

CLASSINGS

CULLINGS '21

EVEN LESS RISKY EDITION

Publisher:

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CLASSINGS

CLASSIC 2021

MONDAY

SEPTEMBER 6th 2021 | 1:30pm
New Murray Bridge Race Course
Brinkley Road, Gifford Hill
South Australia

CLASSINGS

MERINO SHEEP CLASSING AND WOOL TESTING SERVICE



SHEEPCCLASSING & MERINO ADVISORY

Classings Merino Sheep Classing and Breeding Consultancy began in 1962 under the direction of Don Walker and continues today under the custodianship of son, Bill.

Experience gained from years of in yard/race visual classing backed up by results and subsequent information gleaned from Classings Fibre Testing facility, validates any breeding conquests undertaken on clients' properties.

Bill now classes over eighty commercial and twenty two studs over four Australian states guiding them toward the best tactics in breeding high quality Merinos that meet all fibre and meat expectations.

It's a prerequisite that all flocks classed eventually exude a skin that is productive yet easy care as to intrigue a young, aspiring wool producer.



FIBRE MEASUREMENT FACILITY

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

The Laserscan added another dimension to the business with the additional measurements produced and subsequent interpretation on flowing to clients (and non) as a means to improve flock quality, production & performance.

Classings welcomes the addition of Bec Hughes to the laboratory whose passion and drive with all things fibre is impressive to say the least!

The Lab tests sample from across the nation including the obvious merino, Alpaca, Mohair & Angora,

For all testing options and sampling requirements please go to our website.



CLASSINGS CLASSIC POLL MERINO RAM SALES

The Classings Classic sale was initiated in 2002 with 42 rams from specially selected studs that were seen to be progressive in their endeavour to breed genuinely plain bodied yet productive polled animals.

The rams exhibited only plain breeches and sometimes bare of huge staple length which address today's ever boiling mulesing discussions.

The theme is no different today with the sale in 2020 offering 97 progressive poll rams from 24 hand picked studs, averaging an all sale high of \$5,442 to a top of \$24,000.

ASBV's when available are now a prerequisite for all entering studs. With accuracies always on the improve there's a hope that, considering structural soundness is intact, that the need for intense shed preparation of any young ram may one day become obsolete!

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Welcome to this year's Cullings '21.

So, there you have it - the latest launch of any Cullings since inception due in part to serious writer's block, an extended wooden boat fix, the 'bug', late advert replies, a major birthday event (and subsequent recovery) and a general, 'where the hell has the year gone?!'

Many have asked over the last two months just what the general topic for Cullings'21 may be. Easy answer as always with the Mulesing discussion still at full tilt amongst some serious breeding advances, unmulesed fibre premiums - up to 200c clean just recently for top end Kangaroo Island 'silk' and topping out at over 1800c greasy!

There's a general acceptance by our ever supportive (and growing) list that plain breech, high production levels and extra associated fertility breeding can be simple and straight forward keeping all happy along all stages of the genetic trail.

That extra bold crimping 17-20u lustrous fibre that's shearable twice a year due to extreme staple length has now reached a measured density never before seen. Classic'21 will feature many of these exhibiting fluid nourishment from a supple skin that also promotes micron control. Yep, that hidden chestnut that has gone by the wayside a tad thanks to the chase for better muscling and fat figures. 17-18u young wools are 'killing' the market at the minute thanks to rewards for quality fibre - even more so if unmulesed!

To achieve the perfect balance as to breed a quality animal takes some concentration yet we have the tools available to ensure success like never before. ASBV accuracy was paramount in building confidence within that system which has now come to fruition.

There's no breeding value for crook feet, hocks, tight skins so a keen eye will always be required as to ensure no sire with a DP+ 200 throws bad hocks and should have been donged on the head at birth!

Enjoy the read and surround yourself amongst an industry that is firing on all eight at the minute!

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2021 RAM SALES & FIELD DAYS THAT COUNT!

July 5th EYRE PENINSULA FIELD DAY

July 21st S.E. MERINO FIELD DAY
KEITH SHOWGROUNDS S.A.

July 30th MALLEE MERINO F/DAY S.A.
MURRAY BRIDGE SHOW GROUND

July 28th PIMBENA Wirrulla SA
Les Hamence 0428 268002

July 29th O'BRIEN POLL Wudinna SA
Showground - Darren O'Brien 0419 772173

August 2nd/3rd SHEEPCONNECT
HAMILTON VIC (ex SHEEPVENTION)

Aug 5th LUCERNBRAE Callington SA
Keith & Judy Paech 0415 701493

Aug 9th RIDGWAY Lameroo SA
Ric 0459 432679 Matt 0439 460554

AUG 10th BADERLOO Spalding SA
Daniel Hammat 0439 347362

Aug 10th RAMSGATE Tintinara SA
Jed Keller 0427 691858 Craig 0418 259049

Aug 11th RIDGWAY ADVANCE SA
Bordertown S.A. David & Karen Ridgway
0409 408263 0887 542028

Aug 16th FLAIRDAL COOKE PLAINS SA
Wayne Lehmann 0408 896877 Matt 0417 843063

Aug 16th MARNOO FIELD DAY Vic.

Aug 19th CALCOOKARA Cowell SA
Brenton Smith 0886 285039 0427 285 039

Aug 20th KARAWATHA PARK
Buckleboo SA Bert Woolford 0427 27403
Dion Woolford 0427 323 583

Aug 31st NANTOURA Wharminda SA
Chris Prime 0427 289021

Sep 1st Borung - Waikerie SA
Brenton Kroehne 0427 414 494

Sep 2nd Gunallo - Pinnaroo SA
Ray Schroeder 0427 778485
Brad Schroeder 0400 3356601

Classings Classic '21 Monday September 6th New Murray Bridge Racecourse S.A.



September 3rd SWM - Tintinara SA
Richard Harkness 0428 758 028

September 3rd Pepperwell - Keyneton SA
Hans Graetz 0427 790 676 (yes same date as SWM!)

Sep 10th CAROONBOON Wanganella NSW
Margie Pye 02 6825 6203 - 0427 996 911

Sep 10th ADELAIDE RAM SALE

September LONE GUM Crystal Brook SA
Private Inspection Stuart Everett
0427 362 801

Sep 14th LEAHCIM Snowtown SA
Andrew Michael 0418 828431
Alistair 0427 352639

Sep 15th FOREST SPRINGS - Joel Joel Vic
Bruce Dean 0407 054342

Sep 16th CHALLARA Badgingarra W.A.
Peter Wilkinson 0427 427 691

Sep 17th SOHNIC Marnoo Vic.
Scott Nicholson 0438 086 403
Greg Hose 0427 507151

Sep 22nd HYNAM POLL Longwood Vic
Kev Hynam 0427 833 262

Sep 23rd Wallaloo Park Inspection Vic.

Sep 30th Wallaloo Park Ram Sale Vic.
John 0427 501 431 Trent 0427 776 114

Oct 8th ELLA MATTA Parndana SA
Andrew Heinrich 0427 596 108
Jamie Heinrich 0427 361 830

** 2022 Feb 7th LORELMO Walcha NSW
Ed Cordingley 0429 486 380
Andrew Heinrich 0427 596 108



With many sheep yards and races being upgraded or completely demolished I see a lot of yard ideas that aren't exactly high tech or current but so bloody simple! Take a look at this simple in race latch design invented probably back in 1902! A quick flick of the chain and things are secure as opposed to wrapping bloody chains through holes cut in tin at 100 decibels and 15 seconds to secure!



These Brazzen made end-race, in-race pivot gates are essential if you're building a new yard race. They are actually built too wide which only encourages the race to be the same! There is a simple welding modification that adds an upright and two lugs as to make the gate modified as to narrow the race width to 450mm.

Check them out at suppliers, River Murray Trading Post - Tailern Bend S.A. and also check out their great pricing for semi permanent sheepyards that are solid and stay put until the ultimate design is secure.

This mob are appreciated supporters of Classic Ram Sales.



How easy can an internal race gate latch be?

When there's a mass of animals loading a race in a hurry it pays to have a quick and easy method of shutting that middle gate before your hand is in danger of being crushed by the next flighty ewe or ram.

The pictured solution is so technically advanced that it dates back to 1949!

Classings Classic '20

OFFERED 96 SOLD 92

AVERAGE \$5,442

TOP \$24,000



The Classings Classic sale made its debut back in 2002 at the Murray Bridge Racecourse. With the sale of that site to developers, a new site was to be found which, as part of a natural progression saw the 2021 sale at the ripping new Racecourse a few km's out of town. The facilities are amazing and typically course secretary John Buhagiar and events manager Rebecca Hewings looked after us very well as things ran seamlessly.

Due to the stringent Covid transit rules at the time, five Victorian Studs were able to enter their teams into Classic'20 yet without the stud principles themselves able to be present. Due to a lot of co-ordination between those studs, Glendon Hancock of Elders Wool St. Arnaud Vic. and a willing trucky, eighteen rams graced the CC'20 stables with good success. Victorian authorities suggested to Glendon that he would have a safe passage across the border due to his 'essential' status only to be turned back by the S.A. equivalents. Perhaps, similar to a few Aussie cricketers of late, a brief trip to the Maldives would have done the job!



John Buhagiar: Murray Bridge Racecourse mayor!

That the day saw a few records broken just added to the enjoyment including the highest average of any Classic sale sitting at \$5,442 with possibly the most numbers attending other than the World Merino Insight event a few years back. There had been a huge buzz during the weeks leading up to the sale with many studs offering their very best ever as to make a serious mark in the catalogue.

After a successful effort in 2019, **Leahcim - Snowtown S.A.** led the way with three generally paddock reared polls with good ASBV's which were to be a test for those who were troubled by the comparisons with animals that had had a good life in the ram shed leading up to the sale.

Thankfully most punters are aware of the differences in preparation across all studs and the three all sold exceptionally well.

Paul Goering's Lukin Springs W.A. were instrumental in Leahcim's successful outing by securing two of three offered including Lot 1 for \$7,500 & Lot 3 at \$12,500. The first, a PP, 17.5u, YEMD 1.0 FAT 0.7 & YSL 14.7 got the ball rolling well but it was the their second purchase, (Tag 193509) that excited more competition possibly due to better numbers with YCFW 29.9 YSL 20.0 FAT 0.9 & 18.4u & 2.7sd and a great supple skin. Brian Kay - Lock S.A. saw value in the second offered and outlaid \$6,000 with YWT 9.6 YCFW 26.3 & YSL 14.4 at 17.3u.



Ridgway: \$12,000 Top to O'Brien Poll - Kynacutta S.A.

Ridgway - Lamerook S.A. had an excellent CC'19 sale which put them up in the first row for CC'20. Seven of the twelve that Ridgway offered were bred by Gunallo 170295, the \$60,000 sale topper at CC'18 that sold to Superior Wool Syndicate S.A.. The first (190063) sold to Darren and Jodie O'Brien's Obrien Poll - Kyancutta S.A. at a rewarding \$12,000 due in part to a deep sided body, square backend with YCFW 28.8 YWT 8.0 & 13.1 YSL and bold crimp. Classings (CPL from here on) clients, Balah Nominees bought the second at \$7,500 and sired by Gunallo's SuperSire 170295. Good figures and fibre here at YCFW 33.5, YWT 8.5, YSL 13.2 & MP+ 176.

Ridgway's third went to Glencorrie - Minlaton/K.I for yet another 170295 son this time with YCFW at a high 35.3, YWT 9.1 YSL 13.8 & YFAT 0.7. The next, a massive bold crimper with huge staple length and a 170295 son sold for \$5,000 to the CPL clients Tola Ag - Kimba S.A. with a ripping skin and fibre and YCFW 25.9.

CPL clients, Colara Farms - Tintinara S.A. managed by Aaron Freeman saw a lot of virtue in the next at \$5,500 with all things right as did the Schenscher boys from Naracoorte S.A. who outlaid a cool \$8,000 for a PP'd 170295 son with a YWT 9.6 & YCFW 29.7 & MP+ 171. Leonie and Jon Mills' Morley - Cleve S.A. outlaid the dosh and secured the next for a stud rewarding \$8,000 with superb fibre, YCFW 27.2. and yet another 170295 son.

Borong - Waikerie S.A. Couldn't believe their luck in picking up two Ridgways at \$3,000 & \$3,500 and the same goes for Karawatha - Park S.A. at \$3,000, Ed Hunt one for \$3,000 and the Bald Family - Parndana K.I. also at \$3,000.

It's not unusual for the Schroeder's Gunallo - **Pinnaroo S.A./Vic.** to have a rewarding day out and CC'20 was no exception. Three of the seven polls sold hailed from SuperSire Gunallo 170295 as mentioned the same success in the Ridgway CC'20 success a few paragraphs back.

Their sale topper though was bred by Glenlea Park 160614 and sold to treasure hunters O'Brien Poll - Kyancutta S.A. for \$24,000 - the eventual sale topper. Exhibiting a double copy poll (PP from here on), YCFW 28.9, YWT 7.3, YSL 14.7 & MP+ 162 and a clean high fertility styled head, most felt the sale topping success was warranted. Realtime figures intact as well - 19.1u 2.7sd

& 0.2pf.

Gunallo's second made \$12,500, a 170295 son and sold to the E.P's Peter Fitzgerald family. Great fibre add YWT 10.5, YCFW 23.6 & 0.6 YFAT he filled the pen well and was sought after by many. The third of the team hit the \$9,000 mark and sold to that ever ascending Ramsgate Poll - Tintinara S.A. A great balanced animal with a super bold crimp with good numbers as to maintain the excellent quality the stud exudes. PP, 18.8u 3.0sd 16.0cv 0.1pf & YWT 8.6 YCFW 21.6 YSL 15.7 YFAT 0.8 & YFD -1.4 - can anything go wrong!

Glencorrie YP & K.I. S.A. bought a ripper to backup their good Ridgway grab, a 170295 son with great density visually backed up with YCFW 29.3, YWT 9.6 & MP+ 173. Another 170295 son was next and selling to Michael Altus - Lameroo S.A. with the typical 295 figures excelling in fleece weight - YCFW 24.8 YWT 8.7 YSL 13.2 & YFAT 0.3 and sold for \$6,500.

Stuart Everett of Lone Gum Poll - Crystal Brook S.A. likes the Gunallo's and bought a direct Gunallo 150460 son (170295's sire) for a meagre bargain at \$5,000 for a greta allrounder.

Gunallo's last offered, yet my favourite of the team exhibited what Classic sales penned rams of over the last two decades always displayed - a gob smacking bold, super aligned crimp of low micron and (shearing date querying) ultra long staple!! It was always a peculiarity in my eyes that it was a hard thing for many to accept that these 'boldys' of way above average staple length could actually fleece weigh! Yes, many long stapled varieties don't cut as proven in some Sire Evaluation Trials of late yet most Classic entries exhibit excellent density with that way out length of staple. That's the quality control at its foremost when Classic sales are concerned unlike other multi vendor efforts!

With the push for meat trait improvement it's now noticeable around the traps that fibre quality and subsequent micron control can be lagging. With the current wool market there's some massive positives in having 17-18 u young stock as opposed to 20 - like \$2-3 per kg try!



Figure 4: Gunallo 190067

So, Gunallo 190067 bred by the old SuperSire 150460 bred a bloody ripper that went slightly unnoticed due to the stud's very consistent lineup until post sale. The shrewd Nantoura - Wharminda S.A. were prepared and relieved when '67' fell into their ute tray at a mere \$9,500!

Look at these figures though as a backup to the previous paragraph's bolavala!

A great balance of everything ...

Lot 23 190067 PP Naturally paddock bred, single born, bred by SuperSire Gun150460, 17.2u 2.7sd 15.7cv 0.2pf add YWT 10.9 YCFW 28.3 YSL 15.2 YFD -1.4 YFAT 0.1 MP+ 167. Note the real times and ASBV's for micron.

Ridgway Advance - Bordertown S.A., stalwarts of any mighty Classics over two decades save their very best generally for the Classic sale as it has been a huge rewarding ground for their high quality stock. With two teams of different age there is always a lot of choice with most needs satisfied for a discerning and prospective clientel.

Their leading Autumn drop team kicked off with a \$10,000 sale to Woodleigh Hills and bred by RA 421 and a PP with the typical RA fibre that we all expect. 18.4u 2.8sd 15.2cv & 0.1pf indicates quality of fibre matched with pen filling capabilities. Warrawee P/C were next up at \$5,000 for another RA421 with similar characteristics but at a silky soft 17.5u with huge staple length and bold crimp - the softest and finer micron throughout the whole CC catalogue all exhibited the planned super aligned fibre and boldness.

Todd Willoch's newly formed 'Clovernook Merino' at Walcha NSW somehow secured RA's third in the lineup for \$2,000! With similar characteristics to the previous ram including a 17.3u fleece, Todd's a happy man! Lone Gum - Crystal Brook S.A. latched onto the fourth sold of the RA lineup for \$3,500, a PP and fibre exotica at 17.8u and bred by the experimental Glenville 275.

From here on it was commercial and stud grower paradise as the well presented polls that followed all met ultra realistic pricing which ultimately keeps the customer returning considering the quality. Stevens Farming - Seymour Vic. at \$1,500, Stobo Poll - Miga Lake Vic. at \$2,250, Clovernook - Walcha NSW for another ripper for \$3,000, one of the sale's best wools for \$3,500 to the David Farr clan - Wunkar NSW, a screamer to CPL client Damien Trethewey - Parndana S.A. for \$3,500 with a backend like yours, WhyGee P/C one at \$2,500 and a beauty to Warrawee P/C to cap the team off at \$4,000 with art like structure!



Classic'20 registered 112 bidders on site plus another 108 logged into AuctionsPlus - It was estimated that there were approximately 250 present on the day.

A few years back **Flairdale Poll - Cooke Plains S.A.** had a hell of a day selling one of their polls for \$9,000 to the Mudford clan in NSW their highest price in a Classic sale. I'm not sure if the Lehmann clan were ready to match and eclipse that figure in CC'20 with both selling for \$9,000 & \$9,500 respectively but I'm sure they enjoyed how it all unfolded!

There was A Wallaloo Park connection involved with both sales. Lee Slape - Coonalpyn S.A. bought the first (\$9,000) that had a backend not dissimilar to your grandma's and was bred by Flairdale 160224 a homebred son via Wallaloo Park 130132. (Bought at CC'14 at \$4,500) Some very good numbers here including MP+ 183, DP+ 194 made up of YWT 11.2 YCFW 21.6 YEMD 0.5 and a PP.

Flairdale's second was a popular bidding item and finally secured by Les Hamence, the backbone of Pimbena Poll - Wurrulla S.A. for \$9,500. He was a direct son of Wallaloo Park 172003 and showed off more top end, trait leading figures on top of a super aligned fibre - try these sergeant!
MP+ 180 DP+ 183 YWT 9.0 YEMD 0.6 YFAT 0.3 & YCFW 33.6 YSL 12.9!

Easily Flairdale's best day out at any Classic and a pleasing sight considering Wayne and Matt's push for quality and particularly ASBV building over the last few years.



Flairdale 190028 sold to Lee Slape for \$9,000



Fig. 7 Flairdale 190212 sold to Pimbena for \$9,500

Peter and Em Wilkinson's excellent Challara Poll - Badgingarra W.A. debut in CC'19 saw them well positioned in CC'20 with both polls selling well to yet another two new clients such is the recognition and appreciation of a seriously good W.A. stud.

CPL client Evandown - Wunkar S.A. led by the trio of Jeff, Daniel and Lincoln Evans know their stuff and bought Challara's first for \$4,000 to be used as a home ram breeder to cross over ewes from their excellent recent Mumblebone result. This fella had a silky skin exuding quality fibre and a body that boasted YWT 7.0 YEMD 0.5 YFAT 0.1. All eyes will be on that result which on paper should be a world beater!

I bought Challara's second for CPL clients Matt and Amanda Cook - Minnipa S.A. for \$3,000 that again will help the popularity of this stud in this state. Bred by Gunallo 170295, there was a fair chance there were to be some outstanding numbers to backup the outstanding bit of gear on the walrus like carcass - try these Martha! YWT 9.9 YCFW 27.4 YSL 10.9 YEMD 0.2 YFAT 0.6 & MP+ 163.

The **Ridgway Advance** second team, Spring Drops, created much more unexplained appreciation than the Autumn bred equivalent. DW & FJ Miles secured the first, a PP for \$10,000 after negotiations throughout the sale when a reserve was not met by the polls' initial auction attempt. Bred by

Moorundie Park 003 and productive add 17.7u, the ram was lotted at the start for good reason.

No slouch was RA's second by the way, 190469, bred by RA421 and another PP that was snapped up by Glenville - Cowell S.A. for \$12,000. There's been a mutual appreciation by the two studs with Glenville also purchasing the best horned ram that ever graced the pens of any Classic quite a few years back now. RA has also had a good result from a Glenville intrusion, G257, bought out of the stud's Reserve pen on property a few years back for \$10,000 on memory. Outstanding realtimes with their purchase here: 16.8u 2.3sd 13.6cv & 0.0 may indicate a hint of fibre quality wouldn't you say Macca?!

Glenville also bought another PP two pens later for \$9,000 bred by RA 413 (x RA 082) with a bit more production this time and more excellent figures of 17.3u 2.5sd 14.7cv & another 0.0pf

Bluechip Livestock paid \$7,500 for another RA421 with a super free skin at 16.3u, David Farr - Wunkar S.A. an RA 413 son for \$3,000 and Warrawee P/C a sale beauty with all things right for \$2,500 and at the same price another two pens later. The Pritchard family bought two RA001 sons for \$2,000 & \$3,500 and CPL client Damien Trethewey - Parndana S.A. bought the last for \$3,500 for a white woolled 18.0u goody to cap off a successful sale.

O'Brien Poll - Kyancutta S.A. had, in my eyes, one of the best polls in the sale. A reserve was discussed of which I thought was very realistic yet as close as the bidding got to it, Darren was reluctant to let him go. A naturally born twin and bred by Ridgway 170443 (CC'18 for \$6,000) he was all things Classic merino with his outlook and skin makeup and a genuine elite fibre bolstered by YCFW 33.7 which put him in the top 5% in the nation for that trait. Possibly a good omen in the fact that he will be used extensively in the stud.

Sohnic Poll - Marnoo Vic. have had some great sales at the Racecourse particularly of late but possibly due to the frustrations of Covid and not being able to attend the sale personally to promote a good team, the four rams sold at way too realistic pricing. This typically is counter productive though as three of the four went to three first time buyers who are now aware of the quality the stud has to offer.

I bought the first for CPL client, Matt Cook - Minnipa S.A. at \$2,500 for one of the boldest wools in the catalogue and bred by Lucernbrae 160032. (Bought by Sohnic at CC'17 for \$7,000). The mayor of Brinkley S.A., and CPL client, Dean Pearson paid the same at \$2,500 for another ripper and CPL client Pioneer Bend - Parndana S.A. only had to part with \$3,000 for a true ram breeder with a long yet meaty carcass with fluid nourishment in the fibre department. Another very good Lucernbrae 160032 bred son completed the team and sold for \$5,000 to Josh Hunt - Bordertown S.A.

Superior Wool Merino - Tintinara S.A. offered and sold one meaty fella coated with the good gear to CPL client Grant Wageknecht - Murray Bridge S.A. A double poll that stood well on all fours and a great backend, the ram, 191993 represented just why this S.E. stud has sales that at times bely belief considering the stud's relatively short time on the planet! 19.1u 3.0sd 15.6cv & 0.6 and a pedigree that was pure SWM for two generations on the sire side.

The Baderloo - Spalding S.A. team of two were certainly an honest pair which came literally straight from the paddock and unfairly compared to animals surrounding them that may have had another 20kg's of carcass on their side. Yes, they were underdone but providing their structure, skin quality, pedigree and ASBV's are on the money, should it matter that the pair lacked any form of shedding? Should this be the prerequisite for all Classic entries one day? Are we running into too many infertility issues particularly in the first year of joining/purchase due to over shedding over long periods of time the making the ram 'hot' and often incapable of producing quality taddys when required?

Look at these numbers closely - Dominic Haslam's - Cooee Merino - Gunning NSW likes the for-mat and happily secured the second in the lineup, Baderloo 170080 for \$6,000 due to ironically (to the above introduction) excellent carcass trait figures! YWT 10.2 YEMD 1.7 YFAT 0.6 YSL 17.0 YCFW 17.2 & DP+ 175! These would be close to the best meat trait figures in the catalogue yet due to the ram's unpreparedness (!) many struggled to make the connection. A ram entered in any Classic sale, at any given stage of their lifetime is 80-

90kg's - it all depends what you decide to do in regards to their preparation from here on!

The first Baderloo offered sold for \$2,000 and went to Windella P/C - Brinkley S.A. with more good figures yet again underdone for preparation. Try these: YWT 9.5 YEMD 1.0 YFAT 0.0 add YSL 15.8. These numbers and especially the first mentioned here are what all studs are or should be aspiring to in the growth and muscle area. Would \$300 worth of extra dietary requirements make the difference to these two rams? Unfortunately, and yes it goes against the grain of this very discussion, but I'm sure the extra dollar investment on nutrition would have impacted big time on the sale result - maybe two fold! This discussion may evolve later in this newsletter but I'll finish this bit off by suggesting that the Merino Show Ring and all that goes with it is still #1 guilty of the reasons for this tirade of blurt! On with the show...



Ramsgate's Heidi and Craig Keller with Brinkley's Mayor Dean Pearson

Ramsgate - Tintinara S.A. wouldn't argue that they had one of their best Classic days ever. Their SuperSire, Brookdale 014012 who continued to breed hot stuff until he kicked the bucket last year, chalked up another winner in lotting Ramsgate's first at CC'20 and selling for \$4,000. The Kelly's Pioneer Bend - Parndana S.A. were the happy purchasers. The poll was coated with the skin that the sire was renowned for pushing out a quality 18.8u 2.4sd 13.0cv 0.2pf fibre that deserved attention. MP+ 162 YCFW 20.9 YEMD 0.3 YFAT 0.1 & YFD -1.4 will cover all of their needs.

The second, a PP and bred by Karawatha Park 170268 was another rip snorter, sold to Tye McKenna - Wudinna S.A. for \$5,000. Another typical Ramsgate bit of gear exuding form a supple skin, the ram stood well all day and raised a fair bit of interest. YCFW 24.7 YSL 12.3 & yet 6.5 acceptable figures to add to the glory.

Forest Springs - Joel Joel Vic. arguably and visually, had the best looking team in CC'20! Four new clients couldn't be wrong with that sentiment as the team looked like they owned the joint. Dangerous talk I know as we receive so much support from all studs in this sale but there was just something about them.

As a possible justification, the first, 190147 sold for \$10,000, the highest price Bruce Dean, the stud's principle, has ever received for a ram by auction. Local Murray Bridge-ites Michael and Rhys Erickson were impressed by the ram's all-round presence and impressive pedigree particularly on the sire side. Mumblebone 130850 the sire that featured so well in the SA Sire Evaluation Trial at Keyneton Station breeds a lot of stock with barely any waste and very satisfactory numbers including in this case YWT 7.7 YEMD 0.3 & YFAT 0.0 & DP+ 166.

Forest Springs second sold via AuctionsPlus for \$2,500 to Marrawarra, the next to CPL client, Netallie Station - Wilcannia NSW, followed by a \$3,500 sale to Michael Altus - Lameroo S.A. and the last with arguably the best fibre of the five, a \$4,500 sale to CPL clients, Gary and Chase Ferguson - Colebatch S.A. for a Gunallo 170231 (x 150460) son with a jaw dropping bold, high quality 18.5u fibre & YCFW 22.0 - safe!

Borong Poll - Waikerie S.A. pair looked a treat yet deserved more bucks. \$3,500 is nothing to sneeze at especially when it goes to long time supporters and CPL clients, Critta and Bec Freeman - Penong S.A. They can't help themselves but be successful in every Charra Hogget Competition they enter thanks to Borong and Lucernbrae blood. 20.1u is bearable especially when backed up with 2.5sd 12.3cv & 0.2pf such was the quality of the fibre. The second bloke was nearly as good and sold to Netallie Station for \$1,500 but deserved much more.

After completing the first stage classing of the young Borong rams in February, excitement reigns as the quality of this year's crop is outstanding to say the least. To assess those very animals in the race yet under the cover of brand new roof purposefully built to spoil this very author was very kind!

Lucernbrae - Callington S.A. I think would have had their very best outing at CC'20. The stud's first sold to Superior Wool Merino (SWM) for a cool \$5,000 and bred by Lucernbrae 160010. Richard is well aware of the meat gain vs. wool quality/micron discussion and has an urgency to keep his excellent micron tightness in tact hence the purchase: 16.6u 2.7sd 16.0cv 0.2pf aided the appeal!

Lucernbrae's second sold to long distant admirers, Trevor and Craig Gameau - Cummins S.A. for an easy \$3,000 they picked up a great allrounder and also bred by Lucernbrae 160010 with a YCFW 22.0 and rock solid top end fibre. CPL clients, Bevan and Cindy Siviour - Cowell S.A. have keen interest with the Gunallo crosses at Lucernbrae and latched onto one for \$4,000 with Gunallo 150460 in the pedigree. 19.0u 2.8sd 15.0cv and YCFW 33.0 and the fluid nourishment required for their environment made him an easy choice.

I bought Sean and Bec Freeman the day's steal for \$2,000 and bred by Lucernbrae 160010 with good realtime figures of 18.0u 2.3sd 12.8cv 0.2pf & YCFW 23.0. Should have seen the fibre!

Enjoyably the quality run didn't stop there as the very last in the lineup gained top price honours for a worthy \$8,000! Bred by the magician, Gunallo 170295 and boasting a YCFW 29.0 & YWT 9.1, loyal CPL clients Bill and Annette Cameron - Tinline Park - Mt. Torrens S.A. fought hard to get the home ram breeder they desired bidding against a quality merino stud to take line honours! Nice outing Lucernbrae!

Hynam Poll - Longwood Vic. I think were seriously hampered by the fact that the Hynam family were unable to get to the sale themselves due to the Covid rulings in place at the time. Glendon Hancock - Elders St. Arnaud Vic. bought the first for a handy \$5,000 with the remaining three selling at \$1,800 to Calcookara - Cowell S.A., the local Kleinig Family for \$2,000 and the last for \$1,200 which included a sale high YWT 11.5 & YCFW 23.9.

Both Ninuenook - Wycheproof Vic. rams sold for \$1,500 to a client of Glendon Hancocks in Victoria. Both exuded great high rainfall whiteness and water resisting nourishment.

To travel over 2000km's to drop a trio of rams into Classic'20 sounds like an impossibility yet it's not the first time **Penrose Poll - Cascade W.A.** have done it. Rewards previously have been just enough to have a crack at CC'20



as a make-or-break for future potential adventures! Close to \$10,000 later for the three may have just been enough fodder for the Pengilly family to complete the journey yet again I'm hoping.

All three polls were bred by an excellent Leahcim purchase 173122 or 'Simon' at the On Property sale in 2018 for \$14,000 with a share to Karawatha Park - Buckleboo S.A.

The first sold to the Trengrove family - Spalding S.A. for \$3,500 with excellent density, a PP with YWT 8.2 YCFW 27.0 YSL 14.1 YEMD 0.3 YFAT 0.2 & MP+ 163. Lucernbrae got into the act and outlaid \$4,000 for the next with some top percentile leading traits in tow. Try these Bronte! YWT 9.2 YCFW a massive CC'20 sale leading 36.8 and add MP+ 195 again a CC'20 high. Penroses' third claimed the fuel money and expenses and sold for a realistic \$2,000 to CPL client Craig Rule - Wirrulla S.A. YEMD 0.5 & YFAT 0.1 at 17.9u 2.8sd & 0.2pf helped the security.

A welcome return for **Calcookara - Cowell S.A.** to the Classic arena with their two entries bred by their own WonderSire 170400 that has won many accolades by an adoring public due to his superb skin makeup and the resultant silk like qualities of his fibre. Their first ripper sold to near neighbours and CPL loyal, Bevan and Cindy Siviour - Cowell S.A. for a very respectable \$4,000. That Poll's fibre ruled the exotica roost and boasted 17.2u 2.4sd 14.1cv 0.2pf aided by YFD -2.5, the leading YFD in the catalogue.



Calcookara's Brenton and Jane Smith like each other!

Calcookara's second was held in high regard and needed to reach an agreed reserve to make the back of someone's ute or preferably the passenger seat such was his quality. Despite good interest he's now snoozing under a gum tree at Calcookara after a hopeful successful paddock joining over specially selected ewes.

Here we go - a triumphant return by the renowned **Lone Gum Poll - Crystal Brook S.A.** was always on the charts and what a day it was for one of CPL's oldest and loyal clients of around sixty years! LG 190699, the stud's first in the lineup catapulted to \$5,000 in a blink and bought by long time supporters the Pym family - Rockleigh S.A. Bred by Gunallo 160546 purchased at Gunallo's On Property sale in 2017, the poll had the excellent realtimes of 17.4u 2.8sd 16.2cv & 0.4pf.

The next fella bred by Wallaloo Park 160384 boasting 19.9u 2.6sd & 13.1cv had everything going for it right down down to a nourishment that all studs aspire to and sold to Gunallo Poll - Pinnaroo S.A. for a cool \$8,000 with runner-up possibly every other stud in the immediate vicinity!

Lone Gum's third and a PP sold to Trevor and Craig Gameau - Cummins S.A. with all things right and bred by LG 180222 (x Wallaloo Park 160141) and should easily maintain this high calibre commercial EP flock.

Could it get any better than the Lone Gum effort in the last row of the sale? You betcha because historically, it always has! Welcome to the foray, **Nantoura Poll - Wharminda S.A.**, a return after a seven year break with two very high-powered polls.

Tye McKenna - Wudinna S.A. had the look on his face all day that he was to be a major contender for either pens which is exactly how it played out. \$6,250 later the first was his. 190877 was a late bloomer and really hit his straps in the lead up to CC'20 - YWT 7.9 YCFW 21.4 YSL 17.3 YEMD 0.8 YFAT 0.4 and a well aligned bit of gear flaunting itself, the ram was always destined to accrue a few bucks!

The best to come though - many clients and admirers of the stud were well attuned to the head turner in lot two of the Nantoura duo. Inspected throughout the year by many serious purchasing contenders Nantoura 190061 bred by Sohnic 171634 was always destined for success and sold after some heavy duty bidding to Ramsgate Poll - Tintinara S.A. for a rewarding \$20,000 with runner-up bidder one, Dirk Stevens - Seymour Vic. Boasting the PP gene, trait leading ASBV's of YCFW 28.7 YWT 10.1 YSL 22.3 & YEMD 0.4 and the best fibre/density package of the sale, one could argue that was \$20,000 actually enough!!



Nantoura Poll - CC'20 second highest price - \$20,000 to Ramsgate Poll - Tintinara S.A.

There's a lot of good stories that come out of Classic sales over the years and here's another!

Les Hamences' Pimbena Poll - Wirrulla S.A. two entries were both paddock reared sibling twins! As good as each other in many ways, the jury was out on just which of the two was the better.

Obviously bred by the same sire (Hynam Poll 170899 - CC'18 for \$6,500) and the same belting mum and both PP with great ASBV's, the hope was that the pair would go to the same eventual purchaser.

Here are the stats for both to see similar trait patterns:

Lot 92 190371 PP 20.5u 3.1sd 15.3cv YWT 10.5 YCFW 22.7 YSL 13.1 YEMD 0.2 YFAT -0.4 YFD -1.1 MP+ 156

Lot 93 190379 PP 20.6u 3.6sd 17.7cv YWT 9.2 YCFW 24.8 YSL 11.0 YEMD -0.1 YFAT -0.3 YFD -1.0 MP+ 163

Andrew Hall - Clare S.A. laid out \$6,500 for the first offered due to exceptional nourishment and density on a typical Pimbena frame while Grant Wageknecht secured and split the pair for an over realistic \$3,500 for a very similar animal. More great Pimbena's to come if the first stage classing in February was anything to go by,

White River - Poochera S.A. entered a 152kg thumper and a PP which was bought via Auction-Plus for \$11,000 to Daybron Farms W.A. Lucky this bloke had a good neck extension which allowed his head to extend into the next pen so that his actual body could squeeze into his own!

**Classings
Classic
Sponsor**





White River \$11,000 sale to Daybron W.A.

John Daniel, Bill Walker, Tom Penna, Tony Weatherald, Wes Daniel

You have to enjoy what happened next as there was absolutely no Wallaloo Park - Marnoo Vic. team in the catalogue twelve days prior to Classic'20! It was all due to Covid rules and the difficulties associated with border crossings etc. which was easy to understand.

But the 'where there's a will there's a way' quote was bandied about quite a bit and the rest was history. After a lengthy discussion with John Carter by phone between Crystal Brook to Snowtown, two rams were set to adorn the CC'20 catalogue which was all but finalised yet easy to slot in. But that's not

all - a third was entered only a few days before the sale yet still no issues still as we only print it the day prior to the sale. There was a slight issue with the online catalogue via AuctionsPlus yet there were no great concerns as the eventual buyer was on site at the Classic.

The first Wallaloo Park thumper with a grandsire, Moojepin 120652 and sire WP172032 sold for \$5,000 to the Keynes' Keyneton Station - Keyneton S.A. YWT 11.0 YCFW 23.0 and try a CC'20 high YEMD 2.6 & YFAT 0.6 with DP+ 192 - got the picture?

WP's second at Lot 96 sold to the now cashed up Nantoura - Wharminda S.A. for \$7,000 with the same Moojepin Grandsire but a different sire in WP 172070. Ripper poll this bloke with good num-bers again including YCFW 25.3 & YWT 9.7 and a smoking bit of fibre. The third sold to Karawatha Park - Buckleboo S.A. and bred by WP 160640 (x WP140411). Great visual growth here with, safe density and nourishment his ASBV for YCFW at 32.8 may suggest some extra fleece weight on the progeny may ensue.

A proud day for Rose and I that despite a very gloomy wool market at the time of the sale, the quality stock shone through to record our very best outing over nineteen years. With a new site set for Classic'21, still at the New Racecourse but on top of the rise where some Service Providers were setup at CC'20, I'm looking at an even longer marquee as to provide more display area adjacent to the CC sale pens.

If you can suggest any service providers and especially woollen clothing retailers to grace the CC marquee on Monday 9th September, please feel free to let me know.

CLASSINGS CLASSIC 2020 SALE SUMMARY (Possible 2022 sale lineup)

STUD	OFFERED	SOLD	TOP	AVERAGE
NANTOURA	2	2	\$20,000	\$13,125
WHITE RIVER	1	1	\$11,000	\$11,000
GUNALLO	7	7	\$24,000	\$10,714
FLAIRDALE	2	2	\$9,500	\$9,250
LEAHCIM	3	3	\$12,500	\$8,667
WALLALOO PARK	3	3	\$7,000	\$6,500
RIDGWAY	12	12	\$12,500	\$5,875
RIDGWAY ADVANCE SPRING DROP	12	11	\$12,000	\$5,545
LONE GUM	3	3	\$8,000	\$5,416
PIMBENA	2	2	\$6,500	\$5,000
RAMSGATE	2	2	\$5,000	\$4,500
FOREST SPRINGS	5	5	\$10,000	\$4,500
LUCERNBRAE	5	5	\$8,000	\$4,400
BADERLOO	2	2	\$6,000	\$4,000
CALCOOKARA	2	1	\$4,000	\$4,000
KARAWATHA PARK	1	1	\$4,000	\$4,000
RIDGWAY ADVANCE AUTUMN DROP	13	12	\$10,000	\$3,896
CHALLARA	2	2	\$4,000	\$3,500
SOHNIC	4	3	\$5,000	\$3,500
PENROSE	3	3	\$4,000	\$3,167
SWM	1	1	\$3,000	\$3,000
BORUNG	2	2	\$3,500	\$2,500
HYNAM POLL	4	4	\$5,000	\$2,500
NINUENOOK	2	2	\$1,500	\$1,500
O'BRIEN	1	-	-	-

Spotlight on Lambing percentages at Mudabie Pastoral Nunjikompita S.A.

Spotlight on Lambing percentages at Mudabie Pastoral - Nunjikompita S.A.

I'm always been fascinated with the fact that the national weaning percentage still hovers in the 82-85% range which amazingly is up on how it was a decade ago! To hear results from our clients across the nation boasting far greater efforts is fulfilling not only for this classer yet just rewards financially for the grower.

I believe that the ever important Lifetime Ewe Workshops and similar are the catalyst for these improvements due to the understanding and implementation of correct nutrition at any given time especially the pre/post gestation period for the ewe.

The Mudabie property owned by Peter Kuhlmann and managed by Andre Elyward is another success story with the subject in mind so I asked Andre to offer his thoughts on just why, in an often testy environment near Ceduna, his lambing results are way above average for the district....

"About 4-5 years ago we attended a sheep workshop at Minnipa Ag Centre, where Gordon Refshaug (a Research Officer in the field of Maternal Efficiency from NSW DPI) was the main speaker. One of the main points that stuck into my mind was that 25% of your ewes will give you a lamb every year, 50% will give you a lamb every second year and about 25% will give you a lamb every 2-3 years. He said that if you culled the unproductive ones and tried to keep more of the ewes that produce every year then that should result in more lambs/therefore more profit.

Since that workshop we have been 'wet and drying' the ewes annually. This is done at shearing for ease of management. As the lambs are separated prior to shearing the udders are full and the dries are relatively easy to identify. Those that are dry we notch their ear, if they have been dry before then they are culled (does not have to be consecutive "dry" years).

Since this implementation and other strategies described below, our lambing percentage has increased from about 90-95% to 110 %. Shearing twice a year and improved nutrition from using chaff carts has been a contributing factor in better sheep well-being.

Background Sheep Management:

5 Jan: Teaser wethers are injected with 5 ml of testosterone and put with ewes about same % as rams.

26 Jan: Rams are put out with ewes @1% (teasers are left in so we do not have to draft them off)

17-25 March: Shearing and rams removed and Glanvac 3:1.

Late June/Early July lambing with a majority born in the first 3 weeks.

1st week of August lamb marking.

Mid-September: shearing, dries are marked, any double dry's and ewes with udder defects are drafted off for sale.

All ewes including maidens are ear marked if dry. We are using EID tags and can flag double dries to be drafted later.

The ewes have to rear a lamb to be productive i.e. if we preg scanned we would only know what's pregnant. In wetting and drying at shearing time the ewes have had to give birth, mother the lamb and re-mother the lamb after lamb marking. This system seems to be working as each year our percentage is increasing, and we have an even line of lambs at marking and at weaning.

The ewe hoggets are culled on their frame and wool characteristics by Bill Walker. He also buys our rams, which have come from SWM - Tintinara S.A., Stobo Poll - Miga Lake Vic., Pimbena - Wirrulla S.A. and a recent infusion of Trigger Vale NSW, an experiment via the boss!

We mate about 1900-2100 ewes to merinos every year with an average micron of 18-19.

Andre Elyward

No Mudabie classing is complete without a bush barby which Andre is a master of!



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PIMBENA ON PROPERTY: WIRRULLA S.A.

SOLD 36

TOP \$5,000

AVERAGE \$1,823

INFLUENTIAL SALE SIREs: Pimbena 1780509, Hynam Poll 170889, Pimbena 160141.



“...the eleven Pimbena 509 sons offered went off like rockets averaging \$2,900 but the sale fell away due to the tough season in the area.” Les Hamence - Pimbena principle

Great stud - tough season - record top - record average - fair sale! That would cover everything that was the Pimbena'20 sale. The current S.A Sire Evaluation's latest hero, Pimbena 170509 certainly cooked up the goods with half of the the first sixteen polls penned from this waste free sire. Overall he placed twelve into the sale to average just over \$2,900 which would have only bee rivalled over the years by Leachcim 100858.

An excellent '509' son topped the sale from Lot 3 and sold to CPL clients O'Brien Poll - Kyancutta S.A. for \$5,000 - a new stud record. Huge staple length and a bold silky crimp at 17.3u & 2.7sd coupled with YCFW 23.0 YWT 9.2 YSL 16.0 & MP+ 173 with a backend like Auntie Gross, the poll was always going to be popular.

Another 509 son could have topped the sale such was his outstanding quality. Lot 6 sold for \$4,700 to Ramsgate Poll - Tintinara S.A. and led a popular bidding frenzy with I think Calcookara Poll - Cowell as runner-up bidders hinting at just how good this fella was! Big barrel, YWT 9.6 YSL 16.0 and looking it as well and 18.9u 2.9sd 15.3cv & 0.4 gives you a fair idea of his makeup.

The Pittaway, Tomney and Stevens names were called out frequently over the sale's duration due to the sixteen rams procured from these three enterprises. Miles Tomney - Streaky Bay S.A. ended up with five at day's end starting at Lot 5 with a 116kg thumper that boasted an off the spectrum YWT 15.9! Add to that a DP+ 179 and you may visualise just why this bloke filled the pen and at \$2,200, possibly the day's bargain.

Pittaway Farming - Wirrulla S.A. started their account with a \$3,800 screamer in Lot 4 and not surprisingly another 509 boasting fantastic fibre and carcass and a balanced YWT 9.1 YCFW 22.0 & DP+ 179. I liked their Hynam Poll 170899 pickup as well in Lot 18 for \$2,600 including YCFW 26.0.

CPL client Dirk Stevens of Stevens Farming - Seymour Vic. has had a great run with Pimbena stock relishing in their easy care, non mulesable attributes similar to his purchases from Ridgway Advance and Nantoura Poll. Budget wise the Pimbena's fit the bill where very similar stock to these from other studs can make twice the dosh albeit in kinder environments than this part of the 'Coast! Despite the easy care attraction the production rates are as

good as any here.

To see the quality of the six that I bought for the Stevens clan yet only average just over \$800 up tp \$1,000 is a boon for any multi purchasing buyer - the budget was bigger.

Netallie Station - Wilcannia NSW have a great rapport with this stud over the many years of purchasing very good flock rams for not enough spondoolee! Their three were sensational pickups including Lot 17 for \$2,000 with YCFW 20.0 YWT 8.6 DP+ 171, Lot 34 at \$2,000 with YWT 8.7 YSL 16.0 & Lot 36 at \$2,000 with YCFW 21.0 YWT 8.6 & 100%CF.

CPL client Craig Rule - Wirrulla S.A. began his spree early with a Lot 2 pick for \$2,200 and bred by Ramsgate 130390 - a bloody ripper that I regularly slot into the number two position of most sales at cataloguing - at that price it may have been seen as a steal! He added another later in the sale at \$1,600 and bred by Pimbena 160141 which was just as good.

After sneaking a Pimbena poll into CPL's Trevor Gameau's superb Cummins S.A. flock last year, he thought he'd better come up to see what all the fuss was about - probably no surprise that a '509' son was the popular choice first up which he latched onto for \$2,600 exhibiting all good things including 17.0u 2.8sd 16.3cv 0.4pf YWT 9.9 YSL & MP+167. He added another later for \$1,800 that may have been even more alluring!

Coorabee, Trewatha, Ooralin, Kelsh, Glebe Nominees and Lawrie families were all responsible for keeping the flow of the sale running well into there were just a few more stock than buyers represented.

The two Classic'20 rams that were actually paddock twins and sold to a combined value of close to \$10,000 was a fitting reward for Les's on going commitment to the industry and his clientele.



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PIMBENA

POLL MERINO STUD

POLL FLOCK NO: 601048

On - P r o p e r t y S a l e

Wed n e s d a y, 28 t h J u l y 2021, 1.30pm 70 Rams

Joined Sheep Genetics in 2003

OJD Injected from 2006

Non Mulesing from 2007

All Sires DNA Tested

Lesl i e H a m e n c e

Phone / Fax : 08 8626 8002

Mobile : 0428 268 002

Email: pimbena@bigpond.com

www.pimbenapollmerinos.com.au



O'Brien Dohne Merino
O'Brien Poll Merino

Annual Sale

Thursday 29th July 2021 @ 1pm
Wudinna Show Grounds

www.obrienmerino.com | www.obriendohne.com

Contact: Darren 0419 772 173

*...backed by ASBVs, SA Sire Evaluation results,
and performance records*

**O'BRIEN POLL - KYANCUTTA S.A.
@ WUDINNA SHOWGROUNDS
OFFERED 68 SOLD 66
TOP \$8,600 AVERAGE \$2,269**

INFLUENTIAL SALE SIRES: RIDGWAY ADVANCE 170415, RIDGWAY ADVANCE 170443, RIDGWAY ADVANCE 170423, BROOKDALE 140012, O'BRIEN POLL 170301, WESTBROOK 150065



\$8,600 TOP PRICE SOLD TO THE McKENNA FAMILY

You have to take a lot of notice of a sale that was a near sell out, averages a very healthy \$2,269 and tops out at a record stud high of a whopping \$8,600! Add to that a sire that bred 18 of the 68 offered in Ridgway Advance 170415 (x RA082 x Leahcim 100858) sold to the O'Briens at Classic'18 for \$6,000.

Top sire honours in breeding the top priced ram go to one of my all-time favourite rams for emitting zero progeny waste goes to Brookdale 140012 (ET bred son of Leahcim 100858). A fine son that graced the pen at Lot 14 sold to Tye and Tessa McKenna - Kyancutta S.A. for that great \$8,600 reward. Bold crimped at 18.7u with PWT 5.5 YWT 7.5 YSL 13.2 YEMD 0.2 and 126kg you may have a good vision of how he looked. They went on to buy another six including an RA 170415 fella in Lot 3b for \$5,400 with YCFW 21.7 - ACFW 22.7 coated in silk helped by a CV% of 12.9.

Brett (Omeroo Ag.) and Craig (Skyden Farms) O'Brien were instrumental early in securing some of the best genetics on offer. Brett may have scored the bargain of the day which can happen at Lot 1 for a realistic \$2,000 with a DP+ 169 although Craig could argue with his handy Lot 2 pickup for \$2,400. From here the sale went 'nuts' with some big spending exhibited for the growthy pen fillers.

Spud and Tata Murphy - Warramboos S.A. outlaid \$5,000 for one of the best of the day in Pen 5. A twin and bred by the almighty Brookdale 140012 and weighing in at 117kg the ram was hotly pursued including yours truly due to his all trait attributes. YWT 8.4 YCFW 21.7 YSL 14.0 MP+ and 18.5u 2.9sd helped the cause. I also liked their Lot 7 choice for \$3,800 with GFW% 121 YEMD 0.7 & ACFW 21.4.

Nev, Josh and Xavier Beinke - Bingawa - Kyancutta S.A. bought five staring at Lot 3a for \$3,600 bred by Kamballie 160162 at 121kg's and super square.

Andrew Mitchell - Mintaro S.A. has a hot auntie as well as having one of the best stock eyes in the business. He couldn't make the sale but like me has a fascination with anything Brookdale 140012 and asked me to keep an eye out. Try these numbers as to why I selected Lot 6 for him at a realistic \$3,800. YWT 7.4 AWT 7.3 YEMD 1.3 YFAT 0.6 YSL 14.1, DP+ 176 & 115kg's. I added another but this time from another sire yet related, the experimental Westbrook 150065 bred via A.I. at a secret location via Leahcim 100858. He made \$2,000 and had great growth figures of PWT 6.6 YWT 7.8 AWT 8.1 (picture that curve) with a 118 figure for both realtime Body Weight and GFW%.

Don Hoare with Grant and Jake Sampson secured five and Frank Kenny's - Kenny P/C - hopefully from Port Kenny S.A. started his spree late but nabbed eight to average around \$1,400 as did Darren Sampson - Karingavale with a good five. Nigel Skinner - Penong S.A. bought a very good Lot 10 at \$3,400 bred by Westbrook 150065 with a massive GFW% 133, that's 33% above the average of the group folks! YCFW 24.2 was handy as well considering low accuracies on the pedigree side of the sire.

CPL clients Trevor Gameau - Cummins S.A. and Bruce Heddle - Minnipa S.A. bought one each with a safe Lot 4 selling to Trevor for \$1,800 bred by RA 150003 with the typical OB figures of 18.3u 2.5sd 13.5cv & MP+ 168. Bruce's pickup at Lot 8 for \$3,500 had a few ASBV highlights of note: ACFW 21.4 YEMD 1.4 YFAT 0.4 YSL 11.9 add a body weight of 116kg.

Sean O'Brien - Kyancutta S.A. bought a ripping RA 170415 son for \$3,400 hosting one of the best fibres of the week! 19.3u 2.5sd 13.1cv may hint at just how good.

The Tree, Paterson, Ash May, Wade O'Brien, Geoff and Jill O'Brien, Jason Brace, L & K Phelps with their single and two purchases sealed the deal on one of the greatest O'Brien sales to date!



TYPICAL BACKEND MEAT AND HOCK PACKAGE AT O'BRIEN POLL

Classings Classic Sponsor



LUCERNBRAE ON PROPERTY - CALLINGTON S.A.

OFFERED 50 SOLD 60

AVERAGE \$1,888 TOP \$4,400

INFLUENTIAL SALE SIREs: A.I. Gunallo 170295, Lucernbrae 160010 (x Gunallo 026), Gunallo 170257, Gunallo 150361, Brookdale A.I.140012, Glenlea Park 130, Lucernbrae 160021, Leahcim A.I. 152775

“...reinforces our decision years ago to change to breeding a modern merino that doesn't need mulesing and produces a wonderfully soft fibre.” Judy Paech - Lucernbrae co-principle

Despite possibly having better clearances over the years, the Lucernbrae 2020 sale was easily the studs best for average, top price and the best ever high calibre lineup. The highly rated Gunallo 170257, that Classic'18, \$60,000 sale topping SuperSire, fielded almost 25% of the sale team such is his vigour across many CPL studs. Lucernbrae's own 160010 was instrumental in throwing good progeny that also sold very well throughout the sale.

It was also the stud's foray into displaying their first lot of ASBV's and boy have they hit the ground running! All of this due to the excellent tangle with the Superior Wool Syndicate (SWS) who have accrued not only top end genetics but in tandem the power of high calibre high accuracy measurements along the way.

Of note are the YCFW & YWT ASBV's of the 170295 progeny throughout the catalogue.

Top price honours though went to a poll that was nestled into Lot 30 and bred by a Syndicate of Lucernbrae 21 & 26 (both sons of Lucernbrae 160010) and sold for \$4,400 to Gerald and Jeanette Koopman - Tungkillio S.A. Boasting a YCFW 28.0 and a realtime figure of GFW% 136, 18.5u, a 108kg frame and elite fibre he deserved the gong and photographed well at sale's end. They previously secured Lot 11, a very very good Gunallo 1970295 for \$4,200 at 110kg, YCFW 30.8 & GFW% 124.



Sixteen buyers had a field day over the sixty rams penned with Kym and Michelle Thiele - Pompoota S.A. and the Liam and Deb Herbig - Mt. Barker/ Monarto S.A. taking home seven a piece.

The Thiele's lay low for the first row of the sale yet sprung into action and bought three in a row starting at Lot 17 for \$1,500, Lot 18 at \$2,200 with YWT 10.2 & YCFW 29.8 and Lot 19, a thumping deep bodied, Gunallo 170295 son for \$3,500 with YCFW 24.8 & YWT 8.3 at 18.6u. Maybe their Lot 28 at \$1,200 was the bargain of their day and bred by that legend Brookdale 140012. The Herbig's Lot 46 and bred by Gunallo 170295 with a shredding YCFW 35.7 for a mere \$2,200 was a highlight of their haul.

CPL clients, Netallie Station - Wilcannia NSW were after six and I had great surprise in scoring Lot 1 for them at a mere \$2,400. Bred by Gunallo 295 with a backend like yours and YCFW 25.9 he was positioned in the prime pen due to his presence and a 113kg frame. Two more 295's were to follow in Lots 33 for \$1,200 with YCFW 31.1 and Lot 51 YCFW 30.0 & 17.8u for \$2,000, both with seriously good fibre and fibre density. Two Brookdale 12's were in the mix one with the typical micron controlling figures of 18.1u 2.4sd 13.2cv & 0.0pf. Stuff you don't exactly find in the Mid North!

CPL clients, the Wegener family's Colrae - Callington S.A. bought four quality rams as to maintain one of the best flocks in the Bremer Valley! Their Lot 10, Glenlea Park 130 bred pickup loaded with the good gear at \$3,000 was possibly the star of the four....or was it Lot 21, a Gunallo 295 son with a massive YCFW 34.1 & YWT 9.1?!!

CPL clients Mitch and Ros Willson - Penneshaw K.I. were a nice surprise turn up en route to somewhere else! They ended up with four including a ripping Lot 5 for \$3,000 and bred by Lucernbrae 160010 with a GFW% 133. They also added a good looking \$2,000 purchase at Lot 29 bred by Gunallo 170257 with YCFW 31.4 & YWT 10.5 - not a bad combination that by gum!

Kym and Denise Frahn - Mypolonga S.A. bought a quality three including a ripper square Lot 3 for \$3,400 bred by Lucernbrae 160010 and weighing in at a sale high of 129kg.

I bought Sean and Bec Freeman - Penong S.A. one of the pick rams of the day in Lot 8 for \$3,500 and bred by Gunallo 170257 with a near sale high of YWT 10.9 add YCFW 28.0 at 18.4u. A sensational bold crimp and great, safe density he was at one stage pegged for Classic'20 but the team was already sizeable enough! The Freeman flock is regularly in the top two annually at the Charra Hogget Competition thanks to these outstanding genetics as well as Borung Poll - Waikerie S.A.

Second year buyer at Lucernbrae, Haydn Weickert - Coomandook S.A. was impressed with the first instalment and returned to procure four of the boldest crimped polls the stud had to offer in realisation that this style of crimp definition and boldness equates to extra staple length and mostly density with always a silky fibre. Try these microns/GFW% of what Haydn purchased as a backup to the discussion. 18.0u/103%, 17.1u/129%, 17.0u/86% & 17.4u/117%. Sure one GFW glitch there yet that ram's 113kg carcass and YWT 9.0 overrode any fleece weight negative.

Ian and Robert Paech - Murray Bridge S.A. bought four with single purchases to Murray and Eric Frahn - Murray Bridge, Haydn Hein - Tepko S.A., Stevens Farming - Seymour Vic. and Inglebrae Farms just up the road!

"It was a bloody good sale!" Keith Paech - Co-Principle Lucernbrae



BORUNG ON PROPERTY
LOXTON S.A.
OFFERED 60 SOLD 48
TOP \$3,000 X 2 AVERAGE \$1,200



There are possibly three studs that I am Classer to in South Australia that breed stock that are very suitable for a station clientele yet still manage to sell poll rams that are capable of suiting a wider band of environs. Borung Poll - Waikerie S.A. is one of these where the stock here are raised under some pretty tough conditions at times due to the pastoral setting.

Wallaloo Park, Gunallo and a smattering of Sohnic & Lucernbrae have created poll rams that are very robust, full of carcass virtues as well as coated with some of the best fibre our studs have to offer albeit a tad dusty, year pending. The 2020 sale team was mostly bred by six syndicates such as the joining year where the season was at it's worst and syndicate breeding was Brenton Kroehn's only option as to maximise paddocks.

One of the equal top priced polls was secured by Tony and daughter Riley Nutt - Orroroo S.A. for \$3,000 at Lot 10 weighing a hefty 123k with a backend like Magna's with the outstanding figures for a higher microning thumper: 20.8u 2.8sd 13.4cv & 0.0pf and bred by WP KP GUN SYN. The Nutt's went on to secure another five including a pick Lot 14 at \$2,000, bred by WP569 with a non surpris-ing GFW% 120 full of nourishment.

The enjoyable Kym and Michelle Thiele - Pompoota S.A. procured the other top gong priced ram sitting at Lot 5 and bred by Lucernbrae Gunallo Syndicate and if it wasn't for a slight blemish on the face would have been ram number three in the Classic'20 lineup. GFW% 130 with one of the fibres of the day at \$3,000, the Thiele's were happy chappies! I actually liked their Lot 17 pickup, another Classic contender for \$2,700 and bred by the same syndicate due to his around virtues. 20.5u 2.8sd 13.5cv & 0.0pf - another superb test for a slightly higher micron.

George Seymour's - Koonawarra Station - Broken Hill NSW were great support in latching on to eight across the auction and were instrumental in putting a backstop to the sale should any poll not realise its true worth.

Harry and Richard Young's Dogwood Farms - Kaniva Vic. were good for four and started their collection at Lot 9 which was their best and bred by the Gunallo Wallaloo Park Syndicate. A ripping ram this bloke with all things good about fibre an meat. GFW%117 18.5u 2.5sd 13.3cv & 0.2pf - see what I mean!

Leon and Sean Stasinowsky - Wunkar S.A. have been long time supporters of the stud and grabbed around five for the day all exhibiting great shape and fibre nourishment.

Jock Krause - Mannum S.A. and bother to our mate Jane Adams bought four including one of the best of the day at a well positioned Lot 6 and bred by WP

SYN 1, for an over realistic \$1,300 at GFW% 117 considering his great fibre alignment and fluid nourishment.

Glen Hoffman and his son who married Bec Pengilly of Penrose Poll W.A. fame who needs to come to the sale, was good for three and did well to remain inside a good budget of around \$1,000!

Brian Hampel - Loxton S.A. who has regularly paid the highest price over the years got close again in securing the very first lot for \$2,800. Very deep sided with a tremendous hock setting and full of meat and bred by Lucernbrae Gunallo Syndicate he was positioned at Lot 1 one for a reason including GFW% 110.

Don Schnapps - Snagtown S.A. pinned a few accolades on the Borung brand in purchasing three for the day including a 112kg thumping muvva in Lot 4 followed by two more later in the sale. James Moore - Gulnare S.A. with three, Nathan and Laura Cryer - Maggea S.A. with two, Terry Anderson - Mid North somewhere and the Schmidt Brothers - Waikerie S.A. with two each helped the sale along with only ten passed in at sale's end.

Naturally I bought the very best for Netallie Station - Wilcannia NSW in Lot 36 for \$1,500 and bred by Wallaloo Park 569. GFW% 107 20.2u 3.1sd 15.4cv & 0.6 with 118kg of flesh Jeremy and James McClure were stunned when he stepped off of the truck at Netallie!



THE CHUMP, MEAT & FIBRE PACKAGE THAT TYPIFIES BORUNG

Classings Classic
Sponsor





With the \$3200 top-price ram, Challara 729, are Nutrien Badgingarra agent Greg Wootton, Challara stud co-principal Peter Wilkinson, of Badgingarra, buyers Chub and Sally Walker, of Tambellup, and Nutrien auctioneer Grant Lupton. Pictures: Bob Garnant



South Badgingarra woolgrower Matt Taylor secured a total of five Challara rams for an average price of \$1580.

Challara sells to \$3200 top

BOB GARNANT

Badgingarra-based Challara Poll Merino stud sold to the top of \$3200 at the Wilkinson family's on-property ram sale last Thursday.

The sale, which topped up last year with a South Australian record top-priced buyer, was somewhat affected by WA's boarder closure, not allowing Eastern States buyers to attend.

Challara stud classer Bill Walker, of South Australia, was also not able to visit and assist this year. Overall, the sale offered 120 rams with 100 sold for an average price of \$1122, down \$122/head on last year when 134 rams sold for an average price of \$1244.

Challara Poll Merino stud co-principal Peter Wilkinson wel-

comed a good local crowd to the sale in what he said had been a challenging year.

"Easy-care Poll Merinos will ride out the effects of COVID-19 on wool prices in time," he said.

"It's a matter of looking long-term."

Taking up the auction proceedings, Nutrien auctioneer Grant Lupton praised lot one, Challara 157, a son of Gunallo 295.

"This ram has superior staple length with good weaning weight and a high Dual-Purpose index," he said.

The 22-micron ram recorded an Australian Sheep Breeding Value of 10.5 WWT and a 163 DP+ index and was secured by Nutrien Badgingarra agent Greg Wootton for \$3000, on behalf of buyer Brett

CHALLARA POLL MERINO RAM SALE

Offered: 120
Sold: 100
Top price: \$3200
Average: \$1122

Fitzgerald, of Birrawong, at Badgingarra.

"Brett told me to buy him the best ram in the sale," Mr Wootton said.

Back for a second sale, Tambellup woolgrower Chub Walker selected out the \$3200 top-priced ram from lot 20 as his first pick.

The 20.6 micron ram, Challara 793, was sired by a Challara 684, a home-bred sire.

"I was selecting for length of

wool, nourishment and style," Mr Walker said.

Mr Walker runs 1600 ewes and secured a total of four rams for an average price of \$1550.

Other top buyers included Badgingarra woolgrower Dennis Martin, of GA & PA Martin & Son, who secured a total of seven rams to a top of \$2000 and average of \$1300.

South Badgingarra woolgrower Matt Taylor, who trades as Taylor Shiralee, secured five rams to a top of \$1800 an average price of \$1580.

Mr Taylor said he was selecting for dual-purpose rams that were quick growing and had a high post-weaning weight ASBV.

Mr Taylor runs 1500 ewes and has been selecting Challara genetics for 14 years.

Volume buyer Andrew Kenny, of

Rubicon Trust, at Badgingarra, secured a total of 14 rams for an average price of \$972.

"We have had only 210mm of rainfall for the growing season, or half of our normal amount," he said.

Mr Kenny said he was selecting for dual-purpose rams that were easy care with free-growing wool and strong fertility traits.

"Despite the downturn in wool values, sheep prices remain strong with good interest from the east," he said.

"We may decide to hold on to our woolclip."

Mr Lupton said buyers had a good selection to choose from and the lower clearance this year reflected how many breeding ewes had left the State.

Why DNA?



With current technologies at our finger tips and the real need to identify who's doing what amongst sire groups, DNA testing is now a vital link. Craig Rule - Wirrulla S.A. as a commercial grower was very keen to identify just which few of the syndicated paddock worker rams was producing some absolutely amazing results in hogget progeny. We tested all of the responsible sires as well as around twenty top progeny as to ascertain who did what. Should DNA testing be much cheaper than the existing \$17 per test, Craig would definitely consider which bastard is throwing the bottom end culls as well!





PROCRASTINATION - THE ACTION OF DELAYING OR POSTPONING EVERYTHING

DIRK STEVENS - SEYMOUR VIC.

If I had to describe our wool industry with one word it would be procrastination! Why did we wait so long to act when a massive stockpile of wool was forming? Because we were **PROCRASTINATING**. Why did we have World War three for 10 years over OJD, a disease that does much less damage than flies and worms? Because we were **PROCRASTINATING**.

Why have we still got dangerous overhead shearing gear in a lot of shearing sheds that was mod-ern when Hawthorn won their first flag in 1961? Because we are **PROCRASTINATING**. Why haven't we fixed the problem of footrot, which has been a big issue for 100 years? Because we have **PROCRASTINATED** for multiple generations.

Why, right now, are we having the seemingly endless debate on mulesing, when there is a simple genetic solution available? Because we are **PROCRASTINATING** and all think we have the greatest sheep on the planet! We simply, as an industry, are incapable of making sensible, practical decisions for the progress of the Australian Wool Industry as a whole, without other agendas and vested interests being satisfied. Far too often decisions by, not only AWI and AWEX, but most other producer groups have some sort of ulterior motive or spin attached to them.

The ulterior motives & stud masters bullshit generally go back to the different types of Merinos. For example: polled vs horned, Samm vs Dohne, SA vs NSW Riverina, SRS vs traditional, plain vs wrinkly, WA vs everyone else, soft skin vs thick skin, Merryville vs Collinsville. **Please get over it.** There is a place for all types of sheep, however animal welfare has become the number one priority.

We have financed research into Robotic Shearing, Shear Express & Footrot Vaccine for ZERO gain, and Bioclip was sold to a shearing machine manufacturer who shut it down – surprise, surprise, surprise! This is OUR Australian Wool Industry, and it includes ALL types of sheep. We have gone from 180 million sheep to 58 million, hardly progress. The three biggest wool brokers are family owned companies. The big boys have left. We are not seen as progressive, simply because we are not. The industry is going backwards and our reaction is to (yep, you guessed it) **PROCRASTINATE**.

I, personally, have had 40 years of seeing the same old tired, grey haired, mister knowledgeable of the wool industry procrastinating on most challenging issues. This results in setting us up as sitting ducks for animal welfare groups and others, instead of being ahead of the game so we cannot become a target. If we were to look into a mirror, rather than a reflective window, we would realise that we need to make our industry great again. We have the cleanest, greenest, most sustainable product on the planet to work with so can we get on with it please and make it happen!

Our beloved Wool industry is sick. It has intellectual constipation and we need to own up to it and act. I believe that the best laxative for this intellectual constipation is Youth. The management of our Wool industry needs an injection of young, fresh minds who are passionate about wool, and the welfare of the animals that grow it. It is my observation that young people don't give a toss about all the other agri-political crap and hooray for that!

Younger people seem more open minded and prepared to treat Footrot & OJD as simply another problem that needs to be addressed rather than hidden in the back paddock to avoid the stigma. They understand the simple things, like the customer has the cash so the customer is always right. If the customer will pay extra for a fleece with pink and purple spots then lets try and grow one!! If the customer wants wool from non-mulesed sheep perhaps we should attempt to satisfy the customers needs.

They also realise that the Boer War was finished long ago and so was the 50s wool boom. Young people are looking forward to the future, not backwards to the past, and we need to harness their energy and enthusiasm, and let them make a difference.

There are a lot of qualified, energetic, passionate, young people out there who love their sheep and wool industry. Perhaps we should get them into some genuine, leading roles before they too master the art of **PROCRASTINATION**.

One of the most passionate industry people I know which typifies most of our pastoral clients is Dirk Stevens with properties throughout NSW an Seymour Vic. He, like I and so many other clients is livid on the possible outcome of Freeze Branding being put under the same banner as non mules after many have been fine tuning their breeding techniques and genetics as to not mules ever again - many for up to fifteen years.



**THURSDAY
19TH
AUG 2021**

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ON PROPERTY
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INSPECTION FROM 11AM | AUCTION COMMENCES AT 1.30PM

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**ELLA MATTA ON PROPERTY:
PARNDANA S.A.
OFFERED 60 SOLD 59
TOP \$3,800 X 2 AVERAGE \$2,046**



"Even though I was actually at the Ella Matta On Property in 2020 I enjoy Ian Turner's reports so much I now make it annual fixture to leave it in his hands and I thank him for the loan!"

It had been a very tough year for the Heinrich family and their staff at Ella Matta studs, Parndana, KI, starting with the horrific KI fires and ongoing ramifications, then COVID 19 issues added extra uncertainty and stress.

However they were able to save their stud breeding flocks, including their Poll Merinos during those fires and despite all the hurdles they have had to jump, they were able to pen a terrific quality lineup of rams for their annual ram sale last October (Friday 9th Oct).

On the Friday evening, the family felt a combination of extreme relief and ecstatic celebration, reflecting on the result that saw all but one of 308 rams over their 3 breeds clear at auction at the amazing average of \$2326.

"We work on producing sheep that work for you, our clients and not the other way around," senior principal Andrew Heinrich said in welcoming the crowd, including many repeat clients. He also made special acknowledgement of many of those clients who had suffered far worse than they had from the fires. Their presence was a clear demonstration of the renowned resilience of Islanders in the face of adversity.

Nutrien auctioneer Leo Redden praised the Heinrichs on the quality and presentation of their offering, adding, "What you see in the catalogue is what you see in the pen, and we like that."

What everyone could see in the catalogue were performance figures full of highlighting colour indicating they sat in the top few percentiles of their breed. This level of performance is now consistently attracting mainland stud support.

After the completion of the other two breeds, there was a short break to fit with Auctions Plus, then the concluding draft of 60 Poll Merinos was offered. Fifty-nine found new homes, topping at \$3800 three times, and averaged a healthy \$2046.

Elise Kealy, bidding via phone connection for her family's program based at Patyah, Vic paid the equal top for EM 190124, sired by Wallaloo Park 172032. This ram had highlighting colour all over its wool and carcase performance data, culminating in a Dual Purpose+ index of 176.8. Ella Matta is keeping a semen interest in this ram for their stud use. The Kealy family later added two more impressive performance rams at \$2400 and \$1200.

Ryan Kluska, Kiandra stud, Bordertown connected via phone through Elders agent, Bernard Seal and was successful on EM 190267, also at \$3800. By the same Wallaloo Park sire, this ram also had plenty of national leading traits culminating in a DP+ index of 173.5.

Later in the catalogue, but not missed by local producers, the Wurst family, Parndana was EM 109110 sired by Miramoona 140012. Also having performance data in the top percentiles nationally, culminating in a DP+ index of 176.2, this ram was the third to make the \$3800 equal top price.

Bill Walker, Classings Ltd, Murray Bridge purchased two rams for the Prime family, Nantoura stud, Wharminda, paying \$3400 for EM 190042 (DP+ 174.5) and \$2400 for EM 100184 (DP+ 173.0).

Alex McGorman, Thornby P/L, Sanderson & KI, was also the biggest volume buyer of Poll Merinos, purchasing 10 to a \$2400 top and averaging \$1830.

Not far behind was regular local Poll Merino volume buyer, Geoff Nutt with nine rams to \$3000. Simon and Madeline Kelly, Mine Creek Partners, Stokes Bay were last year's biggest volume buyer with ten rams, but were still rebuilding stock numbers after devastating stock losses in the bushfires. This year they purchased five to a \$2600 top. The Tremaine family, Parndana also picked up five rams to a \$2300 top, while Mitch and Ros Willson, Willson River Trading, Penneshaw was also prominent with three Poll Merinos to \$2400. They were the purchasers of last year's top priced Poll Merino at \$3400.

"We had no idea what to expect this year with so many of our regular clients affected by the fires, so to get this level of support was beyond our wildest imagination really," Andrew Heinrich said at the end of a long and emotional day.

Elders auctioneer, Tony Wetherall summarised the sale aptly when he said, "This was an outstanding sale, especially for what the Heinrich family have been through to get to today.

"Not many people could put up this number of rams with their outstanding visual appeal and numbers to match right through to the very last lot.

"That was an exceptional effort and the Heinrich family have clearly established themselves as leaders of the pack for performance," Tony concluded.

Agents: Nutrien Livestock & Elders

Auctioneers: Leo Redden (Nutrien) & Tony Wetherall (Elders)



THAT MULESING DISCUSSION

Three students from separate schools asked me for my responses to many questions regarding that boiling one - mulesing. Whilst many questions are near similar I have edited many of my responses as not to repeat things throughout. Have a read and think about your responses as well and how you would prepare yourself should you're in need to defend or promote certain questioning regarding the issue...

LUCY NETTLE - IMMANUEL COLLEGE

Research Questions: What effect has the premium price for unmulesed wool and pressure from consumers changed the approach for Merino genetics and growing wool in Australia?

The assumed premium price for unmulesed wool is a bit of an anomaly at the minute with some premiums available yet with some strict parameters. I.e. 17u and finer, high yields and high tensile strength. This is giving the sceptics a bit of leverage at the moment, another thing to cling to as to thwart what they should really be considering - the merino industry's future. (This response so quickly and enjoyably outdated within a month of writing - Ella Matta - Kangaroo Island S.A. only day reported to me that a majority of their unmulesed wool that had just sold was a reported \$1.50-\$2.00 cents premium over similar mulesed lines!)

The realtime premium price for non mulesed fibre/animal is not totally monetary based however, but related to the unseen bonuses in the paddock. A genuine unmulesed merino is able to be shorn twice yearly due to naturally increased staple length due to its skin biology, is plainer bodied with no show ribbon attributes whatsoever (skin folds up the neck, a full wig or bonnet and many other industry stalling tactics!).

More lambs is now a proven fact due again to skin biology allowing a free blood supply to all parts of the ram/ewe ensuring absolute fertility. Twice yearly shorn fibre has increased staple strength as to attract premiums that are strongly correlated with these animals. General animal health and well being is also evident across the board. Add to that the increased prevalence of lice across the nation which doesn't have a chance to fester with a twice yearly shorn merino.

Twice yearly shearing concerning a non mulesed flock also lessens or reduces the need for chemical. Several enterprises attempting non mules breeding yet aren't ready for it, only survive due to the use of chemical, mainly Clik. That's ok until resistance occurs which unfortunately is the case as I write! Excess skin around the tail, body, back legs and breech needs to be mulesed for animal survival and owner confidence. None of these traits are essential breeding tactics today yet are rife due to traditional ignorance, show ribbons and denial!

The consumer pressure is divided into two groups in my eyes:

1. The professional protester and animal hugger who jump onto the band wagon wherever possible irrespective of it's 'ladder' importance just to be seen to be seen. They smoke dope like I did once, listen to John Butler like me but in a everyday scenario still smoke dope yet mixed with a high percentage of tobacco and consider Billy Joel and Tina Turner as the next best thing!

2. The genuine consumer pressure is felt by the knowledgeable grower and merino supporter who realise why mulesing has been necessary (yet hate the process) and are doing big things to adjust - it's a one way ticket, breeding. They are well aware that by breeding merinos that are seen to be in good hands regarding animal health/care and bred by progressive mulesing addressing genetics, the fussy customer becomes a fuzzy warm one!

Consumer pressure is often led by, rightly or wrongly, extremists. All of PETA, bits of Animals Australia, bits of RSPCA have actively had a crack at portraying poor tactics within the wool industry. 'Bloodied' lambs

with kids Dracula blood smeared on beautiful models who are in it for the bucks shocked the world for one minute until the consumer re-focused and noticed their shoes and jacket were made of leather. The threat from Country Road products being created using only unmulesed wool by 2022 had a huge supportive impact from other companies and consumers.

The difference in quality between mulesed and unmulesed wool is zero in its raw form as is the completed garment. Too many people have hid behind this reality as a barrier and argument against the great debate. The good all Aussie 'she'll be right mate' was to keep those who protested away yet now the shearer has hit the fan. The industry has had well over fifteen years to get things right but we've barely budged.

With all of the above points in mind, it's ultimately in the hands of the stud breeder and subsequent commercial clientele to make sure things tick the right box where genetics are concerned. Many commercial growers have had to take the leap of faith, upset the relationship with their stud master friend for years and take a new path add new genetics as to rid their flock of complicated skins and associated skin/pin wrinkle that harbours the despicable maggot when conditions suit.

The transition is as quick as the genetics selected and there is a lot of choice across the nation - you just need to know where to look.

As a wool producer did you feel disappointed with the way Australian farmers were targeted by minority groups such as PETA regarding mulesing and the sheep industry?

PETA do have a place in the world where some of their actions have been essential in the preservation and protection of animals across the board particularly with cruelty. Unfortunately their ex-treme statements including their dislike for 'Blind dogs' or those dogs that lead the blind to safety daily. Their initial targeting was disappointing and misled particularly where their guesswork was involved at the makeup of their new attack - the merino. Commentary like 'We saw sheepfarmers hack the flesh and hair from the bottoms of poor little lambs with gardening shears' was prevalent and frustrating.

There was no mention or promotion of those in the industry who were actually utilising the tools necessary as to broach the subject practically via breeding and research. You mentioned 'were targeted' Lucy with this question. They are constantly at it - it's just about our turn to cop it again! They are at last taking notice of those in the industry having a good crack at it while once they ignored any challenges.

Can you describe how you felt at the time?

Didn't concern me at the time as many of our grower clients were at least talking about it seriously and adopting approaches that were seen as radical at the time - mostly in choice of genetics. My feelings escalated though with the, in-denial approach from so many - mostly traditional stud breeders who totally need to mules due to the skinned up dinosaurs that they continue to breed at that time but still do!!

What are the negative perceptions associated with sheep mulesing?

Poor little lambs, the farmer is a murderer - commentary like this is arrived at when the non farming community witness a mulesing situation for the first time or as basic as seeing a photo. No farmer likes doing it yet in the same breath no farmer needs to either! Those negative perceptions could be conquered if there was more promotion of what's actually going on out there from pro-gressive breeders.

Over the last 3-10 years have you noticed a change in sentiment in the wool industry towards the process of mulesing?

Ten years ago there was a lot happening with progressive breeders -

there was none in the traditional breeding zone. In the last three years, traditional breeders were attending those same breeders' ram sales with the peak of their hat down around chin level yet not purchasing. In the last year there is a slight fear in their faces as they've had to actually have a crack and buy in genetics that they were heavily arguing against ten to fifteen years ago - they're too late!

Do you mules your merino flock or part of your flock?

In reference to my own clientele of over 100 studs and commercial growers I'm guessing to say that 20% of them are not mulesing, 70% could but don't and 10% (very new clients) are not ready quite yet as the old genetic is a hard one to crack!

Besides fly strike what benefits of mulesing are there particularly in a mixed enterprising farming operation?

Other than fly strike the shearer appreciates mulesing due to the less pain and effort of having to shear around, but often through, a wrinkly animal that's unmulesed. If this country was void of the Green Blowfly mulesing could cease yet that skin wrinkle is a shearer and management nightmare. It's in the nation's best endeavour to free and plain up the merino's skin makeup as to make the sheep's management and care an easy task. Mulesing also keeps contractors extremely wealthy - they don't like us either!

Do you believe there is now more demand internationally for non mulesed wool?

As previously mentioned there is no choice but to realise the demand from end users and processors across the globe. The Chinese I believe don't give a hoot yet it's the consumer putting textile manufacturers to the noose in demanding international recognition on the subject. If Country Road says no wool from mulesed sheep in any of their products by 2022 over 100 other companies were always going to follow suit even if they don't exactly know why!!

Have you started to class towards a plainer animal that has meant you do not have to mules or mules less aggressively?

The recognition of the importance in addressing the topic has put our business in good stead and has done for many years. I only access genetics that are going to give us an edge for clients to put them right for the future and betterment of the industry. Shearers are known to want to shear at our clients properties and discard others that have their heads in the sand.

What are the negatives of producing plainer merino's that do not have to be mulesed or mulesed less aggressively?

As I will show you Lucy, there are no negatives with this style of breeding. So many AMSEA and MLP breeding trials show that this style of sheep are just as productive with Fleece Weight and all other traits except for Fertility - they super excel in the fertility stakes due to the mentioned skin makeup. It's this trial work that will be part of my next instalment Lucy so beware!!

Has the look of the Australian Merino changed due to the pressures described with your answers to my questions?

Due to the pressures from animal protecting groups, garment end users, and the Australian Blowfly amongst others, the makeup and design of the Australian Merino had to change.

Mulesing, the process of eradicating any breech skin issues on the lamb by what is viewed as barbaric means was rapidly in full of the world once we hit the new millennium. Things had to change with deadlines set yet in true Aussie fashion the threat was taken lightly and a set deadline was not met. Along the way though many seedstock producers took on the challenge and began to breed merino's that were easy care yet with the aim of losing little or no production.

Along the way it was noted that many results from this progressive

breeding showed a merino with a very plain breech or even bare breech which in turn exhibited low breech wrinkle - that moist area that the aggressive blowfly loves to habitate, lay eggs and reproduce itself to become the scourge of the industry for decades. An extra unexpected bonus was the fact that these plainer animals were far more fertile than their wrinklier counterparts where, should there be any fleece weight challenges, it was easily conquered by the appearance of way more lambs. Plainer heads, less wool down the legs, low amounts of skin wrinkle on the body was found to encourage extra blood flow around the animal as an aid to increased fertility.

There was much consternation within the industry with what these plainer bodied merinos looked like compared to their show ribbon winning mates with full bonnets, wool to the toes, tighter, wrinklier skins promoting short staple and a fold or two from the chin to the brisket and even more prominent down the back legs! This brought on great division within breeders especially with the arrival of Jim Watts in the mid 90's whose redefining research indicated that a loose pliable skin that produced staple length never before seen and eventually wrinkle free was the way of the future.

The modern merino had arrived in full flight by about 2012 in my eyes where progressive breeders and Merino Classer's like myself had the tools and the genetics to forge forward with these animals. Micron reducing, fleece weight maintaining (we cannot whack anymore on!), shearer retaining, easier to manage and youth encouraging, this type of animal and it's popularity are now even more a concern to the traditionalists whose animals are not proving their worth economically. Many proof in the pudding Evaluation Trials over the last decade see these animals as poor producers and of no value to a burgeoning industry at the minute. Meat prices are at an all time high equating to 'more lambs the better' and the wool price remains stable thus promoting that very same quote.

Oddly this divide continues yet at last (albeit too late) some are now asking questions and wonder if it's too late to catchup to their more progressive contemporaries. There only chance is to totally outsource new genetics, cull 50% of their ewe flock and listen to the customer!

Over the last three decades the greasy fleece weight of our merinos has not altered so we are not likely to improve this figure ever. Our national merino lamb weaning percentage hovers at a pathetic 82% and has done for years yet this is the area that so many a progressive breeder is con-quering with regular conversations speaking of over 100% regularly, 110-115% sometimes and maybe topping out at 120-125%. This is not a scanning result of only ewes that were scanned in lamb - the only figure worth its salt is lambs weaned from all that were joined.

"I'm 17 years old, and I attend Trinity College Gawler River school. My background in-to farm history is pretty new. Since I've attended senior school across year 11 and 12, I've discovered a whole new world in agriculture as I've been completing the subject. From this my interest in animal welfare concerns amongst livestock have grown. Hence, this has influenced my current research project."

- Alex Jones

What are the current issues with mulesing and what alternatives could be implemented to increase productivity and improve animal welfare?

The current issues with mulesing are the same on going ones that have plagued the industry for decades particularly the last two - removing skin wrinkle from the breech of animals that are unnecessarily still bred today! That is part of the big issue add complacency. The good ol' Aussie attitude that she'll be right - it'll go away, just ain't ringing true this time. Show ribbon winning stock that exhibit incorrect skin structure, pin wrinkle, breech wrinkle/cover are still winning trophies that the young, innocent future wool grower thinks must be a good thing!

There is only one alternative - to breed merino stock that are plain or sometimes bare breeched and mostly wrinkle free. It's not even an alternative - the genetics are already here and have been for those who took notice of the alarming world wide threat to our industry in 2008-2010. South Australia has many Non Mules studs that are leaders in their field and it's no new news! Sire evaluation Trials that are proof-

in-the-pudding factual exercises run over many years also tell us that the unmulesed variety are just as productive as their skinned up contemporaries!

Unmulesed lambs that are plain bodied and miss the carnage at the mulesing cradle (except for tail docking/castration) are obviously happier animals and easily bounce away compared to their 'hacked' mates! Animal welfare groups applaud the non mules direction for obvious reasons - no blood! But remember that some of these outfits believe that blind people shouldn't have a guide dog either! In saying that though the time has come to understand that mulesing has to cease.

A merino that is capable of being unmulesed has been bred that way and there are many traits that favour the 'breed'. Plain down the skin of any merino and it's an automatic key to turn on the staple length 'trigger'. Ridding any form of skin wrinkle with smart genetics that are so readily available now sees our customers shearing every six months at 60-70mm and up to 4.5 kg's. These plainer types are automatically more fertile as well thus more lambs (up to 125% weaning counting all ewes joined!) Plainer bodies increase blood flow to all parts of the body of the sheep inside and out which is a boon for lambing increases. Shearing twice yearly increases Nkt or wool strength acting as yet another premium for this often elite styled wool. Add the health bonus's including lice control and there's not much to argue against shearing every 6 months. Free skinned bred wools are easier to control for micron as well.

Are you for or against the practice of mulesing?

Against! We must also encourage those growers who breed unacceptable stock to quickly glide into new genetics to cross their way into a new path. We can't abuse or stir the pot too much as this industry needs as many lambs in the system as we can breed - even with at times only lambing at 70%-80% with ill bred stock!

Do you see a need to phase out mulesing and why?

Once giants like David Jones, Country Road, Adidas and the like suggest that all clothing/garments will be produced from wool from unmulesed merinos, hundreds more will follow. Animal lovers are swaying even the big Corps and now there are hundreds of retailers, consumers, processors and fashion houses who are well aware of the 'Mules' word. As a classer who represents and influences over one hundred clients nationally it's nearly my duty to encourage everybody to strive for and maintain a non mules status.

How would on-farm practices be impacted if mulesing ceased without an alternative?

If mulesing actually stopped tomorrow we would lose the industry due to so many enterprises breeding archaic and heavily skinned stock that would not beat the Green Blowfly! These sheep need to be mulesed otherwise their survival is critically challenged. There is only one

alternative - genetical change! Freeze Branding is not an alternative!!

In your opinion should research focus on breeding a non mulesed sheep or finding an alternative mulesing practice?

No research required! These genetics are strong and present - studs that come to mind instantly - Leahcim, Ridgway Advance, Lucernbrae, Pimbena, Nantoura, Karawatha Park, Flairdale - all SA studs that are at various stages of breeding new era genetics that answer all of the mulesing discussions. Research has wasted millions with unsatisfactory results in addressing that breech wrinkle issue.

What are some alternative methods to mulesing you are aware of and their viability?

BREEDING! Is the only viable alternative option! Steining or Freeze Branding of the skin that eventually drops off is an alternative that must never ever allowed to come under the banner of Non Mules - or any banner actually. There will be a Civil uproar should this be the case as many have bred their way into the perfect situation when the writing was on the wall back in 2008. Any new form of mulesing will be just that - mulesing, this needs to be banned!

What do you know about breeding programs being utilised to stop the need for mulesing?

What I know should be part of the any Ag. school's curriculum!! I class sheep all day long with that main objective of keeping things plain yet productive. Staple length and density on plain bodies is a skill that is accumulated with years of experience. Plain bodied merinos with no skin wrinkle have way more lambs than the opposite and they regularly cut as much wool as animals that need to be mulesed. I know that trials can only be accurate - these trials iden-tify that merinos that require no mulesing are regularly loaded with production.

What advantages/disadvantages do these programs present? There are no disadvantages in breeding a merino that the world needs/wants/ requires!

What are your views on freeze branding as a viable alternative to mulesing?

Freeze Branding will still encourage people to breed merinos that definitely don't suit the climate anymore - merinos with too much body/ breech wrinkle. It's seen as the silver bullet that will only encourage old fashioned breeding. Yes it's an alternative but to disguise it as Non Mules would see the inventor and backers (who have now pulled the pin on the idea) gracing a Turkish Prison should it be any other enterprise! Another good ploy would be to ban the merino show ring styled animal - their owners applaud the idea of Freeze Branding!



The 3 top priced rams at our 2020 annual sale, selling for \$3800 each to the Kealy, Kluska and Wurst families.

ELLA MATTA

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Poll Merinos & White Suffolks

- ✦ Producing Modern Merinos suitable for high rainfall areas with special emphasis on worm resistance, carcase attributes and free growing white wools - Mulesed free
- ✦ Using the most suitable genetics Australia wide through AI & ET programs
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Offering includes approx 50 Poll Merino rams

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**FLAIRDALE ON PROPERTY
COOKE PLAINS S.A.
SOLD 60
TOP \$6,000 AVERAGE \$2,183**

INFLUENTIAL SALE GENETICS: FLAIRDALE 170040, FLAIRDALE 170070, FLAIRDALE 160224 MUMBLEBONE 130850, WALLALOO PARK 1702003, FLAIRDALE 1701894.



Flairdale's top three prices of \$6,000, \$5,800 & \$5,400 kept the grin and enthusiasm happening via the face of co principal Matt Lehmann.

The 2020 Flairdale sale was another solid effort in establishing themselves as a leading Mallee outfit. Sixteen solid buyers kept the sale bowling along for the most part with only a handful left by day's end. The first fifteen rams grossed close to \$50,000 such was the ferocity of the bidding and this figure didn't include the top priced \$6,000 gong down at Pen 37.

That trophy went to Dale and Deb Paxton who secured the Mumblebone 130850 son with a DP+ 176 & PWT 5.63 and and ...big! The Paxtons were instrumental with the sale's top end success and collected nine all up. Lots to enjoy with the group at days end including Lot 2's YWT 11.4 for \$4,200, Lot 5's YCFW 21.6 & YSL 13.6 at \$4,000 and the Wallaloo Park 1702003 bred Lot 29 with YCFW 33.6, MP+ 176 selling for \$5,900 with all you'd expect from a Flairdale/WP cross at 19.5u 2.8sd 14.4cv & 0.0pf.

Staunch Flairdale supporter Trevor Laske - Orroroo S.A. was another bulk purchaser with six to his name by sale end. Didn't mind his Lot 1 pickup for \$3,800 with YCFW 24.4. Other Orrorooroorites Kevin and Scott Bartlett pitched in handsomely and ended up with eight solid Flairdales obviously selecting with fleece weight as a priority. In sticking with the Orooroo theme, Peter Battersby ended up with seven and picked up some ripper late auctions when most were dozing and thinking of Wayne's free beer to average around \$1,200 overall.

Geoff Burgess - Gulnare S.A. looked to have paid top price for and

excellent pickup in Lot 4 at \$5,400 for a fine crimping Wallaloo Park bred son with a massive YCFW 37.5 & MP+ 185 and added another at Lot 13 for a Flairdale 160046 son with YCFW 35.2 & a huge DP+ 193, the highest in the sale and in the top 5% nationally. I liked Graeme Buchanan's Lot 11, \$5,800 buy and ranked him in the top two of the sale with excellent bold crimp full of fluid nourishment, YFD -1.53, YPWT 7.8 YWT 11.3 and try this, 131kg's!

Kev and Rebecca Roberts - Cooke Plains S.A. started early for their two at Lot 3 for \$2,400. Brookley Park another two including a big square Lot 6 ripper for a measly \$2,200 and locals, Brad and Fleur Kleinig were great support for there three to average around \$1,500.

Tony Allan - Karoonda S.A. and the Starkey family - Eden Valley/Walker's Flat were good for three each at very realistic prices and good ol' Steph Brooker-Jones bought three of the best to average only \$1,700 in the second half of the sale.

Arguably naturally, I bought the best ram in the whole joint! Brenton Kroehne - Borung Poll has given me open reign with his cheque book within reason to pick up any bargain that I may stumble across at any sale for stud duties or the flock variant. Lot 17 hosted the smartest fibre of the whole sale exuding a boldness of crimp that typifies any Classic sale. A back end like Mavis's, bred by Flairdale 170194 with a super long YSL 12.3, YEMD 0.3 YCFW 24.8 at an over realistic \$1,800. If it wasn't for a minuscule blemish on the nose he may have been retained for stud work.

Michael Erickson- Murray Bridge S.A. who sang in the first band that I ever played in that never accrued \$1,000,000 in a short career, hung off to latch on to one of the best of the day for \$3,200. He was bred by the very popular Mumblebone 130850 that featured so well in the Keyneton Station SA Sire Evaluation trial a few years back.

Donald Clarke from near Nhill Vic. bid on AuctionsPlus to secure three to guarantee the flow in the bottom third of the sale.



Had to laugh when I saw this sticker on the windscreen of CPL clients and mates, the Mark Chadwick family - Stobo Poll Vic. when classing earlier this year.

The Mamboobies lasted for around 25 years and played countless shows around the country. We all managed to stay alive and now prosper via our day to day jobs. The millions we made with this band all went into the production of these stickers. Mark's brother Wayne endured the bass position in that time with me fumbling my way through on lead guitar....

**KARAWATHA PARK
BUCKLEBOO S.A.
OFFERED 120 SOLD 120
TOP \$6,800 AVERAGE \$2,970**

INFLUENTIAL SALE SIREs: Leahcim 173122, Wallaloo Park 172003, Karawatha Park 170413



The Karawatha Park On Property Ram Sale is more of an event than just a mere old ram sale! Continuous yearly reviews on what makes the sale tick or not has culminated in a near perfect model that many studs could learn a lot by. The atmosphere in the sale shed, the pen layout, quality of stock, ever climbing ASBV accuracies, professional staff right down to the quality of the tucker is at the top of the tree possibly over the whole nation.

Penrose Poll - Esperance W.A. were indirectly involved with the huge success of the 2020 sale. Their purchase of Leahcim 173122 at the Leahcim On Property'18 sale for \$14,000 and a subsequent semen share sold to the runner up bidder, Karawatha Park realised a huge swath of his progeny hitting the pens in 2020 for both enterprises. Add to this the huge retention of many ewe hoggets that were automatic entries back into the Karawatha Nucleus (and Penrose) at the annual ewe hogget classing and a Supersire is born!

Over 20% of the 120 strong sale team were sons of 173122. This included 17 that graced the first fifty pens - that's 34% Jethro! Why so good? Safe density and acceptable nourishment on good sized frames, imperative in the often testy Kimba/Buckleboo environment. ASBV wise and including real time figures he ascends above all sires in the mix.

No surprise that amongst the 120 sold and the 32 buyers that actually bought on the day that the gong for second highest price was a son of this hero! Lot 2 and sold to CPL client, Richard Harkness' Superior Wool Merino -Tintinara S.A. for \$6,600 boasted more than just a backend like Julia's and a superior skin with a healthy, silky bold crimp but all of this was backed up by some seriously good ASBV's & Realtimes. YCFW 35.6 YWT 9.9 & MP+ 177 coupled with 19.3u 2.5sd 12.8cv 0.0pf.

Pat Hannon - Cockaleechie S.A. was instrumental with the sale's top end success including the Maldives holiday for highest price for the day at \$6,800 and no, not a L3122 son. Wallaloo Park 172003 was instrumental here and produced a chumpy animal that filled the entire pen and elite fibre: YCFW

31.2 & MP+ 176 & 19.9u 2.8sd 14.1cv 0.4pf helped the cause. Pat bought three more including Lot 71 for \$3,400 and bred by KPK 170164 with huge potential to be as good as the high-est price in my eyes!

Again it was the multiple ram purchasing from individuals that set the perfect base for the perfect sale - mostly from return buyers who know that at a stud like this you get what you pay for even in the dying stages of the sale the quality was such that there is no fear in outlaying \$2,000 to fill the team.

New client Longtrail Farms - Parilla S.A. were a welcome guest as due to a bit of restructuring were in line to need more rams than there usual pickups at Gunallo - Pinnaroo S.A. Wade Dabinett bought well across the sale and bought over 15% of what was catalogued! A Syndicate bred Lot 27 with 17.6u 2.7sd 15.5cv & 0.0pf of interest.

Sophie Nuske's - Hillsea Station - Elliston S.A. took nine rams over \$2,000 including a ripper Lot 90 at \$2,200 with bold crimp and excellent realtime numbers including 18.8u & 0.0pf.

CPL clients Kym, Symon & Josh Allen - Kimba S.A. secured two including Lot 1 at \$5,000 to kick the sale in the right direction. L173122 bred and YCFW 37.3 & YWT 9.4 and smothered in the good gear - look forward to the progeny down the track.



Wayne and son, Sam Young - Booleroo S.A. again bid hard to get hold of their eventual five acquisitions. Their Lot 5 & in particular Lot 12 (x L173122) pickups both at \$4,000 a highlight.

CPL clients, Nalino Props - Kimba S.A. know their stuff and were after six or so and ended up with just that to influence and maintain one of the best commercial flocks on EP. I really liked Paul and John Schaeffer's grab at Lot 84 for a bold crimper for \$2,800 yet they also paid \$4,200 for a Wallaloo Park 172003 at Lot 20 with a YCFW 30.9!

Shannon Larwood - Kimba S.A. has had enormous success with the Karawatha's and of the five screamers he bought I thought a late pickup right down at an oddly catalogued Lot 91 of all places was a pick sheep! A

Karawatha Park 170313 ripper down toward the end just gives you an idea of the depth of quality at this joint!

Brett and Mark Zibel - Kimba S.A always select well and their Lot 34 pickup for \$3,200 was no exception and had one of the boldest crimps in the catalogue yet safe naturally at 18.6u & 2.6sd.

Grant Chapman from Orroroo S.A. bought eight throughout while Clay Henderson - Cowell S.A. latched onto six or so and Martin Burns - Edillillie S.A. was good for five including a beauty at Lot 23 for \$2,600.

I liked the Rayson Ag. - Kimba S.A. selections with a Lot 49 at \$4,400 a pick of the L173122's and their Lot 74 possibly even better from the same sire. This fella I had earmarked for a possible purchase for Ramsgate Poll due to his makeup, pedigree and try these: YCFW 32.7 YWT 8.0 & MP+ 173 at \$4,000.

Tom and Hannah Davey bought two including a meaty Lot 7 for \$4,400 with great fibre and YCFW 34.8 YWT 9.9 and with figures like that obviously a L173122 son.

Rob and Joy Koch - Booleroo S.A. secured five including a bolting Lot 39 which hosted possibly the softest fibre of the day at 16.6u 2.3sd 13.7cv & 0.2. Pessimists could say that he would have to be a light cutter being so soft yet his YCFW 28.6 suggests the opposite and this optimist suggests with a sire represented in L173122, all things are in tune!

Wooford Brothers - Kimba S.A. lent a hand with four, Brook Seal with three, the Zerk, Inglis, Hum-phris, Barlow, Masters, Monty Horne, Loechel, Price, Green and Finch families all chipped in with one or two purchases to complete the most successful Karawatha Park sale on record!

With four big blokes intruding there wasn't much chance of a decent sideways shot so here's to a well setup backend!



L to R: Richard Hill - EP Livestock, Simon Arcus - Nutrien Kimba, Dion Wooford and top price buyer Pat Hannon - Cockaleechie S.A.



2021 Calendar

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

Victorian State Merino Field Day
16th August

Classings Classic
6th September
Selling 4 Rams

Inspection Day
TBA Early September
10am - 4pm

On-Property Ram Sale
Friday September 17th
Inspection from 9am - Sale @ 1pm

Sohnic Is Looking For New Clients With Shared Goals.

Our breeding principles are totally focussed on \$/ha performance of our clients flocks. Focussing on flock performance without individual focus - Currently we are witnessing huge focus on individual elements within a flock (eg. wool cut, scanning %, lamb survival).

To have a productive and profitable flock being outstanding at individual elements is not enough, we just need to be good at a lot of elements.

This focus of being exceptional at nothing, but good at everything enables optimum returns per hectare and dramatically reduces our risk. We are better being average at a lot of things rather than exceptional at one.

Sohnic focusses are

- Easy Care - Efficient, ability to withstand tough seasons and bounce back
- Wether lamb performance on feed - Non-mulsed
- Optimum wool balance - why not have the quality also.

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GUNALLO ON PROPERTY PINNAROO S.A.

OFFERED 100 SOLD 99

TOP \$8,800 AVERAGE \$2,241

INFLUENTIAL SALE SIRES: GUNALLO 150460, GUNALLO 170295 (x 150460 sold Classic'18 @ \$60,000), GUNALLO 331, GUNALLO 344, GUNALLO 473, RIDGWAY 140721 (x L100858 Purchased Classic'15 @ \$17,000)



GUNALLO TOP PRICE: McPIGGERY \$8,800

After reading the traditional Stock Journal report of this mighty Gunallo sale there is just so much information a sale has to offer the reader when studied just that little bit longer! Half the sale team were bred by Gunallo sires, a credit to the depth of genetics of the stud. One third of the sale team were bred by Ridgway 140721, the Classic'15 ram that Gunallo purchased for \$17,000. This ram in turn was bred by that SuperSire Leahcim 100858 which Calcookara Poll bought in 2011 for \$22,000.

Due to the 'Bug' the sale inspection day was On Property in Victoria yet the sale was held in S.A. in the Schroeders' mates' spud shed! This way everyone could see the rams albeit no SA clients at the inspection day and no Victorians at sale day! Considering the logistics it was actually Gunallo's best sale to date due to astute planning and some bloody good genetics.

Nearly 30% of the auction team was secured by just two buyers in the Dabinett boys' Longtrail Farms - Lameroo S.A. and Lyndon and Amy Brewis' Blairgowrie Props - Ararat Vic.

Lone Gum - Crystal Brook S.A. latched on to a screaming Lot 3, 114kg Gunallo 331 son for \$7,400 with YWT 8.3 YSL 12.6 and the best backend in the catalogue or the state with a bold, elite fibre that was mesmerising! Top priced honours though went to the mighty McPiggery, fine hosts of two SA Sire Evaluations who bought the pen next door at 4 and topped the sale with an \$8,800 purchase with a YCFW 22.3 & 116kg and bred by King Gunallo 150460 the ram that might have made \$125,000 at Classic'16!

Michael Altus got the sale rolling at Lot 1 with a \$3,600 pickup for a Gunallo 150460 at 123kg and YWT 8.8 but was his \$5,200 purchase at Lot 11 a better buy with a massive YSL 18.5, YCFW 22.8, bred by Gun 473? Clint McArthur's, Glencoe - Hattah Vic. Was great support with his five ram haul including a good pickup in lot 54 for a mere \$1,500 for a Ridgway 140721 son. Craig and Jenny Smith Yanac Vic. chose well for their seven ram haul as did R. Landseer with four.

The Brinkley duo of Glen Richards and Wayne Schenke were instrumental early in keeping the punters honest with some wise selections. So wise it was that I don't actually have a record of what they bought in my catalogue so my commentary will go, great backends, bold crimp and

standing on all fours with great personality. Every ram was over 8 for YWT, 25+ for YCFW & 15 for YSL and the boys were happy!

I'm always intrigued at what Peter Gilbertson - Lameroo S.A. selects at Gunallo sales as he has a great eye for perfect skin traits and quality stock. He picked up Lot 8 for \$4,000 and bred by Gun 344 with a YCFW 25.1 and looked it, YWT 9.5 and looked that, 130kg and filled every inch of the pen with a backend like Marcia's.

CPL clients, the Brophy boys from Tinti S.A. know their stuff too and bought Lot 9 for \$5,400 and bought a ripper for conformation including another square backend like the Gilbertson ram, this time like Marcia's sis-ter! Typical Gunallo realtime figures here of 19.4u 2.7sd 14.8cv & 0.4pf add a YWT 8.3.

Possibly the best figured ram was down at Lot 57 and bought by the Moody family from Moodville S.A. and these numbers would hint at what all studs would aspire to with the ASBV journey. YWT 11.4 YCFW 24.7 YSL 13.4 YEMD 0.7 YFAT 0.6 DP+ 180. There had to be something in the breeding here as to just why these numbers were so good - Gunallo 170295 that's what. This \$60,000 Classic sire has fared very well across many AMSEA Evaluation Trials nationally with his accuracies now of very high confidence.

G. Dabinett, Day, Marrot, Sheldon, Kroehn, Eason, Dodson, Heinze names were all called for their one to three pickups to ensure that this was to be the studs best sale on record.



GUNALLO SECOND HIGHEST: \$7,400 LONE GUM



Bale number 258 might suggest a station type scenario with quite a few animals at task. Chad Burbidge - Benefield - just out of Murray Bridge S.A. grows a lot of the best wool in the Murraylands helped in part by his conscientious breeding approach and being a part of the Superior Wool Syndicate. His crop of young rams this year are a testament to this and the word is get-ting around so much regarding the quality it could make other studs rather nervous!

WHY SOME WOOLS COLOUR - JIM GORDON



Our friend Jim Gordon from Young NSW has written some very interesting pieces for Cullings' Newsletters over the last couple of years and have been well received by readers. Please peruse the following as a follow up to these to see how your own wools and skins sit with his thoughts. I personally thinks that most of our clients are void of serious colouring of their fibre due to skin related issues due to diligent breeding and classing strategies yet we haven't been tested seriously for quite a few years with massive rain events or long, wet winters. This states' summer rainfall events are also too infrequent to count as any serious threat.

Remember this is only my opinion from material I have gathered - I am not a scientist!

All colouring in wool needs heat and moisture. If you only have one you won't have a problem, however someone else may have a problem with that sheep or that wool under different conditions.

Blue and or green wool is caused by living bacteria feeding on moist, diseased wool. The bacteria are Aerobic (They need oxygen). You will never see blue or green wool after the wool has been pressed in a bale. Once you take the oxygen away, the bacteria dies and the colour disappears. A bit like coral. If the spores are not killed, as soon as you open the bale and provide oxygen and moisture the colour may return. The same for a fleece that is not right, and is left sitting on the floor, it can colour up in time with the right conditions.

Yellow wool is different, it is also caused by bacteria, however this time, living on the sweat from sweat glands. The difference with this bacteria, it is Anaerobic, (doesn't need oxygen) so the yellow colour won't disappear in a bale. The yellow staining actually comes from the waste products of the bacteria. So the yellow staining from the waste products to stain the best, needs moisture. So we can get a situation where the waste product hasn't enough moisture, it will just sit in the wool and the wool will stay white. Then if by some chance that wool or the sheep are exposed to heat and moisture in the future, the yellow colour will come out.

It is like a children's painting book in the old days, when there where pages with drawings on them, and all the child had to do was dip the paint brush in water and paint the water onto the page. The different colours would magically appear.

The sweat glands come in basically seven different sizes. They are only attached to primary follicles, which are the first to develop, from 60 days onwards in utero. Obviously the bigger the sweat glands the more potential for the bacteria to have a field day. There is another twist to this saga. The

size of the molecules in the sweat are important. Too big and the bacteria can't digest them. So we find sheep with high micron wools with low density and big sweat glands with white wool.

So as the season heats up in October/November, the sheep will start to sweat to control their tempera-ture. This scenario mobilises the bacteria into action. Wool is hygroscopic (absorbs water from the air). So if you leave a sample of wool out on the kitchen table in humid conditions, if that wool contains waste from bacteria it will turn yellow. The more waste the quicker it will turn. The Saxon type seems to hold the whiteness better. Is it because of smaller sweat glands or has it been selected for white wools for many generations? I'm not sure. I also suspect the ingredients of the sweat will help or hinder the bacteria.

All sheep have sweat glands, however some wool will stay white for ever. This wool is so much better for the processor because they have options, they can make white woollen fabric and know that the garment will stay white. As a general rule I think the finer the micron the smaller the sweat glands, and the higher the density which tends to go with finer microns, the smaller the sweat glands as well.

To keep it simple, the end game here is selecting for white wools. Down the back leg, behind the ear and on the belly. There is no ASBV for white wool so you have to use your hands and eyes, and it is better if the sheep go through the beginning of summer with some length of wool so the sheep can express the yellow if it is genetically wired to do so. It's best to find out before you breed fifty daughters that go yellow!

I had an interesting experience in China in 2017 going through a wool processing plant. The guy taking us around, said they have to be careful when they dry the wool after it has been washed. If they apply to much heat to the drying process, the wool can go yellow. I thought to myself, this is exactly what can happen to us leading into summer. Heat and moisture. Having the wool stained yellow, it doesn't scour completely white. The only way to get white fabric is to start with permanently white wools.

Faster growing wools can be harder to keep white and lower density wools can lean slightly towards going yellow. It is a good physical marker, if you see colour, check the density.

SKINS

If I could encourage everyone to stay away from short stapled, stiff, hard wrinkly skins it would be a game changer for the industry. That hard rib or cord in the skin is a real problem for those who are making leather products out of sheep skins. As soon as you try and stretch that tanned skin, it will tear along those fault lines. Meat buyers will down grade wrinkly skins and they are of little value. The flies love them and the shearers hate them. Fertility is smashed, there is nothing good about a hard wrinkly skin.

The hard skin/wrinkle develops in utero, so the lamb is born with the full compliment of a shocking skin. While developing in utero, this hard wrinkly skin is like having a bully in a school yard. The disruption to follicle growth, blood supply and general orderliness is out of control. Leahcim has proved that density is not hindered with the absence of hard wrinkle. They have achieved terrific densities on supple skins.

The fluidness in the skin is very desirable. Staple length seems to dramatically improve, as soon as the stiff wrinkly skins are culled. There needs to be a real balancing act on your farm. If you want to shear once a year, then keep packing the follicles in which will help slow the length down. The other alternative is to pack the hard wrinkle in which will starve the fibre growth. Don't even think about this option.

If you want to shear twice a year, then the on going balance between length and number of fibres per sq./mm, will have to be monitored. As we refine the skin and the feed efficiency of the merino, I am sure we can cut a power of wool twice a year, with plenty of lambs. The beauty of these sheep, you can forget about mulesing and you don't have to go near them. If we want young people to stay in me-rinos, they have to be like cattle, less work.

Wallaloo Park

MERINO & POLL MERINO STUDS



On Property Inspection Day - Thursday 23rd September 2021

30th On Property Ram Sale

200 RAMS

NEW SALE DATE

Thursday 30th September 2021
Sale Starts at 1pm - Inspection from 10am

Selling Agent



Glendon Hancock 0429 829 613
Ross Milne 0438 847 871
Sam Thring 0429 119 661



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ARE APPROVED VACCINATES,
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3% rebate to outside agents giving notice in writing,
24 hours prior to the commencement of the sale

Selling Agent



Damian Drum 0428 952 284
Stephen Chalmers 0427 908 831
Andrew Slone 0428 522 204



John: 0427 501 431 Trent: 0427 776 114
info@wallalooPark.com
www.wallalooPark.com



Wallaloo Park MERINO & POLL MERINO STUDS



2020 on Property Sale saw us introduce online bidding and videos to expose our genetics to the world. This proved a success with 30% of our team being sold this way. With a Sale top of \$16,000 achieved sold to Superior Wool Merinos, SA with a sale average of \$2731.

Another rewarding year for genetic sales with 238 rams; semen sold to 5 states. Increased Client focus on both raw and ASBV data was also obvious at last year's sale, which helped clients with ram selection.

A huge push for Wallaloo Park to continue to collect as much honest data as we can to assist our clients to achieve their breeding goals.

Total pedigree is still a huge focus with an expanding DNA program being implement in 2021 with over 2500 tests carried out.

This year for the first time we will have full geonomics testing on all our 2021 sale team, strengthening the accuracy on ASBVs with poll.

Pictured Left: WP190226 was sold for \$76,000 to Kamora Park, SA & Seymour Park, WA at the Adelaide Ram Sale.

2020 was the first year of WP having a total drop- mules free, after quitting halfway through 2019. This was a measured business & ethical decision which has opened many doors through marketing & animal management for a positive future. Every change we implement has a new set of challenges and success, so we have decided to open our doors up for the industry to discuss this topic with an educational day on 'mules free farming' being held in August at Wallaloo Park.

The trend for industry ewe lamb joining's, have been a great initiative. WP joined up 9mth old ewe lambs with a successful result of 80% conception, single mated at 1:60, with a potential of 150% lambing.

This year moving forward we have pushed our sale date back. This has been a business timing decision, allowing more time between both stud & broadacre duties. We will be displaying at Bendigo sheep & Wool and Hamilton Sheepvention. Rams will be offered at Classings Classic & Adelaide Ram Sale this year, prior to our annual On property sale.

**We look forward to catching up
at one of these events.**

**Mules Free Farming workshop
Monday 30th August**

**On Property Inspection Day
Thursday 23rd September**

**On Property Ram Sale
Thursday 30th September**



Mules free farming

**MONDAY 30TH AUGUST AT 1:00PM
WALLALOO PARK
80 BOLANGUM INN RD, MARNOO**

A practical workshop designed to answer your questions and arm you with the tools to farm without breech modification.

Dr Mark Ferguson, neXtgen Agri
The science, the fly and the sheep - what do we know, what should we do?

Dr Steve Cotton, Dynamic Ag
Worm and Dag Management

Mark Quartermain, AWN
Contract options for non-mulesed wool

Alistair Calvert, Wool Solutions
The Market for non-mules wool

**Registration is essential, go to
www.nextgenagri.com/events**

Further information: info@nextgenagri.com


Wallaloo Park
 MERINO & POLL MERINO STUDS

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WORM & PATHOGEN MANAGEMENT

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Established 1870

Stud No: 18

Caroonboon Merinos

150 years of breeding expertise

Will be in attendance at the Australian Wool and Sheep Show

to be held at the Bendigo Showgrounds 16th to 18th July 2021 and the

**National Merino Sale to be held at the Australian Rural Education Centre Mudgee
24th to 25th August 2021**

Annual on Property Sale

Sale Date: Friday 10th Sept 2021

75 rams

Inspections from 10.30am Sale commences 12.30pm

Location: Caroonboon Station
Moulamein Road, Wanganella NSW 2710

Contact:

Stud Principal: Margie Pye 0427 996 911

margiep01@bigpond.com

Studmaster: Jim Dickson 0427 847 509

jimdickson5@gmail.com

Stud Classer: Ian Lilburne 0428 505 252

Station Manager: John Stephens 0429 930 692

john@calga.com.au



Facebook: Caroonboon Merinos

caroonboonmerinos :Instagram

calga.com.au



Gunallo
MERINO & POLL MERINO

42nd On Property Sale



Inspection: 11.00 am
Auction 1.00 pm
SA TIME

Thursday | September
2nd | 2021

Gunallo 190463
Olaf

*Sold to Hamilton Run Poll,
Jamestown SA \$37,000*

100 SPECIALLY SELECTED POLL MERINO RAMS



Ovine Brucellosis Accredited & MN3

DISPLAYING AT:

Australian Sheep & Wool Show

Location: Bendigo
Date: 15th – 18th July 2021

South Eastern Field Day

Location: Keith
Date: Wednesday July 21st 2021

Karoonda & District Stud Merion Field Day

Location: Murray Bridge
Date: Friday July 30th 2021

Hamilton Sheepvention

Location: Hamilton
Date: 2nd & 3rd August 2021

SELLING AT :

Gunallo On Property Sale

Location: Gunallo
Date: 2nd September, 2021

Classings Classic Ram Sale

Location: Murray Bridge
Date: 6th September, 2021

Adelaide Ram Sale

Location: Adelaide
Date: 10th September, 2021

Ray Schroeder

0427 778 485

ray@gunallo.com.au

Brad Schroeder

0400 335 660

brad@gunallo.com.au

Bill Walker

0428 973 804

Stud Adviser

Nutrien
Ag Solutions™

Simon Aldridge

0439 078 872

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RIDGWAY

Poll Merino Stud

**On Property Sale
200 Poll Merino Rams**

Monday 9th August, 10am Inspection, 1pm Sale

Offering at Hamilton, Classings Classic & Adelaide Show.

Displaying at Bendigo, Keith & Murray Bridge.



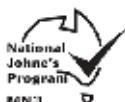
Ric, Gail, Matt & Rachel Ridgway

Phone: (08) 8578 8039

Mobile: Ric 0459 432 679 Matt 0439 460 554

Email: merinos@ridgwaymerinos.com.au

Facebook: facebook.com/ridgwaymerinos



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Penrose Poll Merino



FIELD DAYS

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19th & 20th
August

Penrose
Poll Merino
27th August

Newdegate
1st & 2nd
September

SALES

Esperance
3rd September

Murray Bridge
6th September
TBC

*Find out more on
facebook*



Bruce & Trudy Pengilly

Penrose@activ8.net.au

08 9078 6062

Thomas Pengilly

0438657739

Brucellosis
accreditation
#0571



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BADERLOO

Annual Baderloo On-Property Auction

Tuesday 10th August 2021 | Inspect 11am
Sale Starts 1pm (SA time) | Auctions Plus Sim Sale



Brucellosis Free
Accredited

160 POLL MERINO RAMS FOR SALE

Inspection Day - Mon 2nd Aug from 1pm

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E: daniel@baderloo.com.au



GRACELAND

Penneshaw Kangaroo Island



Graceland

Sitting high on a hill, Graceland enjoys breathtaking uninterrupted views of Penneshaw Bay from the front deck. See the dolphins frolicking in the sea as you look out over to the mainland, Hog Bay Beach, the clean, white, sandy beach, arguably the best and safest on the Island. With a private BBQ and courtyard area, full laundry facilities and the master bedroom with beautiful morning sea views, this cosy three bedroom property has all the comforts of home, allowing you to walk in and relax immediately.

28 Karatta Tce

Penneshaw, Kangaroo Island SA 5222

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0428 973 804

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- ▶ Dishwasher
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- ▶ Linen included
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- ▶ Hairdryer
- ▶ Iron / ironing board
- ▶ Clothes dryer
- ▶ Washing machine
- ▶ No Pets..

\$170 per night for two

\$30 per person there after.

**LORELMO POLL ON PROPERTY
WALCHA NSW
OFFERED 80 SOLD 80
TOP \$7,000 AVERAGE \$2,587**

**INFLUENTIAL SALE SIRES: LORELMO 0172, LORELMO 170602,
LORELMO 141129, LORELMO 171000.**



Due to my unfamiliarity yet with many of the Lorelmo clients and supporters I'm relying on The Land's version of the sale proceedings. My three CPL clients who entrusted me with their ram orders and budgets were very much a part of the reason for the sale's success. The sale topping poll bought for Gerard and Michelle Glynn, Cygnet River - Kangaroo Island S.A. at \$7,000 was a beauty and represented all that this great poll stud has to offer. The six for the Andre Family - Kangaroo Inn S.A. and the six for Brian Wilson near Ballarat Vic. were all very close to similar for quality and are return buyers such are the success of outstanding progeny results.

Surprisingly what's not mentioned in this sale report is the high proportion of sale lots, almost a third, thrown by one sire, Lorelmo 0172, that filled 25 of the 80 lots offered. High impact sires like this need to be exposed as important leading industry animals to guide us to the next phase - mules free, six month shearing and plain bodied in the quest for more fertility and subsequently more lambs...

Lorelmo Poll Merino ram sale achieves full clearance with national buying support

Lucy Kinbacher
@lucykinbacher

A sale catalogue boasting an extra 20 rams on last year's offering was well received by loyal clients of the Cordingley family who helped them achieve a full clearance at Monday's sale outside of Walcha.

The faith in the Lorelmo Poll Merino breeding program was clear to see in the sale shed when a catalogue of 80 rams were all sold under the hammer by auctioneer Paul Dooley for a \$2587 average and \$7000 top price.

It was well up on the 91 per cent clearance last year and \$2000 average. A key figure within the wool shed this year was Bill Walker of Classings Pty Ltd at Murray Bridge, South Australia, who acted on behalf of three clients and

secured 13 rams.

Among them were the \$7000 sale topper, a 17.4 micron ram, who was bound for Gerard and Michelle Glynn, Cygnet River, Kangaroo Island, South Australia.

The sixth ram of the day also boasted a 127 per cent greasy fleece weight index and was a fan among the Elders agents on the day. Things had changed quite a bit for the Glynn's since buying the top price ram last year. "They bought very well last year as well and secured three last year and one this year," Mr Walker said. "They are having a very good season. We are talking bushfire country that is fantastic now. They were right amongst it and got burnt out quite badly but have had a good recovery."

A total of 30 bidders registered on the day, plus those on AuctionsPlus, with 25 of them successful.

Cordingley Pastoral Co, Mandula, Barraba secured 11 rams averaging \$1772 while Elders agent Angus Laurie was busy on the phone securing nine rams for SE Bulmer, Bolivia Station, Tenterfield, averaging \$2000. Other buying support also came from as far as Victoria.

Also in the shed was supporter of 30 odd years, John Beynon of Lindon at Uralla who was successful in buying eight rams averaged \$2187. Currently running 3000 ewes as he rebuilds from drought, Mr Beynon commended the Cordingleys on the outstanding yarding of rams this year.

He kept coming back for the easy care, non-mulesing and heavy cutting big framed genetics. "Fly strike is virtually eliminated and our wethers, they compete with western wethers in size which is unheard of in granite country," he said.

It's that focus on ease of care that will see Lorelmo begin six monthly shearing from next week.

Stud principal Eddy Cordingley expected to average 75 to 80 millimetres. He was very pleased with the sale support and especially the total clearance. "(I'm) happy that the locals are getting on board with what we are trying to do and pleased with the lineup," he said.

The sale was conducted by Elders with Paul Dooley as auctioneer



**PEPPERWELL POLL - ON PROPERTY -
KEYNETON S.A.**

44 OFFERED 37 SOLD

TOP \$1,700 AVERAGE \$1,316

by Hansi Graetz



A bright sunny Monday welcomed everyone to the 18th Pepper Well on property 2020 auction. The usual gathering of buyers and interested onlookers assembled to snap up these quality genuine paddock reared, unhoused, unfoot trimmed and unmulesed 13 month old rams.

Nutrien Auctioneer Gordon Wood welcomed everyone and handed over to stud principal Hansi Graetz for his welcoming address and stating that, with nearly 100 mm of rain had fallen in the last 2 weeks, how well the wools have held up with no issues at all. We put pressure on all the important traits to make sure the best rams really stand out. How do you put a value on this screening process and how important it is to buy the right sheep for your environment with no hidden surprises.

With no further ado, Gordon Wood started the sale with lot 1 a whopping GFW 136% with 17.6u, going to long time 2nd generation client Mat Seidel for \$1000. Strangely enough, this is exactly what Mat did the previous year. Mr. Seidel collected 5 cracking rams to a top of \$2000 to average \$1260.

Lot 2 with a bright, bold lustrous 16.4u wool with 2.7 SD., 99.8 Comfort factor and 75 curvature with excellent post weaning weight to muscle ratio of 1.66 kgs per mm of PEMD. He was finally knocked down for a sale topping, \$3000 to account Thorlindah, Richard and Tracy Henstchke Tunkillo SA. This ram attracted allot of presale attention and is 1 of 3 rams Richard and Tracy purchased on the day to average \$2266. Mr. Henstchke said, he loves that progressive skin type with

bold aligned wool on these square correct well-muscled frames. Volume buyer Darren and April Sanders Coombe SA were very active in the first half of the sale and put a great team of 8 quality rams together to a top of \$1,700 to ave \$1,412. Wrapping up, the auction 37/44 sold to

Classings Classic Sponsor



NANTOURA POLL ON PROPERTY WHARMINDA S.A.

OFFERED 92 SOLD 89

TOP \$7,600 AVERAGE \$2,187

INFLUENTIAL SALE SIRES: NANTOURA 170102, GUNALLO 150360, TERRICK WEST, SOH-NIC 071634, CODDINGTON POLL 164212, TOO MANY SYNDICATES!



That's what a progressive merino sale topper looks like. No show judge like bonnet with wool all the way to the toes - just pure economic production loaded with in built fertility!

This joint just keeps rocketing along with better sales from the previous year, well and truly now breaking the \$2,000 barrier due to the quality of the stock. Nantoura is certainly near the top of the list for breeding polls that influence many flocks that are now capable of non mules and six month shearing such is the nature and design of their breeding program.

Lot 5, even though it didn't top the sale that I bought on behalf of Borung Poll - Waikerie S.A. is part of that very discussion. This ram sold for \$4,600 after missing out on the sale topper in Lot 2 for \$7,600. Both rams exhibited the quality that all studs on the planet need to aspire to breed to address the number one issue that is part of too many enterprises - skin!

Check the balance of figures with the sale topper: Lot 2 \$7,600 sold to Pete, Lisa and Scott Masters - Wharminda S.A.: PP YWT 8.3 YCFW 22.4 YSL 18.7 YEMD 0.2 with 18.7u 2.5sd 13.2cv & 0.0pf. All of that production yet very plain bodied with no breech wrinkle. Same goes with the Borung pickup that had the boldest crimp of the sale yet one of the finest micron at 17.4u 2.9sd 16.5cv & 0.2pf - PP YCFW 17.5 YSL 14.4 YEMD 0.0 and a backend like Sophia's.

The Masters clan were great support across the sale in picking up at least six including the pre mentioned top gong. A big early mention needs to go to Steve and Reyah Agars- Tungatta Station - Elliston S.A. who nabbed sixteen for the day including twelve from the auction! One of those was well marked in my catalogue at Lot 27 and bred by the everdaring Gunallo 150360 (bought at Classic'16 for \$8,000 ish). This fella had the fibre that we are all used to now and was well figured and structured with YCFW 19.2 YWT 7.1 YSL & 12.6.

Paul and Jackie Jones' Bangor Props - Melrose S.A. selected really well and were good for six including a replacement ram in Lot 3 that I don't have the numbers on but only cosy \$1,500 and would have been a bloody ripper! Even at Lot 49 the quality continued with a very enthusiastic poll that was as deep as it was wide with plenty of personality and zest and YFW 22.1 YWT 8.5 & YSL 13.2.

Long term clients of Nantoura and CPL (Laboratory) Mark, Sue and Carl Pfitzner bought around six and John and Therese Flavel kicked the sale off with a big square purchase at Lot 1 for \$3,400 and bred by Gunallo 150360 with a YCFW 20.0 & YSL 16.6 add realtime GFW% 129 & 17.3u.

CPL clients turn now..

Dirk Stevens' Stevens Farming - Seymour Vic. Enjoys the Nantoura results cross many properties and gave me an order for six or so which naturally is what I procured! Despite starting the collection at Lot 35 the quality was such that even at my last pickup down at Lot 72 you could be confident that confirmation and numbers were still intact. That Lot 35 purchase at a realistic \$1,600 was bred by Gunallo 150360 and had superb fibre quality and backend.

Tim Ottens - Wharminda S.A. has a ripper commercial flock that I constantly remind him of and was after a couple to maintain it's high calibre zing. Lot 12 at \$3,000 could have been seen as a bargain thus was the nature of the sales' excitement. Bred by Nantoura 170102 with YCFW 21.4 & YSL 12.4 Tim was happy. Maybe Lot 24 was even better exhibiting a massive YCFW 26.0 YEMD 0.9 YSL 18.6 with a GFW% 121, great fibre alignment and more!

Trevor Gameau - Wanilla S.A. rocked up for a sticky beak to see what al of the fuss was about and couldn't help himself in picking up a very good Lot 22 and bred by Gunallo 150360 again covered in the silky gear with a YCFW 19.9, GFW% 120 yet a 17.1u 2.5sd 14.8cv 0.2pf. Get that - huge fleece weight 20% above the average yet only 17.1u. - impossible with any of our studs 20 years ago.

Evan Hunt - Wharminda S.A. knows his stuff including how NOT to mules (inc. no tail strip) for the last twelve years or so and just so happens to own one of the best commercial flocks going around! Even right down at Lot 51 and at \$2,800 the quality shone with carcass and skin quality and the excellent figures of YCFW 19.9 in tandem with GFW% 123, YEMD 0.4 & 19.3u 2.5sd 12.7cv & 0.0pf. Unbelievable figures of confidence for a 19.3u! Good stud this...



Not CPL clients but John Sampson bought three including one of the day's best in lot 40 for \$2,100. Good ol' Murray the cod fisherman from Nildottie S.A. bought a ripping Lot 4 for \$3,600 with a YSL 14.0 and a length of body that belied belief that it was pure merino! Muzza's second at Lot 11 with a YCFW 23.0 & YEMD 1.1 for \$3,100 was no slouch either and bred by Coddington Poll 164212 bought at Classic'17 for around \$5,000 on memory that went back to Wallaloo Park's Real Deal.

Darren and Fiona Millard, David and Karen Newton, Matt Carr, Luke and Jody Fauser, Grantley Telfer, Wade Ramsey, Clay Henderson with four, George Clinton, Cade Hardwick and a sneaky one from Tom Davey all purchased there 1-3 polls to seal a successful day.

RIDGWAY ADVANCE ON PROPERTY BORDERTOWN S.A.

OFFERED 124 SOLD 116

TOP \$12,300 AVERAGE \$2,633

Due to W.A. commitments I had to leave the RA sale not long after the top priced Spring Drop was sold so I'm using the Stock Journal's sale report version thanks to them and Catherine Miller's permission.

The \$12,300 top was an absolute ripper of a ram and deserved the high price paid considering the high calibre of quality. The fibre quality in particular was top of the wazza and one of the best displayed at any sale in 2020. 17.8u 2.7sd 15.0cv 0.0pf with realtime EMD 44 & FAT 8 and 102kg'sf or a Spring Drop might give you some idea of what I'm talking about!

Online presence boosts Ridgway Advance Poll Merino sale with \$2472 average - Catherine Miller Stock Journal

In the first shed the Ridgways sold 116 of 124 rams for an impressive \$2633 average.

BUYERS from four states bid up at Ridgway Advance Poll Merinos' on-property ram sale on Wednesday last week at Senior, near Bordertown S.A. where there was nearly as much action online as in the sale shed.

Nearly 350 bids came in from AuctionsPlus during the sale as many of the stud's wide geographical spread of clients were forced to bid online due to COVID-19 restrictions. Twenty eight rams sold online included the \$12,300 sale topper which set a new on-property record for stud principals David, Karen and Devon Ridgway.

As heavy rain fell on the roof, Nutrien stud stock manager and auctioneer Gordon Wood took \$100 bids from \$10,000 to the final knockdown price of \$12,300 for the lot 21 ram, adding to the moment.

The successful buyer of the stand-out, spring 2019-drop was Tubbo Station from NSW's Riverina who had been impressed with the videos they had seen of the 17.8 micron ram. R457's other wool tests included a standard deviation of 2.7, coefficient of variation of 15 per cent and perfect 100pc comfort factor.

David said the ram's appeal was its exceptional carcase and wool figures but it epitomised what they were trying to achieve with the ram visually matching its scan data and wool tests. "A 10 month old ram weighing 102

kilograms with 44 mm eye muscle depth is something you just don't see often and you can see it (the figures) in the ram too," he said. "He is a RA082 son, the same breeding as our ram that topped the Sire Evaluation Trial a few years ago. Underbidder on the sale topper was another long-time supporter, Senior Park, Senior, who secured lot 3 for \$7600.

Lot 5- the sale's second highest price of \$8200 was also knocked down to AuctionsPlus with Nutrien's Naracoorte's Nick Heffernan relaying the bids throughout the sale. The 18.9M, RA090 son weighed 116kg with a 43mmEMD.

Demand did taper off as the sale moved from the main shed to the ecoshelter with no more bids from AuctionsPlus and an absence of station orders. Thirteen of these 44 rams sold averaged \$1000. Of these nine sold at the \$800 base price.

Three rams sold to Carieena Stud Sheep, Qld to a \$6200 high, but the remaining rams were snapped up by commercial clients, largely long-time supporters of Ridgway Advance's breeding program.

GJ&KM Turner, Murrumbidgee, NSW, led the volume buyer list with 12 rams to \$3200, averaging \$1883.

C&A Woidt, Cookes Plains, secured 10 rams to \$2400, averaging \$1710.

Mr Wood said it was one of the strongest sale he had seen at Ridgway Advance for the first 100 rams, despite the smaller crowd due to border restrictions. "Whether you want a \$10,000 ram or a \$1000 ram they were here," he said. He praised the depth of the offering saying the rams met the stud's slogan of "perfectly balanced Merinos".

"They have got that balance between wool production, carcase and fast growth spot on," he said.

"They are real square bodied sheep with a heap of wool on them and as you walk through they are exceptional staple length rams." Mr Wood said it was good to see the faith and trust buyers who were unable to be at the sale had shown in the stud.

"Quite a few have been buying from David, Karen and Devon for a long time and they know the type of sheep that their clients want."

PEPPER WELL POLL MERINOS

ON PROPERTY AUCTION 1.00PM FRIDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2021

80 JULY 2020 DROP RAMS



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CALCOOKARA ON PROPERTY SALE

- Brenton and Jane Smith.



I couldn't get back from W.A. in time for the Calcookara Poll ram sale in 2020 so instead of knocking up something involving a bit of guess work and luck, I've asked the stud commanders Brenton and Jane Smith to wizz something up for me. Here it is....

"With yet another failing season and the complication of Covid, the Calcookara 2020 sale felt like it was on a knife edge. However, in the weeks leading up the demand kept rolling in. This was relieving for us as we were convinced we had our best line up yet on offer.

With the first drop of Calcookara 400 rams to go under the hammer. Their structure and wool quality being their main feature, and as a group were the pick of the bunch. In the weeks leading up to the sale the comments on the quality of the whole team were extremely pleasing. Not forgetting that Bill had pulled 5 stud sires and 2 for Classings Classic from the lineup.

We thought and hoped that putting an extra 10 in the sale to bring it up to 90 would pay off and it did. This line up also saw the end of a long and enjoyable era with the last of L858's progeny. Lot 1. was a big correct animal from the Hynam Poll family measuring at 16.9 mic, 12.5 CV, 2.1 SD, 100% CF, 103% PWGFW and tipped the scales at 106kg. After some fierce bidding he

went to Story Farms for \$3,600.

Lot 3 was from the Gunallo 547 family and graced the shed with what I considered the best wool of the team. Long, bold, nourished, white and lustrous was the only way to describe it. Robyn Freeman of Wharminda picked him up for only \$1,800, how's this 17.5 mic, 14 CV, 2.5 SD 99.6 CF!!!

Lot 4 was of the same family with practically the same figures but 18.4 micron and ended up with Paul Turner for \$4,200. The sale stayed very strong and through to lot 42 only 2 rams had dipped to \$800. Lot 43 may in hindsight have been listed a little late along with lot 72, but more on him later. Lot 43 was a great animal with terrific purity of wool boasting 18.3 mic, 13.5 CV, 2.5 SD 99.6CF and 124% GFW, on a healthy 96kg body. For these reasons he was hot property and finally went to a new client in Kurrabi Park of Koppio who are starting a stud.

The usual names of Hanneman, Puckridge, Byerlee and Hunt were called numerous times along with new clients Hillsea Station, Clay Henderson, and others.

Now all the way down to lot 72. We obviously overlooked this guy at cataloging. A son of 400 with figures like 16.6 mic, 15.7 CV, 2.6 SD and 99.8 CF 124% GFW and 94kg. Extremely white well-nourished and correct were just a few of his attributes. This is where the three days spent taking and editing photos then downloading information for auctions plus came to the fore. The bidding was frenzied and after a strong battle the winner was online and non other than Kev Hynam of Hynam Poll Victoria. The sale went on to finish strongly with a total clearance and averaged a very healthy \$2,165.

Amid re living this I've realized that I overlooked good old Lot 6 190019 who was top gong, going to Ian and Di Haggerty at Whyalkatchem W.A. He was in the running to be chosen as a stud sire here with figures of 17.9 mic, 15.5 CV, 2.8 SD, 99.6 CF and a massive 139.5% GFW on a 102kg frame. He was an animal of good width and depth with an ultra pure crimp white nourished long, free growing wool. He also had an eye muscle of 38mm and 4.1mm Fat at 10 months of age paddock run. The son of a Calcookara bred ram sold to Matt Story and Simon Allen in 2019 went back to the Coddington family and could have very easily stayed here as an impact animal, but you can't keep them all. Ian and Di paid a very healthy \$7,400 for him and it is great comfort knowing that he will be used as a ram breeder for them.

Volume buyers –

N Byerlee – 5 Ave \$1600

F Puckridge – 5 Ave \$1680

Middlecamp – 5 ave \$880

C Henderson – 5 ave \$1200

B & J Hunt – 6 ave \$2,600

Hillsea Station – 8 ave \$1400

Hoping to harness 100 for 2021 with signs of good early demand.

HOT SKINS

I have asked Matt Lehmann of Flairdale Poll to describe an issue that popped up after February shearing that could be one to watch out for with your own enterprise...

Rams were all injected with ACP (sedative) prior to shearing. After each run, rams were taken to a fresh paddock of lucerne with a bale of oaten hay and a lick feeder with oats. No changes to their diet, just a fresh paddock. Tree lines on 3 sides of the paddock so there was plenty of shade provided.

4 weeks post shearing we brought rams into draft off culls to be sold and tops to be regulation tagged. We noticed a few rams had hard dried up patches on their backs and was starting to peel. Not knowing what had happened we kept an eye on them and then noticed a lot of rams were starting to peel while inspecting them in the paddock. We then put all the rams in the feedlot to get as much shade as possible.

We were recommended to rub Derisal on the patches of skin that were exposed from peeling, to stop the skin drying out and scabbing over and causing scarring. Keeping the rams in the shade and applying the cream

regularly stopped the bare skin from getting sunburnt again to eliminate scarring and any more issues. A handful of rams that were really bad before we worked out what was going on did get burnt again on the skin and never recovered with the wool that has grown but being all fuzzy and harsh.

After talking to vets they have said that it would be sunburn from after shearing. It can happen with animals that have a good body condition score with good fat cover and if they have lush green feed and a high protein diet - also if they are shorn too close to the skin and/or if the handpiece is running hot.

After a few discussions we think we may have put them back in the paddock a bit too early after shearing and with the lush feed and good diet they have been on they have good fat cover and therefore can easily be heated when lying in the sun. We also remember one shearer saying he was using thinner combs to try to get under the grass seeds better as the rams did have a few. So a few rams may have also been shorn a bit close to the skin (pinked).

**RAMSGATE ON PROPERTY
TINTINARA S.A.
OFFERED 72 SOLD 62
TOP \$9,400 AVERAGE \$1,989**

INFLUENTIAL SALE SIRES: BROOKDALE 140012, KARAWATHA PARK (KP)170268, RIDGWAY ADVANCE 144, WILLERA 5542.



This is my second attempt at the Ramsgate sale report after a computer misdemeanour that I'm sire wasn't my fault! If I find the other file the comparisons will be interesting yet both would suggest that this was a ripper of a sale including a stud record \$9,400 top.

That ram was sold to the Keller boys cousin Josh Keller - Tintinara S.A. who spotted the quality like many others including me on behalf of Nantoura Poll that was runner up bidder for a snorter of a thing! Bred by Karawatha Park 170268, a PP, with a realtime GFW% 141 backed up by the ASBV equivalent of YCFW 34.3 add MP+ 175, YWT 8.5 and 19.9u! He really was the pick ram and the photo at the end of this could suggest why.

The multi ram buyers who know their stuff are an integral part of any sale. Keilira Statipn - Kingston S.A. with help from the S.E. guru wool gal, Steph Brooker-Jones have to be getting great results such is their great support annually including their effort here with a thirteen ram haul. I've suggested to Craig and Jed that when O/S flights are back on deck again, straight to the Maldives with the Keilira clan with Steph flying the ship!

Scott Davidson - Lucindale S.A. knows his stuff and bought well as did the Vowels family - Tintinara S.A. who were rock solid with eight. Anthony Foster was a huge support early and bought three of the first nine offered. I really liked his Lot 9 pickup at \$2,800 for a Leahcim 173071 son with all things right with fibre and frame.

CPL client's, the Johnson family's Mt. Boothby - Tintinara S.A. bought five of mostly the best the catalogue had to offer including Lot 1 for \$3,600, bred by KP 170268 with the typical realtime figures that Ramsgate offer regularly - 19.8u 2.7sd 13.7cv & 0.2pf add YCFW 25.0. The Johnsons are aware of the importance of the sire Brookdale 140012 that the Kellers bought on 2015 from Westwood Poll W.A. that topped that sale for \$5,000. Their Lot 11 purchase for \$3,800 was one of these, a PP, YWT 10.9, YSL 13.9, YCFW 26.6 & MP+ 178.

CPL supporters again, Netallie Station - Wilcannia NSW enjoy the Ramsgate easy care yet productive attributes and were keen to let me secure seven on their behalf to average a tad over \$1,100. I jagged a ripping Lot 27 Brookdale 140012 for \$2,000 with YEMD 0.3 and the good wool figures of 18.7u 2.8sd 15.1cv 0.6pf add YFD -1.8. It was a request from James McClure to concentrate on Eye & Fat with a lot 54 pickup, bred by KP 170268 strutting his stuff for just that with YEMD 0.7, YFAT 0.2 plus YSL 14.0 & YCFW 24.3.

I snuck Lot 5 into the vault for Bevan and Cindy Siviour - Cowell S.A. for \$4,000, a PP, a backend like Margorie and bred by that prominent KP sire

170298. Andrew Mitchell - Mintaro S.A. is a keen merino supporter and even though he's now a volume buyer at Ramsgate is a number cruncher and noticed a goody in the selection pens via the internet catalogue. For a mere \$1,000 he picked up a Brookdale 140012 son with YEMD 0.6, YFAT 0.1 & YWT 7.3 coated in the good stuff!

Michael Guthrie - Mt. Torrens S.A. battled on well to secure his six or so and nabbed lot 25 for \$2,000 with YWT 8.4, YEMD 0.5 & YFAT 0.2 and bred again by the meat master Karawatha Park 170268.

Greg Kennett, Richardson Brothers, John Weinke, Ron Mickan were all great support with their one to three purchases and kept the flow of the sale going throughout.

Special sire mention needs to go to that legend Brookdale 140012 who only just kicked the bucket the other day yet had four years worth of absolutely outstanding progeny including a ewe portion that excels in progeny visually and are also very well numbered for ASBV's.



RAMSGATE

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FIBRE & FERTILITY ON FRAME

**RIDGWAY ON PROPERTY
LAMEROO S.A.
OFFERED 150 SOLD 142
TOP \$9,200 AVERAGE \$2,391**

**INFLUENTIAL SALE SIRE: RIDGWAY 140721 (\$17,000 Classic'15)
RIDGWAY 140721 SYN, RIDGWAY 451 SYN, GUNALLO 170295 A.I.
(\$60,000 Classic'18), MOORUNDIE 170020 A.I., RIDGWAY 005,
RIDGWAY 159, RIDGWAY 067, RIDGWAY 443, FOREST SPRINGS 261,
RIDGWAY 443, BORUNG 24.**

With 150 rams up for grabs at the 2020 Ridgway sale it could take three pages of writeup to cover everything that unfolded on the day and there's nothing unusual about that! To take the pressure off a bit I'll focus on our clients' efforts on the day but still mention other purchasing highlights from their loyal clien-tele.

Of note and before I get to who bought what it was very noticeable that there was a predominant sire throughout the catalogue that managed to fill 20% of the 150 pens - a rare achievement across so many lots. Gunallo 170295 (G295 from here on) was sold to the Superior Wool Syndicate for \$60,000 at Classic'18 with runner up bidders, Ridgway and Kamora Park becoming semen shareholders post sale.

The ram is a crowd favourite and mine too due to low breeding wastage yet huge fleece weight and staple length.

G295 held the gong for top price honours at Lot 21 for \$9,200, a one off purchase by WF Ryan - Oxley NSW. Obvious fleece weight characteristics was the apparent attraction aided by YCFW 27.5 YWT 9.5 YFAT 0.6 & YEMD 0.2. Five of the first twelve offers were from this SuperSire starting at Lot 1 to the Ryan family for \$3,200 with YCFW 28.5 coated in the good stuff, Lot 2 for \$6,800 and heading to YP/K.I. and bought by the Graham family's Glencorrie with a YCFW 30.3 and hosting an arse like a hippo (they bought five all up), Lot 4 to Michael Altus - Lameroo S.A. for \$4,200 with YCFW 33.3.

What was deemed top price at that very minute, Lot 6 was the crowd favourite and rightfully made \$8,000 and sold to elite anything collectors - The McMahon family's McPiggery - Lameroo S.A. His realtimes were GFW% 124 EMD 48 FAT 9.5 which, with pedigree attached converted to the ASBV's of YCFW 30.4 YSL 12.8 YWT 9.5 YFAT 0.5 & YEMD 0.0. John Hein bought the last of the five 295's that made the top twelve at Lot 12 for \$4,200.

G295's first five progeny of twelve grossed over \$24,000 and set the benchmark across the sale. Mind you another ram that featured well and has done for many sales is 140721, that Leahcim 858 son that hit the \$17,000 mark at Classic'15 and coincidentally sold to Gunallo!

CPL clients, the Johnson's Mt. Boothby Tintinara S.A. were keen to drink Ric's beer after the sale without guilt so latched onto ten across the catalogue! Their lot 8 pickup was one of the best and bred by Ridgway 159 and son of Wallaloo Park 422 and sold for \$4,600 with a YCFW 28.1 with a bold crimp at 16.7u - who says superfine micron won't cut Martha?

Aaron Freeman who manages Colara Farms - Colebatch S.A. for Kevin Munro and CPL supporters only needs the three on the day and started at Lot 28 at \$3,200 for a G295 son pushing out great length and softness add YCFW 27.8 YFAT 0.2 YWT 7.2 at 19.9u. Another G295 son was added at Lot 35 for \$3,600 again with a trait leading YCFW 31.1 loaded with fluid nourishment and as safe as my wife with Stewy Everett.

Brian and Glen Landseer - Milang S.A. and CPL clients know the goodies and bought three with the best sitting in Pen 47 and selling for \$4,200 and bred by Forest Springs 170261 bought by McPiggery for \$6,000 at Classic'18 and used for A.I. by the Ridgway's.

CPL clients, the Smart family's Akeringa - Keith S.A. through their stock manager Aaron Wood latched onto a magnificent five for the day. Genetics like these will free up the skins and add the required zing, staple length, softness and density to the ever building top end of an exciting, evolving flock. Amongst a good trailer load was a very good Lot 59 pickup for \$3,600 and bred by a 721 Syndicate at 17.9u 2.6sd 14.5cv but this may have been overshadowed by the absolute bargain of the day at Lot 104 for ... \$1,000 which still remains a mystery due to his outstanding quality. A viewing at this year's classing will be intriguing to see if we can notice the difference between this and their \$4,400 top price selection in Lot 5 with all things merino exuding from his body!!

I grabbed two for clients, Rob and Sonya Chalk - Willalooka S.A. including a Borung 180024 pickup in Lot 10 for a surprising \$1,400 - not bad for a front rower, a square meat machine with a great backend, YWT 8.0 and YFAT 0.2.

Haydn Weckert - Coomandook S.A. latched on to a couple including a bold and soft R140721 son for a measly \$1,000 which didn't represent the great quality at hand. Try these realtime figures: 17.1u 2.3sd 13.5cv & 0.0pf and get that this fibre represented a supple skin that can only exude staple length and quality fibre.

I travelled out with the Mayor of Brinkley, Dean Pearson and had the joy of watching one of his two purchases in the back of the ute on the way home standing with his front feet on the rail of the hurdles with this exotic fibre blowing around in the wind like a rag! Tight skins won't allow the fibre to do that! The ram in question was Lot 13 that he bought for \$2,800 with the great realtime figures of: 18.3u 2.6sd 14.2cv & 0.2pf.

Our mates the Buick family from Penneshaw - Kangaroo Island S.A. picked up four great Ridgway polls with the best in my eyes right down at Lot 126 for a, you guessed it, G295 son for \$2,600 full of safe production with a YCFW 27.8 YWT 7.0 & YFAT 0.1. Also from K.I. was Doug and Susan Davis who picked up five in-cluding a ripping Lot 51 loaded with bold crimp yet 18.9u 2.6sd 13.8c 0.2pf with YCFW 21.0 YEMD 0.5 YFAT 0.1 and bred by Forest Springs 261 at \$3,000.

Lynton, Suzy & Josh Barrat were great support with a big haul of eight, Cameron Butcher - Meningie S.A. with five, the local Hampel family with four, Graeme Fagg - Mt. Mercer Vic. via Kelvin Shelley AWN with an impressive six, Michael and Caroline Paech - Murray Bridge S.A. with four, Peter and Simon Brady - Rhymney Vic. with close to six kept the sale rolling along beautifully!

Tubbo Station NSW were there for one big pick at Lot 40 for a thumping G295 fella with a YCFW 30.5 & YWT 10.5 for a healthy \$7,200. John Hein - Murray Bridge S.A. with two, Pindari Stud with two, the Aurichts with three and Booderoo Pastoral, Smith, White, Tara Hills, Tim Phillip - Maroona Vic. with four beauties.

The mighty McClure owned Netallie Station - Wilcannia NSW secured the best ram of the day by streaks with a Lot 125 purchase for a casual \$2,200! Bred by SA Sire Evaluation entrant Ridgway 170005 his figures in-cluded YCFW 22.9 YWT 8.7 YEMD 0.3 YFAT 0.1 at 19.9u 2.9sd 14.6cv 0.9pf on a super long yet deep car-cass and poking out the good gear from the most supple skin of the day - make that the week!

**APPRECIATED SPONSORS
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**SOHNIC ON PROPERTY
MARNOO VIC.
OFFERED 77 SOLD 77
TOP \$11,000 AVERAGE \$2,025**



Thanks to Covid we couldn't make it to any Victorian sales when we need to hence this sale summary by Alastair Dowie and the Stock and Land of whom I thank for the article use...

Sohnic rams to \$11,000, Average was higher. - Alastair Dowie

The top priced ram at the Sohnic Merino stud, Marnoo, is headed to South Australia again this year.

The \$11,000 ram offered by Greg Hose and Scott Nicholson was sold via the AuctionsPlus platform to Jim Hunt, trading as JD & SF Hunt, Mundulla, South Australia. Mr Nicholson said the buyer had been buying at Sohnic for 15 years - since it started.

He said he, "Couldn't be happier with the sale." "It was a bit of a worry before hand with the circumstances and the year, but we ended up averaging slightly up on last year," he said. "We had a couple of new buyers it was mainly the long-term repeat buyers which we are lucky enough to have,"

he said. "We've got a really loyal clientele. We aim for commercial breeders who can come and buy rams at reasonable averages. The top priced ram was attractive because of his length of body, length of staple and boldness of crimp. He's a ram that suits a certain buyer - someone looking for that 'X factor,'" Mr Nicholson said.

The top ram was a double poll by Sohnic 60464 a son of Sohnic 964. It was a 19.5 micron ram with a co-efficient of variation (CV) of 17.8 per cent, a standard deviation (SD) of 3.5 and a fleece weight at six months of 4.1 kilograms. Two rams clocked the second top price of \$6500. One of those was lot six that went to Greg McNally, Traverston Farms Pty Ltd, St Arnaud east. Mr McNally said he had been buying at Sohnic for five years and was impressed by the ram's "beautiful white wool and crimp definition". The ram was a double poll by Lucernbrae 160032 measuring 19.5 micron with a CV of 14pc and SV of 2.7pc and fleece weight at six month of 4.2kg.

The second ram to make \$6500 was the very next lot, a double poll that measured 20.9 micron with a CV of 16.1pc, an SD of 3.4pc and fleece weight at six months of 3.5kg. The ram was bought by the buyer of the top priced ram in 2019, Roger Hunt trading as Chain Pump Merino, Bordertown, SA. Lot five was purchased by Clovelly Pastoral Co, Stawell, for \$4500. The ram had a micron of 21.1, a CV of 16.4pc and an SD of 3.2pc. The ram's fleece weight at six months was 4.8kg.

Shane Bibby, Bibby Farms, Navarre, a regular purchaser at Sohnic, was a volume buyer selecting six rams to a top of \$2750 on two occasions.

Lot two sold for \$3500 to Karana Holding Pty Ltd while other rams to make \$3500 were lot 13 to SJ Wright and lot 24 to an AuctionsPlus bid.

LA Wilkinson paid \$3500 for lot 36, a double poll ram with a 19.7 micron fleece, CV of 15.8pc and SD of 3.1pc. It shored a 4.4kg fleece at six months.

E & J Wilkinson purchased four rams to top of \$3000 twice.

Another multiple purchaser was Bretton Estates, Campbells Bridge, which purchased five rams to a top of \$3000.

NSW based Hazelwood Nominees, Balranald, was an active buying 15 rams to \$1500.

There's always changes and observations that make our Merino industry even more satisfying as the years fly by. The two rams pictured here from O'Brien Poll from their 2020 ram sale exhibit all we want to see with backend structure and chumpiness! Eye Muscle Depth measurement and subsequent supporting high accuracy ASBV's are a fair indicator yet you can have high EMD but the animal can still be subject to hockiness unlike the pictured perfection.

There is no ASBV for hocks yet we would all like to think that all growers and particularly Classers & Advisors are well aware of the hock issue that they don't see the light of day.

Tom Silcock - Balmoral Vic. Is in the middle of developing a scoring system for all things hocks, pasterns and feet that eventually will become a subjectively measured trait to add to the SheepGenetics/ASBV tangle



**SUPERIOR WOOL MERINO
ON PROPERTY TINTINARA S.A.
OFFERED 100 SOLD 100
TOP \$6,200 AVERAGE \$2,238**

INFLUENTIAL SALE SIRES: SWM SYN 1, SWM SYN 2, GUNALLO 170295 A.I., KARAWATHA PARK 211, WALLALOO PARK 298, Pyramid Poll 201.



The continued ascension of this stud in its fourteen years of existence is inspiring. Close on thirty avid clients turned the sale into a frenzy fest with all one hundred selling in good time thanks to the fine orchestration of competent Elders auctioneers who have learnt how to keep us amused and awake.

Where do we start - top price or the ever important multi ram purchaser? Try both such was the support of what's next. Is it a good thing that Lot 40 topped the sale? I could say that the Gunallo 170295 son that filled the pen was put there on purpose at cataloguing as he was adjacent to lot 1 considering two rows of twenty! Richard Storch - Boredertown S.A. was impressed anyway and dished out the top bucks for him at a worthy \$6,200 considering his excellent fibre quality, build and density and a realtime EMD of 43mm. Enjoyably he added enough six during the sale including an-other Gunallo 170295 in lot 2 for a bargain \$2,400, a big bold crimping muvva bred by 295 again at GFW 116% & EMD 45mm for \$3,800.

Loyal and everduring supporters and CPL clients, Hansen Farms - Coomandook S.A. bought 15% of the sale up to \$4,200 with confidence due in part to their relentless money making out the other end with surplus ewe sales and a decent high caliber wool clip. Incredibly amongst some strong pickups, I really liked their Lot 80 170295 son for \$2,000 at 18.5u 2.8sd 15.1cv and a bold crimp like grandmas waxed hair style.

Thyne McGregors' Willalooka P/C secured eleven SWM's for the first time as they scale back their own ram breeding program for a bit. Peter Blacket - Mallee Slopes - Wynarka S.A. kicked the sale along with his seven and Tyson Hughes - Field S.A. was good for five.

Barb Reichstein and manager Matt Schmerl - Coonalpyn S.A. were good support with their four quality pickups including a ripping lot 27 for \$5,200 which was possibly second highest priced gong I'd say and bred by an SWM syndicate of three rams. DNA testing coming right up hey Richard!

CPL's enjoyable Johnson family - Mt. Boothby S.A. - have been at SWM for a fairly whack of time now and buy only the best quality the sale has to offer after some intense three way assessment - their Lot 19 buy was a standout and bred by Karawatha Park 211 with an EMD 46, FAT 8.5, bold silk coating and a massive GFW% 133 to make worthwhile the \$4,200 outlay.

Another favourite CPL client, Colara P/C under the excellent stock management of Aaron Freeman - Colebatch S.A. have the same sentiment

as the Johnsons and carefully select what is required to maintain their way above average merino enterprise. The Lot 20 pickup was the attraction at \$2,800 and bred by that SuperSire 170295. The transformation of this flock to it's present status will one day feature in my glossy 500 page book of ...

More Classings clients, Brian and nephew Glen Landseer - Milang S.A. bought three including a thumping Lot 10 with a sale high EMD 48.5 bred by the SWM Syndicate 1 for \$3,600 - about that DNA testing Richard!

CPL's oldest client along with the Harkness clan is Alan and son Neil McKenzie - Tintinara S.A. My father classed there throughout the 60's/70's and early 80's and I enjoyably boast the classing accolade from then to the present - a near sixty year association. To top this yack off, Neil just happen to buy the best ram the sale had to offer sitting in Lot 23 making a rewarding \$4,000. Bred by Wallaloo Park 298, the ram oozed quality and hosted 19.6u 2.9sd 14.7cv with the right gear.

Another old CPL supporter is Rob Germein - Port Vincent S.A. who's family ties with ours goes way back to my father managing properties nearby in the late 50's just into 1960. Rob bought three and it was a Gunallo 170295 that was a pick with an impressive backend and very deep sided for \$1,900.

Or was it the single purchase of the Irwins' Balah Nominees - Morgan/Burra/Keith/Adelaide S.A. at Lot 41 for a near hideous price of ... \$1,600 and bred by his master, Gunallo 170295.

Peter Burge - Padthaway S.A. loaded up with seven, The Kennett's - Florando - Tintinara S.A. with four including, dare I say it, the best horned ram in the S.E. in Lot 67 for \$1,500 expressing figures of 18.9u 2.6sd 13.6cv & GFW%120. It was to be a poll ram sale only yet considering the quality of a handful of horns it was very difficult not to place them within this catalogue.

Dalness - Launceston - Tas. secured three white wools including a high priced goody at \$5,400 for an SWM1-DNA in Lot 26 with the soft figures of 16.7u 2.4sd 14.3cv & 44 EMD and very water proof for whiteness. Was the Lot 59 pickup from the same SWM 1 Syndicate for \$4,800 with elite fibre and 17.7u 2.6sd 14.5cv & GFW 120 a better sheep?

Vanessa the .. was good for three and kicked the whole show off with a Lot 1 purchase for \$2,400 bred by the SWM 2 Syndicate.

Ulara, Yurgo, Brookleigh Park with the Kenny O'Malley, Dunstan, Peter Mile and Alan Hall K.I. families all leant great support with their single and double purchases to make this the best SWM sale of all time.



WALLALOO PARK ON PROPERTY MARNOO VIC.

OFFERED 200 SOLD 175

TOP \$16,000 AVERAGE \$2,731

Due to 'The bug' no South Australian could get to the Wallaloo Park ram sale, my personal non attendance over about twenty five years. I have relied on the basic coverage by Greg Heard from Farm Online for this piece and I thank him and the company for its use...

Wallaloo Park pleased with even ram sale result - Gregor Heard - Farm Online

IT WAS a challenging sale for the team at Wallaloo Park Merino and Poll Merino this year with a host of circumstances making last week's ram sale a logistical challenge, but the results were worth it.

Overall, 175 of the 200 rams presented sold, with an average of \$2731, with a large majority of the passed in lots sold privately at the end of the sale.

"We're really pleased with how things panned out, we've managed to sell the same number of rams as last year and the average is still up there, which is a very good result," said stud co-principal Trent Carter.

The top price ram made \$16,000, selling to Tintinara breeder Richard Harkness, SWM, while the first lot of the day made \$11,000 to Coryule Merinos, near Lismore in the Western District.

This complemented the Carters' big success at the Adelaide Show ram sale earlier in the month, where they had a 15 month old ram make a stunning \$76,000, sold to a syndicate of Western Australian interests.

Together with parents John and Jenny and wife Kate, Mr Carter had to leap through a series of hoops so that the on-farm ram sale could take place at all.

"Safety was obviously a priority so we made sure we got all the COVID-19 protocols nailed down and all the people in attendance were very good in that regard which we thank them for."

The current border restrictions meant a number of long-term clients could not attend the sale in person, meaning Auctions Plus played a key role.

"We managed to sell 66 of the rams via Auctions Plus, which was a great result and allowed everyone a chance to get a ram, even though there were a few little technical issues to work through at times," Mr Carter said.

In spite of the border closures there was good interest from interstate, with buyers from Balranald, Moulamein and Oakland, Boyup Brook and Newdegate in WA and South Australia all featuring, with the Barr family, Newdegate one of the volume buyers on the day.

The Wallaloo Park reputation for strong performance in prized traits such as yearling clean fleece weight (YCFW) and flexibility, with high scores in the dual purpose plus (DP+) scale ensured bidding was spirited throughout the sale.

While there was stud interest from outside the region, strong local interest for flock rams also resulted in a large number of sales, with buyers from the south-east Wimmera, including Glenorchy, Marnoo, Navarre and Avoca along with west Wimmera and Western District buyers all making their presence felt.

"Given the year we've had with COVID-19 and the uncertainty it has created, combined with what's been happening in the wool market we were really happy with how everything went on the day," Mr Carter said.

INTRODUCING LONE GUM POLL MERINO ...



Classings' association with the Everett family and Lone Gum dates back to the early 60's with Stuart Everett's father Bob and my father Don as stud classer. Great to see succession in motion here yet I believe no-one's retiring quite yet with the stud taking on a new lease of life recently including an excellent day at Classic'20 and annually selling around 30 rams per year privately.

Lone Gum Merino's is now registered as a Poll Merino Stud (Flock number 1622).

Our future is exciting as we embrace generational change in staffing; by welcoming our daughter Rachel and son-in-law Ian Jones and family to come on board.

We are combining this new venture with advanced technology - involving DNA testing and full tracing, with the application of electronic tags. These innovations will open the door to more production criteria on record.

The Wallaloo Park, Leahcim cross is working very well, as we endeavour to produce polls with very sound structure in feet and legs. Gunallo continues to hold a special place in our stud, as we continue to grow big bodies and long, bundling, free-growing staples.

In all our planning and selective breeding – we aim to find a solid pathway for good quality meat and wool.

Thank you to all purchasers who generously supported our Classic Sale Team at Classic'20 selling three rams up to \$8,000, and perused sires and secured rams On Property.

Stuart, Nancy, Ian and Rachel.

APPRECIATED SPONSORS OF CLASSIC SALES



**PENROSE POLL
ESPERANCE SHOWGROUND W.A.
OFFERED 20 SOLD 20
TOP \$2,300 AVERAGE \$1,275**



I couldn't get to the Esperance Ram Sale in 2020 so I've asked the Pengilly family to put a few notes together regarding the sale result...

Due to seasonal conditions we cut numbers as many of our clients had sold ewes to the Eastern states. This led to a quality line up with super sire L 173122 purchased from Leahcim in 2018 for \$15,000 having 1/3 of the catalogue.

Lot 1 was the first of these snapped up by Peter Piercey - Salmon Gums for a reasonable \$1300. He later went on to pay top price of \$2,300 for lot 16 for another. Mic 20.1 BW 98kg YCFW 27.5 MP+ 165

Bott Livestock - Munglip W.A. put together a quality team of 3 rams.

Including:

Tag 190292 \$2000 Sire L3122 20.1u BW 95.8 YCFW 27 MP+ 156

Tag 190198 \$2100 Sire L3122 20.8u BW 110 YCFW 31.1 MP+ 166

Tag 190078 \$2100 Sire Penrose 833 19.0u CF 100% BW 88.4 YCFW 37 MP+193.

Lance Norwood - Neridup W.A. also bagged a handy ram at lot 8: Tag 190080 \$2100 Sire 3122 19.2u 2.4sd & cf 100% BW 105 YCFW 29.1 YWT 9.6 MP+ 180

With a much improved season and plenty of water in dams we look forward to another quality line up

Paul Ietto - Grass Patch W.A. was the volume buyer, taking home 6 rams from the sale at an average of \$1000.

CAROONBOON NSW 2020 ON PROPERTY

**77 Offered 76 Sold
Average \$1,715**

Top price rams:

Lot 4 Caroonboon 252 \$3,800

North Bundy Pastoral, North Bundy Boooroban. NSW 2710

Lot 8 Caroonboon 691 \$3,800

Innesvale Pastoral Co, Oaklands NSW

Lot 1 Caroonboon 89 \$3,750

Eastgate Pastoral Co, Conargo NSW 2710

HYNAM POLL - LONGWOOD VIC.

Hynam Poll since a big shift a few years back have know restructured and up and running with possibly the most underrated stud in Victoria! If you're in the area check them out for over realistic pricings.

In 2020 the stud offered and sold 32 quality Poll rams to a top of \$1,800 x 2 to average \$1,242.



**HYNAM
POLL
MERINOS**



**On-Property Ram Sale
Wednesday September 22nd**

Inspections from 10am

Sale starts 12 noon

3% rebate to outside agents attending

check for updates on



Hynam Ag Pty Ltd

643 Carmodys Road, Longwood VIC 3665

Kevin: 0427 833 262

hynamkevin@gmail.com



That muffy little girl in the middle of these SA Sire Evaluation progeny is surrounded by better company it seems but why is it so ...

That face could suggest a hard time was apparent yet there were stock that were 10kg's heavier with the same issue.

Was she the neighbours?!!!

Was she the lesser of a set of triplets or twins or is there a family trait that suggests a low ASBV for FAT thus making her a redundant part of an already 'issue' family thus making her even more of a candidate to cull. (which she was!)

All stock in Sire Evaluation Trials are genomically tested thus all of the information required to assess her objectively, post visual classing, are at hand.

Sure she's an outright cull and took one second to class but slightly healthier versions are still too easy to eradicate with the raddle when multiple births are concerned.

No doubt at the Trial Field Day on September 24th September she will again plonk herself out front for all to see! Pure tenacity...

Westwood

POLL MERINO

CASCADE, W.A
FLOCK 601490



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AT

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Scott Welke

Mobile | 0427 792 044

Email | scottwelke@bigpond.com



ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE

Monday 16th August 2021

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Monday 6th September 2021

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WESTWOOD POLL
ESPERANCE SHOWGROUNDS W.A.
OFFERED 30 SOLD 30
TOP \$2,500 x 4 AVERAGE \$1,580.



Westwood Poll had it's best ever result at the Esperance Ram Breeders Sale on the 4th of September.

30 rams were offered and 30 sold to an average of \$1580, up from the \$1303 average in 2019. The sale topped \$2500 on four occasions.

The first ram to reach that price was a son of Leahcim 2775, bought by Daniel Dempster - Northam W.A. The ram had YCFW of 27.7 coupled with YFAT 0.41, 0.06 YEMD and a YWT of 13.3. Was on the list to Classings Classic'20 but for the intrusion of Covid.

Daniel added another 2775 son at that same price, showing impressive carcass numbers of 0.28YFAT and 1.0 YEMD with 19.8 CFW. Daniel will be using these guys as a new family in his stud -

Epasco Farms - Condingup W.A. put together a team of 5 rams. Top price was \$2500 for a Wallaloo Park 140245 son with figures of YCFW 16, YFAT 1.71, YEMD 1.04 and DP+ of 161. The team at EPASCO are changing their flock around by targeting fat and eye muscle animals. The 5 rams picked up on sale day all trended this way. Epasco added another 50 rams at private selection post sale.

The other top price was by P Piercy and Co. - Salmon Gums W.A. They paid \$2500 for another WP245 son with YCFW 20.0, YWT 7.3, YEMD 0.31 and 167 DP+. Other volume buyers were W & C Walter via Mark and Liv Walter who took home 5 rams to a top of \$2000 for a son of Ridgway 170141 purchased from Classic'18 for \$6,500. Good balance of figures again with YCFW 20, YFAT 0.25 and YEMD 0.1 with a super long staple like his sire. The Walters added another 15 rams at private selection.

JA Russell Aust. - The Oaks, Daly W.A. continued their support by buying 4 rams to an average of \$1350.

Leigh and Karina West - Karleigh Farms - Gibson W.A. secured 2 Gunallo 170295 sons at \$2200 for their nucleus flock. Gunallo 170295 sold at Classic'18 for \$60,000 with Westwood a semen share.

Alistair and Robyn McIntyre - Neridup W.A. bought 3 at an average of \$1560. Shepwok Downs - Gibson W.A. bought a select ram at \$2000. This guy was the boldest crimper of the lot and really caught the eye of young sheep man Brett Whiting. The family usually go direct to Leahcim but couldn't go past this Westwood sire of Leahcim breeding.

New client Heiner Wegman - Condingup went home with 3 rams. A fantastic result for us and we cant wait to offer up the sons of Leahcim 182185, purchased at Classings Classic'19 for \$14,000 at our sale in 2021.

The Esperance district has unusually hit a snags over the last few seasons - here's a recovery snippet from Westwood' Poll's Scott Welke - Cascade W.A.

"The last few years have been very short of feed particularly in Autumn and early Winter so we had to find a way to get something happening in that time. We were told of Ilabo wheat which would be a good option for early sowing and therefore have feed available in autumn. The plan was to sow it early as to have good feed to lamb the ewe lambs down on.

At the same time that allows the pastures to be deferred and to build up bulk for when we take the sheep off the crops. We trialed some last year. We sowed on the 15th of April at a depth of 10cm. We were impressed with it last year (100 ha carrying 800 ewes and lambs for 6 weeks from the first week of June), then locking up and harvesting 4t of wheat in what was a dry year for us.

So this year we went a bit earlier, sowing on the 20th March. It germinated then got set back a bit by some very hot weather early April, but with some kind rainfall events mid April it took off and has never looked back.

The ewe lambs were mated for 4 weeks from 27 December at 8 months of age. Of the 320 in the mob we scanned 201 pregnant (scanner didn't twin unfortunately) Currently lambing into awesome green feed as 13 month olds.

I'm hoping I can get >90% lambs to marking from the mob"



Another angle of those excellent Brazzen gates that pivot on tow struts to open and close from either side of the race. Note the race panel on the right hand side of picture sits about 3/4 the way across gate and fixed to a welded new positioned upright.

WHOLE BODY ENERGY

Another piece from Jim Gordon and I thank him again for his insights on our great industry ...

The Whole Body Energy research that has been done by Murdoch University, is absolutely groundbreaking in my opinion and I believe some of the most important research that has been done in the last forty years. This research opens the door to so much more; wool cut, meat & fat production, fertility, wrinkle, body maintenance, etc. it explains where everything comes from.

We start with an egg being fertilised, an embryo, then a genetic blueprint is created, a set of instructions for the ewe to build that lamb in utero like a set of drawings handed to a site manager, to build a block of flats. There is a very orderly process in both cases, you can't put the roof on till the walls are up, and it is the same in sheep. Brain, Bone, Fibre, Muscle and Fat. So, if the blueprint says twenty follicles per sq./mm. that gets done and dusted quickly and onto the meat.

The ewe has five months to build that lamb or lambs in utero. From an embryo to being born complete, with all the features of that genetic package. Most lambs are slightly different and what makes them different? The genetic blueprint. Where does the building materials come from to build that lamb? They come from the energy produced by the nutritional intake of that ewe. This is the most important part, the distribution of energy via the blueprint, builds that particular lamb, and will influence that sheep's production, all of it's life.

So through the five month period, the set of instructions may say, not many follicles but heaps of meat. So a lamb is born with 15 follicles per sq./mm, and is built like a brick shit house. A typical fat lamb at birth.

The next scenario, the set of instructions may say, follicle development happens from sixty days onward, right up to birth. That lamb is born, struggles to stay alive, one hundred and twenty follicles per sq./mm.

- a pure wool sheep with no Fat & Muscle. There are as many combinations of this as there are sheep producers!

The life time production of these two sheep is supplied by the energy that comes from the process in the gut, of the nutritional intake of that sheep. I say again, the big thing with all this, is where that energy is directed. It is different for every individual sheep.

As a mob of wool cutters, to cut more wool you need to feed them more. Why individual sheep cut more wool than others in the same mob, is because of the genetic blueprint directing more energy to wool cut. You can feed a meat sheep as much as you like and it won't cut any more wool, it will just get heavier.

Conversely, if you are trying to fatten a wool sheep, there maybe only ten percent of the energy directed to meat production. It will take forever to fatten that sheep, however it will cut a shitload of wool!

It is extremely unfair to target wool cut only on a sheep until you know the full story. One needs to know the breeding objectives to get a handle on the whole package.

So you have five areas that are big energy uses, you have to decide the mix that is best for your sheep enterprise. Fertility, meat, fat, wool and body maintenance. The sheep will always draw down the energy store for it's own survival first, remembering if there is no F&M to start with, the feed cart will have to be kept handy.

Meat and fat can be re-absorbed in times of drought. Wool, meat and fertility become income. Interestingly, from the research from Murdoch, they found the energy used to store fat, when that fat is re-absorbed to be used again, multiple times the original energy is released and meat is less but still a good energy source when needed.

These two sources of energy didn't exist in a lot of the old traditional merinos, and this is the beauty of the modern merino. That survivability. Both sources of energy are very good reserve for tough times and the Intra Muscular Fat will be even better. Try and breed resilience into your sheep with some fat and spring of rib, a big engine resides under the bonnet of sheep with spring of rib.

No one is wrong or right, it is just where you want to be with your sheep enterprise. Have respect for others that have different objectives. There is room for everyone in this industry. Very important. Don't put others down to build yourself up.

Is there a sheep that does it all? I think yes, what has this sheep got that others don't have? Does this sheep spend more time grazing, is it a better forager or, are they just more efficient at converting the nutritional intake into energy?

This is the sixty four dollar question and Murdoch Uni. needs to come back into the equation and do some more research on FEED EFFICIENCY. A very hard thing to measure be-cause you have to take into consideration the time spent grazing, not



controlled in a shed by humans. Sheep in their natural state. Do we want sheep that produce more from less. Is there such a sheep?

One of the areas that I think will effect feed efficiency is skin weight. I am led to believe that the adult human skin renews it's self, approximately every twenty seven days. Think how much energy would be needed to continually renew a heavy sheep skin. We are looking for sheep that do the production thing more easily.

Also, the other big influence is quality of nutrition, obviously the better you feed the gut microbes the better the energy supply. This whole program will change course if self feeders are used, however once taken off the self feeders the original course will resume.



The big decision the owner or manager needs to make is what genetics they need to select to achieve the energy distribution percentage they desire for Fat, Muscle, Wool and Fertility. Fat is antagonistic to wool cut and muscle and fertility thrives on body shape, Fat & Muscle, and getting the non performers out of the system. Wool cut thrives on not sharing the energy stream with any other trait.

Remember, the holy grail is wool production with a lighter skin, because you get to keep your fertility and carcass. Heavy skins will give tremendous wool cut, but you will loose fertility and carcass unless you run the sheep on self feeders all the time.



Bruce Dean




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2021 Diary
Australian Sheep and Wool Show - July 16 - 18
Hamilton Sheep Connect - August 2 - 3
Victorian Marnoo Merino Field Days - August 16
Classings Classic Ram Sale Murray Bridge - September 6
Presale Inspection Day - September 10 at 1pm to 5pm

8th On-Property Annual Ram Sale
Wednesday September 15th
Inspection from 10.30am - Sale starts 1pm - Refreshments provided

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FOREST SPRINGS ON PROPERTY OFFERED 60 SOLD 46 TOP \$4,000 AVERAGE \$1,784 ALASTAIR DOWIE - STOCK AND LAND



A MIX of new clients and return buyers resulted in 46 of 60 rams offered at the annual Forest Springs Merinos on-property sale last Wednesday. The sale on behalf of the Dean family, Joel Joel, saw a rise in the average price of around \$200 to \$1784 with a top of \$4000. In 2019 the stud sold 31 of 72 rams under the hammer and averaged \$1572.

"Hell yes, I'm pleased, especially to sell that number of rams as well as some after the sale," stud principal Bruce Dean said.

The result continued the momentum started from the stud's good result at this year's Classings Classic when they sold a ram for \$10,000. Elders auctioneer Ross Milne said it was a good solid sale with an increase in the average. "He is starting to grow his business and he's got a few new clients,"

Mr Milne said. He said there were also 21 registered on AuctionsPlus and a few bids placed.

The buyer of the top priced ram was Spencer Martin, Concongella, who paid \$4000 for lot two a son of Forest Springs 171002 and grandson of Hynam "Big Kev". The top lot had Australian Sheep Breeding Values of 20.1 microns with a co-efficient of variation (CV) of 14.9 per cent, a standard deviation (SD) of 3 and a six-month wool cut of 5.52 kilograms as well as a dual purpose plus (DP+) index of 148. Mr Martin bought five rams in total including lot 9 for \$3250. The ram was a double poll sire by Gunallo 150716. The ram had figures of 21.8 micron, a CV of 15.4pc, a SD of 3.4 and six month wool cut of 3.84kg and DP+ index of 150. Lot 30 also went to the Martins for \$3250. The ram was by Mumblebone 130850 and microned at 20 with a CV of 16.9pc, an SD of 3.4 and six-month wool cut of 5.52kg and DP+ index of 172.

New client who was also the volume buyer of the sale was Graeme and Hayden Price, Ben Nevis Farms, Crowlands. The pair purchased seven rams to a top of \$3000 for lot three of the sale. The ram was the son of Forest Springs 160334 and had a 21.7 micron fleece with a CV of 17.5pc and SD of 3.8. The ram cut 5.16kg at six months and had a DP+ of 151.

Another new buyer who purchased multiple lots was Gary McClelland, Emu. His top was lot eight at \$3250 for a ram by Rices Creek 16207. The ram had a 20.4 micron fleece, a CV of 14.9pc, SD of 3 and a DP+ of 129.

Regular client T & C Eastick purchased two rams to a top of \$3000 for lot 11 which was a son of Rices Creek 16207. The young ram had a 20.3 micron fleece, a CV of 16.7pc, an SD of 3.4 and a six-month fleece of 4.2kg.

HEAT STRESS AND ITS EPIGENETIC EFFECT ON SHEEP by Greg Sawyer

(University of Sydney Ph.D. Student and Elders Wool and Livestock Production Advisor CW NSW).

I met Greg Sawyer a few years back at the Trangie Research property whilst participating in the Wells Classing Trial as part of the MLP project. Over subsequent beers at the Trangie pub he always portrayed a fair bit of wisdom on all subjects concerning merino. Grab a whiskey and have a slow intense read of the following and enjoy the summary as to how Greg's research could have an impact on that number one trait - fertility.

The role of nature verse nurture has been an ongoing debate for many generations especially regarding genetic expression either in humans or in domesticated livestock. In the field of artificial insemination and embryo transfer in sheep there is an exciting new science speciality known as epigenetics. Epigenetics was discovered in the 1940's with the study of various maize plants and their output in various environments. Most of the current research in this field of science has been conducted on humans, plants and very little on sheep.

The most widely known study in the field of human epigenetics is that of the survivors of the second world war Dutch Famine. There are now many decades of research undertaken on a wide variety of disease, body measurements, and life expectancy on those children who were born at the start of the famine compared to those who were conceived at the end of later end of the famine. Overall, some live longer, have vastly different disease outcomes, have lower birth weights and smaller in stature and the reverse in other phenotypes. This effect has continued now for generations to their offspring (daughter/son; granddaughter/grandson; great granddaughter/great grandson) and soon.

For researchers and livestock production advisors the recent harsh drought

has provided an opportunity to follow the phenotype expression of sheep in Australia. We have had our "Dutch Famine".

Earlier research has shown how the effects of in-vivo hormonal stimulation or female nutrition on oocyte/embryo quality and of in-vitro procedures such as fertilization and embryo culture on the health of the newborn are already documented (Boerjan ML, den Daas JH, Dieleman SJ. 2000). Within an evolutionary time scale the genome is plastic and is shaped via various combinations within the genome rearrangement and gene transfer all of which are influenced by the external environment to the host. Stressful conditions are reported to lead to epigenetic modifications that mobilize transposable elements, causing major genetic alterations and rearrangements (Zeh DW, Zeh JA, Ishida Y. 2009). In these cases, epigenetic mechanisms can lead to permanent changes in traits (Franks, S.J. and Hoffmann A.A., 2012.). It is this interaction that is especially critical to the developmental window of intrauterine life, which has programming effects on trait determination in postnatal life (Cao 2017).

This explanation of epigenetics within the extensive studies of sheep globally has shown no known literature about the benefits of epigenetic and transgenerational epigenetic effect on the DNA caused by a variety of stressors. This was until unpublished research outcomes into sheep trait behaviour within an artificial insemination and embryo transfer program(s) in Australia were discovered within an earlier (2015 – 2017) research trial undertaken by Dr Edward Narayan (University of Queensland) and Gregory Sawyer (University of Sydney/Elders). This research discovered that the embryos from the same sire and dam that were placed into surrogates and raised under the same environmental and management regimes had significant varying wool quality trait outcomes. This data and further

data assessments from 2017 to 2020 led the researchers to postulate that epigenetic influences on embryos life-time productivity are influenced by nature of the offspring by the donor ewe, and the subsequent nurture by surrogate ewe's exposure to various external stress.

Why Is This Important – Heat Stress Influence

Epigenetic modifications can be altered by external or internal environmental factors and can change gene expression and define specific phenotypes. Among the environmental variables affecting animals, heat stress seems to be the one of the intriguing factors making animal production challenging in many geographical locations in the world (Koubkova et al., 2002). Heat stress is qualified as cytotoxic, as it alters biological molecules, disturbs cell functions, modulates metabolic reactions, induces oxidative cell damage, and activates both of apoptosis and necrosis pathways (Du et al., 2008; Pandey et al., 2012; Belhadj et al., 2016). While the genome of a cell is fairly stable, the epigenome is highly dynamic throughout life and is governed by a complex interplay of genetic and environmental factors (Bernstein et al., 2007).

Impact of Ewes Body Temperature On Reproductive Success In Ai/Et

Why is this important then for Ai/ET programs for reproduction of the Australian Sheep? The selection of donor ewes and the subsequent surrogate ewes is very critical to the desired and wanted phenotype outcomes of the offspring. As the placenta acts as a connection between the mother and the developing foetus and stress activates maternal hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis functioning and triggers glucocorticoid (GC) secretion that reaches the foetus by transplacental passage (Glover, 2015). Prenatal stress and prenatal exposure to GCs have been shown to have long-term effects on the expression of numerous genes associated with HPA function and neuro-logic function.

It is widely known that AI and ET programs can be influenced by a number of environmental factors (e.g., climate, management practices, feed and water availability) and individual physiological traits (e.g. body condition score, disease status, age), which have the potential to impact upon the success of various methods applied in sheep breeding programs.

In a recent study in the summer of 2015-2016 (Narayan, Sawyer and Parisella., 2018) we tested the physiological response variables (faecal glucocorticoid metabolites - FGM and body temperature) in super ovulated donor Australian merino ewes during participation in summer AI trials. Overall results showed that out of all climatic and physiological factors, only ewe body temperature was statistically significant for reduced percentage transferrable embryos. The interaction between body temperature and FGMs was also significant. Temperature humidity index was within thermal stress range during the summer AI trials, however results did not indicate a statistically significant influence of heat stress (THI) on embryo loss.

At the time of publication (2018) there had been no previous study based on physiological stress evaluation of Australian merino ewe sheep participating in summer AI program. Our results provide further support to earlier study that was conducted on Bharat merino ewes by [9], which showed that exposure to thermal stress significantly reduced quality embryo yield in the Bharat merino ewes. Our study has shown that physiological stress through elevated FGMs and body temperature could be impacting the reproductive output Australian merino ewes and these physiological changes could be directly/indirectly related to summer heat stress.

Therefore, researchers hypothesise that if the embryo quality is diminished once

the internal body temperature of the donor ewe reaches 39.4c – it has the potential to further impact the DNA of the offspring. If the surrogate ewe has a reduced capacity to thermo regulate during embryo growth and development, it will have an epigenetic effect on the desired phenotype outputs of the offspring. This is due to changes of the DNA caused by environmental influence of heat stress of the surrogate. Which in turn effects the desired phenotype from the donor ram and ewe.

Future Research

The Australian merino sheep breeding industry is heavily reliant on the breeding efficacy of its ewes to optimize lambing percentage and reproductive success to maintain a profitable business. The merino ewe is the driving force of the wool and sheep meat industry both locally and globally as it provides both merino and cross bred lambs to the industry, and furthermore passes on valuable genetics on to the next generation. However, if the surrogate ewe can influence the DNA via epigenetics or transgenerational epigenetics then increased understanding of the surrogates ASBV's and DNA profile will become increasingly important in the field of AI/ET.

Due to limited research in this field researchers are wanting to know further if the surrogate ewe that a predisposition to a higher WEC (Worm egg count) - will the offspring develop greater than or less than genetic (DNA) change for WEC due to the intrinsic nature of worms on the ewes body condition score and subsequent stressors. Furthermore, when a transgenerational epigenetic effect is statistically applied to DNA sequencing (i.e. for greasy wool cut) to an ewe that was conceived in 2018 /2019 drought and her DNA was challenged via higher radiant heat exposure as an embryo - will her offspring's phenotype be manipulated by her DNA or will the ewes mother born in the 2016 wet season on full feed provide a DNA effect to the grand child's phenotype expression (similar to what we have seen in the grandchildren of the children born in the Dutch famine). This research in sheep is very limited but is needed to be undertaken when we have the opportunity to study those ewes and offspring's from the 2017-2020 drought.

Authors Bio - Gregory Sawyer (Age 49)

Time in Sheep and Wool Industry – 32 years

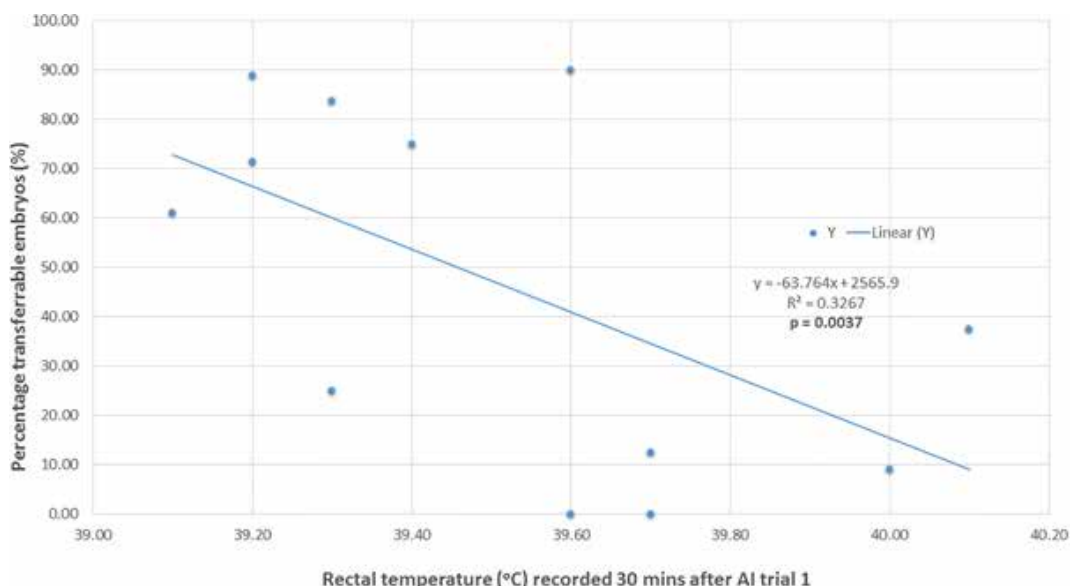
Current

Elders Livestock Production Advisor and District Wool Manager Central West NSW

University of Sydney Ph.D. student – Remote monitoring of sheep via the use of agricultural tech-nologies for lamb survival

He has Masters of Philosophy in Sheep Reproduction (Western Sydney University), Graduate Di-ploma in Agricultural Business Management (Charles Sturt University).

His earlier research discovered the pregnancy status of the merino ewe can be determined from a wool staple; the influence of lambing stress on the wool micron profile within a paddock scenario



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CLASSINGS CLASSIC RAM SALE 2021

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Monday 6th September

80 POLL MERINOS 80

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SWM

SUPERIOR WOOL MERINOS

From left to right: Steve Doecke, Richard Harkness, Richard Storch, Shane Pitt, Darius Cosgrave, Deanna Storch and Matilda Harris with top priced ram from the 2020 sale, which sold for \$6,000.



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Tuesday 24th August 10am - 3pm

ON PROPERTY AUCTION

100 Poll Merino Rams

Tuesday 31st August 1:30 pm

Inspection from 10am



Chris Prime - 0427289021

Scott Masters - 0458517883



WHERE'S MY INDUSTRY AT RIGHT NOW?

by Bill Walker



Photos like the above conjure all kinds of thoughts and commentary. I was after a one or two word response from a swath of industry and non industry friends on what they saw or perceived in what I would call startling photos, partly in the fact that they were all taken of sale rams on offer or show ribbon winners in this very 2020/2021 season!!

Show, fold, skin, win, won, disaster, chaos, good feet, benchmark, flies, big nuts, mulesing, shearers, future, past, extinction, win, ribbon winner, trophy, country, wool, youth, apron, skin folds, mules, fleece weight, shearing industry, class, cull, skin, impossible, archaic, winner, won, trophy. The list was longer yet with many of the above words repeated over and over the point was taken that it's unanimous that there are huge implications embedded in a shot like this one.

There's a young kid parading a merino ram who believes that the ribbons associated with such a 'win' in turn associate itself with success and the confidence in knowing they're heading in the right direction!

It seems to me that there is a portion of the merino breeding fraternity that dose not have the future prosperity of the industry at heart. The show ribbon circuit for example does not allow fertile looking rams with often lighter heads and no neck fold, no excess skin wrinkle yet proven production 'machines' to be advertised as the future saving element that we need to promote to a resurgent young Merino grower.

There's a raging international mulesing backlash at the minute, actually try the last eleven years. It's a sudden relief to those who have fought adversity



and at times questioning themselves yet now have bred the animal that will take many through to the next decade with confidence - a family and business succession plan that will keep the youth of the industry keen due to progressive nouse and breeding tactics. Please get to know these outfits as they are the quickest way to head you in the direction you need to head if we are to sustain the job. Classic sales are an ideal place to witness the studs

that are genuine in their quest to appease non mules customers by breeding animals that suit.

Our very own mighty Classings Classic along with all other multi vendor sales are guilty to a point of, (not breeding such atrocities pictured or praising show ribbon winners) encouraging feeding regimes that are used as part of a competitive strategy to outdo the next guy in a range of 6-28 weeks out from sale day.

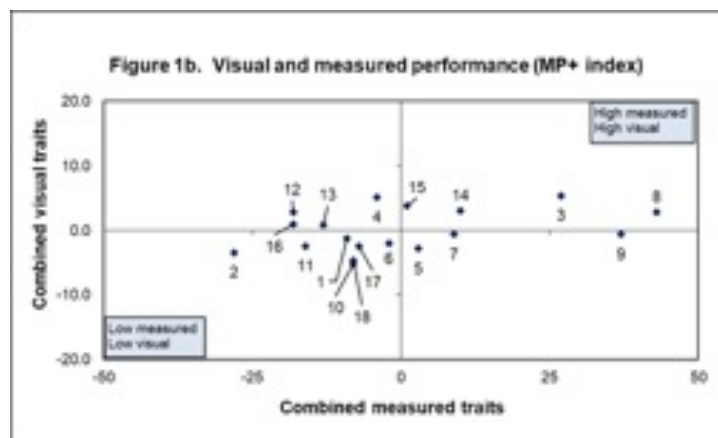
Due to the severely ill timed SA Mid North Merino Field Days being held in March it has encouraged an entourage of ram lambs far and wide to enjoy Christmas in the confines of a shed on lush diets as to compete against others at an event that is hosted at the wrong time of year!

The first Classic sale in 2002 hosted around forty rams of which half were from the paddock (with an ad lib feeder) and the others shedded since a Feb/ March shearing. In the following year at Classic'03 there wasn't a paddock reared ram in sight with all penned part of a wide range of feeding regimes that meant for a so called equal playing field.

There's reason to gloss a product yet it has to be a winner to start with. I have ranted and raved about Gunallo 170295 throughout this newsletter. He was never going to claim a ribbon yet as a ram lamb he was a winner, at first stage classing in February he was a winner. By early September'18 with a fair bit of gloss he was such a winner that he mustered \$60,000 at Classic'18 and was adored by the 300 strong crowd. All he has done since albeit an untimely death is produce 'winners' across three states. True winners in the fact that he is a money creator for all of those who have used him albeit without a ribbon in sight - they are production winners and that's all that counts.

The studs and the poll rams that fill the pens of any Classic sale are all hand picked carefully as to be able to produce progeny that can be non mulesed, shorn every six months, boast a flood of fertility thanks to their physical and genetical makeup, breed no fleece rot/water stain or colour and most definitely not come close to winning a ribbon such is there fertile makeup!

The studs that are involved in any Classic sale are now performing as assumed in an assortment of trials.



There is a flood of information now on tap from a multitude of AMSEA Sire Evaluation Trials and MLP project trials that suggest strongly that show ribbon winners are on the opposite swing of the pendulum to profit! The 2019 drop result in the first McPiggery Sire Evaluation Trial produced positive results that included so many Classic studs in the right part of those beautiful quad graphs it almost looked rigged!

I'm hoping that high accuracy ASBV'd paddock rams combined with experienced Merino Sheepclassers/Advisors who know the benefits of square, chumpy backends, upright pasterns and have a full hand on how bold crimp and supple skins influence fertility, micron maintenance, staple length and a fleece weight that can't be pushed any further, could possibly one day replace the need for any of the show treatment.

It's only then that a simple ASBV will take the guess work out of just how that ram in Lot 1 was fed compared to that 15kg less equivalent in Lot 96 of a different protein regime. The Sheep Genetics clientele is thankfully growing and subsequently so are the accuracies due to more and more data entered.

Back to skin atrocities and show ribbons - should you have any lambs that resemble what's pictured below on a regular year to year basis then attempt to break the relationship you've had for way too long with that stud of choice - just slip out the back door and get outta there!



It's now the nations worst kept secret thanks to all of the data entries that Sheep Genetics has mustered over many years now and the word is out - for every score of actual breech wrinkle equates to a 10% lambing deficit! The national weaning percentage is at a staggering 82% and hasn't altered for decades only due to scenes like that photo - and nor has fleece weight. Tight, wrinkly skinned ewes are way less a chance to have multitudes of lambs particularly when the season's on the negative due to low fat ratings. All available energy goes toward wool production and pretty well nothing else!

Freeze Branding or Steining has only just been swiped off of the 'non-mulesed' list which thankfully alleviated the possibility of the nation's first civil war! That so called silver bullet of artificially removing skin via a freeze branding technique and hoping for unmulesed status would have caused an uproar particularly from those who have been breeding the non mulesed article for so many years.



The thrust of this piece is awareness - awareness that there are now multitudes of Poll Merino rams and Studs that are capable of rapidly influencing your flock in an unmulesed direction. Source them out and have a yarn with their principles as to the ways and means of addressing what is now a burning issue. This country needs all of the merino lambs it can muster at the minute as to sustain an industry that could indeed become boutique before we know it. More lambs come from plain easy care genetics without losing production - it's straight forward and as many Cullings' readers and Classings clients are aware it's quite doable once that initial step is taken.



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Annual on Property Sale

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Auction 1pm



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Last Word



2021 is to be my busiest year on record helped by my biggest classing effort just completed in W.A that included 6,800 ewe hoggets at the one property east of Esperance. Under top management aided by an incredible workforce, the job was able to be completed over four days and four sets of yards.

During the same week I was able to catalogue the Welke familys' Westwood Poll rams for the Esperance Ram Sale and was treated to a lineup never before seen here.

This starts me on a rant regarding all of the studs and rams that I have seen so far that will be part of the **Classings Classic'21** sale.

Please see AuctionPlus catalogue when available with full stats including three from here with **Westwood** 200732 a pick selection. Fibre extreme - see below - and bred by Leahcim 182185 (all three from this sire) their inspection es-sential and will be highly regarded.



Ridgway Poll will enter around ten amazing polls with many bred by Gunallo 170395 yet a Flairdale 180115 son, 200064 took my eye on inspection that may lead the team see below..



Flairdale will enter two beauties with 200233 with grandsire Moojepin 1200652 that should excite most due to his excellent structure and density.



Ramsgate has three rippers selected including 200472, one of the best fibre/meat packages the stud has ever produced.



Had a unique chance to get to **Gunallo** just prior to lockdown and yep another cracking team including 200051 of which his fibre shot graces the front cover of Cullings'21! Lead ram 200551 will stun!



Borong will enter three of which one is the best they have produced that they haven't kept by far - 200247 with an arse like yours!



Lucernbrae will enter 8-10 scorching polls including a mix of Gunallo 170295 sons and Lucernbrae sires.



SWM will display one of the boldest crimpers ever entered in to any Classic and year and also their best entry. Part the fibre of 200752 to enhance your day and suck in the fact that he's 17.9u!!



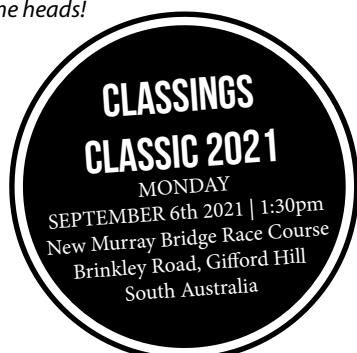
Lone Gum came outta nowhere at Classic'20 with a stunning poll selling to Gunallo Poll for \$8,000. The four chosen for Classic'21 won't disappoint including 200428 bred by a Penrose sire.



Nantoura came close to topping Classic'20 with 1900061 and again have two that will create a lot of interest with 200164 a standout.



Pimbena can't get a lot of things wrong lately with the studs naturally born twins both making Classic'20 and selling to \$5,000. 200489 bred by the Sire Evaluation Trial hero, 170509. Should turn some heads!



Look forward to inspecting the many remaining Classic'21 entries over the next few weeks and assume we will fill approximately ninety pens for the Monday September 6th sale.

I'll take this chance to introduce Rebecca Hughes to all of you who test samples through Classings Lab. Bec did some work experience with us around eighteen years ago and was quick to grab a chance to manage the whole outfit when the calling was there. Welcome Bec!



Subsequently Rose has taken a back-step from this part of Classings and has now thrown her energy into her true passion, Ceramics. She now has a business in supplying many cafes throughout the Adelaide Hills and parts of Adelaide with various products all hand thrown and coated with her unique glazing brews that stands her apart from most.



She also has had a standout year at exhibitions in taking out a trifecta of sorts in First Prizing, Penneshaw, Campbelltown and Murray Bridge art shows in their respective 3D sections. A proud moment I must say albeit she is working harder now than ever!

Jesse and Samuel are now both back in S.A. excelling in their trades in domestic/ industrial electrical and Sam amongst the building trade. Naturally our granddaughter Flossy continues to wrap us even tighter around that little finger of hers!

The year has zoomed pass for me mostly due to the classing schedule which has been rock solid since the new season started in June.

I would really like to post pages and pages of commercial and stud results out in the field but that could fill eighty pages and I need to get this thing published but I'd like to add just the one.

I'd be happy to continue classing for many years to come and moments like the following shot captures a lot of reasons why this will happen. Teaching kids like Nick and Karina Ruddenklau's, Drew and Jonty bits and pieces of knowledge that I have accrued over nearly forty years of classing is very satisfying.



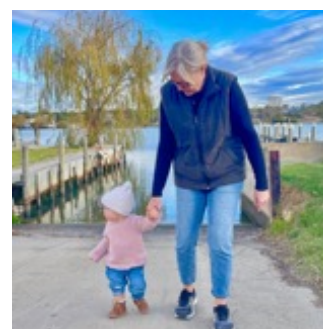
I'm well aware that due to time restraints that I do not host or organise enough Merino workshops to spread the word on what's right for the industry and that's something I plan to in years to come.

Meanwhile the wool market is cruising nicely with rich rewards for those who aspire to quality with quick growth lambs, in fact any form of merino meat is in huge demand with prices indicating just that.

Most of the four states where I class sheep have had adequate moisture as to encourage a good year - our Mallee probably the last area to cop it and just needs some warmth to fire things up a bit.

Enjoy the read and see you at **Classic'21**.

Yep I'm 60 now! Have I told you about my knee operation?!



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Selling rams at **Classing Classic '21 SA** - September 6th, 2021



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