.

Simeon and Chris Roberts Cascade W.A. bought twenty privately as did Matt Lewis who secured 12.

A total of 120 sold all up for the year sees a great reward for Scott Welke's quality genetics collection through sourcing mostly top end Leahcim genetics via live sires and A.I. as well as guest appearances by performing sires from other progressive outfits

WESTWOOD POLL DELIVERS



Basically everyone who delivers lambs to WAMMCO (TFI equivalent in S.A.) is entered into a competition once they have met the minimum number required.

Westwood Poll was in the Large Merino Supplier group equating to greater than 750 lambs.

It's a points system out of 100. 80 points are attributed to carcass traits and percentage delivered that were between 18 and 24kg Carcass Wt at Fat Score 23, with the remaining 20 points given on when u deliver.

Deliveries in April to June score higher than August/October.

The following writeup as quoted by Farm Weekly in early October 2018:

"In the large Merino supplier category it was Welke Bros, Cascade W.A., that finished on top with 1816 lambs supplied and a score of 88.07.

Scott Welke, who also runs the Westwood Merino stud, said the lambs were dropped in late April/early May.

"Generally we wean earlier rather than late, with weaned lambs coming off in July and they are shorn by the end of August," he said.

"The paddocks that the weaned lambs go onto are set up for that purpose in February and March with Vetch planted on the mallee country and Serradella on the lighter country.

"The aim of this is to take advantage of summer rains, which are becoming more common in the Esperance region.

"If we get that summer rain and a good start to

the season this pasture system is enough to get lambs up so we can send off a draft in October. What is left is run on stubbles over summer and the majority of what is remaining are sent off in January/February."

"If there are any still around after that, we have a small feedlot that we can grain feed them in to get to the desired weight if necessary."

Mr Welke said through the Westwood stud he is working on producing a true dual purpose Merino. "The use of ASBVs is important to our program, we select for positive fats and eye muscle area, with the focus on producing a good balanced sheep," he said.

"Two of our stud clients, Lortleaze Farms, Cascade and W & C Walter, Cascade also finished in the top 10. They run a similar system to ours and we are closely aligned in terms of farm enterprises and soil types, so it is good to see the work we are doing within the stud vindicated with these results.

"We try and keep things simple and are just prepared to use moisture events when they happen in the late summer, early autumn to get green feed away to either get animals off to a great start or to finish the 12month old ones."

Mr Welke said for all lambs delivered to WAMMCO he averaged \$148 a head.

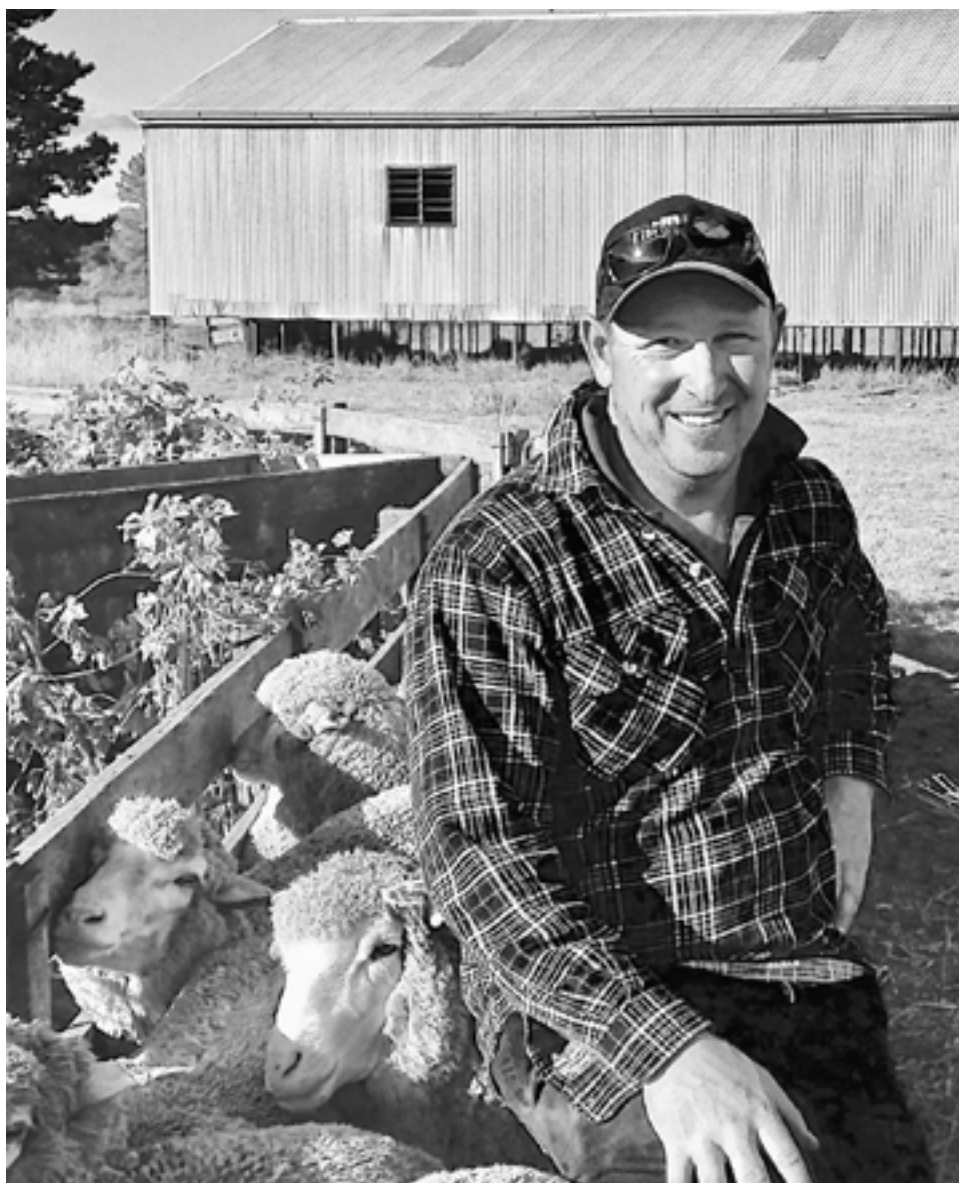
Comment from Scott Welke

"I guess the main point is that being recognised for consistent quality is a great vote of confidence in both my breeding direction with the genetics I'm developing and the systems that we are running.

Using early maturing rams with balanced ASBVs is my aim with a focus on positive fat and eye muscle depth, but not to the detriment of wool cut true dual purpose merinos.

The fact that not only myself but the Walters and Roberts families are right up there too proves that genetics really shine through.

I don't think i do anything special other than planning ahead and being prepared to use moisture events when they happen in the late summer early autumn to get green feed away to either get animals off to a great start or to finish the 12 month old ones."



LORELMO ON PROPERTY'19 WALCHA NSW OFFERED 49 SOLD 49 TOP \$4,250 AVERAGE \$2,352

GENETICS USED: LORELMO 130365, 140851, SYNDICATE 1, 2, 3, 4



The Lorelmo Stud is in great shape!

It has all of it's S.A. poll ewes back home again after a long sojourn in this state involving a small portion of the stud. In the meantime the Cordingley Family's, Lorelmo NSW, kept a low profile still having good sales yet in my eyes staying out of the lime light a bit.

After a \$1,600 average sale in 2018, February 2019 realised a greater result, a \$700 lift to average over \$2,300 with all sold, spurning on all involved.

I inspected the 2019 sale team on request from clients, the Andre Family as well as Brian Wilson Ballarat Vic. who were both still keen to continue with Lorelmo genetics despite the S.A. absence.

I found the stud in sensational shape for quality and after an inspection of the already catalogued sale team was impressed enough to let both clients know that things were in good hands.

After a couple of reds I also latched on to the classing job of which I'll relish considering the quality of the joint!

I bid via the phone with Elder's Tom Henry who was at the sale on behalf of the Andre and Wilson enterprises whilst having a break from classing ewe hoggets near Arthur river in W.A.

Peter Andre Kangaroo Inn S.A. bought six of the best including an ex reserve in Lot 1b for \$3,500 and one of the best of the day for \$2,750 in Lot 28.

Brian Wilson Ballarat Vic. fulfilled his requirements in needing four which was completed albeit with an excellent pickup

late in the sale at Lot 41 for \$2,250. He also nabbed a ripper Lot 2 for \$3,750 and bred by the outstanding Syndicate 1.

Here's the sale report with thanks to The Land...

"A decision to turn their attention to building a bigger Merino flock looks set to pay off for the Cordingley family of Lorelmo Poll Merinos after clearing all of their 49 sale rams for a \$2352 average on Monday.

Speaking before the sale, coprincipal Eddy Cordingley told the crowd of the family's plans to reduce their cattle herd and better manage drought conditions by developing their dual purpose Merinos.

"We spent a lot of time and money feeding cattle last year, which we want to avoid," he told The Land. "Through a well planned sheep setup we reckon we can do better."

"Percentage wise we will be running more sheep and running the stud off of our commercial enterprise."

Despite the difficult seasonal conditions around their local area and further a far, the 2019 sale was a major improvement on the previous year's auction of \$3000 top and a \$1646 average.

From the moment the first ram went under the hammer on Monday, prices never looked like wavering.

The top price of \$4250 was achieved for a Syndicate Three son that sold to the Brazel family, Broadacres, Niangala NSW.

The ram had a body weight of 88.5 kilograms,

the heaviest of the catalogue, and a fibre diameter of 17.1 microns. He had a standard deviation of 2.4, a coefficient of variation of 14.09 and a comfort factor of 99.92.

The Brazels run an ultra fine Merino flock and cattle on their property with their ewes averaging 16 microns and a 4.1 kilogram wool cut.

Due to poor seasonal conditions and problems securing water, Mr Brazel expects to run about 600 Merinos, down from the usual carrying capacity of 1000 ewes and their progeny.

A total of 49 rams were on offer.

When selecting a ram to purchase, Graeme Brazel said he was looking for a sire that could offer a different direction in their wool.

"We are looking for open, free stapled type wool," he said. "Soft, possibly a little bit more frame. Mostly, our wool, you would call it semisoft rolling and trying to keep that distinct krimp, possibly grow a little bit more."

A repeat buyer who hadn't purchased from the sale in a few years, Mr Brazel was initially looking for a few rams but said he broke the bank on his top price purchase.

"He was about my third or fourth pick believe it or not," he said.

The second top price of \$4000 was achieved twice.

The first ram of the sale weighing 87 kilograms with a fibre diameter of 17.7 micron hit the high mark when he was knocked down to the Beynon family, Uralla.

Westmihi Merinos, Lillygrove, Guyra, paid \$4000 for one of their two ram purchases, an 84.5 kilogram son of Syndicate One with a 17 micron fibre diameter.

The sale was supported by a number of repeat buyers, including South Australians, the Andre family of Millicent, who secured six rams for an average of \$2958 and top of \$3500 twice.

Bulk buyers on the day were the Bulmer family, Bolivia Station, Tenterfield, with nine rams for an average of \$1944 and top of \$3000.

Garoka Pastoral Company, Blackfellows Gully, Walcha, secured six rams for an average of \$1250."



**PENROSE POLL
ESPERANCE SHOWGROUNDS WA 2018
OFFERED 50 SOLD 41
TOP \$2,300 AVERAGE \$1,395**

GENETICS USED: PENROSE 130428,150445, LEAHCIM 132464, 152412, 153470, GLENLEA PARK 015560.



I might be able to make it to the Esperance Ram Sale this year for the first time due to the sale date altered to be on the Friday after the Classic and not before.

Until then I have to rely on Bruce Pengilly's version of the days' proceedings which will make much more sense than my guesswork and madeup effort! Thanks for the effort Bruce, Trudy and Thomas.

"Top price was found half way through the catalogue and bred by L2464 (ram we purchased from Leahcim in 2015 for \$8400)

YCFW 20.7 MP+ 143 and sold to Mark Walter Cascades for \$2,300.

There was still good quality further down as 12 lots later the Walters paid \$2000 & \$2100 for two rams from Kamora Park 002 with their stats as follows:

170136: 19.8u 2.8sd 0.2pf, Body Weight 100.5kg, YCFW 20.3 & MP+ 147.

170122: 20.5u 2.9sd 0.2pf, Body Weight 105kg & MP+ 138.

Volume buyer on the day were the Lewis family Esperance W.A. taking home twelve

rams to a top of \$2,100 and averaging \$1,400.

Solid support from long time clients Paul & Tanya letto from Grass Patch W.A. with a haul of nine rams.

Best ram they bought in my eyes being found in the first pen. 170187 Sire L2349 (Leahcim sire sold to Chile) 20.3u 2.8 sd 0.2pf, Bodyweight 114kg, YCFW 15.5 YFAT 0.0 YEMD 0.7 & MP+ 139 for \$2,100.

Of the 9 rams passed in 8 found a home after the sale."





**PENROSE
POLL MERINO**

**ESPERANCE
RAM SALE**

6TH SEPTEMBER 2019

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Thomas Pengilly
Ph: 0438 657 739





RAMSGATE ON PROPERTY'18 TINTINARA S.A. OFFERED 70 SOLD 61 TOP \$4,600 AVERAGE \$1,609

GENETICS USED: LEAHCIM 152775 A.I., WALLALOO PARK 068, GLENLEA PARK 150565, POLL BOONOK 150338 A.I., BANAVIE 130303 A.I., GUNALLO 007 'BOND', BROOKDALE 140012, KAMORA PARK 777, RAMSGATE R/L SYN, RAMSGATE SYN



On paper this sale appeared to be very similar in result to the previous year's effort yet there was more confidence in the sale shed than ever before. Repeat buyers back yet even more of a sight was the new faces present which by day's end had helped to ensure a good sale.

New client M & H Davidson Lucindale S.A. represented by Scott Davidson was one of the new faces and what an impact he had.

He was responsible for six purchases to average over \$2,300 including Lot 2 for \$2,800, bred by L2775 with a YWT 8.54. Add to this lot 4 at \$2,900, Lot 6 at \$2,600 and bred by the same Leahcim sire with a YWT 6.5 & DP+153.

A Lot 10 Poll Boonoke 150338 bred poll at \$2,700 with YCFW 15.9 looked the goods despite a GFW 79% which belies the odds and leaves room for discussion! This sire is currently running at YCFW 39.3!!

Lot 1 was sold to Trevor Smith for \$3,200 to a client, bred by Banavie 'Rifle 303', the ram Fred Leo 'Leovale' W.A. outlaid massive bucks for a few years back. This ram had a YWT 12.02 which would have to be in the top 1% of the nation should have been retained at the stud perhaps!

New client PJ Leach Keith S.A. did more than new clients usually get up to in the first tentative year of a new stud purchase seven!!

Their first was a very good Lot 3 and bred by L152775 at \$3,100. YCFW 20.1, YWT 7.5 and

real time GFW% 111, this crew got off to a flyer! Their second was at Lot 31 for another L2775 with YCFW 20.1, YFAT 0.4, YEMD 0.3 & DP+152.

My mates the Johnsons at Mt. Boothby Colebatch S.A. secured five beauties starting with yet another ripper Leahcim 152775 son in pen 5. Fluid nourishment, bold crimp and DP+157 at YCFW 18.4 all's well.

A Lot 8 fella for \$2,600 was followed by the boldest crimped poll in S.A. at that very moment in Pen 15 and bred by the Ram Lamb Syndicate. I trust the lamb was bred by the SuperSire Brookdale 12 who will feature very prominently in the 2019 sale.

While we're on the subject, Brookdale 12 bred Lot 35 and if it wasn't for a bit of stub protruding from his scone could have been penned in Lot 1!

I was keen to secure him for Nantoura Poll Wharminda S.A. yet Mt. Boothby bought him after some animated bidding between the two of us for \$2,900. YCFW a safe 19.5 with a real time GFW% 111, I look forward to seeing this bloke again at 2019 classing.

Now, top price for the day a ram that was destined for the Classic'18 sale but the Kellers had their way and he was dropped into the On Property sale and in hindsight a good thing as he topped the day well and truly.



The best fibred ram of the day sat in Pen 9 in a great position for all to see. Bred by Gunallo 007 'Bond' who dropped so well in the 2017 sale, this bloke was appreciated by Elders St. Arnaud elite fibre appreciator Glendon Hancock who then spread the word to one of Sohnic Merino's Vic. partners, Greg Hose.

17.3u 2.8sd 16.0cv & 0.2pf coated with the most exotic gear of bold, long aligned fibre there was obviously a lot of competition as the ram hit the \$4,600 ceiling. The shown photo depicts his makeup very deep sided, square and up on all fours great for a 'wool' sheep.

The ever supporting Keilira Station Kingston S.A. still receive the Harold Keller trophy for the greatest support. They latched onto twelve polls by day's end to average just under \$1,000.

The best commercial flock in the Coonapyn district, Geoff and Sue Zachers', snuck in a great purchase at Lot 26 for \$2,300 to further enhance this outstanding flock YCFW 21.6 & GFW% 111 with YWT 6, YFAT 0.4, YEMD 0.7 & DP+162 helps!

GP Foster were there again with typical support in buying five including a very good Lot 7 bred by Bond 007 for \$2,700.

Brian and Glen Landseer Milang S.A. were good for three including a Terrick West bred poll with great nourishment in Pen 13 for \$2,500 with a YCFW 19 at 18.5u.

I bought three rippers for Penong S.A. clients and jagged a legend in Lot 17 for Butch and Jodie Dunn, bred by RLS. Bold crimp at 18.9u 2.8sd 14.6cv & 0.2 a good buy at \$2,600. Didn't mind the next either for \$1,500.

Andy Mahar Ceduna S.A. with the other for \$2,100 for a Bond 007 bred thumper at 113kg and DP+154.

Also bought three for Netallie Station NSW at \$800 each which have only just made it up to Wilcannia in the last month such was the poor conditions for survival happy things are different due to two decent rainfall events in the last few months.

Michael Guthrie Mt. Pleasant S.A. with three, John Weinke Wynarka with another three, locals Florando, Rodney Marsson Meningie S.A., Vowels family and Makin Nominees Keith S.A. all bought one or two to ensure the day's success was complete.

Harold Keller was all part of the evolution of the Ramsgate Stud witnessing a change from a more traditional commercial flock to a now well supported Poll Merino stud in the Tintinara area.

It appeared that he really enjoyed classing days considering he would last out the whole day when ewe hoggets or young rams were graded. Probably had a bit to do with the fact there was always a grandchild in the mix as well who obviously enjoyed his company as well.

He wouldn't comment much but would offer an 'other end of race' acknowledgement when things were right and a muffled closer to 'my end of the race' comment when things weren't!

Our condolences to the Mrs. Keller and the Keller clan on Harold's passing and celebration of life.



NO HEADPHONES!

The only time I'm forced to read the Rex/Qantas magazines is when I leave my noise cancelling headphones behind and feel the need to be doing something for the journey rueing the idea of not listening to the grand sounds of Radiohead!

I'm glad in part that on one occasion I forced myself to pick up a Rex version and was really impressed with their take on the state of the wool industry. Well not quite Rex but contributing writers quite often.

In this case it was a piece written by business and travel writer, Lisa Smyth, via AusBiz for the Rex mob.

I thank AusBiz for the permission to replicate the article for you in Cullings'19.

See what you think I believe it's a great intro into our world written from a neutral set of eyes as an introduction for any wool dummy!

Check out a small bit of commentary from Will McLachlan Rosebank S.A.

The resurgence of the Australian wool industry: Wool is trendy again among fashionistas and celebrity athletes, and the Merino wool industry is making the most of its return to global dominance.

Thinking of wool conjures images of chunky, cosy jumpers and thick scarves worn while sitting in front of a fireplace in a log cabin half buried in snow.

You probably don't think Lululemon yoga pants or Adidas running shoes – but in 2019 that's exactly where more and more Australian Merino wool is ending up.

"It's not so much that the industry has changed, it's that the consumer demographic has changed," explains Stuart McCullough, CEO of Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), a notforprofit company owned by Australia's 24,000 woolgrowers that invests in research, development, innovation and marketing.

"Generation Y and Millennials are pretty curious about understanding natural fibres, and the 300 million middleclass Chinese on our doorstep are eager to consume our products – the market is very different from 20 years ago," says McCullough.

Let's get physical: Today, the Australian wool industry is worth \$3 billion a year on average, and 90 per cent of the world's apparel wool is produced by Australian Merino sheep. In the past eight years the global price of wool more than doubled from \$7.50 to \$18.20 per kilogram as demand has grown but supply remains finite – Australia's current woolproducing flock is less than half what it was in 1990.

As brands such as Chanel and Burberry rediscover the warmth and durability of fine Merino wool, athleisure brands such as Nike and Under Armour are creating whole woollen collections that make use of the sweatwicking, breathability and odourabsorbing qualities naturally inherent in wool.

"Traditionally wool was seen in a negative way – people remembered scratchy jumpers and skirts from the World War II era.

But there is a new demand for Merino wool from the 'next to skin' leisurewear sector," notes Norm Smith, owner of Glenwood Merinos in Wellington, NSW. "We produce a magnificent product that is completely biodegradable and recyclable, and is being used in new ways for a new generation."

Smith is a fourthgeneration wool farmer, and together with his wife Pip runs a 12,000 Merino stud and an online retail outlet selling fine Merino scarves, Love Merino. The couple have also made sure to tap into another growing consumer trend: provenance.

"All our wool is fully traceable, with every fibre of our scarves originating from Glenwood," says Smith. "And those who buy our wool can also prove provenance to their customers – every farm has a story."

A strong comeback: While Smith and his family are enjoying the good times now, he still keenly remembers the pain that spread throughout the country when the wool industry collapsed 28 years ago, in February 1991.

Described by Charles Massy in his book *Breaking the Sheep's Back* as "the biggest corporate business disaster in Australian history," the crash of the Australian Wool Corporation's (predecessor of AWI) reserve price scheme devastated the industry. "We were being paid by the government to euthanise our sheep, and the poor quality of the wool meant we burnt a lot of bridges in key markets such as the EU," says Smith.

"It's taken us over 20 years to rebuild our reputation and develop demand again."

Smith, like many farmers, turned to alternative sources of income, such as creating his own products and producing lamb. In fact, where once wool was 90 per cent of his business, it is now evenly split with lamb production.

"Lamb prices have dramatically increased in recent years and there continues to be a growing demand for it," says Will McLachlan, a fifth-generation farmer who began working with his father on their family property, Rosebank, in South Australia two and a half years ago. "Lambs are a significant piece of our business now, but we also work to get more wool from each of our sheep."

Genetics play a strong part in today's wool industry, with DNA testing able to predict things such as how much a lamb will grow,

its resistance to infection and potential fleece weight.

Though not a perfect science, breeding traits in and out of sheep can also bring in extra revenue. "Our ewe lambs are worth more for breeding than selling for meat," says McLachlan.

A woolly debate: However, challenging Australia's hardfought return to the top of the global wool bale are a passionate group of people who are hard to ignore: animal activists.

"The mulesing debate is starting to drive consumers towards ethically produced wool," explains Rick Maybury, COO of Australian Wool Network, Australia's largest independent wool marketer.

"We need to help farmers find alternatives – animal welfare bodies represent a big challenge to the industry in the coming years."

Already banned in New Zealand, mulesing has been a standard husbandry practice in Australia since 1927. Mulesing involves cutting a patch of skin away from the tail and breech of a very young lamb, so a scar of stretched skin grows back. The pink skin, with no wool, stays clean and dry and is unattractive to blowflies, whose eggs can cause flystrike – a condition that can be fatal.

"We stopped mulesing in 2005 due to the changing sentiment of consumers and attacks from animal rights groups, but most farmers continue the practice," says Smith.

AWI's longer term ambition is to work with woolgrowers to eliminate the need for mulesing, yet despite spending up to \$40 million on research it has not found a solution. But in 2018 it became evident that the market is demanding an end to the practice, with a \$1 premium difference being paid on nonmulesed lots at auction.

Robots in the shed: Despite its past and present challenges, today the wool industry is strong and looking to the future. AWI is investing in research in multiple areas, including applications of artificial intelligence and machine learning across the supply chain, electronic sheep tags that will act as virtual fences, and the use of robotics in the beloved shearing shed.

"Shearing remains a very manual part of the supply chain, and finding shearers is getting tougher every year," says Maybury.

Australia has 73 million sheep, but only 2,800 shearers – five times fewer than 30 years ago. Many were pulled towards the resources boom to work in mines, and New Zealanders, who traditionally made up half the shearing workforce, are finding better wages at home.

The robotics lab at the University of Technology in Sydney is currently conducting a nine-month scoping study for the AWI aided by a 3D printed sheep, Shauna. Mechanical robot arms use data to reconstruct what the sheep looks like without wool to figure out where to shear. The team believes robots could be used in conjunction with manual shearing methods, not replace shearers all together.

"When robotics was looked at in the past the cost was prohibitive, but it's a more realistic option today," explains Maybury. "The cost curve has come down enough that the wider industry could adopt a commercialised program."

Wool comprises only 3 per cent of the global textile market, but Australian Merino wool remains a world leader in an increasingly important sector. Biodegradable, breathable and fashionable, wool may just be the textile of the future.

In the mid 1990s about 20 per cent of Australia's greasy wool went to China, but this has grown to well over 70 per cent today.



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Offering includes approx 50 Poll Merino rams

◀ Top priced ram at our 2018 annual sale, EM 41 - sold for \$5200 to Glen Tilley, Kapunda, SA

Enquiries Welcome - Andrew, Tracie & Jamie Heinrich

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Check the website for details: www.ellamatta.com



ELLA MATTA ON PROPERTY'18 PARNDANA S.A. OFFERED 44 SOLD 44 TOP \$5,200 AVERAGE \$2,084



Again a special thanks to Ian Turner Superior Selections for letting me reproduce his excellent sale report similar to that of the Ridgway On Property effort. I have excluded his White Suffolk and Composite writeup in fear of losing your attention!

“Value was at the forefront of the huge, but highly successful Ella Matta ram sale on Friday (12th October). Andrew, Tracie and Jamie Heinrich and their staff put in a huge effort and breeding commitment in presenting their rams from their three breeds, including Poll Merinos for buyer competition and were well supported for those efforts.

That aside, it was a wonderfully well supported sale and terrific clearance in a season like this one, with many highlights as well, none more so than the Poll Merino result, with a total clearance of an

increased offering and a new Ella Matta high of a \$5200 top price.

With the strength of pre-sale enquiry and anticipated demand, the Heinrich family added 11 extra Poll Merino rams to their originally catalogued 44 ram offering. This proved to be a wise decision as all 55 cleared and averaged a very solid \$1882. (with extra 11 sold) Leading the way was Glen Tilley, Hillcott Grove Props, Kapunda. He paid both the \$5200 top for EM41 and the second top of \$4200 for EM106 in his three purchases, averaging \$3800.

The top ram had outstanding figures across the board, highlighted by a clean fleece weight EBV of 25.5, a worm egg count EBV of 53.9, positive fat and muscle, plus negative micron, culminating in top 5% indices on Merino Select for DP+ (169.2) and MP+ (157.5). The second top ram, EM106 had the highest DP+ index in the catalogue of 174.0.

Glen Tilley said, “I selected the top ram for his growth rate, muscling, positive fat for doing ability, wool weight, staple length and the outstanding balanced figures across the board, plus its wool has that much needed nourishment. With all the information available and the performance levels they have, these Ella Matta rams are true dualpurpose Merinos.”

After Bill Walker, Classings Ltd, Murray Bridge purchased last year’s \$4800 top for Alan Stewart, Stockton stud, Bairnsdale, Vic, a repeat order was forthcoming. Bill found the right ram at lot 4 in this draft, EM142 with a \$3000 bid being enough to purchase it. It was also right at the industry top percentiles with +21.4 for clean fleece weight and a DP+ index of 165.1.

Bill Walker then went to \$4000 to purchase the next ram, EM274 for O’Brien Poll, Kyancutta. This ram’s clean fleece weight EBV was 25.2 and its DP+ index was 150.2.

Nathan Trethewey, Platinum Livestock was a very strong bidder to fulfil client orders, purchasing 11 Poll Merinos from \$1000 to \$2200 and averaged \$1209.

Repeat client Geoff Nutt was again prominent with six rams to \$2000, but it was multiple breed purchasers, Simon and Madeline Kelly, Mine Creek Partners with eight Poll Merinos from \$800 to \$2200 who were the second highest volume buyers in this draft.

Through the Auctions Plus network, Ryan Smart, Keith purchased four Poll Merinos to \$2300 and averaged \$2025, while SR & L Morgan also purchased four, averaging \$1650.



BORUNG ON PROPERTY'18 WAIKERIE S.A. OFFERED 60 SOLD 43 TOP \$3,900 AVERAGE \$1,460

GENETICS USED: WALLALOO PARK 322, 150609, 150102, 150212, WPSYN, SOHNIC 261, GUNALLO 0067, LUCERBRAE/WPSYN, LEAHCIM/KAMORA PARK SYNDICATE



The grin on the guy's face in the middle probably says it all really!

An ever growing in popularity Borung sale didn't disappoint either buyer, principal or classer.

Loyal and local client Brian Hampel yet again jags the top gong award for the top priced poll again, this year at \$3,900. Squished into pen one, the 116kg ram was admired by most considering his presence and structure. The fibre was pretty handy as well rating at 110% GFW at 20.2u.

The fluid nourishment suggested his breeding was from the typical Marnoo genetics of which the punters here are used to. This time it was Sohnic's turn to shine as was the source of this thumper via a sire Brenton Kroehn purchased at Classic'15 for not enough.

Wallaloo Park genetics were at the forefront though with a sire that Borung secured at the Wallaloo Park sale in 2016 for \$7,000 producing top end animals throughout the sale. That sire's ASBV's for interest sake included YCFW 24, YSL 18.7 & DP+ 157 at time of sale.

Volume buyers are a critical piece of any successful Merino sale of which Borung has built up a number in a relatively short time.

Dogwood Farm Waikerie S.A. bought eight over the whole sale to a top of \$2,200. That was for lot 13 at GFW% 106 18.3u 2.6sd 14.4cv & 0.2.

Wilkatana Station Port Augusta S.A. gave me an important order pre sale to source around eight station suitable polls to suit that often harsh, low yielding environment.

The first was bred by the WP sire mentioned at Lot 6 that I mysteriously nabbed for a mere \$1,200. Great density to match his GFW 119%,

19u @ 3.0sd. For value for quality buying the eight that I did secure on the day met all the necessary criteria. Check these prices for future reference.

The following polls of great quality made: \$600, \$1,200, \$1,000, \$800, \$1,500, \$1,200 & \$1,000 to average just over \$1,000. And let me tell you this was not your typical station order that you'd see from the Mid North genuine quality here!

A welcome sight to any On Property sale would have to be the arrival of the Mayor and Mayoress of Pompoota S.A., Kym & Michelle Thiele! Great judges of quality and value it was no surprise they 'found' Borung as they have with Lucernbrae Callington S.A.

Two great studs that have as good top end quality as many other egends in their own lunchbox enterprises.

By day's end they'd secured five including two thumping WP150609 sons for \$1,000 & \$1,500 respectively with the latter at GFW 115%.

DA & BD Nutt Orroroo S.A. bought possibly the best team of the day in procuring five rippers with an obvious sway toward fleece weight.

Mysteriously at Lot 51 was one of the pick rams of the day. The fact that it was so far down the order suggests that at cataloguing the scribe made an error and that no classer ever invented would make such an error!

Bred by WP322 and at GFW% 115, 17.9u and a bloody pen filler he should have been in the Classic!! His \$3,000 price tag agrees with that sentiment! The Nutt's first purchase thought was at Lot 4 for \$2,800 and bred by WP150102 at GFW 115%. Next and following the fleece weight path at GFW% 121 was Lot 11 full of carcass and fluid nourishment.

Lot 21 was well marked in my catalogue and sold for \$2,500 with the outstanding figures of GFW% 111, 19.5u 3.0sd 15.2cv & 0.0pf.

A WP150102 with a GFW% 121 completed the excellent trailer load for the Nutt clan.

I picked up three for Critter and Bec Freeman Penong S.A. for one of the highest quality commercial flocks on Eyre Peninsula as many a Charra Hogget Competition success would attest.

Lot 2 was a fuckin' ripper and bred by the renowned WP sire that has had so much influence on the Borung stock WP150609.

Sliding in at Lot 2 (where I tend to slot in the best at cataloguing) he made a nervous \$1,500 which I can only suggest was a 'recovery' bargain! Hinting that due to the stir of the sale of the precious ram at \$3,900, this ram was sold before everyone had stopped clapping!!

I also bought Lot 19 and bred by Gunallo 067, the \$10,000 sire Borung bought at Classic'15. Typical Borung current test figured of 16.9u 2.7sd 0.4pf, GFW% 106 and 110kg.

Add to the Freeman pile Lot 25 at \$1,200 I still cant follow the auction psych sometimes when I picked up a Classic type ram for \$1,200! An arse like yours, 18.5u and a thumper, I look forward to the Freeman group hug when I arrive for classing this year!

Wait there's more! Another Gunallo sired, wide backender at lot 35 at GFW% 115 loaded with fluid nourishment and density for \$600 suggested that I'd just picked up the bargain of the day yeah!

Woodley Hills, Parker, Schmidt, Pfeiffer & Arnold were all families that lent great support on the day. Sure there were a few passed in yet this is a stud in transition and the ride is great to watch as every sale is better that the previous year's due to a huge quality thrust and more recognition.

That WP150609 sire also bred the two Classic rams which looked fantastic in the sale of which one sold again to the Freeman's at Penong (\$2,000) and the other going to Ridgway Lameroo of whom was impressed with his overall fibre/frame package for \$3,500.



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BRUCELLOSIS
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**PEPPERWELL
ON PROPERTY'18 KEYNETON S.A.
OFFERED 38 SOLD 36
TOP \$2,700 AVERAGE \$1,017**



There has always been a clash with the Pepperwell Ram Sale and Nantoura's so I've had to rely on the stock Journal's effort as a substitute. The two sales are part this year so looking forward to a post sale port this year Hansi! (and a more descriptive report!)

Have a look at the backend of a top end Pepperwell sire at the end of the report and note the meat characteristics and backend structure, a feature now highly correlated with this stud through astute selection.

"The bright, white wool type of Pepper Well Poll Merino rams helped the stud to almost a full clearance at its 16th annual onproperty sale at Keyneton last week.

Thirtysix out of 39 rams were sold to a top price of \$2700 and a \$1017 sale average.

Richard and Tracy Hentschke, Tungkillo, bought the top price ram because of its "elite wool traits".

"I bought rams based on wool traits this year because of the exceptional wool quality and the solid frames they had underneath," Mr Hentschke said.

Sired by Pepper Well 143220, the top ram weighed 76.5 kilograms and had a 31.5millimetre eye muscle depth and fat depth of 3.5mm.

It had fleece measurements of 16.3 micron, with 2.3 standard deviation, 14.3 coefficient of variation and 100 per cent comfort factor.

Mr Hentschke secured four rams in total averaging \$1375.

The secondhighest price ram was bought by Calcookara Poll Merino and Merino stud, Cowell, for \$2300 and it had strikingly similar figures to the top lot, with a 31.5EMD and 3.5mm fat depth.

It carried a 16.1M fleece with a 99.6CF, 19.7CV and 3.2SD.

The sale volume buyer was Shannon Warnest, Willalooka, who bought five rams to \$1800, averaging \$1140.

Return client Thornby Trust, Sanderston, bought four rams to \$1200 averaging \$900, while

BH&EC Newell, Naracoorte, also bought four rams to \$600.

DW Kubenk & Sons, Tepko, bought three rams to \$1000 averaging \$933 and Yorke Peninsula buyer Hartland Farm, Maitland secured two rams to \$1600.

Pepper Well stud principal Hansi Graetz said he was "really rapt" with the sale clearance because of the tough seasonal conditions.

"The top ram had a fast growing long staple and super white wool, it was a wellbalanced animal," he said.

"It has been a tough year for everyone but we are just quietly building on the gains we made last season. We are improving each year and making large steps in the right direction."



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ON PROPERTY AUCTION 1.00PM MONDAY 26TH AUGUST 2019
40 JUNE 2018 DROP RAMS



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RIDGWAY ADVANCE ON PROPERTY'18 BORDERTOWN S.A. OFFERED 160 SOLD 154 TOP \$5,200 AVERAGE \$2,251

GENETICS USED: RIDGWAY ADVANCE 082,100, 409, 082, 025, 085, 202, 022, 103, 133, 002, R/L SYNDICATES



Quality masters, David, Karen and Devon Ridgway certainly lead the way in the mid S.E. when it comes to filling a lot of pens with top quality genuine dual purpose poll merinos. They regularly use the word balance in describing their stock and that's exactly what they exhibit.

Jim Rathjen Birdwood S.A. thinks so as well and is a longtime supporter. He likes them that much for his Adelaide Hills property that he bought fourteen polls amongst the first one hundred in the auction!

Jim has a keen eye for quality and filled his trailer with just that. He averaged a tad under \$2,900 but it was his lot 68 purchase at \$3,400 that I think ticked every box.

Had this ram not had a bit of protruding stub from his noggin he may have been retained at the stud or made a helluva lot more.!

Bred by RA022 with an EMD 43mm FAT 8.0 and 111kg at 18.5u he was coated with the elite stuff.

Steve Brown Wolsely Vic., was a volume supporter as well with a take home group adding up to eleven. He bought a ripper Lot 53 that I liked for a mere \$2,000 and bred by RA085 with EMD 45mm & FAT 8.0.

The Buhlmann clan were volume bidders and on memory bought through Andrew Keach Quality to total around seven.

Classings' clients are well aware of the quality at hand here and were great support. Trevor Gameau Cummins S.A. bought a ripper Lot 3 with a fibre loaded with boldness and density for \$2,800 at 113kg, EMD 45mm & FAT 7.0.

Dopen Farms owned by the Pym family at Rockleigh S.A. are elite fibre fanatics and scored Lot 6 for \$3,000 that was covered in the stuff! Get this Carlos! 17.3u 2.6sd 15.1cv 0.2pf at 113kg EMD 44 & FAT 7.0.

They followed this with another fibre scorchers in lot 38 with one of the wools of the day on his back. Once again EMD 44 & FAT 7.0 at a fair price of \$2,800.

The Pym's last was down at Pen 83 showing more exciting figures that can only come from high calibre sales like this with progressive genetics. 17.0u 2.5sd 14.8cv 0.2pf at \$2,200.

The jury is still out on who bought the ram of the day. Was it one of the GJ Hulm Murrumbidgee NSW purchases (eleven all up) at Lot 95 or the Ramsgate's \$4,800 pickup in Lot 25 in contention with Geoff and Sue Zacher's top price going effort in Lot 62 for \$5,200.

Both polls could easily have made it into the Classic'18 team so let's have a look at the comparable figures:

L25: 18.9u 2.8sd 14.9cv 0.4pf
EMD 40 FAT 8.0 106kg RAMSGATE \$4,600 Sire: RA Syndicate

L62: 18.4u 2.8sd 15.0cv 0.4pf
EMD 46 FAT 9.0 111kg G & S ZACHER
\$5,200 Sire: RA 082

Both rams were genuine meat machines as reflected with their EMD & FAT numbers and both were embalmed with white, lustrous, silk! The only chance to identify which was the best ram will be progeny assessment as hoggets in 2020 at both establishments of which I will be privy to that information!

ASBV's naturally would offer early answers except for the fact that the Ramsgate purchase was bred from a syndicate of unknown possibilities of which a DNA test would identify who threw what.

The Zachers also bought well in acquiring Lot 51 for \$3,600 and also bred by RA082, a feature sire at the stud. 18.1u 2.7sd 14.6cv 0.0pf at EMD 41 & FAT 7.0.

David and Brent Farr Wunkar S.A. both know their stuff and bought well to end up with a handful totalling five. RA100 threw a lot of stunning progeny throughout the sale including a Farr pickup at Lot 39 that I had intended to pickup for Trevor Gameau Cummins S.A. A cutter, he made \$3,200 and had a backend like Ronny's! EMD 40mm FAT 8.0MM at 19u and 106kg.

Ryan and Sarah Kluska's Kiandra Poll Bordertown S.A. bought a RA 022 with density and whiteness for \$3,000 at 18.9u 2.5sd 13.2cv & 0.0pf.

Dirk Stevens Stevens Farming Australia only started to operate in the latter part of the sale yet became an instant cult hero by securing a mighty fifteen within the last fifty polls sold. He possibly averaged around \$1,000 but these late polls were as good as many in the first one hundred such is the depth of the joint!

Dirks' pickups will be dispersed over a few properties between NSW and Victoria.

A bit like the Wallaloo Park sale where a book could be written on the day considering the 160 offered It's hard to mention all of the great supporters on the day and their purchases.

The Fenton, Paech Brothers, Hallum, Masten, Nankivell, Ridgway, McWorrie, Grocock, Thomas, Hardt, Kuben, Frahn, Hammat, Dahlitz, Twin Creek and Long enterprises were equally as important with their multi purchases to ensure that this was to be yet another trailblazing sale for the Ridgway family.

I have already inspected the Advance prospective sale teams for Classic, On Property and Adelaide sales and another year on, another blinding mass of highest quality poll rams that any stud in the nation would be proud of owning.

The Classic team is as expected long, deep bodies with every ram exhibiting fibre that many can't seem to conjure due to a complicated genetical source.

The Adelaide team is a bar raiser and should be the talk of the shed in September due to apparent density and nourishment with top test figures.

The On Property team? Best ever due to the immense depth of the whole shebang!

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70 Poll Merino Rams 70

27th August

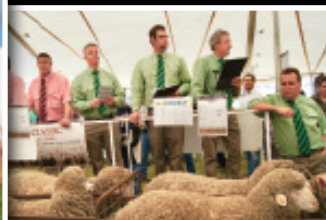
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MERINOS**



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CHALLARA ON PROPERTY'18

DANDARAGAN W.A.

Offered: 140 Sold: 128
Top: \$3,200 Average: \$1365



I thank Courtney Walsh and the Farm Weekly for allowing me to reproduce the Challara sale report for Cullings'19.

A LACK of pens made for a striking presentation of Merino and Poll Merino rams at the annual onproperty Challara stud sale at Badgingarra last week.

This year's selection of 140 rams were lined up neatly, bound by halters to rails, facilitating an easier and more thorough inspection of the rams on offer.

Prospective buyers could easily get in among the rams for close inspections, as well as stand back and examine the feet, length and structure of the rams with ease.

And the results spoke for themselves with strong bidding from the start to the end of the catalogue, concluding with an overall average of \$1365 for the 128 sires sold under the hammer.

Competition from throughout the shed with the Primaries team calling bid after bid, it came as no surprise the average was up by \$65 on the 2017 sale, though eight less rams were sold.

Challara coprincipal Peter Wilkinson said it was clear buyers were after Poll Merino rams. "Of the few rams that were passed in, most were horned rams so it's clear buyers were chasing those high fleece weight Poll Merino genetics," Mr Wilkinson said.

"Overall, we were happy with the result wool cut is clearly the big thing these days. We were glad to see our loyal returning clients back

again to support the sale, though we were sorry to miss a few expected buyers."

The sale top price of \$3200 didn't arise until quite a way into the catalogue with the honour going to the Poll Merino in lot 59 when Wayne Girando, Dinninup, finished on top at the end of the bidding contest.

Mr Girando said he was familiar with the high fertility Challara genetics, saying he knew they stand up well in his rainfall zone.

"I thought he had the best wool in the shed," Mr Girando said, "It's beautiful, soft and snowy white wool which is what I'm chasing."

Mr Girando mates about 2400 Merino ewes and said he was keen to infuse some Leachim genetics into his flock which was another reason for singling out the ram.

Tipping the scales at 88kg with a greasy fleece weight (GFW) of 129 per cent, the top priced ram had wool test results including 18.9 micron, 3.2 SD, 16.9 CV and 67.5 yield. Other figures included 1.6 PWWT, 2.6 YWT, 0.0 YFAT, 0.6 YEMD, 1.1 YFD, 0.4 YFDCV, 9.7 YSL, 15.5 YCFW and 131 DP+.

Mr Girando bought two other Challara sires on the day to average \$2400 overall.

In the volume buying stakes, returning Challara client Andrew Kenny, Rubicon Trust, Badgingarra, bidding with the aid of Desmond Wilkinson, Badgingarra, bid on rams right through the catalogue and tallied up 13 rams by the end of the day, averaging \$1431.

Mr Kenny commented on the presentation of the rams, saying being able to get in close and see how they stood was beneficial.

"The rams presented really well this year and there was a lot of quality to choose from as always," Mr Kenny said.

"The rams we bought today were selected for their fleece weight figures, their frames and fertility."

Another local producer, John Scotney, Badgingarra, landed a few, with 11 Challara rams written into the books next to his name for an average of \$1318.

Mr Scotney said he had recently bought some Merino ewes and was in need of a few rams to service them.

"We've bought from Challara before because we like to support local and the rams here have the right sort of condition, wool length and cutting ability we want," Mr Scotney said.

Other volume buyers on the day included return clients JF & MM Brennand, Southern Cross, who secured nine at an average of \$1667, Brian White, BF White and Co, Nambung, who bought nine at an average of \$1500 and local operation Taylor Shiralee, who secured eight, averaging \$1625.

Primaries auctioneer Jay Macdonald said it was another positive sale for the Challara stud, "The rams presented extremely well this year, especially with the halter system," Mr Macdonald said.

"There is plenty of confidence out there at the moment with wool and lamb prices so strong, so it was no surprise we saw an increase in average on the day.

"Buyers came from as far away as Ongerup, Southern Cross and Northampton, proving there is a lot of interest in the sort of sheep being bred at Challara and the quality improves each year in response to that demand.

"Congratulations must go to the vendors on a positive sale result."



PIMBENA ON PROPERTY'18 WIRRULLA S.A. OFFERED 56 SOLD 50 TOP \$3,000 AVERAGE \$1,016

GENETICS USED: PIMBENA PB160141, PB 170509, SOUTHROSE SR405, SR 687, SOHNIC 36, WALLALOO PARK 150245 A.I., KAMORA PARK 120037, 160200, ELLA MATTA EM420, GUNALLO 130071, LEAHCIM 142170, RAMSGATE 139390.



The Pimbena quality at ewe hogget classing, ram classing and broadly across the whole stud is as good as anyones who is serious about breeding poll rams that suit all that is required to meet two important markets, fibre and meat.

On completing this year's 2019 cataloguing for the July 31st sale this thought continues with a lineup that any stud would be proud of.

Last year's sale bounced back from the flat effort from the year before due to the consolidation of existing clients in full support of all of Les's efforts and also client resistance to a rogue agent's efforts to suggest support elsewhere due to vested interest!

Ok, just over \$1,000 average sounds a bit on the lean side but it's been a tough run in an area that cops a fair bit of flack due to non guaranteed good seasons.

Righteo formalities done! John Duncan & Di Thomas Wirrulla S.A. again supported the top end of the sale well and secured the top gong award in paying the day's top price at \$3,000.

That ram was purposefully slotted in at Lot 2 where the masses have settled in after Lot 1 and recognise what's actually happening with the day!

A.I. bred by Wallaloo Park 150245, a ram I picked up for \$22,000 from the WP sale in 2016 for Franklin River Grazing W.A., his stats matched the occasion: YCFW 27.0 YWT 8.4 YSL 12.0 YEMD 0.6 & MP+ 164. Real times of 16.6u 2.9sd & 0.8pf and wrapped in the elite stuff, there were no surprises on his ascension on the day. See photo.

Scott Trewatha Ceduna S.A. outlaid the day's second highest price at \$2,500 for a Leahcim sired screamer with a YCFW 17.0 YSL 13.0 & YEMD 0.5 at 17.5u.

Arguably he may also have bought (my) ram of the day, possibly ill placed at Lot 17 that really took his and my eye for \$1,700. Have a good look at these numbers folks: A twin, Sire Southrose 405, Grandsire Leahcim 100858, 17.8u, 2.3sd, 12.8cv & 0.0pf with YWT 10.3 YSL 13.0 YEMD 0.8 and a bold silky crimp on a square frame. Well selected Scott!

Maybe the poll that slipped through everyone's fingers was Lot 1 which I bought for a client for \$1,500 and bred by Ramsgate 139390.

Multi ram purchasers need to be mentioned and are critical to a ram sale's success. Having revisited the Stock Journal's lack lustre report which read as if there was only one ram in the sale. I'm really happy to let the world know that there was actually a good crowd there with fifteen buyers securing fifty rams on the day!

What is it with this paper! There was a journo there that did his fair share of research I'm sure yet the end result was a thirteen paragraph foray of nothing!

The report title said, "Pimbena's clearance exceeds expectations." So wouldn't you publish about just why and how that actually happened dammit!

Dirk Stevens Stevens Farming Everywhere Australia, led the way with an eight ram haul of which I selected, attracting the usual Pimbena bargains.

Highlights included a Lot 6, Southrose 405 (x L858) bred goody for \$1,000 with a YEMD 1.4 & YWT a massive 9.1 and all of this at 17.2u! Even at Lot 52 for a mere \$600 there was a YWT 7.7 & YEMD 1.5 of good structure and wool type.

Andrew Tonkin, a nephew to Les vis Keith and Bev Ceduna S.A. was great with his support of five pickups including a good twin in Lot 30 with YWT 6.0, YEMD 1.1 with typical progressive breeding figures of 17.2u 2.3sd 13.4cv & 0.2 for \$900!

Keeping it in the family and via Peter and Kathleen Lawrie Wirrulla S.A., their son Darryl blazed away and bought seven rippers including Lot 22 and bred by Leahcim 142170 with YWT 7.2 & YEMD 0.7. They only averaged around \$800 for the eight representing unbelievable value.

Trevor Pittaway Haslam S.A. was good for five and at Pen 24 for \$1,000 picked up a good L142170 son with YWT 9.4 & YEMD 1.1.

Tim Larwood Kimba S.A. had asked me about the Pimbena quality as to compliment his excellent Karawatha Park suport later in the year hence his attendance.

Tim bought one of the best figured rams of the day at lot 18 and bred by the sale topping sire WP 150245. He outlaid a mere \$1,600 for a YCFW 22.0 YWT 7.0 YEMD 1.1 & MP+150 and get this 14.9u!! 14.9u at YCFW 22.0 & YWT 7.0!! He added another at Lot 38 for a good GP395 son with YEMD 1.6.

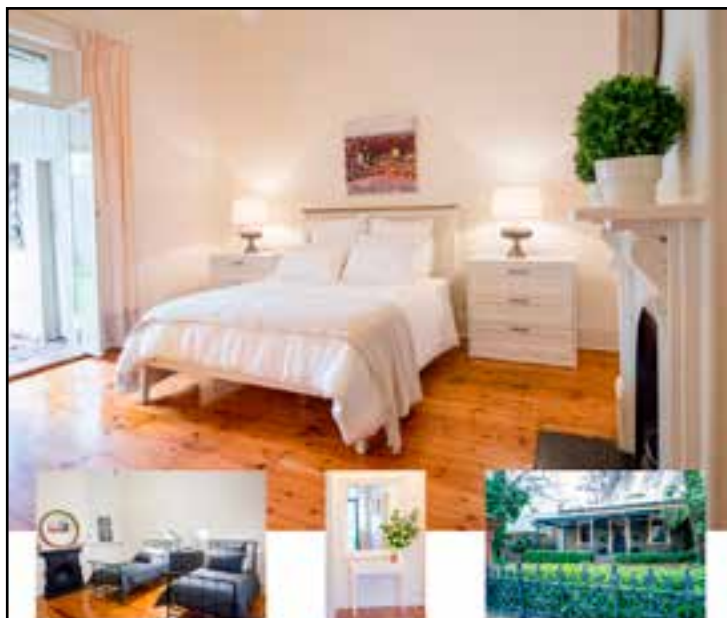
I bought the regular half a dozen for Netallie Station Wilcannia NSW which included four in the top eighteen. An excellent Lot 3 for \$1,200 and bred by SR405 with MP+ 152, another next door and bred by SR297 for the same dosh at YCFW 18.0 and a Ramsgate 390 son for \$1,000 in Pen 13 with a YWT 7.9 typified a great group by day's end.

John Linke Haslam S.A. bid well for his four and snared a ripper in Lot 25 at 16.7u 3.0sd and YEMD 1.8 and bred by the \$51,000 GP395.

Trevor Gameau Cummins S.A. also grabbed a ripper in lot 15 for \$1,100, a twin, bred by the Ramsgate sire. YCFW 17.0 & YWT 8.3 at 16.4u & MP+ 154 and a great white bit of fibre and strong caracass...

Both Bergman boys with their Glebe and Ooralin properties and the Tremein enterprise helped to make the day a good one with only five passed by Lot 56.





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PIMBENA

POLL MERINO STUD

POLL FLOCK NO: 601048

ON-PROPERTY SALE

WEDNESDAY, 31ST JULY 2019, 1.30PM

70 RAMS

Joined Sheep Genetics in 2003

OJD Injected from 2006

Non Mulesing from 2007

All Sires DNA Tested

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RIDGWAY ON PROPERTY'18 KULKAMI S.A. OFFERED 139 SOLD 126 AVERAGE: \$2084 TOP: \$4,800

SIRES IN USE: RIDGWAY 721, 451,112, 985, 742, RLS, KIANDRA 757, POLL BOONOK 338, WALLALOO PARK 422, WILLERA 20, KAMAROOKA PARK 35.



I was present at the Ridgway sale and could concoct my own report yet when the maestro, Ian Turner, is around it's easy to reproduce his great descriptive effort and get on with other gear. I thank him for this opportunity.

Our South East clients Colara Farms, Mt. Boothby and Rob and Sonya Chalk helped the competition until sale end by securing eighteen rams.

"Due to the seasonal effects on many clients, there was some justifiable vendor and agent apprehension leading up to the Ridgway Poll Merino ram sale at Kulkami on Monday.

In welcoming a good crowd with 38 registered bidders (compared with 48 last year), senior principal Ric Ridgway said, "The season has been tough, but certainly not as tough for us as it is for some of our clients north of here and in NSW."

Buyers of at least 38 rams from last year's sale were missing this year, solely on the back of the drought conditions they are currently suffering from.

However, that apprehension was relieved as the sale swung into action with those more fortunate from the inside country actively competing for the outstanding lineup of 139 rams penned for the main auction.

Wool cut, with exceptional staple length, density and crimp definition, plus good growth and muscling were prominent right through, with the Merino Select figures to back up visual assessments. The entire draft of 180 main and mini auction rams averaged over 100kg bodyweight.

At the completion of the main auction, 127 rams had sold to a top of \$4800 and averaged \$2074. This was one more ram sold than last year, with the average down just \$59; a very credible result in a year like this.

The bigger cut back was felt in the mini auction which followed, where a further 16 rams cleared at a \$678 average, compared with 35 last year. However, because there were 19 less mini auction rams contributing to the overall result, the overall average for the 143 rams sold on the day was \$1918, up \$95 from last year.

"There was certainly a blend of people looking for good figured sheep and being prepared to start at \$1500 to \$1800 and then bid up on those that were heavier cutters and had good muscling in particular," Landmark auctioneer Gordon Wood said.

Prepared to go further than any other bidders were Bill and Nathan Wilson, Pinnaroo when they successfully bid \$4800 for lot 22, Ridgway 14, sired by Poll Boonoke 338. With a 100% comfort factor and 18.5 micron wool, it was in the top 10% nationally on Merino Select for YCFW (+27) and YSL (+7.8), while having a MP+ index of 165.4, the highest in the catalogue. It was a powerful ram described by Gordon Wood as, "A bull with wool."

The Wilsons run a small flock of 350 ewes, and with Nathan being the shearer for the Ridgway rams he was able to have a good close presale look at all the rams on offer.

"We had to go a bit further than planned, but the ram is so good we felt stretching the budget was justified in times like the present," Bill Wilson said.

The Graham family, Glencorrie, Maitland was back and provided great buying strength, purchasing seven of the best at a \$3257 average. In chasing the highest and verifiable quality genetics for their sheep program, they went over \$4000 twice, including the sale's second top price of \$4600 for Ridgway 92.

A contingent of six mainly repeat Victorian buyers was also very prominent, especially early in the catalogue. Stephen Allen, Goroke and buying through Rodwells was underbidder on both the two high selling rams, but still managed to go home with five top rams,

paying to \$3800 and averaging \$2920.

AWN's Kelvin Shelley, Geelong was back with three clients who all made an impact. Peter, Simon and Thomas Brady, Rhymney, Vic were the most prominent with eight rams to \$3400 and at a \$2300 average, while CC, GM & TG Philip with six at a \$1400 average was also a strong bidder.

Buying through Landmark, Ararat, Ben Nevis Farms also purchased 6 rams averaging \$1500. Collectively the six Victorian buyers purchased 35 rams to make a significantly positive contribution to the overall result.

The biggest volume buyer was Lynton Barrett, Lamerook. He bid strongly and astutely in purchasing 13 rams to a \$2200 top and average of \$1300. Last year he averaged \$1809 for 11 rams, so in effect he was able to pick up more rams at an average of \$500 less.

The strong upper and middle ground of this sale, which saw five rams sell for \$4000 or better and a further 22 sell between \$3000 and \$4000, was achieved through the intense competition amongst buyers, and six in particular.

Two Tintinara based buyers often found themselves in a bidding dual on rams that clearly suited their area. Chris and Andrew Johnson, Mt Boothby Pastoral Co were successful in their bidding on seven rams to \$3200 and at a \$2857 average, while Aaron Freeman and Tom Whittle, Colara Farms also purchased seven to \$4000 and at a \$2371 average.

McPiggery, through Landmark Lamerook pushed the top end with two rams at a \$4100 average while Jeff and Adam Buick, Penneshaw were also strong bidders on the top end, purchasing six rams to \$3400 and averaging \$2667.

Stephen Paech, Callington has been a prominent and regular buyer at Ridgway for a long time. This year he upped the pressure a bit, before securing six to \$2600 and at a \$1900 average. Rounding out the more prominent buyers was Haydn Weckert, Yumali with five rams to \$2600, averaging \$2200.

"We are pretty fussy with our selection points, especially structure and wool quality, so it was very pleasing to see how well the rams lined up," senior principal Ric Ridgway said.

"The longer stapled wools allow us to shear twice per year, and some early criticism



DNA GREAT!

Group Tested	Sire ID	Sire	Polled
Sire	BD31	Progeny: 0	PH
Sire	BD58	Progeny: 1	PH
Sire	BD75	Progeny: 6	PH
Sire	BD88	Progeny: 0	PP
Sire	BD100	Progeny: 0	PP
Sire	BD163	Progeny: 0	PP
Sire	BD164	Progeny: 1	PH
Sire	BD456	Progeny: 0	PH
Sire	BD474	Progeny: 0	PH
Sire	BD487	Progeny: 0	PP
Sire	GP037	Progeny: 0	PP
Sire	GP106	Progeny: 0	PH
Sire	GP120	Progeny: 0	PP
Sire	GP400	Progeny: 0	PH
Sire	GUN44	Progeny: 5	PP
Sire	GUN340	Progeny: 4	PH
Sire	GUN344	Progeny: 0	PP
Sire	GUN544	Progeny: 1	PP
Sire	Gun230	Progeny: 4	PH
Sire	RAMS G48	Progeny: 1	PH
Sire	RAMS G146	Progeny: 0	PP

Group Tested	Ewe ID	Sire	Polled
Ewe Hogget	602	GUN544	PH
Ewe Hogget	605	BD75	PH
Ewe Hogget	614	BD75	PH
Ewe Hogget	615	RAMS G48	PH
Ewe Hogget	622	BD164	PH
Ewe Hogget	630	GUN44	PP
Ewe Hogget	631	BD75	PP
Ewe Hogget	635	GUN340	PH
Ewe Hogget	643	GUN340	HH
Ewe Hogget	650	GUN44	PP
Ewe Hogget	660	BD75	PH
Ewe Hogget	661	Gun230	PP
Ewe Hogget	662	Gun230	PH
Ewe Hogget	667	GUN44	PP
Ewe Hogget	668	Gun230	PH
Ewe Hogget	670	GUN44	PP
Ewe Hogget	672	GUN44	PP
Ewe Hogget	680	BD75	HH
Ewe Hogget	687	Gun230	PH
Ewe Hogget	699	BD75	PH
Ewe Hogget	700	GUN340	PH
Ewe Hogget	409 BLUE	BD58	PH
Ewe Hogget	641*	GUN340	PH

The ability to be able to blood or DNA test stock for parentage has been in the mix for a long time but only now is it becoming more popular due to the costs associated. Around \$20 gets you a test for parentage and poll testing which is now the fascination for many.

The Brophy boys at Tintinara S.A. had a fantastic ewe hogget classing in 2018 despite a testy season the quality exhibited was classy. Amongst the group of 500 there was a portion that were team leaders in growth and fibre quality combined. We branded these Double Specials.

Growth not only included body weight

increase but a wide chumpy backend was the added feature. Wool not only because of a bold silky crimp but a combination of above average staple length and whiteness.

I suggested that the boys blood tested all of the 23 ewe hoggets for parentage to any rams that could have been responsible for their existence of which there were 21 possibles. Was there a sire amongst the group that was responsible for a fair portion of the top 23 and if there was he most definitely would not be used enough quite possibly only over 20/30 ewes at their typical joining rate of around 2.5%.

They happily agreed so 44 blood cards were used to profile test 44 stock with the results shown here in tables 1 and 2.

The top table showing all sires that could have had a progeny result from the Double Special group of ewe hoggets. As shown four rams were responsible for the majority 19 ewes in all were narrowed down to four sires.

Although BD75 had six of these it was the Gun44 sire, highlighted in black, with five progeny that was of most interest considering he was also tested as having a double copy of the poll gene shown here as PP.

The second table speaks for itself in stating the ID of each progeny in alignment with the sire.

For under \$1,000 four sires were identified as king pins hinting that they must be used more than they had been as to breed more of what was a great result.

The Gun44 sire was a Gunallo ram 150044 they'd bought at the Gunallo'16 On Property sale for \$2,400 at Lot 13 and bred by KP 37, a renowned sire at Gunallo of which they had paid \$14,000 for at a Classic



sale. He was 120kg 18.9u 2.6sd 13.8cv 0.2pf YWT 8.0 YCFW 16.0 YSL 11.1 so all stats in good fettle. Add double poll!

So what's next when you know you have a hero in your midst. There's plenty of options really a single joining with 150 ewes for two cycles and then backup. Shed or confinement joining where he joins many more ewes with a nose bag full of lupins at all times for a longer period. At the whole goddam flock also comes to mind funded by semen sales that I accrue to make it all possible!

The ram was single joined whilst the other three contenders who still faired very well, were joined over 'wool' and 'single special' ewes over all age groups with lambs too be identified.



I believe there are similar virtues for commercial growers as well as studs especially when you study this snapshot from one of our eighty commercial growers nationwide.

For some rams fifty ewes is way too many as opposed to the story here.

On inspection of all sires represented in the group no rams necessarily stood out as possibles. Sure 150044 looked great in structure and fibre but so did a dozen others! This test was a great way to identify his importance to the flock.

With the demise of the Sheep CRC and their associated Armidale laboratory there is now another confirmed 'safe' option for DNA testing. Keep an eye out for Neogen and an associated article on them amongst the drool that I dish up!



Farm Management – One of the hardest jobs in the world!

Scott Nicholson – 2018 Nuffield

Scholar supported by AWI.

After completing my Nuffield GFP (Global Focus Programme) I was asked, “what are the keys to successful agribusiness management from your learnings so far?”

So here are my thoughts

- Farmers today more than ever need to capitalise and make money at others expense. Plan for this going forward and invest in areas which allows you to take advantage of others before someone takes advantage of you.

- Manage and understand your RISK. Take risks where and when you can but make sure they are calculated. Leave them alone when risk is too great or timing is not right. Risk = REWARD or REGRET, therefore big risk equals big reward or big regret.

- Remember it is your business and you have the most at stake. Do not let others make decisions for you, let them help with YOUR decision making. You will forgive yourself far quicker than you will someone else. Own your decisions. We all like to blame but it is not healthy.

- Relationships are important. First and foremost, look after your family relationships, they are the most important. Second work to develop business relationships and work to utilise when possible. Remember with all relationships, both parties need to get something out of it.

- Don't hang around with negative people. Find people with a positive cando attitude. Get help in the areas you need. Mentors can be a valuable resource if you find the right one.

- Know who your customers / consumers are and be aware of what they want. Provenance is becoming very important and the Clean/Green image is becoming extremely important.

- Question the value of day to day production management decisions and focus on the long term business planning. Big decisions have big impact. Focus on the destination not the towns you go through to get there. Things may happen which may change your route but the destination can still be the same.

- Financial reality. You did not lose it if you never had it. You did not make it if you have not got it.

- You do not need to be the first to get involved with new ideas or technology. However be an early adopter of the things that show promise or have been proven to work.

- Benchmarking production figures means nothing unless you also benchmarking financial performance. Producers struggle to consistently stay in top 20% from year to year however financial performance is much more consistent.

- Understand your management, leadership and personality type/style. Work with it and develop where you need to. Know your weaknesses and know how to read and evaluate others. Then when it comes time to do business you will have a greater chance of things going your way.

- Treat everyone with respect as you never know what is happening in other people's lives.

- Enjoy the wins (good decisions) at least as much or more than you dwell on your losses (not optimum decisions).

- Understand the difference between a bad decision and decisions that turned out to be not ideal.

- Do not get caught up in chasing markets. Do what you do and do it well. Evolve over time according to longterm financial performance, do not get caught chasing current market spikes.

- The most profitable operators don't always have the most expensive or newest equipment. You need to find the balance between investment in depreciating assets and having the equipment you need to perform your operations in a timely manner.

- Think optimal not biggest, best or most.

- If you wish to create wealth rather than simply being asset rich, you need to pay tax.

- Always remember that all involved in a supply chain need to be profitable to ensure longevity. Shortening supply chains can work but is not always the best option.

- There are opportunities in all industries at all times. Especially in the bad times

- Value your time.

- The first impression of businesses and farms is generally a direct reflection of their performance. A well organised, neat and tidy farm is generally a well organised business. Just remember there is a difference between neat and tidy and fancy new machinery.

- Given the opportunity ask the hard questions.

Generic questions will only ever get generic responses.

- Be careful looking over the fence, you never know other businesses situations, therefore making comparisons pointless. Debt?, Succession over generations? Who owns what?

- Just because you see others do it, it does not mean it is a good idea. If the older generation teaches us how to farm we are going to farm like the past not the future. Do not get me wrong, we need their experience and years of knowledge but we also need to evolve.

- If you have the opportunity invest into areas that not only make financial sense but build longterm resilience into your business eg. A new Landcruiser vs a new hayshed. Cruiser may look good but the hay shed has the ability to value add hay as well as building business resilience (drought reserves for stock). Five years on the hayshed is still worth the same (or more), has given you the ability to make money five times and provided drought security. The Landcruiser depreciated by 50% but you feel cool!

Simply these are just my opinions and by no means hold all the answers.

Scott Nicholson and wife Laura – 2018 Nuffield Scholar supported by AWI.



O'BRIEN POLL WUDINNA SHOWGROUND S.A. OFFERED 65 SOLD 51 TOP \$4,500 AVERAGE \$1,272

GENETICS USED: RIDGWAY ADVANCE 150103, 150003, 140005, 110453,
GLENLEA PARK 140580, LEAHCIM 142035, WALLALOO PARK 150245



That's an impressive sire list when you consider that the O'Brien's actually own RA150103, the multi trait leading ram that featured brilliantly in the first SA Sire Evaluation Trial in yonks!

That's not taking it away from WP150245 either as he is a ram that this stud has a share in that is one of the nation's 'easy care' huge cutters at YCFW 26.6 that actually fronts up well for ACFW at 21.7 suggesting that once his progeny fleece weigh well initially there's a big chance they will keep maintaining that for life. Add to that EBWR 0.9, another leading trait not often enough associated with huge cut.

The top priced digger was well positioned in Lot 6 that made serious bucks at \$4,500 which I believe would be the stud's record price for a Merino. And sold to Damien Mullan Wudinna S.A.

The outstanding poll was bred by RA150003 with YCFW 27.4 & DP+ 152. Damien also bought Lot 9 for \$2,800. See photo for excellent depth and neck extension.

Jack, Trevor and Chandler May Kimba S.A. were great support with their eight ram haul to average around \$1,000.

Omaroo Ag Kyancutta S.A. bought ten Merinos

and Dohne's with their lot 30, RA150103 bred son a bargain at \$1,100 at YCFW 21.9 & YEMD 0.7.

I asked Natalie Clark of Landmark to purchase some pre selected rams for me with Netallie Station Wilcannia NSW in mind and picked up three for this great station flock.

Lot 19 at a mere \$1,000 and bred by WP150245 at YCFW 17.0 & YEMD 0.9 at 17.5u & 2.9sd will keep the McClure clan happy.

Kenny Pastoral Elliston S.A. bought five including a \$1,900 purchase in Pen 33. Bred by the high safe density of WP150245, he exhibited a YCFW 34.5 & DP+ 177.2 which is totally up there nationally.

Ash May's Mayome P/L Kyancutta S.A. were great support with four merinos up to \$1,200 for lot 55 with a YCFW 27.3 and bred by RA 150003.

Aaron and Martin Grocke Kyancutta S.A. were good for a couple at \$2,000 for Lot 12 and Lot 29 at \$1,300 with a YCFW 22.8 & YWT 5.6.

Bruce Heddle's Careena Downs Minnipa S.A. is a great flock and he secured two to keep that momentum flowing!

Lot 7 sold for a realistic \$1,500. Bred by Leahcim 142035 he had YCFW 17.7 & YWT 6.6 at 18.3u.

Nigel Oswald's Moonlight Flat Wudinna S.A. were good for four and Jiembra Hills added three up to \$1,000 for Lot 24 with a YCFW 24.3.

Brenton and Jane Smith's Calcookara Cowell S.A. was aware of the O'Brien success with the RA150103 sire and picked up possibly the best one for \$3,000 in Lot 3.

I saw him the other day and he is a bloody ripper one year on. Bold crimp and still looking his excellent YCFW 27.5 & YSL a massive 17.5.

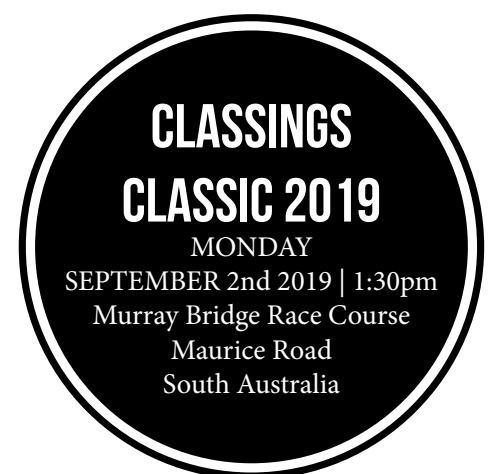
JS Whillas Port Lincoln S.A. bought three to \$1,500 for Lot 58 bred by RA 150003 with a YCFW 20.4.

Minnipa Research Station bought two with Lot 5 making \$1,800 and bred by WP150245 at YCFW 23.7.

The Murphy's from Wudinna S.A. secured Lot 1 for \$1,700 with a body weight of 110kg & YWT 7.5 and bred by Leahcim 142035.

The Wombi, DJ Hannemann, Kingara Farms & McKenna Enterprises were all good for single purchases.

The O'Brien Wudinna 2019 team is looking more than great with some huge growth and density exhibited across the board. They represent realistic buying considering the top quality exhibited and deserve much more accolade!



THE LAMB BOAST PAGE

Glen Tilley Kapunda S.A.

Lambing % was 122%
Weaning % was 120%
These percentages include drys.

Scanning 161% for all the ewes (maidens included)
2 & 3 yo ewes were 155%
4, 5, & 6 yo ewes were 168%
Drys 3%

The old merino ewe can be highly fertile if she and her partner, the ram, are in good condition.

The challenge is lamb survival. Overall our lamb foetus survival was 76%. If you look at our ewes scanned with twins their foetus survival rate was only 71%.

This is the opportunity. If we do a good job we should be able to get that figure up 7580%.

Scott Welke Westwood Poll Cascade W.A.

Some AI numbers:

440 programmed (sponged)
401 inseminated
351 pregnant – 120 Single, 231 Twin
Lost 8 ewes at lambing. Toughest lambing ever
Marked 422 Lambs

So 105% on inseminated figures and 123% on scanned number.

Aaron Freeman Manager Colara Farms S.A.

Supreme group: 850 ewes mated. 788 ewes after scanning and lambing deaths. 1000 lambs. 117% to ewes mated and 127% at marking.

Flock group: 750 ewes mated. 670 ewes after scanning and lambing deaths. 104% to ewes mated and 116% at marking.
Xbred producing group:
750 ewes mated 662 ewes after scanning and lambing deaths. 99% to ewes mated and 112% at marking. Maidens are mixed into all mobs.

I can't find my scanning results but I think 9% averaged out dry over everything with the xbred producers having a higher dry average. Hope this all makes sense.

Judy Paech Lucernbrae Poll Callington S.A.

A.I. Pregnancy test percentage inclusive of drys 84%. Lambing actuals 104%.

Maidens Pregnancy test percentage including drys 93%. Lambing actuals 103%.

Flock Pregnancy test including drys 96%.
Lambing actuals 107%.

Peter Wilkinson Challara Poll Badgingarra W.A.

AI results varied from 65% to 80% between sires.
Paddock joinings scanning was close to 135% add 7% Dry ewes totalled 99% Lambing.

About 15-20% down on scanned in twins. We put that down to low protein in grain last year and not supplementing them at mating time.

Nathan Wegener Colrae Callington S.A.

2019 RESULTS
Scanning
686 mated Merino
40 Dry
284 Single
362 Twin
Scanning% 147
725 Lambs 106% at weaning.

2018 RESULTS (cont.)
Scanning
619 ewes mated merino
57 Dry
266 Single
296 Twin

Scanning% 139
778 lambs 126% at weaning

Ewes scanned dry are then joined with a xb ram and in 2018 weaned 88%. Ewes not having a lamb are then sold.

Ewe Lambs are joined at 9 mth of age with varying results from 40% to 70%.

Using 2018 as an example we had total ewes of 1554 including hoggets/ewe lambs and weaned a total of 1604 lambs @ 103% (not bad considering ewe lambs only achieved 40% that year).



CHALLARA POLL MERINOSTUD

Easy Care and Striving Ahead

Displaying at **Dowerin Field Days** - August 28th & 29th, 2019

Selling rams at **Classing Classic Sale** - September 2nd, 2019



**Offering 150 Rams On-Property
Thursday September 5th 2019**

Inspection from 10am. Sale starts at 1pm.
Lunch to be provided.

In 2018, our vet declared Challara as OJD free from 359 tested ewes.

Lot 821, Koonah Rd, Badgingarra W.A

Ron & Deanna Wilkinson

Ph: 08 9652 9062

Peter & Emma Wilkinson

Ph: 08 9652 9340 | M: (Peter) 0427 427 691

Stud Classer: Bill Walker

WWW.CHALLARA.COM.AU



FLAIRDALE ON PROPERTY'18 COOKE PLAINS S.A. OFFERED 75 SOLD 64 TOP \$7,000 AVERAGE \$2,320

GENETICS USED: FLAIRDALE 42, 40, 78, 'BILLY', WP132,
POLL BOONOK 150026 A.I., KP304 RAM LAMB SYN, FLAIRDALE 110020
RAM LAMB SYN.



The 2018 Flairdale sale team replicated just how they looked in 2017 huge inherent, natural growth with many exhibiting a fibre that equals stud equivalents yet don't have the Flairdale associated growth factor.

The crowd appreciated it and after the first dozen sold the sale had already grossed an astonishing \$51,200 and averaging over \$4,200!!

Lee Slape Coomandook S.A. was feeling alright and outlaid \$7,000 for Lot 1 for a Poll Boonoke sired thumper with figures to match: PWT 6.14, YWT 7.9, YEMD 1.03, YFAT 0.9 & YCFW 21.3. This guy actually won the top price for the day gong!

Ever the loyal supporter, Dale Paxton K.I. S.A. bought seven for the day and averaged just over the \$4,000 mark! His first was in lot 2, a fine crimper with some amazing growth figures: PWT 7.22 & YWT 10.9 & DP+ 167.

I really liked Dale's lot 15 pickup with a massively square backend like yours and bred by WP 132 for \$5,400. Realtime figures of 19.4u 2.3sd 12.1cv & 0.0 may indicate to you what the fibre quality was like! Throw in YEMD 1.5 for good measure!

Another WP 132 sired poll in Lot 13 sold for \$6,000 with a whiteness that Kangaroo Island insists. Try these growth figures for a wool ram: PWT 5.95, YWT 9.31 & YEMD 1.5. & DP+ 175 geez that's good Arnold!

Trevor and Fred Laskey Orroroo S.A. averaged over \$3,000 for their haul beginning with a ripper Pen 3 and bred by PB 26 from a bloody good Flairdale ewe for \$5,800. Figures yes YCFW 21.5, PWT 5.82, YWT 8.74 & YEMD 1.2.

Their next was lot 5 at \$3,000 with a YCFW 22.4 yet I think their Lots 8 & 9 were excellent pickups. The first from WP 132 for a measly \$2,000 and the next a big square hooter from Flairdale 40 at \$4,200. Even at Lot 34 and bred by FL 78 at \$2,400 the quality still shone.

The quality admirers were all firing with some big bucks with Graeme Buchanan Karoonda S.A. snatching a 'Billy' son for \$5,000 with a YEMD 2.03.

The Burgess clan Gulnare S.A. outlaid \$5,200 for a well numbered PB 26 son with a great mum! Try these numbers Deidre and weep! PWT 9.75, YWT 11.95, YCFW 24.7, MP+ 162 & DP+173.6!! That's huge ASBV's that normally belong to Tibetan Oxen!

Bulk buy award goes to the Bartlett clan Orroroo S.A. who were Flairdale clients way back, saw the light and returned! They collected eight by sale's end and no doubt bid on a lot more to get them. They averaged around \$1,500.

Ben Nevis Farms Vic. Were good for around five including possibly the bargain of the day in lot 62 for \$1,900. Bred by Flairdale 20 ram lamb syndicate his ASBV's were meaningless yet his real times fleece weight sat at GFW% 129.



Peter Makin Keith S.A. bought Lot 26 from PB 26 from a sensational Flairdale mum for \$3,000. More big numbers from this sire: PWT 8.43 YWT 9.24 YCFW 22.7 & DP+ 164.

Jo Feast Port McDonald S.A. and Steph Booker Jones, the Mayoress of Lucindale bought a handful with the Kleinig, Peter Battersby, Bonza, Clark, Allen, Roberts and Croft enterprises helping with their ones and twos to seal the day.



LUCERNBRAE ON PROPERTY'18 CALLINGTON S.A. OFFERED 60 SOLD 44 TOP \$2,600 AVERAGE \$1,173

GENETICS USED: LUCERNBRAE 306, GUNALLO 026 (SWS) GUNALLO 361,
WALLAOO PARK 245, LEAHCIM 142965, WP/LEAHCIM SYN



A lot of people like the Lucernbrae sale.

They like it because it represents absolute value for every dollar spent. They like it because the stud endeavours to source the best genetics available and often utilise large A.I. programs as to spread a proven genetic over as many Lucernbrae ewes as possible.

They like it because they know that should some of the top enders be in in any other sale like the Classic sale they might have to pay two to three times as much! They like the joint because Keith and Judy are the most honest of stud breeders and what you see is what you get with the stock excellence!

The SWS syndicate own Gunallo 150026 that was bought in Classic'16 for over \$20,000. Lucernbrae is a member of that syndicate and capitalise by infusing some of the best genetics in the land via this enduring group.

25% of the catalogue were bred by Gunallo 150026.

Nathan Wegener Colrae Callington S.A. bought four great polls on the day with three bred by that mentioned sire Gun 026. Lot 1 actually topped the sale at \$2,600 because he had a butt like yours, was extremely deep sided, weighed 110kg, had a GFW% a massive 139 and tested 18.6u!

Nathan added Lot 3 for \$2,200 with 19.6u 2.5sd

12.6cv & 0.0 at GFW% 109 and pushing the great evolving boundary of bold crimp as well as Lot 15 at \$2,000 at GWT% 120.

I bought Wallaloo Park 150245 at the WP On Property sale for \$22,000. Lucernbrae are a semen share and used him to produce some outstanding ram hoggets in this sale. Nathan Wegener completed his outing with a great Lot 18 pickup for \$2,400 from this sire. The sire has outstanding fleece weight virtue and so did this fella at GFW% out there at 137! Add to that 18.2u 2.5sd 13.9cv & 0.4 and guess who got another bargain!

Kym and Michelle Thiele, the Mayor and Mayoress of Pompoota S.A. receive the special mention due to their great haul of ten rams on the day. They averaged around \$1,000 to get them which only represents value buying considering the quality. Their syndicate bred beauty in Lot 13 took the cake at \$2,000 at 115% GFW and despite a 20.4u had a Prickle Factor of 0.0! Quality stud this!

Netallie Station Wilcannia NSW don't want the stud to become any more popular as they've been 'killing the pig' for bargains for two decades at Lucernbrae.

I secured seven well structured polls at around \$1,000 average as early as Lot 5 for \$1,200 & Lot 9 for \$800 at GFW% 115 and loaded!

I always buy Critter and Bec Freeman the best between Lucernbrae and Borung rams either On Property or at the great Classic sale. Lot 2 was for them at a, below budget \$1,800. Bred By Gunallo 150026 with the typical, way above industry standard figures: GWT% 118, 18.2u 2.7sd 14.7cv @ 0.2pf and you should have seen the fibre dammit that's it in the picture!

I bought six for Stevens Farming Australia including some of the nation's greatest bargains! Frame, fibre, figures, feet spot on yet I possibly averaged \$700!

Bargain of the day you may ask?! Lot 50 was bred by a backup ram and looked slightly smaller on the day which tricked most. His fibre was super elite with no comparison and sat at 17.2u I grabbed him because it's my duty to do so when such exquisite fibre is concerned!

I rang Andrew Johnson of Mt. Boothby to suggest no discussion required but just to grab this bargain of the decade for a mere \$700. Looking forward to the Johnson classing next month to see where he's at. Semen available at \$200 per dose!

I bought Lot 14 at \$2,000 for Peter Kuhlmann who was after a couple in case SWM's sale went berserk. He was correct with his thinking and this bloke was a worthy contender 17.9u 2.6sd 14.7cv & 0.0 at GFW% 129 and bred from super cutter WP245, Pete's happy!!

The Harvey, Herbig, Haydn Hein, Eric Frahn, Paech Brothers and the Murray Bridge Willis clan were great support to ensure the sale went well.

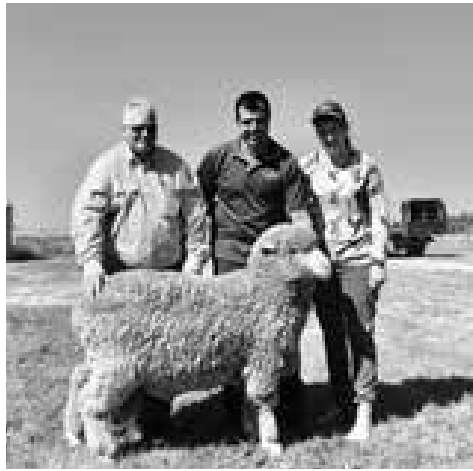
It could go loads better considering the average and I believe more commercial growers need to realise the potential of this high calibre for quality outfit.

This year's Classic team are a testament to this and previous outings there have raised many an eyebrow such is the quality.



SOHNIC MERINO ON PROPERTY'18 MARNOO VIC. OFFERED 72 SOLD 72 TOP \$6,000 (x2) AVERAGE \$2,420

GENETICS USED: SOHNIC 31189, 30126, 964, 40854, P505, 60206, 50753, 1013, NINUENOOK 55 A.I., TRIGGERVALE 758 A.I., LEAHCIM 3153 A.I., LEAHCIM 152775 A.I., LEAHCIM 2090 A.I., SYNDICATE via Ewe Lambs



There's something about attending the Sohnic sale that I really enjoy particularly considering that the day before's Wallaloo Park sale is of the same calibre in respect to being surrounded by such elite genetics and some of the nation's best fibre.

I think it's the mystique of the wool/genetics history of the area that grabs me every time. Gowandale, Wallaloo Park, Charinga, Glendemar, Banavie, Marnoo Field Days and Jim Watts' SRS® workshops all enter the mind when heading down from Banyena toward Marnoo for the sale days.

Anyway this was quite possibly Sohnic's best ever sale as it was a \$400 lift on a ripper the year previous and a \$6,000 twice top sale is the best ever in my time supporting the joint.

Nantoura Wharminda S.A. like the Sohnic genetic and were keen to source the best that was on hand on sale day. I suggested lot 10 was the boy with a crimp that was as bold and a staple length as long as it comes yet with the typical figures for such eliteness as 19.4u 2.5sd 13.0cv & pharkall itch! At \$6,000 he was popular due to good numbers and structurally spot on including a backend the industry needs more of. Bred by Sohnic S P505.

This figure was matched though right down at Lot 28 and bought for another \$6,000 by Roger Hunt Bordetown S.A. the ram exhibited great fibred character with a 40mm Eye Muscle and a 113kg frame. Roger went on to secure another three by day's end including a screamer in Pen 24 that I was keen on aside from a slight blemish for \$3,000. He was bred by Triggervale 758.

New clients to Classings second time 'round,

the great Mark, Cathy, Ben and Luke Chadwick family 'Stobo' Vic. were keen to launch big (ger) time into the merino sector and wanted a new source to add to their already successful Ridgway Advance/Gunallo combination ewe base.

They bought an absolute ripper Lot 4 for \$3,500 that physically cut the most of the sale group back in April shearing @ 7kg. Weighing in at 110kg, a double poll and schmick fibre, he was well positioned for the Chadwicks to grab the day's bargain.

They went on to secure another two including Lot 5 at \$3,000 and Lot 20 for the same moolah. This bloke weighed 125kg and was bred by Leahcim 152775.

I've had a chance to glance at the Stock and Land report of the same sale and there are just so many gaps particularly with the huge support from the twenty nine purchasers amongst the sale.

What is it with Fairfax reporting one ram, one buyer, ten paragraphs on the same ram geeez!

The Bibby, McDonald, McLennan, Bright, Goodes, Parry, Heinze, Poole and Coombes enterprises all bought 35 polls across the whole sale. Bretton Estate procured six to push that total alone to over 50 of the 72 offered and the Bibby clan were responsible for great competition over the day's event securing seven.

On behalf of Terry and Rose Young Ungarra S.A. I bought two to add to his haul of Leahcim rams where he fell short by a couple. The Young flock is one of the best on E.P. yet I've only been classing there for 12 months! Remarkable that

may seem!! The strong Leahcim background is very evident.

A rewarding day for the Hose/Nicholsen partnership with a 'no surprise' top sale result due to the presentation and quality of stock.

Another day's highlight was the absolute quality of the young reserves that were penned for all to gloat over post sale.





I really enjoy including new and upcoming, progressively studs in to the Classic sales. Bruce Dean's, Forest Springs and Kev Hynam's, Hynam Poll are two Victorian studs that have certainly made their mark at the Murray Bridge Racecourse.

Hynam Poll entered two this year selling one to Pimbena Wirrulla S.A. for \$6,500 and the other to the Hunt family at Mundulla S.A. for \$3,000.

Forest Springs also had a great day out with their first selling for \$6,000 to the quality appreciating McPiggery Lameroo S.A. with the second selling at \$2,500 to local legend Grant Wageknecht.

Add to this Ninuenook's debut with two of the best wools in the marquee selling for \$3,500 & \$2,000. And try Belbourie's debut effort selling their first for a casual \$10,000 to Hodder Pastoral!

Forest Springs On Property sale went well with 57 selling for \$1,135 to a top of \$3,750 with that bloke selling to Don and Sharyn Erwin who live at Emu Vic.

Three buyers bought fifteen rams between them including Spencer Martin Concongella Vic. who bought the second highest price for \$2,250. (see photo)

Hynam Poll sold well throughout the year with the following a brief summary of the 2018 Hynam Poll sale year. A more expansive effort will adorn the pages of Cullings'20!!

Hamilton Ram Sale
Top \$2000 Avg. \$1650

Benalla Ram Sale
Top \$2100 Avg. \$1537

Classings Classic'18
Top \$6500 to Pimbena Poll Wirrulla S.A.

Roger and Tara Hunt Mundulla S.A. \$3,000

Average \$4750

Inaugural On Property
Top \$2200 Av \$1206.



Dear prospective client,

As of July 1st, Neogen Australasia has taken on the responsibility of leading the delivery of sheep genomic testing services to Australian sheep breeders following the closure last week of the Sheep CRC.

Neogen will now be a single point of contact for both purchase and processing of DNA tests for sheep breeders, and we will continue to offer the full range of Sheep CRC DNA tests, including the Sheep Genomic test for a range of trait profiles,

Parentage and Horn/Poll, as well as the Flock Profile test for commercial Merino breeders.

Our priority during this transition period is to ensure a seamless transition of services for customers like you.

The only change to you will notice today is the logo and the bank account details at payment it will be business as usual for sheep breeders in terms of ordering processes and customer support services.

· You can continue to order your tests online through www.sheepdna.com.au, and your samples will continue to be processed and analysed at Neogen's Australian laboratories.

· Results will continue to be incorporated into the Sheep Genetics databases for assignment of parentage and enhancement of breeding value accuracies.

· Neogen will continue to employ the staff previously based at the Sheep CRC's Armidale office at the University of New England, ensuring continuity of service provision and retention of industry knowledge.

Neogen has had a longstanding relationship with Australian sheep breeders, having worked closely with the Sheep CRC throughout its research and development programs dating back to the start of the gamechanging Information Nucleus program in 2007.

Integrating Neogen's expertise with the CRC's established operations will only strengthen our capabilities and our ability to deliver valuable genomic information to the Australian industry.

Our next goal is to build on the legacy of the Sheep CRC by continuing to work with industry and R&D partners to develop new genomic products that are faster, more accurate and fairly priced so that you can accelerate the rate of genetic improvement in your flocks.

Today marks a new era in the delivery of genomic testing in Australia – Neogen thanks you for your support in the past and we look forward to working more closely with you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jason Lilly
Director – Neogen Australasia
Neogen's Australian Sheep DNA Products

Neogen will offer all four DNA test products previously available to Australian sheep breeders through the Sheep CRC:

· Sheep Genomic Test – this is the standard test used by industry to genotype Merino, Poll Dorset, White Suffolk and Border Leicesters.

To use this test, you need to be a member of Sheep Genetics and the individual animals need to be entered into either the LAMBPLAN OR MERINOSELECT databases with a minimum of sire pedigree recorded and one phenotypic measurement.

The Genomic Test will predict genomic breeding values for up to 16 different traits covering wool, carcase, growth, and reproductive performance.

· Parentage Test – as the name suggests, this test can be used for linking a lamb to its dam and/or sire. The test can be used on all breeds. It can also identify polled or horned sires or dams in Merinos.

· Poll Test this test is only available to Merino breeders and provides an opportunity to identify polled or horned sires and dams to speed up progress towards a purely poll flock.

· Flock Profile Test – also only available for Merinos, this test is designed for commercial breeders to obtain an estimate of their flock average genetic merit on an Australian Sheep Breeding Value (ASBV) scale.

The Flock Profile test includes a free 12month user account on www.ramselect.com.au to store data, compare results with industry averages, and strategically select rams which will enhance traits important to the business's profit drivers.

For more information and to order sheep DNA tests, visit www.sheepdna.com.au.

Changes to the South Australian Ovine Johnes' Disease (OJD) management Program



I'm intrigued at the change in the OJD setup particularly when accessing stock from interstate particularly W.A. Here's a quick snippet from Chris van Dissel on the latest with rule changes and a quick Q&A at the end which may be questions you may need to ask at some point.

"From July 1st 2019 there are no longer restrictions on the movement of sheep into South Australia relating to the control of OJD.

Previous requirements for faecal or abattoir testing, approved vaccinate status or Regional Biosecurity Program (RBP) area status have all been removed as OJD has moved to a "Buyer Beware" endemic disease.

Responsibility to manage the risk of exposure to OJD now rests solely with South Australian sheep producers.

In July 2018 OJD moved to a voluntary surveillance program both onfarm and at abattoirs and with that quarantines on infected properties were removed and abattoir surveillance was performed on request only.

Tracing of disease and notification to neighbours also ceased in 2018, as South Australia's management of OJD fell into line with the rest of Australia.

Biosecurity SA maintain that vaccination with Gudair® vaccine is the best preventative measure flocks can undertake to prevent infection or substantial losses from established infection.

Sheep producers can also undertake voluntary faecal testing through their private vets or

subscribe to the Market Assurance Program (MAP) if they wish to monitor their flock's status and remain free of OJD.

Requests for abattoir surveillance at TFI Lobethal can still be made (at no cost) by contacting: PIRSA.OJDAbattoirSurveillance@sa.gov.au

It is important to note that movements of sheep into South Australia must be accompanied by a completed Sheep Health Declaration (SHD) and National Vendor Declaration (NVD or Movement Document) as are all movements within S.A.

The SHD is now more important than ever and producers are urged to scrutinise these documents closely to prevent purchasing in unwanted disease risks.

Many producers interstate are not familiar with completing a SHD, so it's important to request one prior to arranging any purchase from interstate and always ensure purchases are recorded on the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) Database.

In general terms, OJD is more prevalent in areas of Australia where sheep are more densely populated and average annual rainfall exceeds 400mm. Producers wishing to purchase rams or ewes interstate should assess the SHD provided and if they are concerned about Johnes' disease, only purchase from flocks that have had a negative Pooled Faecal Culture (PFC) test for their flock.

Stud breeders should also note that many field days and shows may require more stringent standards for Johnes' Disease.

Chris van Dissel Biosecurity SA

How do I secure a ram or ewes from an area in W.A. where medium to high prevalence OJD still exists or used to?

As per article purchase from flocks with a negative PFC or who are on the Market Assurance Program (these are rare in WA so next best is a current negative Abattoir 500 test).

Is it totally up to the prospective S.A. acquirer of the said purchased stock to use his/her own discretion regarding the SHS/ Declaration presented from the vendor?

Yes they must assess the risk and ensure the forms are complete and accurate before bringing into SA.

Will there be no other visual inspection at this end prior to delivery? Or that end?

No, however paperwork will be checked at all our fruit fly inspection points and random roadblocks.

Intrigued with the following from your bit and just wondering if you could qualify ...

"Stud breeders should also note that many field days and shows may require more stringent standards for Johnes' Disease."

Have changes been made for Field Days and Multi Vendor Ram Sales as to make them less stringent?

If we're relying on honesty with SHS and VD's can this mean I could have twenty two studs penned up at one Classic sale without having to separate MN1's from MN3's and Vaccinates only separated from everything!!

It has been a nightmare with every vet having a different interpretation! Their Dec's say that they don't have OJD - same as W.A. intrusions so what's the difference?

Also the word 'may' - how do I interpret that?!

The statement regarding show pertains to the fact that they will set their own standards with regard to OJD. As there are no longer any restrictions at all regarding movement into SA, breeders will need to make sure they adhere to standards set by private entities such as shows and those hosting field days.

The market assurance program is run by private vets and they must ensure their clients adhere to the requirements of the that program, PIRSA will have nothing to do with that.





Yeah sure there's hand in the photo a photo that I think captures every element that our great merino fibre has to offer.

The most stark and bold crimp on display which, due to totally organised follicles beneath the skin, can only lend itself to increased staple length and production bonuses for growers and and ultimately the manufacturer.

A photo of a fibre that is bred white through keeping wax glands totally organised skin deep as not to overdo or undercut the production of the gear that coats it as to repel the effects of moisture and, in a weird twist, the green, sinister blowfly.

A photo that exudes fleece weight yet not the traditional mythical version where shorter, false density examples undo all of this shot's good work. Fleece weight created by fibre like the photo equates to plainer breeches and another twist, fertility.

Low breech wrinkle scored animals are now heroes for fertility and fertile animals host all that has just been mentioned. Add to that a bonnet that

at times is close to non existent and front legs that resemble the same.

Yet this photo resembles the exact type of animal that featured so well in the SA Sire Evaluation Trial without exception. A 'winning' combination of an overused term especially in this state, dual purpose merino.

No runt with exotic fibre and no giant with wool that itches but a fine balance of carcass and frame that survives and lambs down even when a season is at its most challenging.

A classer's paradise.

That hand in the photo could belong to the proud grower who through persistence, breeding strategies, patience, workshops, comprehending the very basic understandings of skin biology and how to nurture it, now grows multitudes of the stuff.

Some never give themselves the chance to compare due to generational pressure, studmaster/classer/advisor mateships that are way too binding as to explore what alternatives this exciting industry has to offer.

That hand might be the stud master's if he's extremely fortunate!

Sure, there's a hand in that photo and that hand's mine! It's there for pride of place, a pride in having the opportunity to aid passionate punters in producing the stuff from the outset.

A hand that's really only resting there at the end of another day in the client's classing race. This time an easy drive to a property that grows hundreds like this.

A photo exhibiting a hand that knows only this and sometimes how to play an F#minor yet not confidently!

It's a hand that's introducing you to the most exciting natural fibre on the planet. So natural it breathes. So soft and well bred that at it's best can now easily be worn as nexttoskin wear.

My this is a good red!

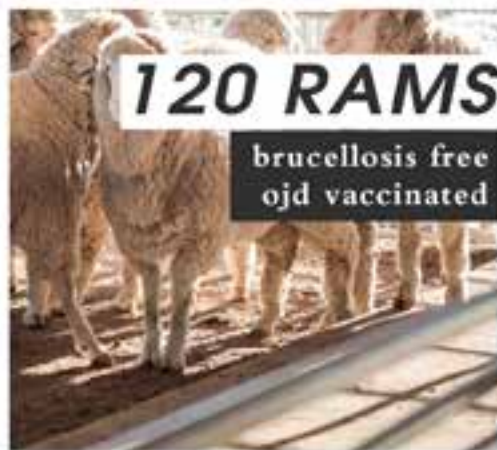


17TH ON PROPERTY RAM SALE

Friday 23rd August 2019



INSPECTION 11AM . AUCTION 2PM



120 RAMS

brucellosis free
ojd vaccinated

KARAWATHA PARK

POLL MERINO STUD
KIMBA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

CONTACT

Bert and Barb 0427 274 030
Dion and Chelsea 0427 323 583
Bill Walker 0428 973 804
Phil Arcus 0448 908 363



WWW.KARAWATHAPARK.COM.AU





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Balanced Poll Merinos

**Annual
Ram Sale**
180 Auction Rams

WEDNESDAY 14th AUGUST 2019

Ram Inspection & morning tea begins at 9.30

Sale at 1.00 pm (SA time)

4363 Emu Flat Rd., Senior, Bordertown S.A.



Brucellosis accredited & MN3 V

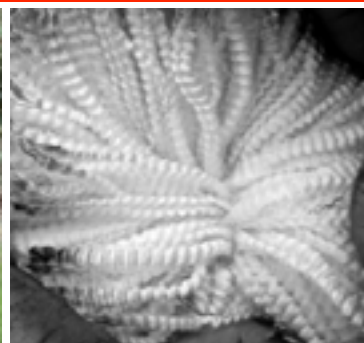
David, Karen & Devon Ridgway

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Put to the Test & Passes with Distinctions

Conformation of the long-term balanced approach in the Ridgway Advance breed
is demonstrated in the 2017 SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial

In the final report of the 2017-drop hoggets released December 18, Ridgway Advance 103 was the highest-ranking sire from 16 entries across three Sheep Genetics Indexes - DP+, MP+ & WP+.

He was trait leader for GFW, CFW, YWT, HWT and FAT and ranked the most favourable with the Classer's High Tops/Low Culls grading. Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association executive officer, Ben Swain said "it is fairly uncommon for one ram to excel in both wool and carcase traits in a trial, as well as having the highest percentage of progeny visually classed as 'tops' of all 16 Sires."

This clearly identified the 'dual-purpose' capabilities of the Ridgway Advance genetics.



IMPACTING PREDICTABLE GENETICS