

CLASSINGS CLASSIC '18

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd 2018 AT 1.30pm

Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

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Classings Cullings '18

[Third Draft]

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Welcome to Cullings '18 - the whole country needs a serious drink which is getting in the road of just how well our fibre market is cruising at the minute backed up by a healthy merino meat equivalent despite a gloomy export wether outcome and weather outlook!

At the time of writing the Eastern Market Indicator was around 20c below the 2000c+ clean high set a month ago due to recent falls yet still 400-500c clean up on the equivalent time one year ago.

The Heinrich's Ella Matta clip from Parndana - Kangaroo Island hit 2045c greasy, The Andre's at Kangaroo Inn S.A. peaked at 1990 and Willalooka Pastoral (no Kangaroo) creeping up to 2100c in the last week. All clips were six-eight month shorn hogget fibre.

At last we have a S.A. Sire Evaluation Trial up and running in this state with the first of two trials being run at Keyneton Station-Keyneton S.A.

It was a pleasure to be asked to class the trial sheep and to class 550 progeny from sixteen sires at random with no ID was intriguing and frustrating all at the same time!

A very well attended (and run) Field Day occurred on June 22nd with all results displayed from sixteen progeny groups as part of the first trial. The handout brochure on the day was factual and included all trait results including trait leaders. Shearing is still to come in September to conclude the first trial with the added fleece weights.

Please have a good look at my Keyneton Sire Evaluation page for a summary of the results and lead up days including A.I., Muscle Scanning and Classing/visual assessments. The local rural tabloid covered just about everything to do with the day except for the actual results! Just sayin'...

Good to hear of the news that McPiggery - Lameroo S.A. will be hosting the next round of trials beginning with the A.I. of new sires in 2018/2019.

Last year's Classic'17 sale recorded its highest average since inception in 2002 at \$5,142. Not bad considering the highest price was \$21,000 - many stud rams were in the affordable \$4,000-\$10,000 range with a lot of top



end commercial polls in the \$2,000 - \$3,500 bracket.

That 'Wildcard' \$21,000 poll ram makes for an enjoyable read as part of the Classic'17 writeup in this publication.

I have already selected almost half of the Classic'18 teams and this year's sale is shaping up to be our best for fibre boldness, quality and body conformation. So many bold crimpers with length and density this year with even more outstanding 17u-18u type results.

I believe many studs are conquering the back end issues that we have been plagued with since the dramatic rise in the popularity of the Poll Merino. A prerequisite for this year's team selections is as close to hock perfection as possible!

On property ram sales had the 'gazoiks' factor in 2017 due to the Merino wool/meat markets surging to all time highs - many sales recorded record averages and top gongs. The markets are no different this year in fact significantly higher yet the general national rainfall health is even less than 2017 and could be a test on sales in 2018.

The Classings Laboratory has taken even

more of an upward J curve than last year due to many studs now mustering even more information from pedigreed stud ewes as to increase accuracies from potential sires for ASBV's.

Rose is relishing the amounts of samples that are now coming through with barcodes as to eliminate duplicates, triplicates and of course, the unreadable! A sticker on the sample bag exterior, barcoded and fleece weight added being the ultimate in data recording pleasure!

I have written more on ASBV's as the more information entered into that giant data base via SheepGenetics/MerinoSelect the more trend graphs are formed as to conquer the many myths associated within this industry.

Merino breeding values certainly are a playing field leveller taking the guess work out of over prepared rams that plague the industry or more so this year, underdone rams that are only maintaining body weights due to the toughest twelve months ever in some areas.

Enjoy the read and long live fibre exotica!

CLASSINGS

Merino Sheep Classing and Wool Testing Service



**CLASSINGS SHEEP -
CLASSING & ADVISORY**

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

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

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



**CLASSINGS
WOOL TESTING FACILITY**

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

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

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

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

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



**CLASSING'S CLASSIC POLL
MERINO RAM SALE**

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

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

The Classic '17 sale averaged \$5,142 boosted by a top price of \$21,000 but included many affordable rams in the \$1,500-\$3,500 range to appease the budgets of the commercial buyer.

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2018 RAM SALES & FIELD DAYS THAT COUNT!

July 9th EYRE PENINSULA FIELD DAY

July 20th-22nd BENDIGO SHEEP SHOW

July 22nd BENDIGO RAM SALE

July 25th S.E. MERINO FIELD DAY

July 27th KAROONDA & DISTRICTS F/DAY
MURRAY BRIDGE SHOW GROUND

July 31st ROEMAHKITA Cummins SA
Joe & Tracey Dahlitz 0428 295706

August 1st PIMBENA Wirrulla SA
Les Hamence 0428 268002

August 2nd O'BRIEN POLL Wudinna SA
Showground - Darren O'Brien 0419 772173

Aug 2nd LUCERNBRAE Callington SA
Keith & Judy Paech 0415 701493

Aug 6th & 7th HAMILTON SHEEPVENTION

Aug 13th RIDGWAY Lameroo SA
Ric 0459 432679 Matt 0439 460554
Home 0885 788039

Aug 14th RAMSGATE Tintinara SA
Jed Keller 0427 691858 Craig 0418
259049

Aug 15th RIDGWAY ADVANCE Bordertown S.A.
David & Karen Ridgway 0409 408263
0887 542028

Aug 17th GLENLEA PARK Pinnaroo SA
Peter & Marianne Wallis 0428 766126

Aug 23rd CALCOOKARA Cowell SA
Brenton Smith 0886 285039 0427 285039

Aug 24th KARAWATHA PARK Buckleboo SA
Bert Woolford 0427 27403 Dion Woolford
0427 323583

Aug 28th PEPPERWELL Keyneton SA
Hans Graetz 0427 790676

Aug 28th NANTOURA Wharminda SA
Chris Prime 0427 289021

August 29th BORUNG Waikerie SA
Brenton Kroehn 0427 414494

More Sales that count!

Aug 30th GUNALLO Pinnaroo SA
Ray 0427 778485 Brad 0400 335660

Aug 31st SWM Tintinara SA
Richard Harkness 0428 758028

Aug 31st ESPERANCE RAM SALE including
PENROSE AND WESTWOOD.

Sep 3rd CLASSINGS CLASSIC '18

Sep 6th CHALLARA Badgingarra W.A.
Peter Wilkinson 0427 427691

Sep 7th ADELAIDE RAM SALE

Sep 10th LONE GUM Crystal Brook SA
Private Inspection Stuart Everett 0427
362801

Sep 13th WALLALOO PARK Marnoo Vic
John Carter 0427 501431 Trent 0427
776114

Sep 14th SOHNIC Marnoo Vic
Scott Nicholson 0438 086403

Sep 17th FLAIRDALE Cooke Plains SA
Wayne Lehmann 0408 896877

Sep 20th MARNOO FIELD DAY VIC.

Sep 21st HYNAM POLL Longwood Vic.
Kev Hynam 0427 833262

Sep 27th FOREST SPRINGS JOEL JOEL Vic.
Bruce Dean 0407 054342

Oct 12th ELLA MATTA Parndana SA
Andrew Heinrich 0427 596108

Classings Classic '18 Monday September 3rd Murray Bridge Racecourse S.A.



The six month shearing banter in Cullings'17 needed to be discussed further in this edition with more and more clients taking it on with excellent results despite one shearing generally of low yield.

With the rainless long summer just endured there is bound to be some yields at 6 months hitting closer to 50% than 60%.

There's a bit of weighing up to do especially considering the above photo of a younger hogget at Gerard & Michelle Glynn's property at Cygnet River - Kangaroo Island S.A. (Keyneton Lorelmo x Ners-tane blood)

This girl exhibits 130mm at 16/17u where there is certainly no premiums for staple length! Even 18u at 110mm is savaged by 120c thanks guvner as at 19th April'18. There was only a 20c discount when talking 70mm which is a figure most six month shearings aspire to.

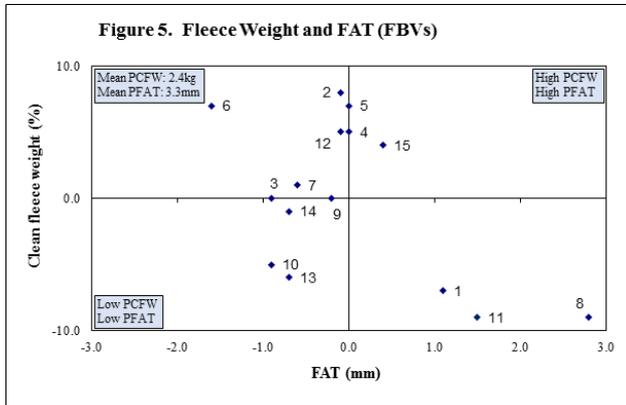
Please have a glance at the Greg Tilbrook piece within Cullings'18 for his study on this important topic. I thank him for the time it would have taken in putting it all together.

Stay tuned!



A Discussion: The YFAT/YEMD vs YCFW Tangle

There was a lot of interest in the ASBV article I created in Cullings'17 that I couldn't help but follow it up in Cullings'18. There's a lot more accuracy of information on the go one year later due to more data entries and pedigree from animals that have been in the system for a relatively short time. Another shearing has occurred over all MLP/Sire Evaluation sites as well as more and more data entered from Merino Studs nationwide. This read takes on the relationships between muscling/fat traits and fleece weight and takes a bit to comprehend as I've just found out with a re read!! If only I had an extra month to write....



The Sheepgenetics/Merinoselect ASBV information collected for the data base often comes from Sire Evaluation Trials as well as the latest MLP trial sites. I'm a big fan of these quad graphs where there is a starkness of a dot representing trait leaders or otherwise as opposed to simple tables highlighting the same.

This graph comes from the first shearing and muscle scanning results from the Trangie MLP site from the 2017 drop of which I did a 'Classers Trial' at in March - that classing has nothing to do with this graph but will be explained later in Cullings.

It must be noted here that this information is only FBV's or Flock Breeding Values as in within flock data as it has not yet been delivered to Sheepgenetics at this stage due to how current this info is at time of writing. With my study in last year's Cullings'17 though, these figures are generally indicative of what you'll experience with full ASBV data.

There is a lot of emphasis placed on YFAT at the minute and I believe this graph represents many I've seen to suggest it's no easy task to increase fat and fleece weight in tandem. Sire 15 is as good as it gets at 0.4. This picture tells a story though in that the closer to 0.0 for YFAT the better you are for fleece weight. As soon there is pressure put on lifting that FAT figure there is a massive chance of a diminishing YCFW.

Sire code	Breeders flock, Sire number	Sheep Genetics ID	Sire of Sire
1	Centre Plus Poll, 707115	601250-2007-707115	601250-2004-407373
2	Collinsville Poll, 130545 (Apollo)	600105-2013-130545	600105-2011-111122
3	Darriwell, 130941	503655-2013-130941	503655-2011-000952
4	GRASS Merino, 122190 (P47)	503884-2012-122190	609040-2006-066533
5	GullenGamble Poll, 120018	601414-2012-120018	600815-2008-080445
6	Hazeldean, 13.4936	500383-2013-004936	500383-2011-003542
7	Kerin Poll, 151911	601413-2015-151911	600088-2013-130306
8	Moojepin, 120652	504637-2012-120652	504637-2010-100248
9	Mumblebone, 151367	500063-2015-151367	600815-2011-111173
10	Roseville Park, 132933	504166-2013-132933	504166-2009-090014
11	Trigger Vale Poll, 140477	609251-2014-140477	609251-2011-110511
12	Wanganella, 130816	500083-2013-130816	503506-2009-090137
13	West Plains Poll, 110004 (Mercenary)	601236-2011-110004	501341-2009-090089
14	Wilgunya, 121224	503764-2012-121224	Unknown
15	Willandra Poll, 140030 (Des)	600610-2014-140030	600610-2012-120026

An explanation for improving that FAT figure is for extra do-ability and sustainability of progeny so that when things are tough reserves of fat can be utilised. But just where exactly is the threshold for balance when fleece weight is concerned?

There is a list available of all sires involved in all MLP sites across the nation which has detailed ASBV analysis of all

117 of them and all traits. There is quite a trend occurring where some of the highest YFAT sires really fall away with their adult or second shearing fleece weights (ACFW).

Some of these were quite respectable at yearling stage (YCFW) yet some of the highest of the group sadly dropped away sensationally at stage 2 shearing (Adult) ie. YCFW 22 > ACFW 9 where the YFAT sits at 2.6.

Conversely within the same sire group there was one ram of YCFW 31 that only dropped to ACFW 29 yet had a YFAT (-) 0.4.

It could be assumed then and inline with the old quote of, "Putting it all (tucker) into the body and not into the wool (follicle development/fleece weight)," rings true.

That extensive sire list information (not shown here) rings very true with the Figure 5 quad graph shown comparing fleece weight/fat data. Note that the three highest Fat FBV's (Sires 1,8,11) are well and truly the lightest cutters yet five of the highest cutters (Sires 2,4,5,12,15) are closest to 0.0 with the most negative for PFAT equal second highest cutter of the group.

That Hazeldean sire 6 is almost an outlier with a PFAT of negative 1.6 yet his PCFW is up there with the best of them! Is it possible to create a sire that could have this much PCFW,YCFW & ACFW yet in super positive territory for FAT as mentioned.

I believe the answer is no and why strive for it when there's an unknown balance - as in what is the difference with progeny survival bred from Sires and Dams that are 0.0 for FAT to those at 2.0. If it so happens to be insignificant then I'll take the extra fleece weight thanks! A glance at the MLP Sire List suggests no advantage at all. As an add on, no bonus in number of lambs weaned (NLW) either.

At a glance at Sheepgenetics Top 150 for Fibre Production (FP) there's a noticeable absence of serious YFAT breeding values for high YCFW animals. Typically reads like this YCFW/YFAT: 46/0.2, 42.2/0.9, 40.9/0.7, 39.7/-0.6, 38/0.7, 37/-0.4, 35.8/-2.2.

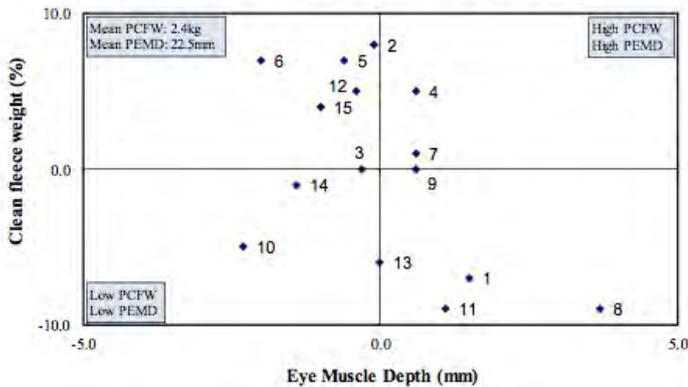
One of the best examples is from an Anderson Poll W.A. 150266 and shows up as 23.2 YCFW/1.1 YFAT which as a stand alone is fine but the trend suggests otherwise. I would suggest an aim for YFAT 0.0 to 1.0, an area where it seems there is no fleece weight compromise. As a punt...throw that Hazeldean fella over all of your typically light cutting, high fat animals for the ultimate experience!!

Possibly the most balanced ram in this group for GFW/FAT would be Sire 15 - Fig 5, Willandra 'Desmond' showing up well for above average fleece weight and fat but uncharted at this stage for other traits that may not tempt the punter!

So what about YEMD and its pressure on other traits. As mentioned these are within flock FBV's only but remember that there is a high correlation with these and ASBV's generally. The same three sires that featured well for FAT do it all over again in the EMD department yet the same issue arises - that of Fleece Weight.

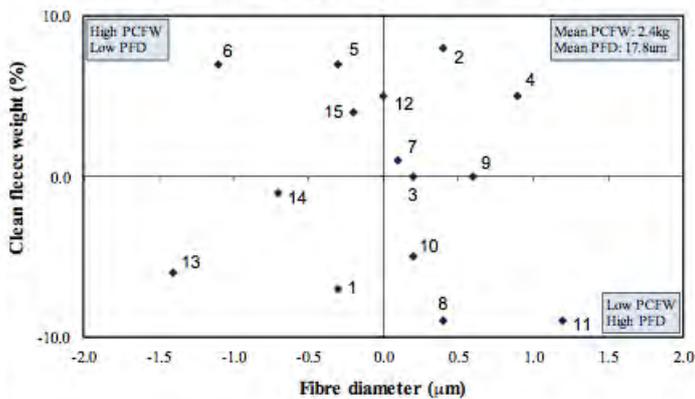
Naturally our Hazeldean Sire 6 sire is still there for CFW but still much on the negative for EMD.

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



There's not much in it really between **Figures 5 & 6** although Sire 7 Kerin Poll jumps the line to positive for EMD compared to FAT. To quote from last year's Cullings'17 the description of EMD suggests positive EMD sheep will have positive muscle independent of body weight, higher lean meat yields, worm resistance, staple strength, higher body condition and more twins - no mention of the ever important fleece weight which backs up the graph.

Figure 2. Fleece Weight and Fibre Diameter (FBVs)



Perhaps the animal that's well balanced to cater for both would be Sire 4 GRASS Merino P47 whose position here almost mirrors that of the Willandra ram for FAT/CFW.

Once upon a time Figure 2 was just about the only graph there was to see and the only one people seemed to need!

When Hazeldean stormed into S.A. in the 90's this styled graph capitulated them into superstardom! The CFW/FD graph was king and many enterprise decisions were based on this very model. It was unheard of in this state that there could be an animal that could not only outcut any S.A. genetic in any trial but also out micron anything in its path and usually by a good two!!

As shown in Figure 2 nothing much has changed! 13.4936 was equal second highest for CFW% at 7% above average as well as second lowest micron at -1.1. A quick glance at his ASBV'S on the Merinoselect site suggest similar with huge fleece weights of YCFW 37, ACFW 24, YFD -2.4 (and YFAT -0.4)

On fleece weight alone now would be a good time to mention the heaviest cutter of the group Sire 2 Collinsville Apollo 130545 who cut 6% above the average of the group for GFW and 8% for CFW%. There is not enough accurate data on Merinoselect as to ascertain where this bloke actually sits nationally but these results when entered from Trangie and other numbers building trials should put him right up there for fleece weight. This can be affected though by pedigree on both sides.

Despite the afore mentioned tables all reflecting objective measurement and actual real time fleece weights, there is a human element included here in graph form but unfortunately but obviously this is not part of the ASBV protocol. Some will say what's the point of a sire that's YCFW 30, YSL 15, YWT 10.9 and YFAT when he has a propensity to throw ... bad hocks! And be alarmed, there's plenty highly ranked sires on the charts that can do exactly that!

The following graph captured the classer's thoughts/classing that is based on a summarised Tops/Culls scenario which is made up of every visual trait possible followed by a simple Top Flock Cull grade with Sire Evaluation trials. (Five grades with MLP classing). To find out just why animal has been up/down graded there is an extension of the graph which comes with that site's booklet.

That top left hand corner of Figure 3. Is exactly where you wanna be which is in the High Tops/Low Culls quadrant. Depending on preference here but there are probably three standouts here that the Classer thought highly of. (Remember this is a blind classing where all sire progeny groups are coded as not to interfere with any possible bias.)

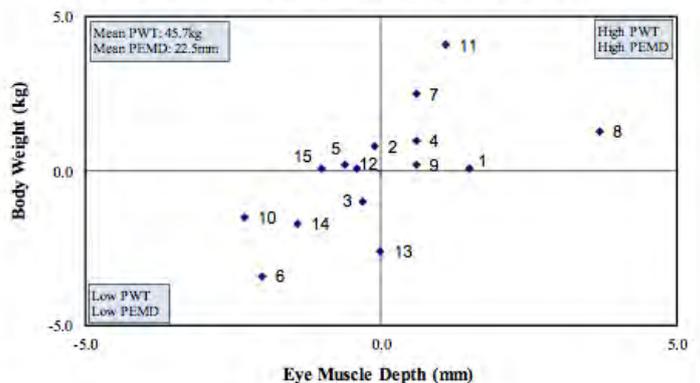
Sire 5 - Gullengamble 120018 and Sire 4 - GRASS Me-rino 122190 are standouts for Low Cull% .

Sire 15 - Willandra Poll 140030 fits in well with High Tops leader and does well in the Low Cull area as well. Remember this guy features well in a few other trait graphs as well so an attractive proposition all 'round except for EMD.

No point in disguising it but there was a serious structural leg issue with one sire in the wrong box which had a huge impact on his classing result.

Also interesting to note that Sire 11 - Trigger Vale Poll 140477 featured well in the classer's visual only tops/culls despite his lack of fleece weight and high micron yet not forgetting his EMD/FAT was super positive. Let's look at the driver behind the classer's decision as to ascertain what was behind this decision making.

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

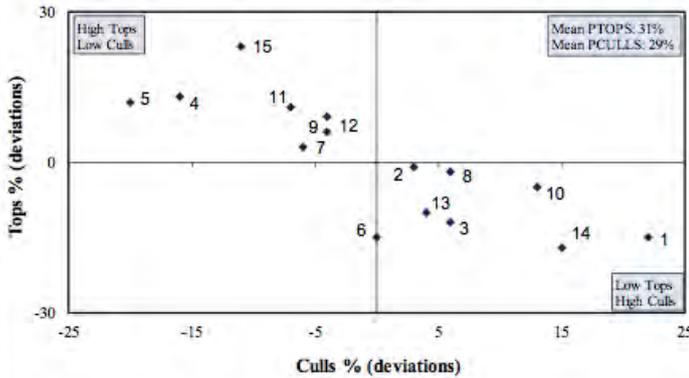


This probably answers the question within one graph - Figure 7! To see these ewes in the race on a comparison basis it's hard not to admire them for early growth, carcass attributes and plain bodies without any skin issues. This classer classed similarly to me within the same Evaluation.

As part of the ongoing MLP analysis there is a side project named 'Wells Classing Trial' due to the fella who instigated it, Graham Wells. Two independent classer's, aside from the standard professional classing by a single classer, are compared on their findings between sire groups. I'm lucky to be one of those over three sites and usually with Chris Bowman - Hay NSW at Harrow Vic., Trangie

My comments on the Sire 11 included descriptions like 'suitable to environment with growth', 'great staple length', 'possibly drier', 'meat machines', 'lighter points = fertility', 'fertility plus' and 'top 30% (visually compared to all groups). These comments typify these high for FAT/EMD and now the added body weight as an advantage. These animals and others of similar ilk including the Moojepin variety get there quicker for growth yet the big question is that fleece weight quandry.

Figure 3. Classer's Visual Grade: Tops and Culls



There is a strong trend within the industry of high FAT/EMD progeny bred from the same are losing fleece weight proportionally more than their 0.0 counterparts. One of the sires here has a YCFW 17 yet ACFW 8 which typifies these animals unfortunately.

Now's the time to add a great quote by the wizard amongst the MLP/Sire Evaluation cauldron, Ben Swain who let this roll off the tongue with some email correspondence. So good is he with his thoughts that he often makes me consider that school actual-

ly was a good thing and that I could have tried just that little bit harder!

"The relationship between YCFW and ACFW is thought to be pretty strong. I think SG have the correlation somewhere are 0.4. Which is high. Problem I see here is that Merinos aren't Merinos and I reckon that the correlation varies on the type of Merino you deal with. The same can be said for all traits and their correlations with each other. That's why the diversity of types in the MLP project is so important to try and tease those differences out and perhaps in the future treat the types differently, or at the very least be aware of the limit-tions of treating all types the same."

Many of the studs invited to participate in MLP trials especially are done so due to some of their sires exhibiting traits that the industry needs to know more about. The Triggervale, Moojepin and Hazeldean type sires in this trial just for starters are trait leaders and need to be explored for the betterment of the industry.

Their progeny will be assessed over eight years to see what appears over a ewe's lifetime. This can only improve the accuracies of all data submitted thus making genetic forecasting an easier chore. This is the core thrust of all MLP sites. Another from Ben...

"Doesn't that just show us that the early maturing types (with high YFAT) that come out of the gates fast for all traits (including fleece weight) run out of steam and the slow types catch them up and will eventually go past them for fleece weight? By the time those ewes are 5 years old, my expectation is that they will be way behind for lifetime fleece production, however will have raised a lot more lambs that are worth more money at the yearling age. You can't have it all Bill! Not yet anyway."

MERINO ASBV's - 50% DECILE or NATIONAL AVERAGES 10th JULY'18

	PWT	YWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	YFD	YSL	YSS	YWEC	MP+	DP+
50% DECILE	2.3	3.7	0.2	0.0	12.1	-1.1	6.2	0.5	-12	134	134

"The debate about the value of maternal traits like growth, fat and muscle in a Merino breeding program seems to be becoming focused on their possible negative relationship with fleece weight. I would love to know why so many people love to highlight this relatively weak correlation but are very quick in dismissing the negative relationship of GFW with Number of Lambs Weaned (NLW).

Like so many other varying opinions and methods of breeding this complexed animal so much is dependant on what "lens" you are viewing the situation from. If you are of the opinion that the best way of improving Merino profitability is by driving wool cut per head then your breeding objective with a heavy weighting on GFW traits will reflect this. If you have the view that that the Merino ewe is more than just a wool producing factory and have a breeding objective of a purpose built dual purpose Maternal animal you will place a lot higher value on early growth, fat and muscle.

This approach places more emphasis on fertility (particularly lamb survival) carcass value and potentially operating in a

lower cost environment while maintaining wool cuts to drive profits.

Like most of these discussions somewhere there is a balance of these traits which offer the optimal sweet spot. The challenge to stud breeders and advisers is to be fully aware of the heritability and correlations of all traits involved in breeding a ethically sound profitable Merino."

Andrew Bouffler - Principal - Trigger Vale

CLASSINGS CLASSIC '18

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd 2018 AT 1.30pm

Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

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Lot	Tag	Mic	S.D.	C.V.	%>30u	
(S) 7	160307	19.4	3	15.4	0.4	
	Sire	GFW%	BWT	EMD	FAT	
	WP243	(127)	(112)	38	3.5	
Ycfw	Yfd	Ysl	Ywt	Yfat	Yemd	DP+
(17.4)	-1.2	6.3	4	-0	0.7 ✓	151 ✓
Buyer				S. Schneider \$ 3600		

With a better understanding of ASBV's there is a lot more information to be had and documented for ram sale catalogues. Rams-gate stud elects to offer fleece weight expressed in both forms. In the pictured figure, Tag 160307's greasy fleece weight at 127% suggests 27% above his peers on the property at March shearing. The ASBV figure of YCFW of 17.4 shown here suggests that at that very moment in time when the percentile graph had the average YCFW across the nation sitting at 11.8, this fella was 5.6% above the national average.

But remember that the ewe is half the genetics here so read this bit carefully - grab that 17.4 YCFW and consider that this ram will contribute 1/2 of his genetics to the progeny and the ewe the other half. So this figure needs to be halved as well (17.4 halved) which means that this fella will throw progeny 8.7% above a ram that sits at 0.0. - OR he will throw 2.8% above the national average. (1/2 of 5.6% as mentioned considering ewe input.) This process is the same with every trait involved in the ASBV system.

The micron stats on the top row are in real time taken just prior to the August sale but notice the Yfd column on the bottom row. The national average at that very time for ASBV for micron was -1.2 putting this bloke dead on that very line. It suggests that you wouldn't buy this ram for reducing micron but maintaining it - but as a slight lifter for carcasse traits.

The EMD and FAT result is not an ASBV but the actual measured result from muscle scanning.

Coincidentally the YSL (yearling staple length) ASBV was sitting right on 6.3 which at that time was also the national average as was YWT (yearling bodyweight) at 4.0 as this ram was. Yemd was sitting at 0.3 at that time putting this bloke at 0.4 above considering his 0.7 result. The important thing to notice here is that although the ram physically weighed in at 112 Kg's which was a top end weight on the day, due to his pedigree he will only throw national average body weights due to his YWT 4.0.

The DP+ or Dual Purpose Index which is biased toward growth figures shows this fella at 151 which at that time was well above the national average of 135.1. This figure may well be on the top side of things due to the better than average YEMD figure which is an important figure with the DP+ Index.

The rest of the scribble is my own hieroglyphics with circled pen number suggesting something very good, a square representing a great stance at the backend and the greater-than sign my version for a lighter head. The small 's' in a circle a hope of who I wanted to buy the ram for and the S. Schneider \$3,600 suggesting I did and the price being the sale topper for the day!



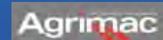
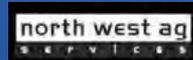
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CLASSINGS CLASSIC 2017

Murray Bridge Racecourse S.A.

OFFERED 71 SOLD 67 - TOP \$21,000 - AVERAGE \$5,142



With the wool/meat market doing all the right things there was little doubt that the 2017 Classic sale was going to be anything but a ripper which luckily for my conscience is exactly how things panned out!

The sale's record average in its sixteen year existence without a huge spiking top price was all due to the high quality of the poll merinos penned combined with the pre mentioned market status.

The great fibre then was sitting around EMI 1300c which was rewarding enough yet now in hindsight was only gurgling along compared to now where it sits 700+ clean cents higher! Our clients cull ewe hoggets were on the verge of making in the range of \$220-\$270 per unit and the Wood Brothers USA produced the record of the year!

Prior to the sale and a very important part of the structure in holding such an event was the generous sponsorship from Thomas Foods International, Quality Wool, Rod's Stock Blocks and Breed Elite Sheep/Smart Draft and Weigh. This combined with 'per pen entry fee' from all supporting studs ensures a professional looking and successful day.

*After a very successful day out at Classic'16 due to an \$11,000 sale to Calcookara SA, Graham and Susan Coddington's **Coddington Poll** headlined Classic'17 with two polls. The first of the day, 164212, was snapped up by Nantoura Poll SA for a mere \$5,000 suggesting the punters were caught napping*

even as the sale was in its infancy! I can still visualise the smirk on Chris Prime's dial even hours later!

*Both of the **Kamora Park - Karoonda SA** polls had been tested to have the double poll gene included and were both bred by KP 333 which sold for good dough to North Cowie a few years back in Adelaide. He in turn was bred by Kamora Park sire KP 304, renowned for measured dual purpose attributes.*



Both rams sold well yet could have raised a bit more competition I thought as both were outstanding animals. The first, 160353, sold to Seymour Park W.A. for \$4,000 - a well proportioned animal with good figures to match at MP+ 154 including YCFW 24.4 & YWT 7.8 - 20.4u 2.6sd & 12.7cv.

Possibly the bargain of the day was picked by Craig Rule - Wirulla SA with the second, 160200, making \$3,000. When I selected the four original Classic entries at the Boughens, 160200 was a top contender and I was very happy to have him included in the sale - MP+ 156 including YCFW 25.4 & YWT 7.2 and a great struc-



ture and backend made for one happy Craig at that price.

***Gunallo - Pinnaroo SA** has had incredible success at all of the Classic's they've entered including topping the averages for three years. Classic'17 was no different although their team did produce some good pickups for commercial clients as well as studs.*

Three of the seven Gunallo's were bred by Ridgway 721 (x L858), the ram that the Schroeders bought from Ridgway at Classic'15 for \$17,000. (YCFW 26.0 & YWT 8.8 & ET bred by L858). The first 160152 a double poll, sold to Angus McLachlan's, Rosebank - Mt. Pleasant S.A. for a casual \$14,000. Outstanding all round figures and a hulk of a stretchy animal there was a lot of bidding competition. YCFW 24.4 & YWT 7.8 & YSL 14.4 combined with real time figures of 18.5u 2.8sd 15.1cv added to the drawcard.

For reasons out of any studs control, Gunallo's second entry had to be withdrawn due to an outbreak of scabby mouth which cosmetically wasn't the greatest of looks! This bloke was later sold to Peter Gilbertson - Lameroo SA for \$7,000.

Chris Houghton - Nyngan NSW bought the actual second Gunallo ram on the day for a screaming R721 son 160151, another double poll with everything right about him for \$12,000. MP+ 154 YWT 7.7 YCFW 20.1 & YSL 12.1 at 17.9u suggests a bit of excitement down the track with progeny results I'd say.

I'm always there to secure rams in case they don't make their worth which was the case for Gunallo's third 160516 and bred by Leahcim 2039 at only \$2,000. I handballed him onto Grant Wageknecht as I did two rams later from the same sire for \$3,000.

Two tremendous polls that were snatched while most were still admiring the first two rams sold. In between these two was another R721 son 160223 with a YCFW 21.1 that sold to the Schenscher boys from Naracoorte SA for \$9,000 and another double poll gene recipient.

Bevan & Cindy Siviour - Cowell S.A. were always fans of the Gunallo sire Lus-tre 55 (x KP37) that sold to two W.A. studs at possibly Classic'14. One son graced the Classic 160722 was class and the Siviours snapped him up for \$3,000 with the typical Classic quality figures of 19.3u 2.7sd 14.0cv & 0.0.

Gunallo's last 160647 and yet another double poll with MP+ 159 including YCFW 24.6 and top fibre was snavelled by Karawatha Park for a paltry \$3,500.



Answering to the general call for fleece weight improvement by the masses, the two **Glenlea Park - Pinnaroo S.A.** were not typical of previous Classic entries. The pair were bred by Poll Boonooke 3.0040 (x W/Park 'Real Deal') and were loaded with density and nourishment yet still pushed out staple length that made them highly sort after.

The first 160129 with a top 5% percentile for YCFW of 26.2 and YWT of 6.8 and a double poll fetched \$15,000 from long time mate and stud supporter Will Lynch's Boorana Vic. Wool density and a productive skin, this guy should be the perfect match for all of the GP004 progeny that feature across the Boorana flock!

Just as productive, the second from Glenlea Park 160709 with YCFW 26.1, YWT 5.2 & 155 MP+ and once again productive with bold crimp and density went to O'Brien Poll - Kyancutta again for \$15,000.

I look forward to progeny results from these two sires as I'll say very carefully that neither would have been considered for previous Classic sales yet there's a pressing demand from the general populous that more density is required and that's exactly what they got yet there was a lot to like about these two sires. Most of our clientele can handle these types of animals due to conscious efforts in wiping pin wrinkle off the map over the last two decades.

After a great debut in 2016 from **Terrick West - Prairie Vic**, the McGauchie family played it safe and entered two snorters into Classic'17 with instant success.

Their first M34084 and bred by TW3.381 (Sold to Old Ashrose for \$10,000 somewhere) took the eye of many due to his presence and perfectly set backend crashed its way to a near sale high of \$18,000 and sold to new clients, Chalarra - Badgingarra W.A. He had a body weight of 140kg, EMD of 46 and 7.1mm FAT! Peter Wilkinson and livestock agent Greg Wooten were very rigorous in their hunt on the day and narrowed a team down to this one fella.

Terrick's second M34098 sold to John Lamb Pastoral for \$13,000 and bred by Coddington Poll 135034 that incidentally also sired Coddington's Lot 1 on the day. Great figures on both Terrick West rams with this guy showing 18.8u 2.7sd 14.4cv & 0.1.

David, Karen and Dev Ridgway's **Ridgway Advance - Bordertown S.A.** had yet another capitalising outing at Classic'17 selling eleven from twelve in their first draft to a top of \$16,000 for Y017 bred by RA 202 and sold to John Lamb Pastoral NSW for \$16,000.



A sensationally fibred first pen, and bred by the same 202 sire, Y095 took the eye of the Gunallo clan and was snapped up for \$12,000 with the outstanding figures of 18.7u 2.4sd 12.8cv & 0.1pf.

Long time supporters, the David Farr family from Wunkar S.A. were probably surprised to pick up the third in the line-up W325 for a mere \$3,500 after the first two pens sold for \$12,000 & \$16,000! He was bred by my favourite RA sire at the minute RA80 who must head the list of all time greats for siring the most rams sold at this prestigious stud! The Farr's also did well in picking up the sixth in the line-up for \$2,000 and bred by RA80.

Stuart Croft - Hamilton Vic., who paid \$30,000 for the top Classic Gunallo ram three years ago chipped in and bought

two goodies from the Ridgways Y428 for \$5,000 & Y066 at \$6,000 and both bred by RA80.

Damien Trethewey - Parndana K.I. latched on to a RA202 son for \$2,500 to boost his home ram breeding program which is travelling very well.

At lot 25 Graham Coddington turned to me mid bidding and asked what I thought of a great RA80 son Y074! Naturally I replied by suggesting he was the best ram I'd ever seen in my career and had the whiteness that he would be used to! He was always going to buy him of course and at a very realistic \$3,500 what could go wrong!

The Houghtons from Nyngan NSW picked up a very good \$2,000 flocky, the Pritchard clan with a well figured equivalent (17.5u 2.6sd 15.2cv & 0.0pf) for \$3,500 and Netallie Station - Wilcannia NSW another ripper to add to their consignment that I'd picked up throughout the year for \$1,500.

Ridgway - Lamerook S.A. had a solid day and sold their first 160386 to new clients Bevan and Cindy Siviour - Cowell S.A. for \$4,000 and bred by Ridgway sire R660 (x L858) - MP+ 155 and YCFW 20.5 and 18.2u 2.7sd 14.8cv 0.3pf a bonus.

A great example of a poll ram, 160494, loaded with nourishment and density backed up with a YCFW 26.0 took the eye of Bert and Dion Woolford - Karawatha S.A. as they secured the fourth in the Ridgway lineup for \$4,500. As a matter of interest 160494 cut 5kg's at weaner shearing putting him at 120% GFW within the flock and backing up the excellent YCFW.

The Miles family outlaid \$3,500 for a Wilera 20 bred son, 160324 with YCFW 23.3 and Altus Pastoral - Lamerook SA bought a very good R985 son 160155 with YCFW 21.6 for \$3,000.

The Johnson family's Mt. Boothby - Tintinara S.A. snapped up the last 160536 for \$2,000 coated with the elite stuff backed up with typical Classic type figures of 18.0u 2.7sd 15.0cv & 0.2pf.

The Johnsons are great supporters of the wool industry and have a top notch flock over several properties around Tintinara.

Due to the procurement of top end genetics mainly from three studs, SWM, Ridgway and Ramsgate and at realistic budgets the quality here is first rate and always a great viewing day for this classer!



As I'm writing this report it's not hard to pickup on the fact that this entire sale is not only pen filled with some of the best genetics in the country, stud by stud and pen by pen. All this is supported by some of the best frames, real time test figures as well as sort after ASBV's particularly concerning fleece weight which is generally high on the list with the vendor and obviously the punter.

Let's look at that Karawatha purchase again from the Ridgway Classic'17 team. His fleece weight ASBV was the second highest in the catalogue at 26.0 which put him in the top 5% in the nation for ASBV'S at that very time. Now note the exclusive real time test results: 18.6u 2.9sd 15.6cv & 0.5pf taken just prior to the sale.

You couldn't breed a stud animal of size and fleece weight with those kind of figures twenty years ago. Eighteen micron of which we aspired, was reserved for little two year old rams with jowls up to their eyeballs and tight horns at the Hamilton Ram Sale. Only due to an exciting wool market is a tiny eighteen micron sheep worth anything at all at the minute.



It confounds me that there would be a rogue agent out there in this very state that would be critical of Classic sales due to lack of fleece weight and 'full of light cutters' when figures mentioned through-out this sale report and other On Property versions are all centred on that very critical trait!

Its a fine balance yet I believe that all of the studs of which we are associated as classers and/or advisors have this one conquered. Due to this guy's total lack of yard, paddock and more importantly genetical experience his understanding of the fine line between too much fleece weight of incorrect density and suint versus lambing percentage is blatantly non-existent.

Intriguing to view one of his sourced genetics for clients which has influenced many of our studs to a point over the years! At the right moment he will be challenged face to face for some concrete evidence as to back his claims.

Righteo there's my bitch for this section!

A \$13,000 sale to Rice's Creek S.A. I think would be safe to say is a Classic record for **Roemahkita - Cummins S.A.** and a ram very much worthy of the accolade. 160126, A.I. bred by Kamora Park 304 and full of density and the right stuff for nourishment with his YCFW being the highest for the whole catalogue at 29.3.

A double polled, RO66449 bred son 160324 selling for \$5,000 with MP+ 151, completed the Roemahkita lineup selling to the most faithful of the Dahlitz's clients, the Baines Brothers from the 'Coast. 19.1u 2.6sd 13.6cv 0.3 and typical of what this mob are used to.

A 'Mercinary' bred son 160363 from **Orrie Cowie - Warooka S.A.** was one of two that sold at Classic'17 which I bought on behalf of Mark Baldock - Kimba S.A. who unfortunately couldn't make the sale. One instruction was to buy one of the best in the sale of which I believe.. I did! \$5,000 ensured there was a bit of com-petition for him due to his fleece weight potential, structure and general presence.

Two long time supporters of **Flairdale - Cookes Plains S.A.** Jeff Burgess - Gulnare S.A. and Graeme Buchanan - Karoonda S.A. lent there valuable support and snapped up the two rams on offer.

The first 160224 to Jeff was a W/Park 130132 bred ball tearer for \$5,000 with a MP+ of 156 with amazing real time figures unheard of at this stud or probably anyone else's in S.A. twenty years ago 18.2u 2.3sd 12.6cv & 0.2pf and YCFW 18.6.

More great figures attached to the second on offer 160467 sold for \$2,000 to Graham for a pen filling hooer! 17.9u 2.6sd 14.3cv & 0.4pf makes me realise just how far this joint has evolved from its typical S.A. strong wool background yet maintained everything structurally that we've always appreciated from the Lehmann styled animal for the last hundred years!

Woodoona - Karoonda S.A. entered two meaty Moorundie styled polls, finer crimped than typical Classic entries yet staple length and density very acceptable.

Their first 160347 was bought by PPHS Pinnaroo S.A. for \$2,000 and the second, 160366 to Classing's client Damien Trethewey - Parndana S.A. at a realistic for both parties, \$2,750.



The two **Forest Springs - Joel Joel Vic.** polls entered backed up the excellent debut from the year previous. The first 160294, a Gunallo 'Bond 007' ripper selling for a buyers bargain of \$1,500 deserved better competition. Pepper-well's Hansi Graetz has a great eye for stock particularly the meat component aspect and he was happy with a \$3,000 outlay for a thug 160552 which was a rewarding price for a upcoming stud in the scheme of things.

O'Brien Poll - Kyancutta S.A. had a very rewarding Poll Merino sale in 2017 at the Wudinna Showground and the two selected for the Classic epitomised just why! The two entries were the pick of the crop with the first 160366 selling to Skyder Farms - Kyancutta S.A. for \$2,000 bred by purchased Glenlea Park sire 140580 with YSL 12.0 putting him into the top 20% nationally for staple length.

A syndicate bred ram 160657 created even more interest selling to Rob Copping - Lucindale S.A. for a rewarding \$3,000 with a YCFW 18.5. Both rams exhibited crimp and staple length which is a staple of any Classic sale.

Similar to any other year **Borong - Wai-kerie S.A.** entered three snorters that deserved every cent they earned this young stud on the day.

I bought two 160006 & 160008 for \$2,000 & \$3,000 for long time supporter, Critter and Bec Freeman - Penong S.A. to even further enhance one of the best commercial flocks on the 'Coast. Entries from this flock continue to top rank the Charra Hogget Competition annually.

Both rams were bred by Gunallo 'Sandilands 067' of which stud principal Brenton Kroehn procured at Classic'15 for \$10,000. That figure has slid to the background now in lieu of what this bloke produced in sales for 2017.

Chris Houghton bought the third 160091, a Borung Syndicate bred poll for \$2,000 which added to the excellent quality picked up throughout the year for his Nyngan N.S.W property. Great figures added to the appeal: 19.2u 2.8sd 14.4cv & 0.2pf.

Ramsgate - Tintinara S.A. had their deserved best year at Classic'17 entering two of their best and ranked well and truly into the top echelon of the whole sale! Tim Grosser, principal of Narcoota - Eudunda S.A. was met with some competition before he secured Ramsgate's first for \$5,000. One of the best fibred rams of the day, 160197 had some outstanding figures to match. YCFW 19.2 YWT 6.3 MP+ 155 backed up with some real times at 18.3u 3.0sd 16.3cv 0.4pf add GFW% 120 (on property) and the sire? Gunallo 'Bond 007'.

Damien Trethewey - Parndana K.I. purchased his second poll for the day 160336 at the Ramsgate siding and picked up an inherently bold crimping Brookdale 12 son for \$3,500 with YCFW 18.7 & YSL 11.7 both traits in the top 20% in the nation.

Brookdale 12 is a direct son of L858 and bought at the Esperance sale for a sale record \$5,000 by Ramsgate and sold on by Westwood Poll - Cascade W.A. principled by Scott and Odile Welke.

Ridgway Advance - Bordertown S.A. is such a huge supporter of Classic sales and breed more rams initially than most studs that they can afford to put more into a sale like the Classic and still maintain an excellent standard. Their second

draft was split away from the first as not to totally dominate early pens with sheer numbers alone.

Other than a healthy reserve and hence a pass on their first ram penned in this second lineup they sold very well without the absolute highs included in the first consignment yet the average was



Long time Eudunda supporter, Peter Mosey bought the official first ram B006 sold bred by L858 son RA082 for \$5,500 with the outstanding real time figures of 17.4u 2.8sd 16.4cv & 0.2pf with fibre su-



The second OR021 went to a new appreciative-of-the-genetics customer Graham and Susan Coddington who bought their second Ridgway Advance poll for a Woodoona 445 bred white wool and elite type crimp at 18.6u. Trevor Gameau - near Cummins S.A. bought another B025 from the same sire and same description for \$2,000 with the excellent figures of 18.0u 2.8sd 15.8cv 0.2pf and added the last of the lineup to his cache at \$2,000 for a well woolled RA202 son.

By the way that sire Woodoona 445 was stolen from Woodoona's display at the Karoonda Merino Field Day in 2015 for not enough by an opportunistic David Ridgway who possibly picked up the ram of the year for ...not much!

That son of L858, RA082 bred another king in the next pen and sold for \$4,000 to new kid on the block, Forest Springs - Joel Joel Vic with the typical excellent RA figures of 17.9u 2.7sd 14.9cv & 0.2pf.

Ramsgate - Tintinara S.A. after their own success had a bit of extra dosh in



the pocket to pick up a \$3,500 special, W400 from the Advance pens and bred by RA120.

PPHS - Pinnaroo S.A. bought a good flocky for \$1,500 as did Netallie Station - Wilcannia NSW for the same bucks.

Brad Pauley - Kojonup W.A. came over from the West for a break and a squiz and couldn't help himself and latched onto a free skinned beauty Y168 to compliment his Brookdale based flock for \$2,000.

At this stage the sale was under full flight with great rewards to all studs involved including those that were new to the Classic arena. The next effort continued the trend...

The year that Kev Hynam of **Hynam Poll - Longwood Vic.** gave me two of his best was the year for the ultimate reward which in Classic'17 he succeeded!

A \$12,000 sale to Calcookara - Cowell S.A. for a justly named 'Big Kev' son 160787 was the jackpot that I was hoping would eventuate for Kev and Tracey at some stage. So a thumping great thing with huge staple length and the figures of 17.5u 2.9sd 16.6cv & 0.4 was just the ticket - double poll as well! No slouch but second in the lineup was a H/Poll bred son 160588 that sold to O'Brien Poll - Kyancutta S.A. for \$4,000 with excellent credentials including a great structured frame and backend.

Penrose - Cascade W.A. needed a couple of good prices for their two entries to consider a return to Classic'18 and I think we snuck that desire in with both rams selling well to Butch & Jodie Dunn - Penong S.A. at \$3,000 & \$2,000 - both bred by a Leahcim purchase 132464 in 2014. Both polls 60386 & 160442 filled the pen due to great frames combined with su-perb staple length and crimp definition.

Bruce and Trudy Pengilly of Penrose followed their giant effort in 2016 in leaving W.A. the day prior to the sale and driving

straight through to drop the rams directly into the sale pens!! As an added bonus for Butch and Jodie, the rams were dropped off at the front gate near Penong a few days later on the Pengilly's return back to W.A.!!

Lucernbrae - Callington S.A. received their second highest price ever at Classic'17 at \$7,000 only eclipsed by a \$9,000 effort quite a few years back for a horned ram that the local Helyar family bought.

Astute judge Scott Nichol森 liked what he saw with the second GRN032 in the Lucernbrae lineup, a Gunallo 026 (Classic purchase by SWS for \$hitloads and son of Gunallo 'Pride') son with everything attached that's great about the Merino! He was subsequently displayed at the Sohnic On Property sale a few weeks later and still looked as good as the day he was purchased.



Another 026 son GRN055 sold to Dean Pearson - Murray Bridge S.A. for \$2,000 and a steal at that only because the crowd were still enjoying the success of the previously sold top seller and not concentrating! This bloke possibly had the best real time figures of the whole sale if not all sales anywhere last year! Try these... 17.2u 2.1sd 12.4cv 0.0pf!

Kym and Michelle Thiele - Pompoota S.A. bought the first of the lineup, PNK1642 to kick start the next bloke up to \$7,000 but only had to outlay \$2,000 for their pick!

Sohnic - Marnoo Vic. was yet another travelling from afar enterprise to have a great day selling their three 'best wool' entries with ease. The first 160806 selling to RK Hunt - Bordertown S.A. for a cool \$4,000 and bred by Sohnic 31236 (x GP380) at 20.1u 3.0sd 14.8cv & 0.0pf.



Graeme Carter near Nhill Vic. (I think) for \$3,250 and the last 160422 for \$2,500 to Merino genetics appreciator, Andrew Mitchell - Mintaro S.A. bred by Sohnic 964. His real time figures of 18.0u 2.9sd 15.9cv & 0.2 typify what the skins on this stud are like.

There's something about those Sohnic wools that are nearly stand alone compared to many other compatriots. Some of the boldest crimped wools you could

ever see yet attached to some of the finest microns you thought possible! That's correct merino skin breeding at its most classic!

I'm going to create a story about the last ram sold in the sale in another segment but the Classic'17 'Wild Card' just happened to top the whole day at an impressive \$21,000 and bred by **White River - Poochera S.A.**

There's some irony involved with the sire's sire and how the whole selection process at Bendigo Sheep Show but I'll leave that until later in this publication.

WR 558 bred by JC&S 135 (x JC&S Premier 102!) was the pick ram of the sale for lots of reasons - great structure and stretch, upright on all fours, with a clean muzzle, and a silky fibre and pro-ductive skin not typical for this stud. It would be

too easy to succumb to the comment, "a one off ...beware", yet the added bonus was the pedigree of the mother which is familiar to our style of breeding.

A blur now but I think there was a flurry of bidding initially and then got down to one aggressive dual. Argentina Export in one corner and the mighty Superior Wool Syndicate in the other of whom was the final victor at the mentioned \$21,000, the Classic'18 sale topper right down in pen 73 due to the studs debut at the sale.

The Argentinian consortium had seen the ram at Brecon Breeders A.I. centre at Keith prior to the sale.

Over 100 registered buyers from S.A., NSW, Vic. and W.A. attended the sale with the crowd numbers appearing to be not that far off of the year previous which included Day 1 of the World Merino In-sight.

It's only now with the revisiting of the catalogue seven months later that I'd forgotten just how good a sale it actually was. I thank every supporting stud and even more so the excitable crowd and purchasers that make the day a total success. This year's ambition though is a total clearance!

Thanks for the hand setting up the sale Sammy Walker and to you Rose for the same plus all of those hidden extras that help make this sale a corker!



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CLASSIC SALE TOPPER: WHITE RIVER 558

A story of a \$21,000 Classic Wild Card.

- by John Daniell - Principal

In January 2017 we identified ram lamb 558 as having a very 'lively' deep crimped rich wool. He had a safe fault free body, not a thumper, not a huge cutter but given our genetic background we gave him a big tick and added him to our reserve rams mob.

558 was shorn tagged and made good progress, just missing our team for the Hay Sheep Show. Improving all the time (remembering he joined the Reserves later) 558 imposed himself as one of the more illustrious members of the Reserves around about Bendigo Showtime. We felt with that wool and correct body he was a must to be part of our display. We figured his ideal pose was in a single pen as part of a four single pen display of our On Property Sale Rams."

Within a couple of hours of our Bendigo display Peter Wallis - Glenlea Park S.A. then Brad Schroeder - Gunallo S.A. both said the ideal market place for 558 would be at the Classings Classic Sale. Then Bill Walker inspected the ram and asked if we would consider offering the ram in his Classic sale.

In the meantime a Western Australian stud breeder enquired if we would consider selling the ram privately. He gave us an hour to think about it. I told Bill we were considering putting a price on the ram for the WA party. Not to be discouraged Bill suggested the ram would sell very well in his sale.

A \$15,000 offer on the ram was offered but we had decided to offer the ram at the Classic sale and decided to stick with that. A couple weeks after Bendigo, 558 and another ram, 546, journeyed to Brecon Breeders - Keith S.A. for semen collecting - the idea being if a syndicate purchased him (which they did), we would have semen on hand for them (and us).

Whilst in the AI centre an Argentinian stud breeder inspected the ram and a few nights later, through an interpret-

er friend, made an offer which started at \$12,000 and progressed to \$15,000. We politely declined the offer as we stated we had already committed the ram to the Classings Classic Sale. We brought 558 home for a couple weeks before the sale and quite frankly wondered if we needed our 'head read' as they say.

Well along comes sale day, 558 was the last ram offered - there was a bid around the \$15,000 mark and I wondered if that was the WA bloke, the Argentinian stud was in it to \$20,000 but the Superior Wool Syndicate (SWS) bought the ram for \$21,000, a record for a White River Poll.

So there you go!

(footnote - Penrose Poll W.A. (a semen share in 558 with SWS) have sent me a photo of his lambs - most impressive and looks like we shouldn't have sold him after all!)



CLASSIC 2017 SALE SUMMARY

(APPROXIMATE 2018 SALE ORDER)

STUD	OFFERED	SOLD	TOP	AVERAGE
WHITE RIVER	1	1	\$21,000	\$21,000
TERRICK WEST	2	2	\$18,000	\$15,500
GLENLEA PARK	2	2	\$15,000	\$15,000
ROEMAHKITA	2	2	\$13,000	\$9,000
HYNAM POLL	2	2	\$12,000	\$8,000
GUNALLO	7	7	\$14,000	\$6,642
CODDINGTON POLL	2	1	\$5,000	\$5,000
ORRIE COWIE	2	1	\$5,000	\$5,000
RAMSGATE	2	2	\$5,000	\$4,250
RIDGWAY ADVANCE	22	20	\$16,000	\$4,225
LUCERNBRAE	3	3	\$7,000	\$3,666
FLAIRDALE	2	2	\$5,000	\$3,500
KAMORA PARK	2	2	\$4,000	\$3,500
RIDGWAY	6	5	\$4,500	\$3,400
SOHNIC	3	3	\$4,000	\$3,250
O'BRIEN POLL	2	2	\$3,000	\$2,500
PENROSE	2	2	\$3,000	\$2,500
WOODOONA	2	2	\$2,750	\$2,375
BORUNG	3	3	\$3,000	\$2,333
FOREST SPRINGS	2	2	\$3,000	\$2,250

RIDGWAY ADVANCE

On Property '17 - Bordertown S.A.

OFFERED 100 SOLD 95 - AVERAGE \$2,247 - TOP \$6,800

GENETICS: RA080, RA 704, RA 082, RA120, RA230, RA388, RA086, RA202, GUNALLO 007, WOODOONA 445.



Without exaggeration I believe that Ridgway Advance field the best woolled and supple skinned polled rams in the state for any stud that sells around one hundred pens. Other studs including those of which we support, may possibly have slightly larger framed animals yet may possibly lack the depth for genuine fibre quality right down to the last pen. There is now now a very important facet of this burgeoning industry again - micron! In the same mouthful though the stud's real time EMD and Fat figures rank with the best nationally - now its time I believe for this clan to upload their years of data to that greater data-base!

The large list of home bred sires above suggests that this stud now has the satisfaction of having the ability to bypass outside genetics for awhile and rely on now proven sires within their own enterprise to heavily influence their own stud sale. (Although David and Dev did do a bit of shopping in 2017!)

A \$4,600 start for a RA704 thumper really set-up the first row for top sales and selling to long time, top end supporter Senior Park - Bordertown S.A.

Jim Rathjen - Birdwood S.A. doesn't cause too much fracas when going through the RA catalogue on sale morning and even whilst bidding yet it's only until sale completion that you realise that he's bought around sixteen quality rams and at the same time puts a huge floor in the sale.

He bought two RASyn bred rams within the first ten pens both at \$3,000 the first at 112 Kg's. I liked his Gun007 selection at pen 22 at 18.2u 2.8sd 15.6cv & 0.2 with a silk like fibre coating!

Gerald Woitd - Yumali S.A. was eager early and bought two beauties within the first eight pens.

A Gunallo 'Bond 007' lot three at \$4,800 led the way with EMD 45 and FAT 5 at 112 Kg's. I won't rave about all of the wool figures but this bloke at 18.5u 2.7sd 14.6cv & 0.0 is typical of all RA figures no matter what sale they're involve with! His second purchase in pen eight but this time bred by Ram Lamb Syn, hit the \$5,000 mark and was equally as good in the fibre and frame stakes though EMD 46 this time!

The David Farr family from Wunkar S.A. out-laid the top bucks at \$6,800 for lot 13 that only just stood out as being the best of the day considering the high quality surrounds! 17.4u 2.7sd 15.3cv & 0.6 with EMD 44, FAT 5 & BWt 112 Kg's on a great structured frame and elite fibre certainly created top end competition. He was bred by homey RA388. The Farr's added another goody at lot 73 at \$2,400 for a RA704 son with superb figures.

The Browns from Wolseley Vic. averaged over \$2,000 to pick up their six purchases including a very good RA704 son for \$2,400 in lot 61.

The familiar NSW names were present from previous outings led by the Turner clan from Murrulebale who latched onto eight to average over \$2,000 along with Keith Mudford - Gilgandra who bought around six

The Hallums started their collection early at pen 11 for an outstanding Gun 'Bond' son for \$3,400 at EMD 41 and 113 Kg's. I think they ended up with five or so and were great support throughout.

While we're on discussion with that 'Bond'

sire (of which the Ridgway's had a share in with Ramsgate and was bought at Classic'15 for \$30,000) he also bred an outstanding pen 37 with EMD 44, FAT 7 and BWt 114 that was bought by local Murray Bridge entity Wayne Schenke for \$2,500. His mate Dean Pearson also bought well at lot 14 for \$2,800 with typical outstanding figures of 18.6u 2.7sd 14.6cv & 0.0pf for a RA388 progeny as well as lot 63 for \$3,200 for similar stats - all wools on these three rams were as good as it gets for lustre and boldness.

Kev Hynam - Hynam Poll Vic., bought lot 93 after a short dual with me on memory and it's a ram I wish I'd kept going further for with Nantoura Poll in mind. EMD 44 FAT 6 at 113 Kg's, the boldest of crimp.....

I had some good orders for the day where clients couldn't make the sale and have total trust in their classer! Picked up seven for Stevens Farming to average around \$1,000 to add to a non mulesed collection over a number of sales for their enterprise in Seymour Vic.

Trevor and Craig Gameau, regular Roemah-kita buyers were caught a bit short at that sale and overflowed into this one to add another couple to a high quality collection. A Wood 445 son was the first at \$2,000 followed by a RA080 son for a flukey \$1,500 yet a top animal from my favourite RA sire.

Bought a Gun 007 son for Rob Germein - Port Vincent in lot 5 for \$2,000 at 109 Kg's.

Stuart and Jenny Schneider - Grenfell NSW left me an order for top end rams from any stud that I saw fit which is very appropriate with the Advance sale. First off the rank was lot 12 for \$3,200 for a RA230 bred poll at 19.2u 2.9sd 15.1cv & 0.4pf and covered in high density elite fibre. A well made Syn bred for \$3,200 followed in pen 16 and was highly ranked for all things visual. At lot 62 yet the quality still of high calibre I secured the third for \$2,200 at EMD 43 FAT 6 and bred by RA409.

Lot 64 had a thumping 114 Kg EMD 42 thug penned with the boldest crimp in the catalogue at 18.9u and the squarest of backends which I bought for Nantoura for a measly \$1,600. Lucernbrae were short of a couple of flock workers which was easy to rectify here as was a flock ram pickup for Butch and Jody Dunn - Penong S.A. for a classic RA ram at pen 88 for \$1,800.

The Long, McPherson, Carter, Marsson, Nankivell, Dahlitz, McGorrie, Hall, Grocke, Gregurke and Malibu P/C were all on hand to help support yet another high profile sale with over fifty registered buyers which was ten up on the year before.

2018 SALE: WEDNESDAY AUGUST 15th.

SA SIRE EVALUATION TRIAL KEYNETON STATION S.A.

2018 Classing Assessment. (2017 drop)

The first classing of the SA Sire Evaluation occurred on the 28th of May this year at Keyneton Station - Keyneton S.A. All sire progeny groups were represented with handy numbers - 553 total - despite an average A.I. result across the board. The range over all sire groups was 23 to 47 progeny at an average of 35.

Around 900 Keyneton 2.5/3.5 year old ewes were originally selected as the base ewe for this trial with no culls or 'studs' present - just a good flock ewe base. These ewes were A.I.'d in January 2017, dropped in June '17 and assessed as described here at the end of May '18 as 11 month old hoggets.

I was rapt to be invited to class this year's group especially considering that we haven't had an official Sire Evaluation trial in this state since Rosebank - Mt. Pleasant hosted one in the mid to late 90's.

Sixteen studs from SA and three from NSW were represented at classing where all EID tag numbers had absolutely no sequence or correlation to the ewes/wether progeny classed. This is very important as to not bias the classer and volunteers on the day into a favoured direction!

2017 SIREs

Collinsville Poll 135111
Flairdale Poll 150078
Greenfields Poll 140345
Gunallo Poll 140007
Hamilton Run 150600
Hazeldean 004936
Hilton Heath 14Y447
Kelvale 150120
Leahcim Poll 152775
Malleetech Poll 155180
Mumblebone 130850
Pepper Well Poll 005227
Poll Boonoke 150026
Ridgway Advance 150103
Ridgway Poll 140721
Roemahkita 150092

Around 550 progeny were put up the race at random, firstly being side sampled which were immediately sent away for micron, yield, length and strength testing via AWTA with results hopefully back prior to the Field Day organised for June 22nd. The last station was the body weighing, fat and eye muscle scanning performed by Rachel Chirgwin - Advanced Livestock Services.



Between the two stations and mid race was where the classing of all progeny took place. The very able Jackson Adams (Uni of Adelaide & MLA - Livestock Consulting Intern), Matt Lehmann (Flairdale Poll) and Sophie Nuske (Student at Cleve Area School and work experience with us in July) were all on hand for pushing the next animal up for assessment, data recording of 10 classing traits/final grade as well as keeping me in line!

As was the case state wide due to lack of moisture and subsequent low feed quantity/quality, most stock including the Keyneton trial animals were in a maintaining condition and by no means fat.

On a scoring system of 1-5 for five wool and four conformation traits as well as a top, flock & cull class it meant for a solid day in the race by day's end - close to dark actually!

Wool trait scores included Fleece Rot, Wool Colour, Wool Character, Dust Penetration and Staple Structure and on the body trait side of things, Face Cover, Jaw, Legs/Feet/Hocks, and a visual comment added for any other notable problems.

A final grade was added indicating Tops which I classed as stock that I would in-

clude in an A.I. program, Flocks which were run of the mill and the average of the day and Culls for the obvious.

At days end 90 (16%) progeny made the Top group, 272 progeny into Flocks (49%) and 191 (35%) made the Cull grade.

The range protocol set by AMSEA as follows:

- Tops 3% - 37%
- Flocks 33% - 67%
- Culls 17% - 52%



It needs to be underlined that although there are sixteen studs represented, there are sixteen sires' progeny stats represented here as well and should one of these be total dud once all information is mustered, this might not necessarily represent typical results from that said stud.

These are all relatively young sires (eight 2015 drops) and at times not totally proven as opposed to some other trials where there is a safety first aspect which sometimes includes ye ol' safe favourite who may have a proven record!

There are no actual winners or losers yet it's a win win for all entrants, volunteers and the wool/meat growing public who access information as possible direction



markers for future decisions.

Bottom end results if any are erased from the memory yet there is a bonus should there be an superstar amongst the group as a chance for possible semen sales.

I've classed two progeny groups at Balmoral Vic., and as an extension to the MLP classings also 'Wells' classed Trangie and Temora NSW and despite all of the progeny represented by so many sires there is not one, all trait standout. Subsequently there is no absolute 'shocker' result down the other end of the scale that invades this memory!



Full credit needs to be acknowledged to all entrants who regard the trial as a collector of evidence as to march on with a certain genetic.. or not. Add to this the fee of \$3,000 per entry and the appreciation only grows!

All of this information will be available at the Field Day which would have been completed by the time you read this. I would not have the authority as to foreclose information right here and can only mention a few percentage type figures.

One progeny result worthy of mention at this stage from the classing exercise was

one sire excelling to be second highest for percentage classed tops (33%) and the very lowest for culling percentage. (17%).

Naturally once all measurement figures are tallied after testing and shearing (September) he may not excel or be as noticeable as opposed to his high ranking classing rating.

The most frustrating yet effective part of the day is not knowing one iota just which sire group's progeny you are classing! As with all classing anywhere there were some absolute crackers on the day followed by the village mongrel!

All classed tops had above average staple length with density, fluid nourishment and softness. Square backends were essential - some potential 'top' animals with exquisite fibre were relegated to flock and even culled due to poor backend performance! Looking forward to checking out who the sire was of tag #764 who was the pick of the day to most of us in the classing area.

I'm a firm believer that the poor hock trait is highly heritable and needs immediate attention nationally. Due to the obvious, much needed sway toward the poll genetic especially in the last decade, a few things fell by the wayside unfortunately and poor rear-end design is one of them in my eyes. There was no escaping that sword at this trial!

Subsequently culls ranged from back end issues, harsh fibre, over tight skins producing unacceptable short fibre and muffy faces. There was the odd bad shoulder which were automatic culls. Absent generally though was any abundance of colour,

water stain or fleece rot. There was the odd animal that had been affected by dermatitis early in their careers which didn't necessarily deem them as automatic culls. One such animal could have been the sheep of the day had it not been for the slight hint of dermatitis post lamb shearing.

Across the board there was an abundance of white wools which I believe is a testament to the philosophies of the host enterprise!

This quality 'ewe' base made it easy for top end wool genetics to express itself without distortion from an 'ill woolled' flock!

I think it's very important to acknowledge those who volunteered for the day - away from their own properties as to make this debut trial a professional success. At the top of the tree I think has to be the hosts - the Keynes clan. Although they are not required to be part of the A.I., classing, ewe selection, data recording etc. they, naturally due to their makeup, can't help but be part of the work force even when not required!

Obviously in no order of merit - Wayne and Matt Lehmann, Stephen Kellock, Hansi Graetz, Darren O'Brien (all the way from Kyancutta for the day!!) Sophie Nuske (try Sheringa near Elliston!), Jackson Adams, Rachel Chirgwin, Roger Fiebig, Anna Cameron, Steven Lee and as mentioned all members of the Keynes family deserve trophies!!

Classer's Grade

Breeders flock, Sire number	Progeny No	YTOPS (%)	YCULLS (%)
Collinsville Poll, 135111	34	-7	-11
Flairdale Poll, 150078	28	-2	-4
Greenfields Poll, 140345	23	-5	18
Gunallo Poll, 140007	42	0	8
Hamilton Run, 150600	35	-10	-4
Hazeldean, 13,4936	29	-7	3
Hilton Heath, 14Y447	40	-4	10
Kelvale Poll, 150120	46	9	-3
Leahcim Poll, 152775	36	13	-10
Malleetech Poll, 155180	34	-11	8
Mumblebone, 130850	35	18	-18
Pepper Well Poll, 155227	36	-5	-7
Poll Boonoke, 150026	33	-13	17
Ridgway Advance, 150103	24	21	-6
Ridgway Poll, 140721	38	10	-11
Roemahita, 150092	33	-7	10



SIRE EVALUATION

TRIAL

FIELD DAY 22nd June 2018

- WOOL TEST ASSESSMENT
- MEAT SCORE ASSESSMENT
- CLASSING RESULTS

The first Sire Evaluation Trial in S.A. since 2002 had created a lot of interest amongst the merino wool-growing fraternity as well as associated service providers.

Estimates ranged from 150-170 attendees at the Field Day on the 22nd June which reflects the state of the industry with our great fibre market at an all time high closely followed by a more than respectable meat extravaganza! All this whilst this state and most of the nation is amongst its



I personally haven't seen a crowd like it for a merino information day since the Turretfield Demonstration days a while back.

By ten o'clock all sixteen sire progeny were penned with all real time objective measured data, Flock Breeding Values, Classing, Breech Scores and Birth Type on pen cards.

Remembering that all of the progeny that I classed were done randomly up the race initially so it was intriguing to see all sire groups penned on the day to see how things matched up.

No need for me to blurb on about the actual results where the following summaries are easy to follow.

The Wool, Body Weight and Carcase results are, "...adjusted for birth and rear type, age of dam and age of measurement." MERINO SUPERIOR SIREs

FBV's were expressed on the day due to shearing still to follow in September and that's when all data will be collated and migrated into Australian Sheep Breeding Values.

Sire: Ridgway Advance, 150103

Birth Type	
Singles	Twins
16	8

Yearling Classing	
Tops	Culls
21	-6

Breech Traits	
BWR	BCOV
1.0	3.5

Adjusted Sire Means	YFD (um)	YFDCV (%)	YSL (mm)	YSS (NKtex)	WWT (kg)	YWT (kg)	YEMD (mm)	YFAT (mm)
	15.6	18.4	64.8	29.6	25.3	35.0	22.8	2.3
Drop Average	15.4	19.1	60.7	32.3	25.0	32.1	22.0	2.2

Flock Breeding Values	YFD (um)	YFDCV (%)	YSL (mm)	YSS (NKtex)	WWT (kg)	YWT (kg)	YEMD (mm)	YFAT (mm)
	0.3	-0.9	6.6	-3.4	0.8	5.9	1.4	0.6

Flock Breeding Values are used to express data within flock only, in this case amongst the sixteen sire's worth of progeny exhibited. They account for, "...the association between traits, the heritability of the trait and non-genetic affects such as birth and rear type, sex and the number of progeny a sire has in this analysis." MERINO SUPERIOR SIREs

See Figure 1 shown above representing one of the entrants in this year's Sire Evaluation.

I think this is self explanatory with the darker shaded numbers suggesting trait leaders ie. that 5.9 YWT shading was the actual highest recorded over sixteen sires.

His realtime actual body weight with progeny at 35kg naturally saw him trait leader as well and 2.9kg above the flock average. (see drop average)

The 21 tops figure in the yearling classing section suggests that when classed, the amount of tops from this sire was 21% above the average mean of the group and was another trait leader in this area.

The Birth Type box indicates two subtotals showing 16 of the progeny were singles and eight of the progeny were twins totalling twenty four. The twin category represented by the 8 number is often confused as eight sets of twins totalling sixteen progeny but this is not the case.

This sire's progeny also excelled with staple length with a 4.1mm advantage to the average of the group and a trait leader at FBV 6.6 for YSL.

His progeny were also trait leaders for Breech Wrinkle or BWR.

Figures 2 & 3 complete the full picture

with all sixteen sire's worth of progeny displayed. It must be stressed that all entrants enter a sire that they are keen to explore for possible future directions more than 'knock the rest of the field off and win' type caper. There are sires represented here with medio-cre results compared to another from the same stud that are tearing it up in other evaluations.

Generally I find that within months of a trial's completion the talk generally is what happened up at the top end as opposed to the other.

Many eyes would have been trained on the Mumblebone 130850 result here with many of his traits leading or in top end territory. This sire has also faired reasonably well in the Balmoral trial run at Tulooona-Harrow Vic.

Not exactly the trait leader for micron reduction yet his leading YEMD, YFAT, YWT & YSL (FBV) numbers indicate great growth and carcass and interesting to note his (-) .01 WWT yet blooming to near trait leader for YWT!

A trusty trend graph would hint there would be a tendency for lower fleece weight with figures like this but there are dots on that curve....

ASBV's for YCFW have him sitting pretty well bang on average for the nation.

Those YEMD & YFAT leading traits see his best results I believe in any sire evaluation which should be a boost to his numbers on the ASBV charts yet to the detriment of other sire groups in this trial.

As a rule of thumb the lower Eye and Fat results suggest fleece weight gains so it will be of huge interest to all to see just how the fleece weight component will compare

2017 Drop – Adjusted Sire Means

Fig. 2

Wool, Weight and Carcase Results

Breeders flock, Sire number	YFD (um)	YFDCV (%)	YSL (mm)	YSS (Nktx)	WWT (kg)	YWT (kg)	YEMD (mm)	YFAT (mm)
Collinsville Poll, 135111	15.3	19.4	59.0	26.6	24.7	32.7	21.8	2.2
Flairdale Poll, 150078	15.0	19.7	58.6	37.9	24.4	30.3	21.2	2.0
Greenfields Poll, 140345	15.2	19.5	57.1	37.5	24.8	29.5	22.9	2.3
Gunallo Poll, 140007	14.9	19.4	58.7	28.7	24.6	31.2	21.3	2.2
Hamilton Run, 150600	16.1	19.5	61.3	29.5	25.1	32.6	21.9	2.3
Hazeldean, 13.4936	14.7	19.4	60.7	32.2	24.5	30.5	22.0	2.1
Hilton Heath, 14Y447	15.6	20.2	59.2	33.2	24.8	32.6	22.0	2.2
Kelvale Poll, 150120	15.6	19.4	65.0	32.4	25.2	32.4	22.5	2.2
Leahcim Poll, 152775	15.1	17.8	58.8	30.7	25.8	33.3	22.2	2.2
Malleetech Poll, 155180	15.8	18.6	64.9	38.8	26.1	31.8	21.8	2.3
Mumblebone, 130850	16.1	18.4	65.8	32.4	24.8	32.9	23.0	2.4
Pepper Well Poll, 155227	15.8	18.3	61.4	29.6	23.6	32.8	22.9	2.3
Poll Boonoke, 150026	15.5	20.0	58.7	29.0	25.9	32.4	21.3	2.2
Ridgway Advance, 150103	15.6	18.4	64.8	29.6	25.3	35.0	22.8	2.3
Ridgway Poll, 140721	15.2	18.0	61.3	31.6	25.7	32.9	21.1	2.1
Roemahkita, 150092	14.9	19.7	55.9	37.1	24.7	30.8	21.4	2.0
Average	15.4	19.1	60.7	32.3	25.0	32.1	22.0	2.2

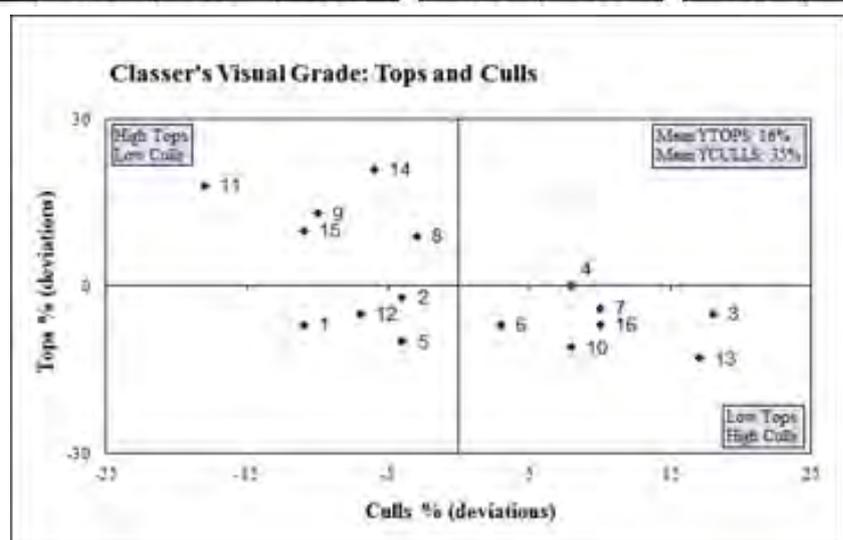
2017 Drop – Flock Breeding Values

Fig. 3

Wool, Weight and Carcase Results

Breeders flock, Sire number	Progeny No	YFD (um)	YFDCV (%)	YSL (mm)	YSS (Nktx)	WWT (kg)	YWT (kg)	YEMD (mm)	YFAT (mm)
Collinsville Poll, 135111	34	-0.2	0.6	-2.8	-7.7	-0.5	1.6	-0.3	-0.1
Flairdale Poll, 150078	28	-0.7	0.9	-3.2	7.0	-1.1	-3.9	-1.8	-1.6
Greenfields Poll, 140345	23	-0.4	0.3	-5.4	6.3	-0.6	-6.1	1.6	0.5
Gunallo Poll, 140007	42	-1.0	0.6	-3.2	-5.3	-0.9	-2.3	-1.5	0.0
Hamilton Run, 150600	35	1.4	0.6	1.2	-3.3	0.4	1.5	-0.1	0.9
Hazeldean, 13.4936	29	-1.4	0.5	-0.3	-0.3	-1.1	-3.8	-0.1	-0.4
Hilton Heath, 14Y447	40	0.5	1.8	-2.5	0.4	-0.2	1.7	0.0	-0.2
Kelvale Poll, 150120	46	0.4	0.4	6.8	-0.1	0.4	0.8	1.1	0.1
Leahcim Poll, 152775	36	-0.6	-1.9	-2.6	-2.0	1.4	2.7	0.5	0.1
Malleetech Poll, 155180	34	0.7	-1.0	6.1	9.8	1.7	-1.1	-0.2	0.6
Mumblebone, 130850	35	1.4	-1.2	8.3	0.6	-0.1	2.0	2.1	1.3
Pepper Well Poll, 155227	36	0.8	-1.2	1.2	-3.1	-2.0	1.6	1.8	0.8
Poll Boonoke, 150026	33	0.2	1.4	-3.5	-4.8	1.4	0.8	-1.4	-0.3
Ridgway Advance, 150103	24	0.3	-0.9	6.6	-3.4	0.8	5.9	1.4	0.6
Ridgway Poll, 140721	38	-0.4	-1.6	1.1	-0.6	1.2	1.7	-1.7	-0.7
Roemahkita, 150092	33	-1.0	0.8	-7.8	6.3	-0.6	-2.9	-1.4	-1.7

Sire code	Breeders flock, Sire number
1	Collinsville Poll, 135111
2	Flairdale Poll, 150078
3	Greenfields Poll, 140345
4	Gunallo Poll, 140007
5	Hamilton Run, 150600
6	Hazeldean, 13.4936
7	Hilton Heath, 14Y447
8	Kelvale Poll, 150120
9	Leahcim Poll, 152775
10	Malleetech Poll, 155180
11	Mumblebone, 130850
12	Pepper Well Poll, 155227
13	Poll Boonoke, 150026
14	Ridgway Advance, 150103
15	Ridgway Poll, 140721
16	Roemahkita, 150092



**SIRE EVALUATION TRIAL
2018 A.I Program for 2019
Assessment**

2018 SIRES

MUMBLEBONE 160418
LUCERNBRAE 160010
WALLALOO PARK 161514
GUNALLO 160473
CHALLARA 140394
TUCKWOOD 161069
FLAIRDALE 150078
LEAHCIM 132624
NYOWEE 14356250
KELVALE 160088
ROEMAHKITA 160256
HAZELDEAN 153368
HILTON HEATH 150817
MALLEETECH 166048
COLLINSVILLE 160508
RADNOR 150078

The Keynes family offered their property and selected ewes for two years worth of progeny assessment.

With things running smoothly with the 2017 A.I. program and subsequent 2018 management events (classing, scanning etc), nominations were called for entrants to participate with the 2018 A.I. with assessment similar to the pre mentioned to eventuate in 2019.

Due to the entry fee and the threats involved with 'losing the trial!' participants don't exactly queue or fall out of the woodwork to be part of trials in S.A.!

I put this down to the 'newness' of Sire Evaluation in this state whilst elsewhere there is almost a queue to be part of them!



With our involvement with interstate trials it is a process of elimination to narrow the team down to something manageable with a few disgruntled potential 'customers' hoping for a better outcome the following joining!

The volunteer help for the 2018 A.I. program was overwhelming yet there's a pattern developing where familiar faces keep reappearing....

Over 900 ewes were once again A.I.'d to 16 new sires - 12 from S.A., 2 from NSW, 1 from Victoria and one from W.A.

Marg Trowbridge and the Brecon crew again performed the A.I. admirably considering the heat which was bit testy over the two days (40 degrees plus) for those who en-dured both.

Zooming right along and with the 2018



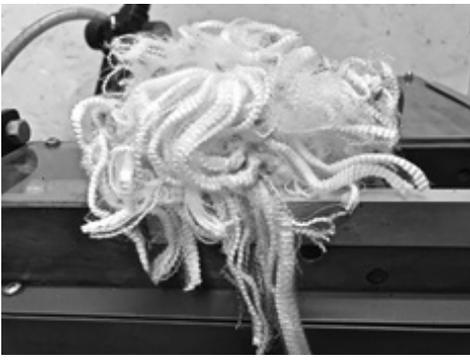
joining results on the deck suggesting there was yet another mediocre lambing result yet by no means disastrous.

The 2017 A.I. joining was also performed amongst high temperatures and serious humidity with similar average result.

Just sayin'....



Special thanks to AMSEA for the generation and use of all displayed graphs and Figures.



With the wool market going berserk there's no surprise that our Laboratory followed suit. We had an extremely busy February/March with unprecedented ram/ewe hogget test results emailed daily.

The accelerating take-up of ASBV'S where, to improve the accuracy of the data entered to Sheepgenetics, the ewe portion adds its weight and at last has lifted to prominence to any sire information - half to be precise!

Due to an extremely long dry summer with a rain around Christmas the only drop for some, yields have been hit for six with many submissions 5-10% that of the corresponding submission last year.

Also noticeable is more colour along the staple which I believe is the effect of the said dust leaving its 'stain' as a memory of a poor run. Another unproven is the effect of grass seed toward a more canary yellow along the fibre. Some of the worst examples for that bright yellow are samples that contain grass seed.

There appears to be a consolidation of that wonder figure Standard Deviation. Many progressive studs who experience huge lambing percentages yet a tad on the lighter side for fleece weight were typically in the range of 2.5-2.9. Now with the tools genetically to enhance density without losing fleece weight, staple length and lambing rights that figure might now average 3.0.

Don't worry though, there are still huge cutters with an SD under that figure but there is a high accuracy trend graph that suggests this 2.0-2.5's generally don't cut it for FW!



To affirm to SA Merino that I am actually capable of promoting an excellent ram that is slated for the Adelaide Ram Sale from a stud client of ours I'd like to introduce you to Flairdale 170070 bred by Poll Boonoke 150026. (Entered in SA Sire Evaluation) Structure and fibre density, quality and whiteness with bold crimp with excellent ASBV's and real time figures head the long list of positives!

YWT 10.1, YCFW 22.4, MP+ 166, DP+ 171 with real times of 18.3u 2.9sd 15.8cv & 0.2pf sees this bloke a better prospect than his father!

The mother more importantly was Flairdale 140303 that two generations back sees a Wallaloo Park grandfather in WP 070779 that Wayne Lehmann bought at the Wallaloo Park On Property sale way back in 2008 for \$10,500.

This poll could have easily slotted into the Classic'18 elite sale team and I'm not sure why I gave in with my persistence to make sure that eventuated dammit!

You may like his pen mate better due to his tank like proportions! Check your local guides!



The Lehmann family's Flairdale Poll - Cooke's Plains S.A. has hit the jackpot this year with a multitude of top end rams filling not only Adelaide and Classic pens but also deep into the On Property lineup.

This guy is 170555, the double copy poll I raved about at the February first stage classing and also made famous on the Classing: In the Race and Classic Ram Sale page on FB.

He's on his way back up the charts again due to a serious check after a possible knock or big time guts ache! He was shorn later to help him on his way and now looking close to peak condition again in readiness for Classic'18.

Bred by Wallaloo Park 130132 which the Lehmann's bought for not enough at Classic'14, '555' comes to the forefront for fibre quality exactness. White, bold and silky he handles every bit of his 17.7u 2.8sd 15.8cv & 0.3pf. 150218 is the mum and she was bred by Flairdale 110020 who continues to fill sale pens up with quality animals.

YCFW of 19.5 sits just perfectly with a supple skin like this and he would be the perfect ram to fix up a lot of skin and pin wrinkle issues that appear to be creeping back into the fold around the traps!

Rams like this without the excess and expense of too high ASBV's for fleece weight which are often cull magnets are those that have little waste and capable of breeding high amounts of tops and low cull ratios.



CLASSINGS CLASSIC '18
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd 2018 AT 1.30pm
Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

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GUNALLO

On Property Sale - Pinnaroo S.A.

OFFERED 96 SOLD 96 - AVERAGE \$1,808 - TOP \$6,100

GENETICS: GUNALLO 'LUSTRE' 055, 'PRIDE' 008, 374 (x WP717) 'BOND' 007 (x KP37), 088 (x KP37), 016 (x KP37), 067 (sold \$10,000), 343 (x GUN 'LUSTRE'), 938 (x KP37), RIDGWAY 140721 (CLASSIC'15 \$17,000), MPK NE8 A.I, LEAHCIM 2918, LEAHCIM 2039.



Always hard in reporting a very successful on property sale as to who leads the way - the guy who forms the rock of the sale in buying 26 rams or the enterprise that spends the most spondoolee or the top priced effort at \$6,100!

Lyndon and Amy Brewis from Willaura Vic. should still be on their Gunallo sponsored holiday to Greece due to their 'floor' in the auction of eighteen polls at nearly \$1,500 average and another eight in the selection pens post sale. They began their collection at lot 9 at \$2,400 for a 112 Kg thumper.

Top price at \$6,100 for a 'Bond 007' bred ripper in lot 1 went to the Smith clan - Tara Downs - Wentworth NSW to no doubt be used as a ram breeder to influence a large station like flock. Try these figures: 18.0u 2.3sd 12.8cv & 0.3pf. A good sidekick added to their first purchase at lot 18 for a R721 twin raised poll with figures that were nearly better!

That quality collector, Peter Gilbertson - Lameroo S.A. bought one of the sale's best at lot 2 for \$3,200 and bred by Gunallo 374. You can just picture what the fibre was like at 17.2u 2.7sd 15.7cv & 0.5.

Right next to that at lot 3 was a 113Kg ox with great density and coated in the elite gear that I bought for Chris Horton - Murrwarra - Nynagan NSW for \$5,000. Chris through the Schroeder family asked me to keep an eye out for one of the best and the outcome was positive! Bred by Gunallo Lustre 055 he also had the

amazing figures of 17.3u 2.8sd 16.2cv & 0.3pf. **Stuart Everett** - Lone Gum - Crystal Brook S.A. after the huge success of his last Gunallo purchase decided to load up and bought four potential sires at the On Property in fear that the Classic'17 team on display might create more Classic records!

A Leahcim 2039 bred at 16.2u exhibiting the prized fibre on a perfect for structure frame made \$3,600 and began Stewy's collection. This was followed by a Ridgway 721 bred stretchy poll with all of the pre mentioned at 20.1u 2.8sd 13.9cv and \$3,800. Two Gunallo 374 bred flock rams were added to complete the quad.

Stuart and Gavin Brophy - Tintinara S.A. enjoy the Gunallo genetic and were back again and latched onto a 'Pride' son first up at \$3,000 in pen 5 with typical good Schroeder type measurements: 18.8u 2.9sd 15.3cv 0.4 at 108 Kg and added another two pens later for \$2,800 and bred by Gun 938.

The David Farr clan - Wunkar S.A. were in early and know that stretching the budget equates to long term better results as noted with their annual off shear results with surplus stock sales.

A 'Lustre' son with bold crisp and density and 106 Kg... hang on that was supposed to be crimp but I'm liking crisp, at \$4,000 was first up followed by a \$3,400 pickup at lot 11 and bred by Gun 374 at 107Kg and their last, a rip-



per twin in lot 51 are by the stud's super star purchase way back, Kamora Park 37.

Marra Farms - Netherby S.A. were at their usual supporting best by grabbing eight including a Leahcim 2039 in lot 17 for \$2,200.

Other volume purchases were ol' mate Russell Dabinett with five as did Amerylla Props, and the McArthurs with six.

Craig and Jenny Smith - Yanac Vic. and M & D Rowe were good value to the stud with a fourteen ram haul between them with the Smiths averaging \$1,200.

There is support from my area with two Gunallo supporters of quite a few years, Wayne and Graham Schenke and Glen Richards of Murray Bridge S.A. buying three each. Glen secured lot 14 and bred by the Ridgway sire for \$2,600 was loaded with all good merino traits. From the same father was lot 43 and bought by Wayne for \$2,800 for a ram just as good with that excellent numbers of: 17.8u 2.6sd and 0.2pf at 100Kg.

There were also a lot of single purchases of very high calibre as well. Michael Altus would be happy with a lot 4 \$3,400 pickup bred by Leahcim 190 at 108Kg as would my mates the Mark Chadwick clan near Edenhope with their 'Pride' son, a twin at 108Kg for \$2,000. Add to that list a Duane Simon - McPiggery S.A. pickup at lot 16 for \$2,400 and a Leahcim 2039.

I may have picked up the bargain of all time with a lot 65 screamer out of the paddock for \$800! Bred by R721 with the longest staple in the shed and fibre exoticville he was not in great fettle on the day (80kg) but I thought there was huge potential should he pick up at a later stage. A nice bonus was the text from the new owner, Stuart and Jenny Schneider - Closeburn Partnership to say he cut very well at 7.2 kg and hope like hell he picks up!

Also bought another paddock ram for Aston Station - Pooncarie NSW for \$1,500 and bred by the legend KPk 37.

Neil Wormald (2), Jock Krause (4), Dodson, Marsson, Bennier, Marrett, Atze, Eisen, Sheldon, Thiel, Day, Daniel and Fos Downs all supported well to ensure yet another successful Gunallo sale.

2018 DATE: THURSDAY AUGUST 30th

IS THE MERINO MODEL FIT FOR THE FUTURE?

- by Robert Hermann - Mercado - Expert Market Analysis

I stumbled across this article while reading Matthew Coddington's - Rose-ville Park current Newsletter and thought it was very worthy of an inclusion in this year's Cullings. Have a glance and tell me this ain't you!!

Fortunately this story doesn't tie up with most of our stud clients who are now active and progressive in breeding animals of commercial reality and not the show ring. Of over twenty stud clients of which our company is engaged as Classers, over two thirds are now active with Sheepgenetics tackling ASBV's head on.

The initial Classings Classic ram sale at the Murray Bridge Racecourse in 2002 penned fifty rams of which half were out of the paddock. On 2003 not one was from the paddock due to the necessity to 'pamper to be compared' scenario. This concept now exists in all multi vendor sales for the same reason including the Classic sales.

Many of these polished rams though are not ribbon savvy but highly traited ASBV figured poll rams that are polished purely for sale and competition. You can't gloss an average ram into something spectacular so there is nothing to hide here.

Gunallo's first ram at Classic'17 sold to Angus McLachlan's Rosebank for \$14,000 - great ASBV pedigree as well his 'on the run' stats: YCFW 24.5 YWT 7.8 YSL 14.4 MP+ 153 @ 18.5u 2.8sd 15.1cv 0.1pf. He was no show winner but an important piece of genetic particle to further the industry into the top right/left corner of those beautiful quad graphs!

All Classic selections are rigorous to the point of addressing issues that piss PETA off including mulesing - they're gonna get us in the end!

Most are looked after via sheltering and specific diets from March/April to be sold August/September so five months might be an average. A law is broken when animals are shedded from one year to the next but many are forced into this due to the ill timing of some Merino Field Days with all fingers pointing at the most guilty of all - Burra. In March - of all months!! This can only encourage forced feeding of immense proportions competing with animals raised in a no bugs, copper induced environ. 40 plus EMD ain't natural for young sheep that time of year either!

"While progress in the Merino Stud industry is occurring, it is a long way off the pace of dairy, pork & chicken. Prime lambs are also seemingly moving quicker in identifying and using the sires and bloodlines that will provide assured genetic improvement.

Genomics, EBV's and ASBV's all rely on performance recording and data analysis. It seems that in the Merino industry equal weight is given to "soft" or non-measured characteristics; that is things that are not directly related to financial returns.

At public ram sales, the well-fed rams create an environment where all participants feel the need to fatten rams prior to sale so as not to look out of place, potentially masking other problems. This tends to diminish the focus on important productivity traits like fleece weight, micron, and reproductive capacity including lamb survival.

Merino studs are the largest influence on the commercial merino industry, providing most of the genetics. The large number and diverse quality of studs is causing a fragmented approach to overall industry improvement. Still, many Merino studs are purchasing sires based on subjective assessment. The industry has a legacy of rams purchased as the "next impact sire" failing to perform and then disappearing when the progeny arrives.

Consideration needs to be made of constructing breeding collectives, where the objectives are clear and agreed, and the scale of the operation allows the appropriate funding to push genetic gain for the designated commercial aspects to be maximised.

Greater certainty of the breeding outcome will encourage more AI & ET use, and with a larger spread of the right "impact" sires, the industry overall will advance at a faster rate.

Can the Merino double production of fleece weight in the next twenty years? Can it lift by 50% lamb survival? Can it produce wether lambs of 20kg CWT at 6-month-old? These could be some of the challenges brought within reach if science and data become the holy grails of Merino breeding.

This article won't endear me to my many

long-term friends and acquaintances in the merino stud industry, to give credit though they are some of the most committed and passionate sheep breeders you could meet, and there are innovators amongst the ex-isting stud masters.

However, the industry has dramatically changed since the heady days of big merino sheep numbers, and by consequence big merino ram sales.

To make the Merino great again, it's time we reviewed the method of supplying genetic improvement to the Merino industry.

It is a different time; gone are the days when the show ring or the experienced eye was sufficient for selecting future sires. Ram breeding needs a science based approach to compete with the persistent challenges from cropping and prime lamb production for traditional Merino acres.

But most importantly the stud system needs to modernise if the Merino is to find the continuous improvement needed to prosper into the future. To compete with other farming alternatives, Merino sheep will need to embrace the science of genomics to generate the required improvement to retain the wool industries place in rural Australia."

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CLASSINGS CLASSIC '18
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd 2018 AT 1.30pm
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NANTOURA

On Property Sale - Wharminda S.A.

OFFERED 70 SOLD 69 - AVERAGE \$2,201 - TOP \$4,100

GENETICS: NANTOURA 130085, 130113, 14025, LEAHCIM 132009, 142654, 142973, GLENLEA PARK 013377, SOHNIC 007



Oh yeah right - a record \$2,201 average and a record top of \$4,100 with only one passed out of seventy offered and throw in the fact that there were 19 individual buyers of the 21 that registered - how come?!

Sure the wool market was at a historical best and meat was just as strong but things are really on the up at Nantoura - so much so that even more established traditional studs could take a few notes!

In my view its the broaching of new genetics, ideas and technology, non mulesing, no horns and ASBV's that has seen this stud ascend yearly.

So who's the hero on sale day? The bloke who spends and tops the sale and adds another couple to lend great support or the enterprises that volume purchase and put the perfect floor in the sale to make

sure the momentum stays at equal keel throughout?

Doesn't matter really but it saved me from launching into the top priced fella straight up! Jeff Biggs - Westwud - Wudinna S.A. deserves the holiday with the missus for eight weeks in the Bahamas including drinks for his huge support in latching onto three of the best on the day.

Jeff bought lot 1 at \$3,300 and bred by GP377 with YCFW 15.3 with a huge stretch of carcass but it was a Leahcim 2009 lot 9 that received all of the attention. With all 'round attractions for staple length YSL 13.2, bold crimp, density YCFW 15.5 and silk like qualities on a massive YWT 7.3 frame he epitomised dual purpose. His third pickup in lot 18 at \$2,800 completed a great looking team.

Tim Ottens - Wharminda S.A. hopped in early with some moral support from a close associate and bought a screaming Nantoura bred beeeuty with the second poll offered at \$3,000. Bred by Nantoura 130085 at YWT 6.5 this bloke can only enhance one of the best commercial flocks in the county! Tim's second at lot 5 for \$2,700, bred by Leahcim 2973 with a YCFW 16.9 and actual GFW 110% was just as exciting for crimp and quality on a body length that's not common in the merino industry.

Tim's last at \$1,600 didn't look any less for quality than the first two pickups and try this for some good numbers for fleece: YCFW 15.9 yet GFW% 131! Bred by Nantoura 130013.

Locals Ed, Caroline and Evan Hunt are appreciators of the Nantoura's for lots of reasons so lot 7 at \$3,200 made sense. Quality crimped fibre, a boof and bred by Leahcim 2009 bidding competition was assured! YCFW 16.4 & realtime GFW 114% & MP+ 148 ensures safety with fleece weight improvement.

Their second and bred by GP377 at \$3,000 didn't disappoint with the last at lot 31 for \$2,600 with a YWT 6.0 completed a great batch.

I had an ongoing order from Stevens Farming - Seymour NSW to pick up rams that suited his non mulesed criteria with rams of quality. Starting at pen 29 for a Nantoura 130113 with YCFW 17.2 & YSL 12.6 at \$1,800 yet averaging just over \$1,000 at days end including 7 selections and eight by auction it's a reminder of just how deep the quality is here.

John Sampson - Kimba S.A. starting at lot 4 at \$3,100 and averaging just about the same picked up seven at sale's end. I liked his lot 11 \$3,200 pickup by the Sohnic sire showing great fibre traits but it was a great syndicate bred lot 36 for \$2,800 that let us all know this guy knew what quality was all about. Due to the syndicate breeding the ram's accuracies were low yet real time figures may have sug-gested otherwise due to his visual attraction.

Paul Jones - Bengor Props - Melrose S.A. was just as important to the sale that he rocked up with a net of six rams. His lot 14 pickup at \$2,000 was one of the days bargains especially considering his density backed up with YCFW 16.1. Lot 57 at YCFW 16.2 & 12.2 YSL and \$2,000 was a good find especially so late in the sale where at most sales things get a tad bit average!

Darren and Fiona Millard - Wharmin-da S.A., Pfitzner Farming - Butler Tanks S.A., and David Newton - Tumby Bay S.A. bought sixteen rams between them with a lot 32 at \$2,500 bought by Mark Pfitzner one of the picks - Sohnic bred at 16.9 YCFW & 12.6 YSL aided the enjoyment.

John Flavel - Cleve S.A. and Troy Grosser - Arno Bay S.A., totalled seven between them with the Flavel purchase at lot 6 for a Leahcim 2009 son at \$2,800 one of the picks.

One of Luke and Jodie Fauser's picks at lot 3 at \$2,800 had the second highest YCFW of the day at 20.8. Considering the stud average is 14.0 and the national average sits at 12.4 as I sit here typing this, that's pretty good.

Wade Ramsey, Stuart and John Richardson, Ian Paxton, Kev Price, John Masters, Jeff and Helen Cromer and the Coleman family from Tumby Bay all helped with their one to two ram purchases to make this a sale that will keep this clan breeding Merinos forever! That Sohnic bred lot 37 at \$2,800 bought by John Masters epitomised the quality that extended deep into the sale catalogue.

Ben Dickinson's auctioneering conduct and the whole EP Livestock team deserve credit for their efforts on the day.

That photo in the heading of lots 7,8 & 9 including the top price equates to \$9,700 in five minutes!

2018 SALE: TUESDAY 28th AUGUST



CLASSINGS CLASSIC '18
 MONDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd 2018 AT 1.30pm
 Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

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Last year's version of a client's top wool price mentioned in Cullings'18 was from the Kangaroo Inn S.A. property of the Andre family near Millicent in the state's south east.

This year's effort belongs to the Heinrich family's Ella Matta property and stud at Parndana - Kangaroo Island S.A. whose recent clip peaked at 2049c greasy almost \$1.00 up on valuation on the day.

Shorn from young weaners that were dropped in July'17, went unshorn through summer then first shorn in late March at eight months growth. Here are the stats: 8 bales 16.3u - 66% yield - 75mm length - 42nkt - 1955c valued - 2049c actual!

That's seriously good dough and allows any growers to be confident to re invest and upgrade genetics (if required), yards (usually required!) and any other infrastructure urgently requiring some attention.

The Ella Matta Poll Merino sale also had a blinder with the highest average and top price the stud had ever realised.

Allan Stewart's Stockton Merino - Bairnsdale and Glen Tilley - Kapunda S.A. kept the top end of the sale very much alive with a lot 3 poll selling for \$4,800 to Alan and two pens later at \$3,400 selling to Glen.

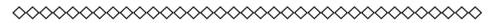
Just as enjoyable was the ram delivery process where Allan and Judy met Aphid Heinrich here in Murray Bridge for ram transfer and camping the night. Usually moments like this include a schnapps and a trip down the Murray on the old girl which eventuated with all surviving!



Looks innocent enough but this guy, RAMSGATE 170018, will attract at CLASSIC'18.

Great stance and a fibre that is typical of Ramsgate's Classic entries, loaded with the good stuff including lustre and density.

Standing at 113kg's, YCFW 24.8, YWT 10.7 & 164 DP+ and bred by Rifle 303, a \$30,000 Banavie sire procured by Fred Leo's Leovale W.A., this fella will impress.



After a talked about display at the Eyre Peninsula Field Day in Wudinna, the O'Brien Poll merino sale team for CLASSIC'18 is just that - a Classic!

Darren O'Brien's and surrounding properties have hit the wall as far as season is concerned so it is a credit that he was able to get all rams for the Wudinna based sale day and Classic team to look so fantastic.

Keep an eye out for 170969 bred by Glenlea Park 300 with mazing ASBV's to match a super elite fibre. YCFW 22.5 & YSL 10.9

FLAIRDALE

On property Sale '17 - Cookes Plains S.A.

OFFERED 72 SOLD 64 - AVERAGE \$2,159 - TOP \$5,400 (twice)

GENETICS: FLAIRDALE 120003 (xWP079), FLAIRDALE 110020 (x GUNALLO 230) FLAIRDALE 140040 (x LEAHCIM 858), FLAIRDALE 150051 (x WP 054), FLAIRDALE 150078 (x JC&S REGAL 242), GLENLEA PARK 011739 x A.I., WALLALOO PARK 130132, KAMORA PARK 070304 x A.I. & FLAIRDALE SYNDICATE.



It's an impressive look now at Flairdale with the Pollville frame of old still at the fore yet now these polls are jacketed in quality fibre that bears no resemblance to what was grown up north many years ago.

Dual purpose in its true sense fills the Flair-dale sale pens, a catalogue that now is full of all of the essential ASBV information and a crowd who know that bigger bucks equates to the best quality on the day.

Have a look at these real time numbers that belonged to the elephant in lot 1 on the day. 17.9u 2.6sd 14.5sd 0.1pf at a massive MP+ 149 & GFW 151% yet only YCFW 15.9 suggests an ASBV of low accuracy considering the newness of the sire in regard to progeny which was his first representation. Dale Paxton- Parndana - Kangaroo Island was the winner yet had to pay the dosh at \$4,800. Flairdale 150078 the sire.

His next grab was my pick of the sale lineup at lot 9 for \$5,000 and bred by Flairdale 140040 (x L858). Now Peter Hayman try this for a plain easy care animal with fleece weight: 17.8u 2.5sd 14.0cv & 0.3pf at 134% GFW of silky, bold crimped luxury!

Dale's next was a lighter headed yet heavy cutting poll in lot 13 for \$5,000. YWT 5.51 YCFW 19.0 YEMD 1.2 - 18.6u 2.6sd 14.0cv with a sale high of MP+ 169 & DP+ 182!! Those numbers are reserved for chart topers in Superior Sire publications but this one was SQUARE!! Sire - GP739.

He bought seven throughout the sale and is an essential player in keeping this sale at its highest performance! One more to his pile worthy of mention was another GP739 son with great numbers including DP+ 171 MP+ 160 & YWT 7.9 and a meat machine.

Trevor and Fred Laskey - Orroroo S.A. found a rip snorter in pen 3 which I hope most people would have listed highly. Bred by may favourite Flairdale sire 140040 (due mostly to the story attached to his existence) he equal topped the sale at \$5,400 and is shown here in the photo.

Can't remember his body weight but let's say it was 110 Kg. There is no way possible last decade you could have a thug of a poll at 15 months of age testing 17.8u 2.5sd 14.0cv and 0.3pf combined with a YCFW 14.7 and a real time of GFW 103%. That micron was reserved for two year old jowly superfines at Hamilton Sheepvention Ram Sale!

The Laskes bought the next two at \$4,200 and \$4,600 and four pens later another at \$4,400 with two of these again from Flairdale 140040. Another three later in the sale filled the ute up with the greatest group of rams you would need to see especially if they were jumping the fence into a mob of Dohnes! Lot 19 at \$2,400 was his cheapest but looked almost the best as well as having the double poll gene. Syndicate bred but that syndicate included that mighty 140040 which you could easily bet your last dollar on and win!

Fraser Loechel - Lucindale S.A. bought the other \$5,400 sale topper in lot 7 for a Flairdale 120003 son with GFW% 110 with more out-standing real times of 18.7u 2.3sd 12.3cv & 0.2pf. He also secured pen 2 for \$3,800.

Stalwart of the Flairdale genetics Graham Buchanan - Karoonda S.A. started his charge at lot 6 at \$4,400 for another FL120003 son at GFW% 132. He added another two later in the sale including a goody at \$3,000 for a YWT 8.5 & EMD 0.98 in lot 14.

More long time supporters, the Gulnare based Burgess family were there for lots 11 & 12 at \$2,600 and \$3,200 for a barley duo.

Always good to see John and Jody Lehmann - Redcliffe - Morgan S.A. who snared a couple for the day.

A crate of the finest whiskey to the Ben Nevis Farms people at Ararat Vic., for their haul of ten rams over the day to average a bit over \$1,200. One of these sitting right down at lot 58 was their highest price paid at \$2,200 with YWT 6.1 and GFW 119%.

Pitlochery - Kingston S.A. were another volume buyer with five including a great cheapy at lot 49 for \$800.

Steph Booker-Jones grabbed three up to \$2,500, the Clarke clan from Nhill Vic., the two at \$2,400.

The Kleinigs supported well with their three including a lot 59 bred by Kamora Park 304 with a YCFW 21.3 yet a YGFW 98% which isn't quite that sire's style.

Peter Battersby - Orroroo S.A. was good for two and the Heinrich's from Eudunda S.A. pitched in early at lot 8 for a KP304 son with a YCFW 26.3 yet GFW 109% suggesting there's a bit of fleece weight competition at Flairdale by crikey!

Lee Slape bought well at lot 24 for \$3,200 for a YEMD 1.1 barrel. The Feast, Kubenk, Crouch, Bonza and Stuart clans all bought one or two to complete a successful sale.

2018 SALE: MON 17th SEPTEMBER

KARAWATHA PARK

On Property sale - Buckleboo S.A.

OFFERED 92 SOLD 92 - AVERAGE \$2,149 - TOP \$6,300

GENETICS: KARAWATHA PARK SYN, WALLALOO PARK 130466 (WP ON PROPERTY'14 - \$7,500) 140382 (WP ON PROP'15 - \$6,000), 140067 (WP ON PROP'15 - \$5,250), LEAHCIM 142594, GLENLEA PARK 012395 A.I. (CLASSIC'13 - \$51,000)



There were two rams in the Karawatha Park on property sale in 2017 that I believe were the best the stud had ever bred. Coincidental-ly they were the two highest prices which doesn't always occur with the 'eyes of the beholder' tag sometimes taking precedence over real time quality appreciation!

Ric and Matt Ridgway were on their way back to Lameroo from a day out checking another sale when they inspected the poll ram en route. Come sale day they were prepared to go all out via the reliable and trustworthy Steve Davidson now with Quality Livestock who completed the job.

160982 in pen 3 was met with vicious bidding competition including mine on behalf of SWM - Tintinara S.A. to finally stop at a stud reward-ing \$6,300. Due to his Syndicate breeding, within flock FBV's were offered (instead of low accuracy ASBV's) where he exhibited a CFW% 33.0 which is massive to say the least. Back that up with 18u 2.6sd 14.6cv & 0.0pf to match a bold, lustrous, long stapled fibre and \$6,300 nearly looked cheap!!

Positioned beautifully and right next door in lot 4 was a runner up's dream where due to missing on lot 3, I was able to reassure Richard Harkness of SWM that this bloke was just as good! \$5,200 was the figure for a shiny lustre wool that was equal to that of the sale topper and stood similarly - like a rock with a backend as square as the pyramids - if they were square! 160211 had great measurement figures including actual YCFW 20.7 YWT 5.9 & MP+ 158 at 17.5u. The poll was bred by WP 140382 which was this sire's first outing since bought at Wallaloo Park for \$6,000 in 2015.

Fierce loyal supporters Wayne and Sam Young - Butler's Bridge S.A. bought a thump-ing lot 1 with another square butt by WP130466 for a sale rolling \$2,400 with YCFW 19.9. They went on to buy another four including \$3,200 for a Syndicate bred lot 43 but I really liked a \$2,800 WP140382 bred pick up with a bit of protruding stub in pen 47 at 112kg from the paddock with YCFW 18.6 & YWT 5.4 and a twin.

Paul and the ol' man John Schaeffer - Kimba S.A. under the Nalino banner buy the best looking group of rams annually from the Karawatha Park sale.

They began their six ram haul to average \$2,100 at pen 8 for \$3,600 with the typical day figures of 16.3u 2.3sd 15.8cv & 0.0pf. Their lot 29 buy for \$2,600 was handy and included YWT 5.8 and try lot 64 for a measly \$2,000 with a YCFW value of 29.9!

Lot 5 had a lot of admirers with Steve Reynolds - Port Augusta S.A. the winner at \$4,200 for a Syndicate bred elite wooled muvver phar-ker at YCFW 26.2 & YWT 5.0 with MP+ 156. All that at 16.6u and 0.0pf mind you!

Tom Davey with more than ram interest in the stud fought to get his pick lot 2 ram for \$4,400 and bred by WP140382. The poll had a 114kg body weight from the paddock and YCFW 18.7 & YWT 6.0.

Chelsea Woolford's father Tom Barlow's first pick was a \$3,400 lot 6 that exhibited possibly the longest body I had ever seen on any ram! Bonus? Extra loin - more lamb chops from the progeny I'd expect. He bought another three or so throughout the sale and was great sup-port.

Sly dog, Tom Freeth - Buckleboo S.A. was in-conspicuous until he bought the best ASBV'd poll of the day right down at lot 56. YCFW 34.7 YWT 5.4 & MP+ 159 at 18.0u 2.9sd 16.0cv. Once purchased there was one happy fella that he didn't have to pay more for this bloody beauty boasting new era fibre!

What about Brook Seal with his seven ram haul and averaging somehow only \$1,000 for realistic quality buying.

The Zibell clan bought quite a few to a top of \$3,000 to average close on \$2,000. Lot 18 was a goody for \$3,000 and Syndicate bred with YCFW 17.8 AT 17.4u.

Rob and Joyleen Koch - Booleroo S.A. like the Karawathas and bought five including a ripper lot 30 for \$2,200 with a YCFW 22.8 and bred by WP130466.

Woolford Brothers - Kimba S.A. were also strong supporters with five to average \$2,000 odd. I liked their very good lot 34 buy for \$2,200, bred by WP 130466 with YCFW 27.1 & MP+ 150.

Does the Karawatha Park, two week sponsored holiday at one of their shacks in Arno with all grog supplied and poured by Fricky go to the Humphris family from Gladstone S.A.? Only new clients in 2016 they bought a load last year and again supported well with an eight ram purchasing day out to a top of \$2,000.

I really liked the Larwood purchase at lot 42 and bred by WP130466 for \$4,000 with a YCFW 23.6, YWT 5.1 & MP+ 152. Not sure which Larwood clan bought this bloke as my catalogue was smudged right on the purchas-ing line!

One thing for sure, Tim Larwood secured a lot 14 for \$4,600, bred by WP140382 at 110kg's that filled the pen. Maybe one of the Larwood purchases that grabbed me was lot 11 and bred by Leahcim 142594 of which I had well marked. Try these figures Pedro: 17.6u 2.6sd 14.9cv 0.2 with YCFW 22.5 & MP+ 154.

Matt Cook, Andrew Polkinghorne, Andrew Smart - Wilkatana S.A., Mark and Goog Baldock, the Rayson, Beinke, Allen, Ingliss, Grocke, Brown and Newton families all purchased to make this possibly the best ever Karawatha Park sale.

2018 SALE DATE: FRIDAY 24th AUGUST

ELLA MATTA POLL MERINO

On property '17 - Parndana - Kangaroo Island S.A.

OFFERED 44 SOLD 44 - AVERAGE \$1,682 - TOP \$4,800

GENETICS: ELLA MATTA 140003, 140095, 140414, 140417, 140420, LEAHCIM 123153, 142983, WALLALOO PARK 100955, AN-DERSON 120096.



I have had to rely on Ian Turner's excellent sale reports in the past due to W.A. classing commitments but was able to make the sale in 2017 for the first time - and what a memorable sale it was.

I will repeat his opening paragraph in the Stock Journal though as a reminder. "The sale concluded with the offering of 44 Poll Merinos, which all sold to \$4,800 - up \$3,000 on last year - and averaged \$1682 - up \$692."

A massive White Suffolk & Maternal sale pre-cedes the Merino sale which was spectacularly successful yet it took the shine off of Ella Matta's best merino sale ever. The auctioneers were shagged after the whites, had a boat to catch and rushed the merinos even calling out the buyer's registration number instead of name which pisses me off no end! Try me reporting in this publication that the top ram was



bought by buyer number 7 at \$4,800!!

Even the merino sale report in the SJ was a mere three paragraphs long and deserved better! Enough...

Alan and Judy Stewart - Stockton Merino - Bairnsdale Vic asked me to secure the best ram in the sale and via phone bidding the out-come was positive with Ella Matta's lot 3 coming up trumps for \$4,800. A bold, white crimp with DP+ 161 YSL 16.0 and Embryo Transfer bred this bloke was a head turner with his excellent stature and presence. More impressive figures particularly with carcass in mind with YEMD 1.8 (TOP 20% nationally) and YFAT 0.4 with YWT 6.2.

Runner up was Glen Tilley - Kapunda S.A. who fought hard to get hold of 160061 but two pens later bought an equally as impressive ram except for a slight bit of blemish around the muzzle. Lot 5 made \$3,400 and had a similar fibre to lot 3. In the top 20% for YFDCV and 3.4 for YSS the ram impressed so much that Alan Stewart even gave me instructions to grab him as well!

Glen went on to secure more polls income of the best numbers in the nation for one ram! Try these - the ET bred lot 7 at \$2,400 was YCFW 27.4, YWEC -67.7, YWT 7.5, YEMD 1.2 and YFAT 0.6 and bred by Anderson 120096.

Very unusual to see such great eye and fat with a massive fleece weight shown here and still actually looking like a merino!

Glen stuck with the figures and outlaid \$3,000 for a Leahcim 123153 son that stacked up well on both fronts - visually and measured. Here we go then brothers: DP+ 163, YFAT 0.9, YEMD 1.6, YSS 3.8 & YFDCV -2.4 and ET BRED with the typical soft, bold crimp we're now accustomed to at Ella Matta.

His final fling was lot 25 for yet another hum dinger for \$2,400 at DP+ 167 & MP+ 164.

Simon Kelly - Parndana S.A. got the whole show rolling with the purchase of lot 1 for

\$1,800 followed by lot 2 for \$2,000. The sale never looked back from then on with Simon picking up another twelve by sale's end. That's enormous support and I can only assume that the last thing loaded after the rams were was a case of bloody good Scotch!

Paul McGorman's support didn't go unnoticed either with his seven buys including a good lot 38 bred by Ella Matta 140417 for \$1,800 with an MP+ 144.

Mitch and Ros Willson - Penneshaw S.A. started early with a sneaky grab at lot 4 for a mere \$1,000 and then lot 8 bred by Ella Matta 140414 for \$2,200 with MP+ 158 including YCFW 21.8! They added two more later.

Great support from locals Pete Cooper, Steve Halloran, Buzzy Buzzenschutt, Simon Veitch, Steve Morgan & Dukka Thornbury to help make this the most successful Ella Matta Merino sale.

I think discussions will now centre around the format for the day in regard to the huge amount of White Suffolks sold on prior to the Merino offering. Would it be a better option to separate the two and go for another day with the merinos?

2018 SALE: FRIDAY OCTOBER 12th



GLENLEA PARK

On property sale - Pinnaroo S.A.

OFFERED 162 SOLD 153 - AVERAGE \$2,146 - TOP \$8,000

GENETICS: GLENLEA PARK SIRES 004, 739, 367, 137, 891, 338, 350, 512 POLL BONOOKIE 948 A.I., POLL BONOOKIE 3.0040, BA-NAVIE 130303, MOORUNDIE PARK 306, GPSYN.

Popular stud this one so after a ripper record last year things just flowed on to the next with yet another top result. No \$33,000 topper but lots of \$3,500 plus prices throughout the sale to still average a handsome \$2,146.

Once again the presence of Lake Hawdon, Bullapucky and Keilra Stations underpinned a rock solid result with around thirty five purchases between them - nearly 23% of the sale at around a \$2,500 average!

I assume their return visits annually are due to the rewards put in place by the Wallis family over time by sending all staff and sundries concerned with the three stations on regular holidays to destinations of their choice worldwide due to their previous support - maybe the excellent quality has a bit to do with it though.

Add Wilkatana Station's seven ram haul late in the sale....

It also doesn't go unnoticed the support of smart operators who were very selective with their purchasing which, over 153 pens were able to do with ease should they miss out on earlier selections due to a reasonable depth of quality.

That comment didn't gel with one of those smarties Duane Simon on behalf of McPiggery - Lameroo S.A., who jumped in early and bought possibly the best two of the day - both from GP sires.

Lot 1, a ripper GP 367 with a YCFW 19 & YWT 7.5 and coated with the good stuff got the sale of to a cracking pace at \$5,600. That was backed up with with the sale topping lot 4 150107 ET bred purchase for \$8,000 at YCFW 17.9 & MP+ 155. He was ET bred from that hero GP004 that Will Lynch bought for \$10,000 way back in possibly Classic'10.

Mill Park outlaid \$3,800 for lot 2 with a massive YCFW 27.6 & YWT 9.2 and bred by PB 948 via A.I. The ram had a MP+

174 which is rather at the higher end of the scale chaps! They went on to secure around half a dozen by sale end invaluable support!

The Donaldson clan from Naracoorte S.A. latched onto my pick of the first row due to his silky, long, bold crimped fibre that this stud was always renowned for. Backed with some of the best real time figures of the day at 17.6u 2.7sd 15.3cv & 0.2pf, they totally mirrored the unsurpassed fibre quality - more please! YCFW 21.4 & MP+ 158 nothing to balk at either by crikey!

Woodoona - Karoonda S.A were a surprise show until they secured a MP306 bred son at lot 6 for \$4,200 which helped understand their journey east - they seem united with the MP brand! Bold crimp could be their next adventure....

Peter Gilbertson - Lameroo S.A. knows his stuff and always fulfils quality addiction - always great to see what he ends up with by sale end. In fact I'll tell ya'!

17.8u 2.5sd 14.0cv & 0.2 and full of lustre and carcass is what Peter comes here for and that's what he got for a comfortable \$3,800 and bred by GP 367 at lot 10. Maybe the next purchase was even better at \$3,200 in lot 18 considering his YCFW 25.1 and MP+167 and stretchy body.

The Heusler brothers from Goroke Vic. know their quality as well outlaying \$4,200 for a lot 7 at YCFW 21.9 and added another later at pen 24 at \$3,200.

A sire that the stud purchased from Walaloo Park way back WP988 had a ripper in lot 21 with one of the boldest crimps and longest staples in the catalogue. I snuck him for Mark Baldock - Kimba S.A. for \$2,800.

Aaron Freeman, manager for the Munro's Kallara Props - Culburra S.A. bought three and fought hard all day to get them due to most of our clients admiring yet being selective on similar rams throughout the sale.

Aaron's opening purchase was spot on at lot 22 for \$2,000, a bargain considering the \$2,146 sale average at days end. 18.2u 2.7sd an added attraction. His second at 114 Kg's, EMD 41 and \$3,000 just squeezed into his pen!

A 3.7sd on the last at YCFW 22.4 indicates fleece weight and density which is exactly how it played out for a paltry \$1,200 and bred by GP367.

What constitutes the best ram of the day is anyone's guess and in the eyes of the beholder naturally.

How about an ET bred son from GP350 right down in pen 34 encapsulated in the good gear, with great structure, feet and hocks at YCFW 25.7? Errol Hay - Kama-rooka Vic., probably thought he bought the day's best...and so do !! \$4,200 for the privilege made it an easy task.

Rob Thiele - Murray Bridge S.A. bought one of the best in lot 23 for \$3,600 and Nareen - Hamilton Vic., bought lot 5, a PB 948 at the highest YCFW figure sitting at 30.2 & MP+ 169 & \$5,400. Was their lot 42 purchase a better ram at \$5,000 with YCFW 27.5? Yes!

As shown all the way through the catalogue and everyone else statewide and matching comments in my main article, all of the high YCFW's throughout the catalogue weren't matched by high EMD & FAT figures yet who's suffering?

You could go on for two pages such is the nature of the huge list of registrations! I won't but will summarise by saying that the local support and loyalty was gratifying and can't go unnoticed. Led by the Schillers with a bagful, there was the Colwell, Joe Gilbertson, Heinicke, Watson, Kramer, Dilemma P/C, Warrawee, Heathdale, Erickson clans present.

2018 SALE: FRIDAY AUGUST 17th.

O'BRIEN POLL

On property sale - Wudinna Showground S.A.

OFFERED 47 SOLD 47 - AVERAGE \$1,325 - TOP \$3,500

GENETICS: RIDGWAY ADVANCE 140005, 140580, 120726, 130088, 110453, 120830, GLENLEA PARK 120300, 140580, KAMORA PARK 130114, SYN2 & SYN3.



Due to a clash of ram sale dates over the years I can't usually get to the O'Brien Poll sale yet through a slight date adjustment in sale dates it was great to witness my first and I thank Darren and Jodie for the shift.

Top price honours at \$3,500 for a Glenlea Park 012300 son went to Dan Vorstenbosch - Warramboos S.A. The poll had all the ingredients that is pushing O'Brien Poll to the top of the charts for genuine dual purpose animals to suit all environs. YWT 7.1 YEMD 0.1 on a deep, square backed hulk, it was no surprise to witness the competition in the bidding stakes.

Classings' clients added to the buoyancy on the day securing ten rams at very realistic prices considering the fluid wool/meat market at that stage. I bought **Netallie Station** - Wilcannia NSW four beauties that will slot into this high quality station flock easily. The first at lot 61 and a 1/2 cross Dohne at \$1,000 was a ripper and if all crosses looked like this one the whole Merino industry would be nervous! 20.2u 2.6sd 13.1cv & 0.0pf with YEMD 0.3, YFAT 0.3 & YCFW 11.3 were great figures for a first cross.

The next three pickups for Netallie were both GPK 140580 sons at \$1,000, \$1,500 and \$700 with huge staple length and

nourishment. \$700 didn't make sense as he had the same appeal as the other two especially considering YEMD 0.6 & YFAT 0.2 as an added attraction.

I bought a screamer at a too fair \$1,900 that could easily have slotted into Classic'17 for **Butch and Jodie Dunn** - Penong S.A. Elite fibre that the mid north can only dream of - 16.9u 2.5sd 14.8cv & 0.2pf fuels the addiction! Best ram in the catalogue in my view. Close neighbours near Minnipa S.A., Matt Cook and Bruce Heddle only buy at the top end of any sale they attend and bought just that on the day. \$1,700 & \$1,300 saw two goodies for Bruce.

Matt latched on to a ripper lot 73 for \$1,500 with YEMD 0.7/YFAT 0.1 & YCFW 14.0 to match the pen filling frame and bred by GPK 140580. He followed this with two young drops that weren't even twelve months of age that may have slipped through the fingers of most punters attending due to their immaturity - the quality was outstanding! Two at \$1,700 each saw the two bargains of the day in my eyes.

Nigel and Lauren Oswald - Moonlight Flat - Yaninee S.A. were great support at this sale in securing five rams throughout at over realistic pricing. Beingawa - Kyancutta S.A. were good support with their three

including an excellent lot 84 with one of the highest numbers on the day. MP+ 150, YCFW 18.0 and YEMD 0.1 matched the look of the animal.

Kopi West - Lock S.A. bought lot 98 and bred by GPK 140580 for \$1,600 that was highly ranked in my book. They added another two by sale's end.

Kenny Pastoral - Port Kenny S.A. bought three including a bargain lot 110 for \$800. It always amazes me that a tiny stub protrusion from the head of a commercial ram can have any influence on purchasing power! The Bartels from Cleve S.A. also pitched in with a three ram purchase.

Miles Tomney - Chandada S.A. bought one of the best in the catalogue at pen 74 for \$1,900 and bred by another Glenlea Park sire 012300 and added another later in the sale. There was a lot to like about that later purchase and another one year old poll. Try these numbers for a youngster: 17.0u 3.0sd 17.5cv 0.0pf yet YEMD 0.6 & YFAT 0.3 with elite fibre for a steal at \$1,100!!

Les & Reece Hull - Elliston S.A., Spud Murphy - Warramboos S.A., Ashley Beinke - Kyancutta S.A., Marty Grocke - Kyancutta S.A., West-wood - Wudinna S.A. kept the support up throughout with their two ram purchases. Phelps Ag. - Cummins S.A., Phil McKenna - Kyancutta S.A., the Mullens - Kyancutta S.A., Minnipa Ag., Rob Harradene - Cleve S.A., Wayne Jacobs - Minnipa S.A. and Sean O'Brien - Cowell S.A. were all single ram purchasers that helped complete O'Brien Poll's most successful Merino sale.

They also sold 54 Dohne and 1/2 Dohne's to average \$1,028. Yes that's correct - the merinos knocked off the Dohne average by over \$300 which is naturally this classer's dream! I wonder is that equates to the mighty Merino's selling first at the 2018 sale!

2018 SALE: THURSDAY 2nd AUGUST



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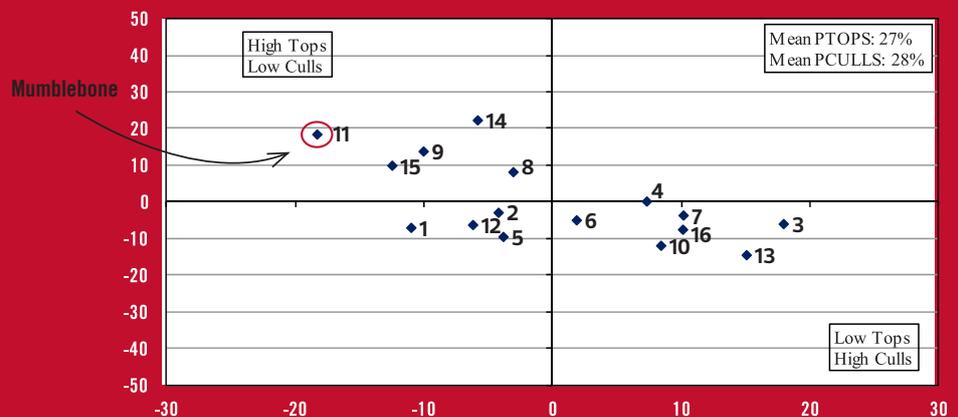
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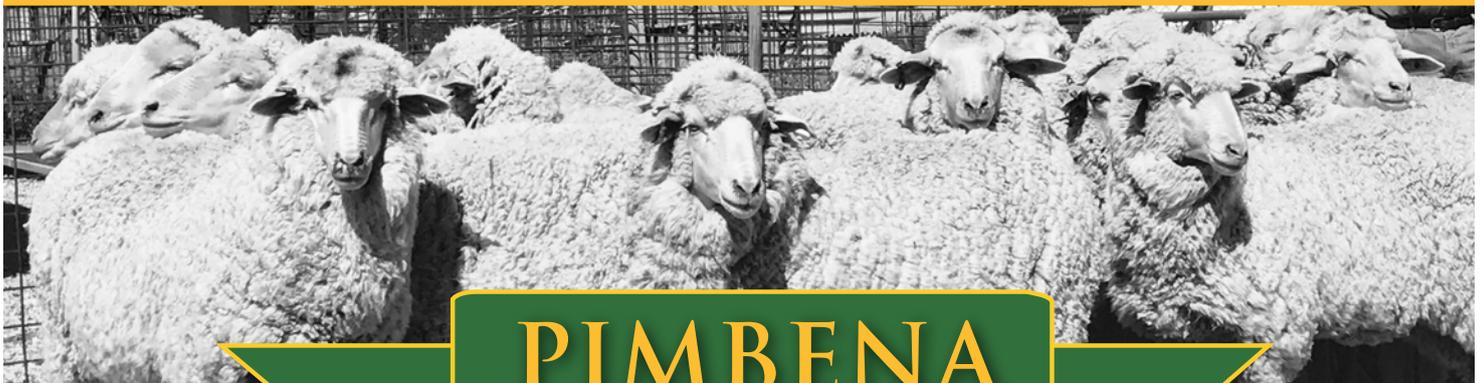
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ANNUAL ON PROPERTY AUCTION

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Sir Cumference**

**THURSDAY 30th
AUGUST 2018**

**Inspection 11 am
Sale 1 pm
SA TIME**



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Date: 25th July

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Location: Murray Bridge
Date: 27th July

Hamilton Sheepvention

Location: Hamilton
Dates: 6 - 7th August

Classings Classic Ram Sale

Location: Murray Bridge
Dates: 3rd September

Adelaide Ram Sale

Location: Adelaide Royal Showgrounds
Dates: 7th September

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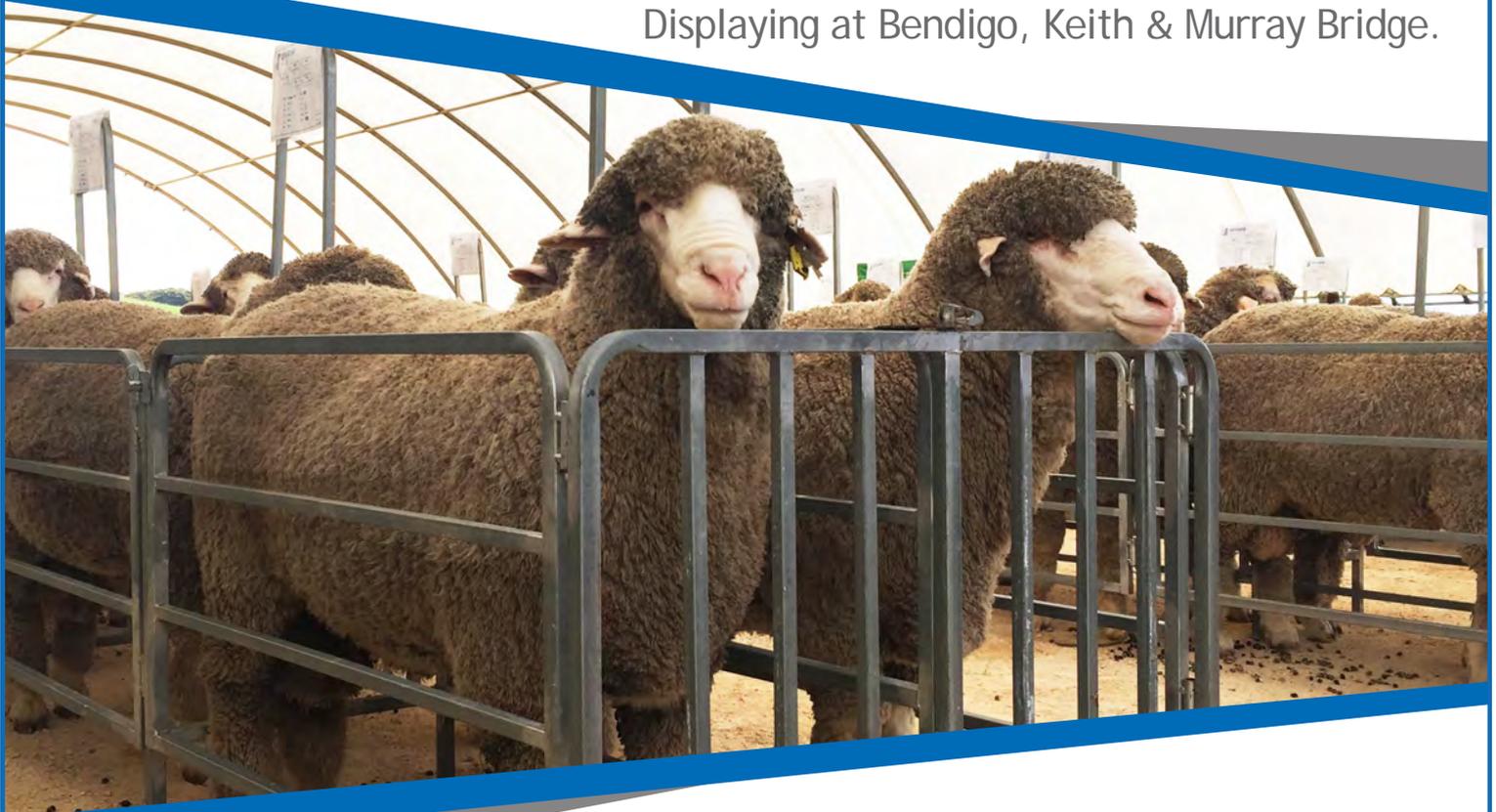
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2017 saw Extensive ET and AI programs with, strong emphasis on our evolving Walladale family, focusing on ASBVs while maintain wool quality.

Proactive to our client's feedback, In March this year we muscle scanned all 1200 - 2017 drop ewes for eye muscle and fat depth. This will Strengthen our predictability to breed a sheep that will handle the tougher times with increased maternal ability and to enable clients selecting strongly on these traits a more predictable type.

In April/May this year Wallaloo Park was the first commercial stud to use the new mothering technology developed by "Smart Shepherd" We invested heavily, striving to increase our number of lambs mothered from 30% with Pedigree Match Maker.

Our final result was 90% of all ewes on the property mothered with Smart Shepherd. We couldn't be more thrilled with these results and we are excited to track all our ewe's performance. This in turn will provide an open book to all prospective ram buyers by allowing clients to see 100% of the genetic makeup on all our progeny by 2019.



Out & About

20th - 22nd July 2018 - Bendigo Sheep & Wool Show

Display marquee of our leading 2018 sale rams & ewes entered for show

6th & 7th August 2018 - Hamilton Sheepvention

Display marquee of our leading 2018 sale rams & ewes entered for show

5th September 2018 - On Property Inspection Day

200 head sale team tethered from 11am for inspection till 3pm

13th September 2018 - 27th On Property Ram Sale - 200 Rams on offer at 1pm, inspection from 10am

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August 6th - 7th Hamilton Sheepvention (sale)

August 14th North East Merinos Ram Sale at Benalla (sale)

September 3rd Classings Classic Invitational Poll Merino Sale at Murray Bridge

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September 21st

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MURRAY BRIDGE RACECOURSE S.A.



Monday 3rd September



80 POLL MERINOS 80

Inspection from 10am and sale commencing at 1.30pm



- CODDINGTON POLL - NSW
- GUNALLO - SA
- GLENLEA PARK - SA
- WHITE RIVER - SA
- TERRICK WEST - VIC
- RIDGWAY ADVANCE - SA
- RIDGWAY - SA

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

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O'Brien Poll Merino



Auction

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Wudinna Show Grounds

Inspection from 10am

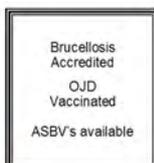
Light luncheon provided

60 Dohne Merino Rams

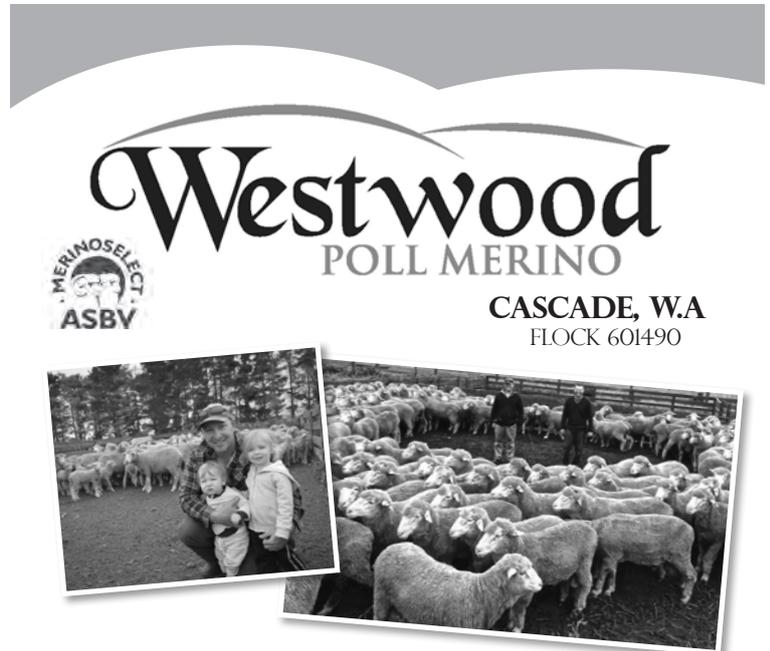
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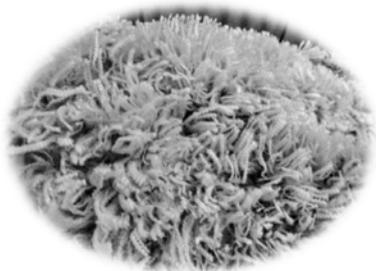


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2018 Diary
On-Property Annual Ram Sale: September 27th
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Selling rams at Hamilton Sheepvention and Classings Classic ram sales.

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Roemahkita

POLL MERINO STUD

Joe & Tracey Dahlitz 0428 295 706

Tuesday JULY 31st 2pm

28th On Property Ram Sale

90 quality poll merino rams 90

Sale Rams Averages:

Micron 18.8 SD 2.9 CV 15.3 CF% 99.9

Wool Cut 5.81 6 mths wool HWT 96 kgs

AWTA Wool Figures and HWT at 25/6/2018

Classings Classic Sale 3/9/18				
TAG	Micron	SD	CV	CF%
170023	18.4	2.5	13.6	100
170701	19.9	2.9	14.6	99.6
Adelaide Show Ram Sale 7/9/18				
170004	17.8	2.6	14.6	99.9
170207	18.5	2.6	14.1	99.8
170215	18.4	2.3	12.5	99.9
170816	19.4	3.2	16.5	99.6

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MN3 - 9 pts
No 163

Tenacity, care and persistence:

Ways and means of surviving a drought! - by Dirk Stevens - Stevens Farming NSW

When the pastoral zone is good its magnificent, and just the greatest place to live, but when its bad its bloody terri-ble.

At the moment it is bad!

Broughtonvale station is 85km east of Broken Hill and sits on both sides of the Barrier Highway starting at the Little Topar Hotel.

The property is 45km north to south, 25km east to west and they reckon we average 8-10 inches of rain annually. 130,000 acres normally runs 12,000 to 14,000 adult merino ewes with all lambs either sold or removed to other properties by the end of September which allows us to carry more breeding ewes.



2016 was a good feed growing season although there was very little runoff for the dams and we went into 2017 fully stocked with a good mating period and I was thinking the year had the potential to be a very big. Little did I know that the rain god had just set his trap. (the rain god must be a bloke - a woman couldn't be that much of a mongrel surely!!)

I am also certain he would be a Port Adelaide supporter and would be miss-ing his front teeth!!)

With a lot of lambs hitting the ground in late April and no rain since last October I was getting uneasy. At lamb marking in July with still no rain I was worried - the writing was on the wall. Dry windy winters are a sure sign of drought for me so I was convinced it was going to get ugly.

In preparation for the worst possible case scenario all ewes were shorn early in August to buy a little more time in the hope that it would rain and also get closer to the warm weather should we decide to destock. By October nearly all dams were dry and pumping water was the main task. We were starting to lose lambs so I said, "stuff this lets get out of here," or words to that effect!



This was to be no mean feat - 14,000 adult ewes 8000 lambs and 500 rams. Luckily I have other properties at Forbes and Cool have other properties at Forbes and Coolamon NSW and had just purchased two properties at Seymour in Victoria which were empty. Fortunately I had somewhere to go - with 62 frosts in a row at Forbes (the frost god is definitely a Collingwood supporter) I had 3000 acres of failed wheat crops to put sheep on.

Drought affected sheep on a truck in cold weather is generally a good way to end up with dead ones, so in trying to address this we sent the strong ewes and all the rams on the 14 hour trip to the colder Seymour climate and the weaker ewes and all the lambs on the 10 hour trip to the warm-



With the help of James Transport - Broken Hill and Little Topar's resident Big Truckie and fellow Hawthorn sup-porter, Jerram Weatherall, we loaded 16 decks per trip onto three trucks. We would be loaded by 11am and arrive sometime after midnight and be unload-ed just as the sun came up.

My two daughters would then vaccinate them with 6 in 1 and we would put yes-ter-days date in our log book and drive home.

The sheeps introduction to green feed

was gradually increased daily for about seven days starting with only two hours per day. This seemed to work.

Of course things don't always go to plan and hitting rain at Echuca at mid-night on one trip gave us some losses. This was disappointing but dying of hunger in the desert is not a nice thought either so we console ourselves with the fact that we did our best and we saved the rest. Of course the do gooders wouldn't see it that way but I didn't see them at midnight in the rain helping us stand sheep up on the side of the road freezing our nuts off!

4,600 of these same sheep were chased 24km up the Newell Highway by the Lake Cowal floodwaters in 2016 to a hill on another property. Two days later they were back at Broken Hill where they were born 18 months earlier and 12 months later they were at Seymour in Victoria escaping a mongrel drought!

They are all now lambing no doubt totally confused as to whether they are suffering morning sickness or travel sickness!



That was the easy job over now but still had to get the remaining weaker sheep to Forbes. By now the lambs were too weak to get to the top two decks so we loaded ewes to the top and lambs on the bottom. This was reasonably successful however there were losses.

Then it rained - only nineteen millimeters but enough to kick the lambs along. Maybe the rain god is a Hawthorn sup-porter after all!

Four weeks later we could load full trucks of lambs with ease and the losses stopped. All it took was a little bit of moisture.

The rest of the sheep were then loaded in a more casual manner and we were totally destocked by the end of March. We then grabbed a couple of loads of goats to pay for it all and I considered we had completed another great es-cape from a mongrel drought.

It's now mid June and still no rain. If history repeats itself, look out when it does.

WALLALOO PARK

On Property sale - Marnoo S.A.

OFFERED 180 SOLD 180 - AVERAGE \$3,379 - TOP \$22,000



GENETICS: WALLALOO PARK 912 (x NERSTANE JOCK), 120960 (x WP CASPER), 130036 (x LEAHCIM 858), 130051 (x LEAHCIM 858), 130260 (x WP188), 130321 (x WP188), 130438 (x WP184), 132701 (x WP REAL DEAL) 132899 (SWS PURCHASE \$30,000 SWS ADELAIDE), 140261 (x WP EU-REKA), 140296 (x WP EUREKA), 140411 (x GP455 \$18,000 ADELAIDE) 141018 (x WP EUREKA), 141031 (x WP EUREKA), 170/455 SYN, BANAVIE 303 RIFLE, EAST BUNGAREE 1031, LEAHCIM 858, GUNALLO PRIDE 008, BLUE HILLS STATESMAN, TRIGGER VALE 110744, TRIGGER VALE 140477, YARRAWONGA 961.



Wallaloo Park had a record sale in 2017 with all of the top end rams looking as good as ever, a wool market that was at record highs (yet even better at the minute) and the 'world needs protein' meat market just as exciting. Mind you your genetics have to be on song to encourage not only new customers but keep the old favourites satisfied as to have a day like this one. Yet again to report this whole sale properly would take three of four pages so as in previous year's reports I'll concentrate on Classings' clients efforts on the day as well as other highlights.

Roemahkita - Cummins S.A got the sale off to a flier with a lot 1 \$22,000 effort and bred by Banavie 303 (of which Fred Leo - Leovale secured for \$30,000 a few years back.) YCFW 34.4, DP+ 164 & YSL 12.8 and loaded with nourishment, density, perfect backend and feet the purchase suits the times where to some, get outta my way, fleece weight rules!

The punters were still cheering the accolades of that pen (and top price for the day in the end) so much so that Brenton Kroehne - **Borong Poll** - Waikerie S.A. snuck in amongst them and stole lot 2 160024 for \$5,000, bred by the same sire. YCFW 26.7 with 18.2u 2.8sd 15.7cv & 0.4 and great length with boldness of crimp, this guy was the first of three rippers bought by the great Riverland stud.

Next for Borong was a very good lot 4 160569 for \$9,500 which scored a lot of bidding competition due to his presence and great numbers. YCFW 22.5, YWT 9.0, PWT 5.5, MP+ 170 and bred by WP 411 I look forward to some great classing down the track.

To complete a fantastic trio of purchases Borong latched onto lot 30 160942 for \$4,000 and bred by WP 960 with the same complimentary WP fibre that is the reason we ever came here in the first place!

Back up to lot 7 - long time WP supporter Stuart Everett asked me to secure a rip snorter of which I obliged with a corker 160384, a 120960 son with a backend that we need more of coupled with YCFW 21.5 & MP+153 with the bold gear for \$5,000.

Peter and Sue Charlick - Penong S.A. has a small home ram breeding program that required a poll of quality as to influence his 'stud' flock. Lot 8, a beefy number with YEMD 0.8 and YFAT 0.2 for \$6,000 and by 140261

will assist this great commercial flock.

Along the way and amongst our client purchases, Mark and Kay Barr - Newdegate W.A. were collecting rams that totalled 12 at sale's end and lent their typical annual support. John Flannery with his ten pickups and Dhuramein Nominees - Moulamein NSW with 21 deserve a two week holiday to Kangaroo Island S.A. such was their support right throughout the sale.

Ok a story! **Superior Wool Syndicate** based in South Australia who have a 10 member syndicate buying power that enables them to buy exactly the sire they want bought WP 132899, a ram of great density for \$30,000 at Adelaide Ram Sale in 2014. He was a stop/start ram unfortunately that wouldn't leave a lot of progeny so the stud took him back with similar results.

But...what he did leave was super exciting and lot 17 was another exponent of this. Built like an ox with fibre supreme, 161021 went against the grain with his numbers as well as my YEMD/YFAT warbling in my main article. Is it possible to bred more of these elite woolled animals with outstanding meat numbers? Try these: YCFW 31.2, YSL 14.7, YEMD 0.6, YFAT 0.1, WWT 3.7, YWT 6.6 & MP+ 177 combined with the real times 19.6u 2.7sd 14.0cv 0.2pf.

Richard Harkness - SWM - Tintinara S.A. and a member of SWS outdid his favourite classer and bought him for the second highest price of the day at \$20,000!

A WP 130321 poll took the eye of all of us on the day and for a realistic outlay of \$5,000 **Ramsgate** - Tintinara S.A. snapped him up. Square backend and good on all feet with the goods in the fibre dept. 161158 will maintain this stud's excellent quality. YEMD 2.2 (highest in catalogue) & YFAT 0.8 and passed onto innocent progeny should see them survive when the chips are down you'd expect.

They added another at pen 82 with fibre exotica and YCFW 26.6 MP+152 & WWT 3.4 for \$4,500.

My favorite sire L858 bred a screaming lot 61, 160073, at 124 Kg with some pretty handy numbers and a wool that I photographed and impressed many. I bought him for Nantoura Poll - Wharminda S.A. for \$8,500 with good meat numbers of WWT 3.7, YWT 8.1, YEMD 0.1 & ok for YCFW 20.1. - a very square ram to compliment the stats.

Karawatha Park - Buckleboo S.A. were keen on lot 75 for his structure and square rump and depth. \$4,000 later he was theirs with a YFAT 0.5 & YEMD 1.0. Bert and Dion added another flocky for \$2,000 in the last pen of the day.

I bought **Daniel Dempster** - Karabein - Goomalling W.A. a Gunallo Pride son in one 95 for \$4,750 with a super stretchy body with a square butt with super long staple at YWT 5.3 and lustrous bold fibre. I added another for \$2,000 the next day from the selection pens with a ram of similar stature.

Well there you go a full page on just our clients support let alone another possibly fifty buyers who turned this day into the sale of the century!

2018 SALE: THURS 13th SEPTEMBER

SUPERIOR WOOL MERINO (SWM)

On property sale - Tintinara S.A.



OFFERED 92 SOLD 89 - AVERAGE \$2,313 - TOP \$4,300

GENETICS: SWM 159 (x L858) SWM 768 (x GP395), GUNALLO 140026, WP 179, WPSYN, LEAHCIM 526, LEAHCIM 965, GLEN-LEA PARK 395, WILLANDRA 1420.



It would be an understatement to say the 2017 SWM sale went well - it was a blinder of an effort and caught all by surprise as to the intensity of the bidding competition. The first ten rams grossed over \$30,000 and even after lot 20 was sold for \$2,200 the average was still sitting at over \$3,000.

Possibly the best horn ram sold in the state in 2017 sat in Lot 1 for a realistic \$3,400 and sold to **Brian and Glen Landseer's** - Narilla - Milang S.A. This bloke was coated in a bold lustre and exhibited the perfect density required at this minute. An on property GFW 138% with 17.8u 2.6sd 14.8cv and A.I. bred by Willandra 1420, had horned rams been the rage as they once were and this bloke had a horn set that was perfect, he would easily have been kept as a resident reserve! Narilla went on to buy another two by sale's end.

Garry Hansen - Hansen Farms - Coomandook S.A. lent his great support as a fellow SWS member and bought a square back ended lot 2 for \$3,200 at GFW 129%. And with a similar shape nabbed a WPSYN bred lot 9 for \$3,300 at 135% GFW. He went on to buy another eight throughout the sale including lot 29 bred by SWM 159 hosting a stretchy body with a 60mm staple length - the longest of the day.

It was a poll 160647, bred by L526 residing in lot 8 that took all the attention on the day due to his presence, fibre quality and carcass. GFW 130% and 17.9u added to

the attraction and the bidding frenzy shot him up to the highest price of the day position at \$4,300 and bought by James, Sonya and Jamo Irwin's 'Bonshaw' - Keith S.A. He will be used as a ram breeder to create flock rams for that property as well as the Irwin station near Morgan, Balah.

Neville McGee - Cressy - Tasmania through Elders Tasmania's Damien Whitely jumped in to where the peak quality was in the first row securing lots 3 & 4 for \$2,500 & \$3,400 respectively. The first, an SWM 768 sired 'wool' ram at 18.6u and GFW 133% followed by another at the same excellent fleece weight and bred by Willandra 1420.

I think **Neil McKenzie** - Tintinara S.A. may have secured the prized possession though at lot 10 for \$3,100, bred by SWM 159 at 135% GFW. Soft, white, long and bold with an outstanding frame. SWM 159 was yet another Sire bred by that SuperSire himself Leahcim 858 owned by Calcookara Poll - Cowell S.A. Naturally the ram is now dead!

Neil went on to buy another for \$2,200 in lot 18 with the best figures of the day: 17.8u 2.7sd 15.3cv & 0.0pf.

Aaron Freeman, manager of the Munro enterprise at Colebatch out of Tintinara S.A. felt the flow of the day early and secured well early at lot 7 for a GP395 (\$51,000 Classic'10) son and again with a giant fleece weight of 134%. Just as good at lot 15 but bred by WP 179 AT \$3,200 was

a poll that exuded fibre quality typical of the directions of this now high profile stud.

Barb Reichstein - Field S.A. through manager Matt Schmiral was prominent throughout the day with six purchases including a heavy cutting lot 12 at \$3,000. Bred by the Willandra 1420 sire whose progeny were prominent throughout the sale, the ram had the typical SWM figures of 19.5u 2.8sd 14.2cv at GFW% 138.

Mt. Boothby Pastoral - Tintinara S.A. began their foray at lot 33 yet due to the depth of quality at this joint picked up some of the best quality of the sale! Gunallo 140026 bought by the Superior Wool Syndicate at Classic'15 for a fair bit bred lot 33 with the Johnson's picking him up for \$2,900 exuding a sale high staple length of 60mm but was their pickup at lot 37 and bred by SWM 768 for \$2,900 the best in the sale? A few of us thought so! Even right down at lot 85 these guys had to fork out \$2,900 for another Gunallo son with great fibre and body stretch.

Nice to see a couple of ex Dohne breeders at the sale to infuse back some high density merinos as to conquer the ultimate trait disappointment of this breed.

Vanessa Hooper - Colbatch S.A. and the Mitten family were great with their support in securing around ten rams to bolster the sale even more.

I bought six for Peter Kuhlmann - Mudamuckla S.A. where the SWM genetics shine even amongst some average feed years that frequent the area regularly. The pick of the bunch was hard to separate but lot 62 and bred by WPSYN for \$2,600 looked handy with the fibre reflecting easily the 18.8u 2.6sd at 106% GFW.

Peter Blacket - Wynarka S.A., Peter Mile - Tintinara S.A., Greg Kennett - Tintinara, Close Rural - Murray Bridge S.A., Richardson Brothers, Bastian and Biddle families, Peter Burge - Padthaway S.A., Harlock Pastoral - Naracoorte S.A. and Kenny O'Malley all chipped in to make this the most successful SWM sale recorded!

2018 SALE: FRIDAY 31st AUGUST.

Karoonda Farm Fair Fleece Competition 2018



The second Farm Fair Fleece Competition was extremely well supported with a lift of thirty fleeces from 2017 to total 104 in 2018.

A seemingly better venue position, a very well naturally lit marquee and a sizzling wool market should have seen the masses wandering through but we just missed on drawing hundreds in unfortunately. I'll use the excuse of a great event in its infancy and I would hope that it could be better supported in years to come.

This certainly didn't affect the quality of entries and I would like to commend all of those who entered and especially those who presented fleeces as good as our current genetics allow!

Classings sponsored four sections with vouchers for the greatest food option in Murray Bridge - Riverscape Cafe as well as weird yet intriguing trophies.



I really enjoyed handing one of them over to Geoff and Sue Zacher - Coonalpyn S.A. who not only entered three commercial fleeces of which they won another category with but one of these was from the planet Exotica and took out the **Classings Commercial Fleece of the Farmfair**.

The figures didn't matter as much as it was the visual attraction that won our gong yet the ewe hogget fleece did cut 6.7kg skirted at 19.0u 3.0sd 15.9cv 69% yield to total \$90.11 at 12 months growth. The winning fleece had two mates that actually out valued it at \$114 & \$108 yet didn't quite have the shine as the winner.

Unfortunately there was no runner up prize in this section and if there was it would have easily been taken out by Peter Gilbertson - Lameroo S.A. for a 'blinder'.

The Classings Stud Fleece of the Farm-fair went to a great stud ewe entered by Ric, Gail, Matt and Rachel Ridgway's Ridgway stud - Lameroo S.A.

Same deal as the commercial fleece winner really with loads of lustre and density with great brightness and bold crimp. Testing at 18.0u 2.4sd 13.6cv & 0.3pf and grossing \$70.10 - this wasn't too bad for a fleece that only had 6.5 months of wool growth!



The winner of the **Classings Most Successful Commercial Exhibitor** went to Dean and Leanne Pearson - Murray Bridge S.A. with outstanding fleeces in all of the categories that they entered. This included five second placings and two firsts.. including this one! Others that must have been close by would have been Chad Burbidge and Tony Martin such was the quality of their entries.

The Classings Highest Outright Fleece Value was won by Orrie Cowie Merino - Warooka S.A. with a.. get this.. 16.0u prepared ewe fleece cutting 9.5kg's with a greasy price of 2288c aided by a 75% yield. Even though this ewe had had the ultimate of spoils in ewe motel life, that fleece weight combined with that micron just ain't that common.

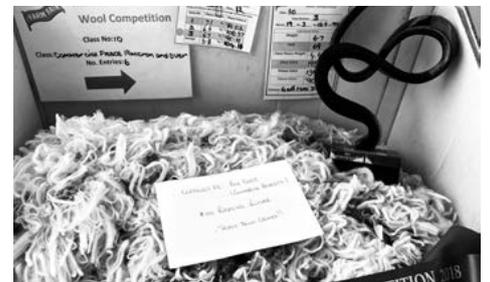
Looking at the photo below it's possibly hard to say just who's happier with the win! That's John Dalla of Orrie Cowie on the left and the proud convenor Wade Boughen at right who needs to be congratulated for an outstanding effort in getting this whole shibang together.

The success of this gig is mostly due to awareness on three fronts. The first is awareness that this competition actually exists and can be entered by anyone who lives in the country currently named Aus-

tralia! There is no entry fee only money, vouchers and at times ugly trophies to possibly win should a fleece or two do well.



Secondly the awareness at the actual Farm Fair by those who attend to have a great day out and venture into one of the best marquee presentations you could find anywhere in the nation. Honestly the layout was outstanding and thanks all concerned with its look.



Thirdly if you read this and future correspondence, don't forget to put a few fleeces aside at shearing of any growth (considering there are categories for all lengths) and enter what Wade and I would like to see as the biggest Fleece Competition in the land.

You also have the right to take your fleeces home or hopefully donate maybe one to a good cause which this year was Beyond Blue.



Lastly, and due to the vast amounts of categories the competition is not just a fleece weight day where any stud will out-do the commercial fella due to shed preparation and artificial fleece weights.

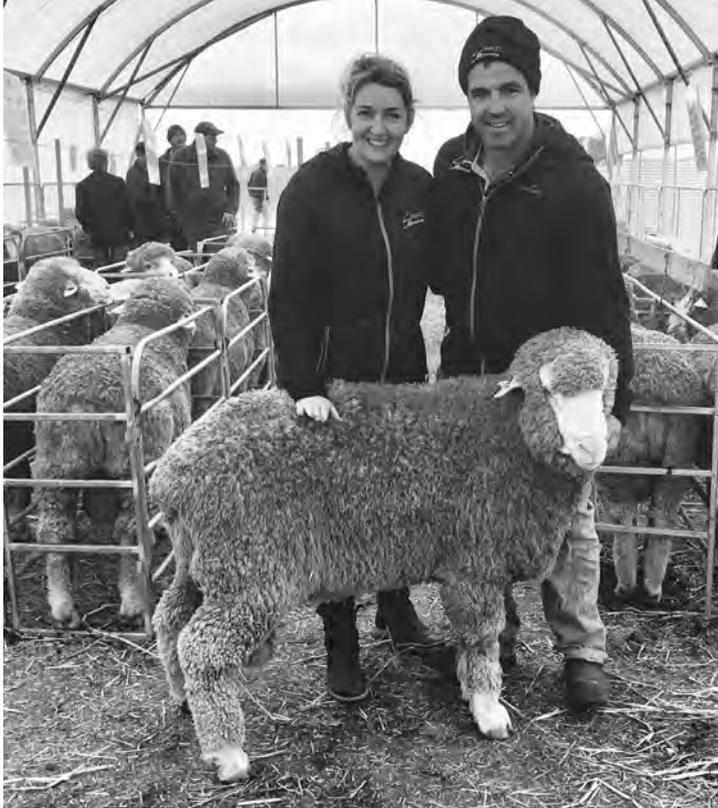
Well done to Elders/Landmark with Trevor Smith and Steve Avery enduring a huge task in placing fleece values on all fleeces as well as adjudicating top positions over 104 fleeces.

SOHNIC

On Property sale - St Arnaud VIC

OFFERED 72 SOLD 70 - AVERAGE \$1,994 - TOP \$6,000

GENETICS: SOHNIC 505, 21047, 87 31236, 31126, 40854, 964, 210, LEAHCIM 858 A.I., LEAHCIM 132624 A.I., LEAHCIM 123153 A.I.



Whenever I make it to a Sohnic sale I usually wish, on inspection of a great lineup, that I had more 'fuel in the tank' with ram orders and buy a dozen such is the depth of quality of the joint.

No different in 2017 with all but two selling to an all time average high of nearly \$2,000.

Return buyers at any sale are important especially when securing four or more which occurred seven time over the sale's entirety.

Leader of that pack, and the perfect sale floor, was the Parker family's - Hazelwood Nominees - Balranald NSW who trucked off nine by day's end. Scanning over the catalogue now it appears they would have averaged \$1,000 which represents great value due to the quality at hand.

Don Nicholzen - Bretton Estate Vic., is a big fan of the Sohnic rams for a fairly good reason! He ended up with eight and kicked the sale off at lot 1 with a \$2,500 grab. Good sale starting price that which possibly influenced people to get up and go early as to not miss on great genetics at a price that may have been slightly above a pre sale budget.

I really like a lot 16 at \$2,500 that Don picked up bred by Sohnic 210 a direct son of Sohnic 505 - super white fibre on a stretchy frame at 102 Kg represented safe buying. Maybe better was lot 27 bred by Leahcim 123153 (a monster for all meat associated ASBV traits) at \$3,000 with absolute elite fibre at 113 Kg. This guy was above average for grams/hd/day at 224 with a fleece weight of 4.9 Kg's. 18.5u 2.6sd 14.3cv added to the appeal.

Tony Bright - Broken Hill NSW, a great station supporter of the stud lent the usual support with nine to average around \$2,000. Under

that average but as good as any was lot 26 for \$1,500 with that great fibre and stretch.

The Coombes enterprise from Wedderburn Vic., were good support with five and neighbour Steve Poole snavelled four as a, new to Sohnic, client. Terry Brady bought the same amount including a very good lot 18 for \$2,750.

Brian and Carrie McLennan - St. Arnaud Vic. were good for four including a ripper L858 son with a bold crimp and lustre so typical of this sire at lot 20 for \$2,000.

Jim and Sonya Hunt - Mundulla S.A. know their stuff and bought typically some of the best in the lineup. A bold crimped ripper bred by Sohnic 30126 with fluid nourishment and density cost them \$3,000 which was chickenfeed compared to the quality. A six month fleece weight of 4.8 Kg and loaded with stretch and depth of barrel he was a great pen 4 poll. The same sire bred their lot 33 pickup but this time a September drop which at 95 Kg was handy considering the age.

Bruce and Judy Argall - Marnoo Vic. bought one of the best rams of the day. Lot 29 is a long wait should you be in desperate need of a sire from only that sale! I wanted this ram too and on memory so did Jim and Sonya Hunt so naturally away she went! ET bred by a sire that I can't recall (and suspiciously not in the catalogue!) bidding was at its violent and competitive best! \$6,000 was the peak and a deserved result for Bruce and Judy.

At a 113 Kg's and a bold crimp that would make traditional Hamilton Ram Sale entrants freak out - the staple length, lustre and boldness had to be seen as to etch the memory in your brain forever. Enough! Don and Sharon Irwin - Emu Vic. Were good for a couple including lot 2 for \$3,000 with an average growth rate above average and a six month fleece weight the same at 6.9 Kg. - easily the highest in the catalogue and a real outlier!

If I had to change my name by deed poll for some weird reason I'd have to go for...Fernandez! What a surname that just rolls off the tongue - Billy Fernandez and the Flying Fox would have to be the band name! Anyway Travis Fernandez bought two including a really good stretchy flocky at lot 41 for \$1,750.

I bought a beauty for a realistic \$2,250 at lot 9 and bred by Sohnic 505. Same commentary that runs with a lot of these rams - bold, long, soft, white and a happy client at the end which in this case was Borung Poll - Waikerie S.A. He weighed 115 Kg's and will slot into the program with ease and Brenton Kroehn and I will email firm friends!

I also added another super white wool to my list for Rob and Sonya Chalk - Willalooka S.A. for maybe the bargain of the week at \$1,000!

The Hatelys, Gellerts, Andrew Long, Trevor McDonald, Greg McNally, Closely Pastoral, Gerry Parry, Larry McClean and Keith Mudford were great support with their one or two purchases to make this the most successful Sohnic sale.

2018 SALE DATE: FRIDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

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ANNUAL RAM SALE

31st August 2018

TINTINARA SA



Richard Harkness: 0428 758 028

richardharkness@internode.on.net

Bill Walker: 0428 973 804



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MERINOS



Hamilton Sheepvention
6th-7th August
Display Only

Classings Classic
Monday 3rd September
Selling 2 Rams

Inspection Day
Wednesday 5th September 2017
10am to 4pm

Ram Sale
Friday September 14th 2018
Inspection from 9am - Sale @ 11:30am

Welcome to Sohnic Merinos

Our 2017 sale results reflect the evenness of the rams we were able to present for the 2017 sale. It was pleasing to put up more rams while maintaining a strong clearance and a healthy average. We pride ourselves on breeding rams which are of high quality while being very true to type and predictable. All rams are guaranteed, affordable and currently represent real value for your dollar.

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CLASSINGS CLASSIC RAM SALE 2018

MURRAY BRIDGE RACECOURSE S.A.

Monday 3rd September

90 POLL MERINOS 90

Inspection from 10am and sale commencing at 1.30pm

- CODDINGTON POLL - NSW
- GUNALLO - SA
- GLENLEA PARK - SA
- RICE'S CREEK - SA
- TERRICK WEST - VIC
- RIDGWAY ADVANCE - SA
- RIDGWAY - SA
- ROEMAHKITA - SA
- ORRIE COWIE - SA
- FLAIRDALE - SA
- WOODOONA - SA
- FOREST SPRINGS - VIC
- O'BRIEN POLL - SA
- BORUNG - SA
- RAMSGATE - SA
- HYNAM POLL - VIC
- PENROSE - WA
- LUCERNBRAE - SA
- SOHNIC - VIC
- PEPPERWELL - SA



RAMSGATE

On property sale - Tintinara S.A.

OFFERED 65 SOLD 60 - AVERAGE \$1,638 - TOP \$3,600

GENETICS: GUNALLO 'BOND 007', WALLALOO PARK 243 & 068, RIDGWAY ADVANCE 060, BROOKDALE 014012, KAMORA PARK 777, RGSYN.



Nine sales down and an average lift over the years to an all time high in 2017 of \$1,638 is a great reward for patience and persistence by the Keller families.

A clientele has now been built due to runs on the board with on property results using Ramsgate genetics. I've now viewed a lot of rams that have been bought at these sales over the last few years and the Ramsgate animals are holding up well with excellent progeny results. A few slight confirmation issues have now been phased out with the 2017 sale team looking as good as most presentations anywhere from longer standing studs.

Half of the first fifteen rams on offer were from Gunallo 'Bond' 140007 - the ram that Ramsgate and Ridgway Advance share purchased with semen shares at Classic'15 for a high of \$30,000. After this and Ridgway Advance's on property sale results as well as the Classic'17 sale, Bond most certainly paid for himself - try this for the first seven sold on the day by this great sire...

Lot 2 160147 sold to fibre appreciators Mt. Boothby Pastoral - Tintinara S.A. for \$3,000 at 18.9u 2.5sd 13.4cv & 0.2 and YCFW 14.7 backed up with GFW% 106 in real time.

Stuart and Jenny Schneider - Grenfell NSW trusted me to spend their money wisely as I bought lot 3 for \$3,500 loaded with the almighty silky, bold fibre and GFW 106% with YCFW 15.2.

At \$3,000 the next Bond was bought by new

and energetic client Scott Davidson - Lucindale S.A. with a GFW% 120, YCFW 15.7 & YEMD 0.1. This effort was followed by the Marsson - Meningie S.A. family's great pickup at lot 5 for \$2,800 at GFW 112% & YCFW 16.8. Scott added another Bond at lot 13 for \$2,400 with GFW 122% at YCFW 15.9 and 18.0u.

Keilira - Kingston S.A. bought one of the best figured Bonds for \$1,400 at 17.8u 2.8sd 15.5cv & 0.0 in pen 8 followed later at lot 15 for \$1,500 with more outstanding figures including GFW 133% & YCFW 17.6.

So there you go - the first seven Bond progeny in the Ramsgate sale grossed \$17,600 at an average of over \$2,500 to easily cover their share of the ram purchase - and there were another eight that averaged over \$1,400 and grossed \$11,300 after that!

Another prominent sire in the Ramsgate'17 sale was Brookdale 12, the ram that topped the Esperance Ram Sale'15 for \$5,000 via Westwood Poll who bought him as a ram lamb at the Brookdale dispersal in 2014.

He dropped a ram into pen 1 on the day that sold for a realistic \$1,600. Good numbers here including YCFW 17.9 & YEMD 0.2 and a bold crimp.

But it was a 112 Kg thumper in pen 7 that took the eye of most on the day bred by W/Pk sire 243, selling for a sale topping \$3,600 to new owners the Schneiders from Grenfell NSW. Deep body, elite fibre, white, great density backed up with GFW 127%, YCFW 17.4, YEMD



WILLANDRA DESMOND, LEAHCIM 146,

07 & DP+ 151 - pretty hard to resist this buyer wanting to appease a new customer!

Mt. Boothby - Tintinara S.A. were great all day with their support, securing five up to the pre mentioned \$3,000 but also included an astounding lot 18 bred by Brookdale 12 for another \$3,000 with a super bold crimp at GFW 108%, YCFW 15.5 & YEMD 0.7 and a backend like like...like Julia's!

The extreme bold crimp yet acceptable testing Brookdale's may have been a stumbling block for a few present on the day but it didn't deter the Johnsons who ended up with four of them by day's end.

Keilira Station - Kingston S.A. kept their hero status up at the sale in buying 10 and averaging around \$1,200 and putting that beautiful floor in the sale.

Michael Guthrie - Mt. Pleasant S.A. bought five including a pick lot 41 for a mere \$1,400. Bred by Brookdale 12 his all round figures were some of the best in the catalogue. Try these.. GFW% 116, YCFW 17.1 YSL 13.2 YFAT 0.3 YEMD 0.7. All this plus 114 Kg's at 20u!

Relatively new to the stud, John Weinke from Wynarka S.A. bought four including a huge cutter in pen 9 at \$2,600. A massive GFW% 147 matched with a YCFW 20.0 & DP+ 159 and bred by Willandra Desmond ensured no fleece weight loss with any progeny!

GP Foster bought lot 1 as mentioned for \$1,600 and added better quality with later pens particularly a bold crimped Bond son for \$2,100, a L146 at lot 21 with outstanding figures for \$2,500 including GFW 127% yet 17.8u 2.8sd and YEMD 0.4 & YCFW 16.0 and pen 25 for \$2,000.

Lee Slape - Coomandook S.A. bought two including a snifter of a poll bred by L146 at lot 6 for \$3,200 with a great fibre and 0.0pf. and another from the same sire in lot 20 for \$2,600.

I bought for Netallie - Wilcannia NSW, Wilkatana - Port Augusta S.A., Butch and Jodie Dunn - Penong S.A. as well as picking up three tremendous for value, Brookdale 12 sons for the Nantoura's - Port Neill S.A. commercial flock.

Andrew Willis - Brinkley S.A. bought for his own flock as well as the Thomas family's. The Marsson, Kennett, Vowels, Seidel, Nuske mostly bought singles yet wherein integral part of a very successful sale.

2018 SALE DATE: TUE 14th AUGUST



I write to introduce you to Karabein Poll Merino stud. Selecting the best genetics is one of the most critical decisions for commercial producers to capitalise on the current prosperity embracing the sheep industry.

Whilst every sheep producer aspires to breed the perfect animal, the relative contribution of wool, meat and lamb production to profitability from the merino must be known to select breeding objectives. At Karabein Poll Merinos' we aim to breed a fertile (130% lambing), quick growing (60 kg at 12 months), plain bodied animal that grows wool of quality (17.5 μm , lustrous and white) and quantity (6.5 kg/hd) from an efficient animal at commercial stocking rates (aim 3 DSE/100 mm of growing season rainfall).

- **Fertility** – (130% Lambing) - Pregnancy scanning for has assisted our selection for a more fertile ewe. Further the use of a Peigree Matchmaker to allow identification of hundreds of lambs to their dams, thereby tracking actual performance, not just potential.
- **Quick Growing** – (60 kg at 12 months) - By weighing lambs, weaners and hoggets, and submitting weights to the Sheep Genetics Database, we obtain ASBVs for our sheep that allow genetic comparisons with other across Australia. Of the sires we used for 2017 lambs, 3 were ranked in the top 5% for weaning and yearling weight and top 1% for post weaning weight.
- **Plain Body** – Sheep CRC and DAFWA research correlates more body wrinkle and greater wool cover with lower lambing percentages and more fly strike. We cull struck animals.
- **Wool Quality** – (17.5 μm , lustrous and white) – We annually test our rams and selected ewes for micron, yield and fleece weights. This has dramatically helped us improve our wool quality. Rigorous classing has also helped us attain desired style characteristics.
- **Wool Quantity** – (6.5 kg/hd) - Sheep CRC research has shown that fertility is compromised when a ewe produces more than 10% of its weight in wool compromises fertility. We aim to maximise wool value by producing quality.
- **Maternal Efficiency** – Selecting ewes that produce the greatest output (meat and wool) from the least input (ewe maintenance requirements), a more profitable animal is produced.

For more information: This year, we will be displaying rams at the Dowerin Field Days, on site 5 at the Milne Marquee. Please come and visit to discuss the industry. Please call me on 0429433070 to arrange inspection. Sales are conducted privately after September 1st. We are located between Goomalling and Meckering in Western Australia and would love you to visit.

Daniel Dempster – Stud Master - 0429433070



WESTWOOD POLL

Esperance Ram Sale W.A.

OFFERED 20 SOLD 20 - AVERAGE \$1,365 - TOP \$2,000



GENETICS: WESTWOOD POLL 19 (x LEAHCIM 3153) 39 (x LEAHCIM 218), LEAHCIM 1689, LEAHCIM 3153, KAMORA PARK 65, KAMORA PARK 304, GLENLEA PARK 363.

Lot	Tag No	Sire	Mic	SD	CV	YCFW	Raw Flc Wts	Yfat	YEMD	DP+	Purchaser	Price
1	160647	WW 19	20.8	2.7	13.1	16	4.8	-0.2	0	130	A and R McIntyre	\$2,000
2	160648	WW 19	19.9	3	14.9	7	3.7	-0.2	-0.1	118	W and C Walter	\$1,200
3	160356	WW 39	20.9	2.7	13	18	5.5	-0.3	-1.2	130	A and R McIntyre	\$1,700
4	160450	L 1689	19.4	2.5	13	16	4.8	-0.5	-1.2	127	Hargate Park	\$1,900
5	160541	KP 065	19.8	3.5	17.5	15	4.5	0	-0.5	140	W and C Walter	\$1,600
6	160040	L 3153	20.5	3.1	15	13	4.2	0.4	0.9	136	Karleigh Farms	\$1,500
7	160914	SYN	220.1	2.9	14.6	12	4.8	-0.3	-0.3	137	JA Russell	\$1,100
8	160401	L 1689	21.9	3.3	14.9	15	4.5	-0.7	-0.9	122	W and C Walter	\$1,400
9	160166	KP 304	19.9	3	15.3	22	5.1	-0.4	-1.1	123	JA Russell	\$1,200
10	160354	WW 39	20.2	2.8	13.7	10	4	-0.3	-0.7	127	W and C Walter	\$1,400
11	160527	GP 363	21.1	3.5	16.4	15	5.1	0.1	0.6	136	A and R McIntyre	\$1,600
12	160597	KP 065	19.2	2.6	13.6	22	5.7	-0.3	-0.5	145	JA Russell	\$1,200
13	160239	GP 769	18.4	2.9	15.9	12	4.4	-0.5	-1.8	116	W and C Walter	\$1,200
14	160170	KP 304	20.6	2.9	14.1	28	6.2	-0.7	-0.5	131	Hargate Park	\$1,500
15	160666	WW 19	19	2.7	14.1	12	4.7	-0.3	0	126	Karleigh Farms	\$1,200
16	160005	L 3153	20.2	3	14.8	10	3.8	0.1	1	135	JA Russell	\$1,100
17	160301	WW 39	19	2.8	14.6	8	3.6	0	0	130	Karleigh Farms	\$1,400
18	160708	SYN	18.6	2.6	14	9	4.3	0.1	-0.2	130	Karleigh Farms	\$800
19	160191	KP 304	19.6	3.1	15.7	19	4.5	-0.3	0	123	JA Russell	\$1,500
20	160665	WW 19	21	3.3	16	10	4	-0.5	-1	118	W and C Walter	\$800

Westwood Poll owned by Scott and Odile Welke sold just over one hundred rams in 2017 with twenty selling well in the Esperance Ram Sale. To sell to a top of \$2,000 yet still average a healthy \$1,365 is a testament to the quality of the joint.

I have presented this sale report in this way as I wasn't present on the day and thought I would explore this summary as a possible for other smaller sale reports considering there are only twenty ram represented.

Of interest here are two columns, the YCFW and Raw Fleece Wt. records which represent high accuracies considering the lighter/heavier YCFW ASBV's run very close to the higher/lower real time fleece weights. Where there are low accuracies this is not always the case.

Also of note is that despite the hundred ram sale success captured, Scott managed to keep 56 polls for the stud's own use of which their quality was equal to the Esperance sale team!

Alistair McIntyre just east of Esperance at Neridup kicked the sale off with a \$2,000 WW19 bred poll with YCFW 16.0 and bought another three by sale's end. He also added another fifteen from on property selection.

Long time supporters, Mark and Liv Walter - Cascade W.A. lent great support and bought six to average around \$1,300 to a top of \$1,600. They also bought another five post sale.

The Stead family's Hargate Park- Cascade bought two through manager Karl Witt. One of these bred by Dual Purpose King Kamora Park 304 only made \$1,500 yet had the figures of YCFW 28 and a real time fleece weight figure of 6.2kg's, both the highest in the catalogue.

Classings clients, Leigh and Karina West just north of Gibson W.A. bought four from the auction and another four via an on property pick later. Their pick ram on paper was at lot 6 for \$1,500 with YEMD 0.9 & YFAT 0.4 and bred by L3153 who is a re-

nowned meat trait specialist! Their flock is motoring along fiercely due to the impact of these genetics.

JA Russell - The Oaks managed by Nick Rudenklau were great in picking up five and adding the vital competition this sale requires. I liked their lot 12 pick at \$1,200 with YCFW 22.0, DP+ 145 at 19.2u 2.6sd & 13.6cv and bred by Kamora Park 065 bought at Classic'15. The Westwood polls are influencing their SAMM flock with the crossed progeny experiencing an automatic \$2.00 greasy price lift!

Dirk Stevens - Broughton Vale NSW likes the Westwood Poll animals due to the absence of pin wrinkle, cleaner points, high quality fibre and fertility and subsequently secured twenty five of which I selected at August classing. The Roberts family's Lort Leaze - Cascade (10), the Treloar clan at Kojonup W.A. (10) and Peter Veitch - Beaumont (3) all added to make 2017 one of Westwood's best sale year.

2018 SALE: FRIDAY AUGUST 31st

PENROSE POLL

Esperance Ram Sale W.A.

OFFERED 50 SOLD 50 - AVERAGE \$1,197 - TOP \$2,400

GENETICS: PENROSE 110050, LEAHCIM 122528, 132464, 132259, 133621, GLENLEA PARK 1107239 A.I., 130891, 140323, 140446.



If it wasn't such a hectic time of the year I wouldn't miss the Esperance Ram Sale due to the quality submitted by two of 'our' Cascade W.A. enterprises, Penrose and Westwood Poll Merino studs.

The following is a summary from both stud principles of how the day ran and just maybe this year... Paul & Tanya letto trading as Allanaluke, Grass Patch W.A. gets the Penrose sponsored trip to Margaret River again buying 9 for an average of \$1444! Their top price purchase came at lot 7 for \$2200. The son of L2464 came in at 103kg PWT 3.1 YFAT 0.2 YEMD 1.5 DP+ 142. A second ram for \$1700 was by L 2259 20.5m CF 99.4 YCFW 25.5 DP+ 145

Brad, Chris & Will Lewis, south of Scadden, north of Gibson was the bulk buyer, taking home 11. Averaging \$960 & active to the end buying lot 50. A 111 kg thumper, son of L2464 19.2m PWT 2 YFAT -0.1 YEMD 0.2 DP+138.

Andrew Bott, Bott Trading - Munglinup S.A. was chasing sweet wools, going home with 3. Topping the sale at lot 2 with yet another L2464 son: 19.4u, 2.9sd, 99.8cf at 97kg. YCFW 21.8 PWT 3.5 DP+ 144 with \$2400 the final bid.

Mark & Liv Walter bought 8. Starting at lot 5 the only son of GP739 in the catalogue. 21.4u 99.4cf and YCFW 27.3 PWT 5.2 DP+ 182 and a twin to boot!

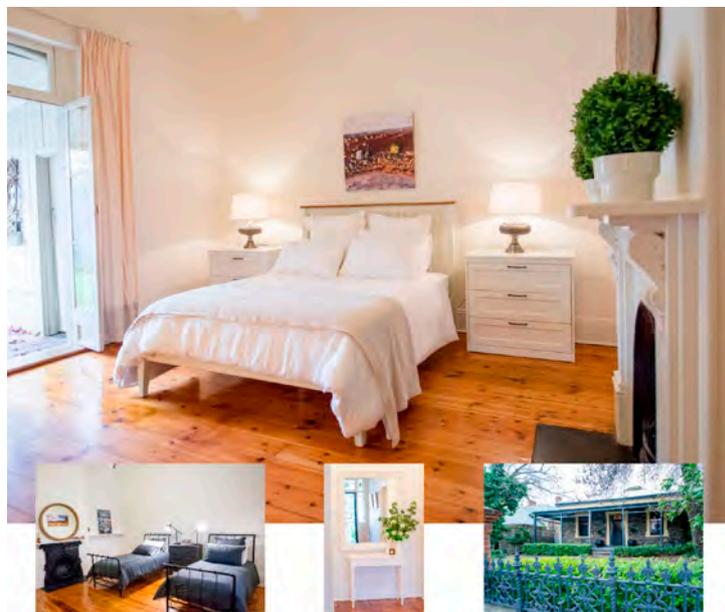
The Stead family's Hargate - Cascade, Mal-corm & Ruth Leske & Josh Sullivan took home 2 each.

Another notable purchase was Glen Quinlivan at lot 35 for \$1700. Sire L2464 with 19.9u 2.7sd, 99.8cf at 106kg. YCFW 16.2 PWT 2.5 YFAT 0.2 YEMD 0.7 DP+ 145.

I did the first stage ram classing at Penrose on the 9th February 2018 and was amazed at the huge depth of quality that now resides at this place. A ram 480 as just a weaner has huge potential to be a Classic'18 topper should he continue with this growth rate!

Also amazing was the rapid build up of some of the gnarliest cloud formation preceding a serious rain storm I have ever been a part of!

ESPERANCE RAM SALE 2018: FRIDAY 31st AUGUST



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The six month shearing article in Cullings'17 created a lot of interest and subsequent discussion so I have decided to continue with the theme considering the popularity of the subject.

I classed some commercial flock hoggets on a recent trip to Eyre Peninsula that had been fed lot straight wheat after a restricted lead up as to its suitability. It was a success with all of the young ewes responding well to containment with straight grain.

The other bonus to the stock was the fact that the Far West Coast were experiencing one of the worst seasons for quite some time and these animals were going to survive!

Due to this 'spoil' much of the staple length was hitting the 120mm mark with absolute ease with just a handful hitting a 140mm peak! Due to the genetics, (Lone Gum - Crystal Brook S.A.) who strive for maximum density with staple length combined with the said feed regime, a six month shearing in

this instance would have been idyllic.

Unfortunately, and due to the toughness of the season, this was near impossible due to other priorities during a very testing time for the property.

Please have a glance at the following from Greg Tilbrook - Primaries W.A. who studied many clients' success's in exploring different length shearings.

SHOULD I SHEAR AT SIX MONTHS?

-by Greg Tilbrook - Wool Manager - Primaries W.A.

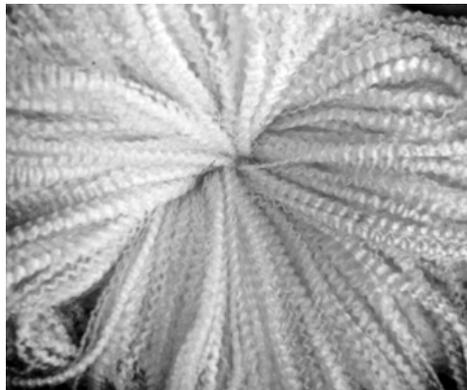
This is a question that I have been asked many times over the last few years. I like to answer a question with a question. If you were advised not to grow a certain malting variety of barley as it is no longer required would you change the variety? If your answer is yes then you need to look at the current wool market and price returns for the shorter length wools. Change what you produce to meet the specifications that the market is demanding.



There is so many factors that need to be looked at if you are considering a shearing at less than the traditional 12 months. In this article I hope to share with you some real life examples where clients that I deal with have had success and failure when trialling a shorter shearing.

Many years ago in my role as a wool broker I was confronted with the role of selling wool at 125 to 130mm in length. This was a task in its self as the trade can only handle small volumes of longer wools.

Much of the feedback from buyers was thank god it had a mid-break as they could break it in half and blend it through the top as the two halves of the fibre would be very sound. This raised the question could this client shear at six months to achieve the same result. This option I put to the client and a trial was started. The client has now been shearing at six months for over five years and some of the hidden benefits are now being noticed.



Although there has been an increase cut per head over the two shearing's compared to the previous twelve month shearing (see table below) there has been many other benefits that were unexpected. These range from ewes maintaining a better condition score year round, increased lambing and weaning percentage (which was always above 100% but is even better now. Averaging 125% plus), to less time spent checking flock for fly control issues as the wool is always shorter and less fly issues have been evident in all weather conditions.

The following table begins with calendar year and should be noted that the six month shearing coincides with his client's improvement in the understandings of animal nutrition via Lifetime Ewe Management regimes and the like.



Average Cut Per Head Greasy:

08/09	7.0kg	12 months shearing
09/10	6.61kg	" " "
10/11	7.42kg.	" " "
11/12	7.10kg	October " "
11/12	4.83kg	March 6 months
12/13	4.60kg	October " "
12/13	4.49kg	March. " "
13/14	4.66kg	October " "
13/14	4.65kg	March " "
14/15	4.87kg	October " "
14/15	4.80kg	March " "
15/16	4.56kg	October " "
15/16	4.08kg	March " "
16/17	4.54kg	October " "

It is not all positive though as one extremely tight feed season over the summer months did have a large impact on the return (cut per head) of the flock although supplementary feeding was pushed to the limit. Since then extra minerals and supplements have been added to the regime and the returns per head per acre have improved in tight seasons.

Another example that a client has implemented into his program is to shear when the wool gets to the ideal length. What is the ideal length? Well if talk to the buyers that operate in the open top market it's 64mm.

The open top market has seen a large increase in demand in recent years as we see more wool being utilised in active outdoor wear. A real growth market that is tapping into the millennials that are investing into woollen products. This client is now shearing when he gets to 70mm average on the sheep's back. This can vary from six to nine

months as it all depends on the feed year as production is large-ly based on what goes down the throat of animals.



One of the big advantages I see to the shorter length wool is tensile strength. In most shorter shearings it is well in excess of 32 NKT and quite often in the high 50's. particu-larly in the west we see full length wools being discounted due to low tensile strength and high mid breaks. This discount can vary de-pending on the types of wools being offered in sale but in current market conditions the shorter sounder wools are pricing extremely com-petitive-ly.

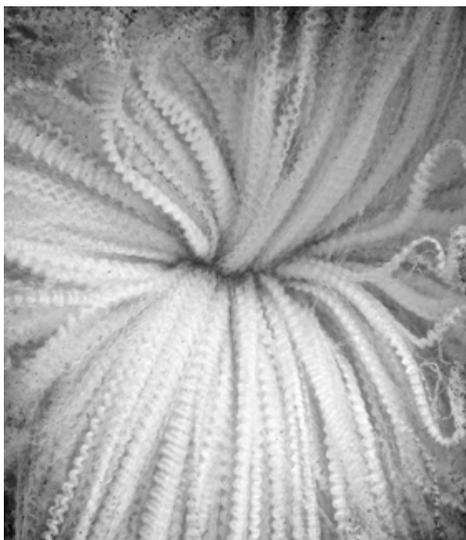
In my experience most growers are able to meet the market require-ments in terms of length in 7 to 8 months but this then poses a prob-lem for mixed farming enterprises and other farming priorities at cer-tain times of the year. This is where clients are looking at a 7 to 9 months shearing win-dow.

For example a February then Octo-ber and July window. This will mean only one shearing with lambs at foot so a labour saving cost in drafting. Ewes will only ever lamb down with a maximum of 5 months wool growth (helping with lambing per-centage) and ram joining will always be with shorter wools.

When you consider that you are now shearing 3 times in two years and in most cases you can elimi-nate the need to crutch twice in the two years the cost would nearly equal itself out depending on the costs associated in your area. Please note that in some cases crutching may still be required but this will be dependent on other farm-ing practises (e.g. Chemical control).

Ram selection also pays a key role in being able to achieve a good length in a shorter shearing window. If you are only achieving 80 to 90mm length at the moment then in my experience you will see a slight increase in length at a prem shear-ing but it won't be able to achieve the best returns that are currently at 64mm plus. That said a good feed regime is a big factor in wool growth.

To sum up I would say give it a go if you feel that it is something that you can fit into your programme. Most that have tried have not gone back but monitoring production to maximise returns is key to making this a productive system.



A CLIENT'S TAKE...

Since Challara began shearing twice per year, we have increased our average staple length by close to 10mm and our micron has decreased by 2 microns through genetics.

The advantages of shearing twice are;

- No crutching, except for ewe weaners.
- Less chemical used to control fly strike.
- The wool grows slightly quicker.
- The lambing ease of the ewes with less wool on their backs.
- Greater wool demand from sell ing wool between 60-80mm in length.
- An increase of about 10NKT in wool strength because of shear-ing twice per year.
- The bio security risk is decreased for lice control.
- The shearing teams and wool agents get more work through the year.
- It fits in with the farm man agement program.

The disadvantages are:

- The shearing cost is doubled with

the ewes.

- If the wool length is under 60mm it is discounted.
- The wool cut must justify the cost of shearing. (Over 4kg includ ing oddments for 6 months at a miniumum is preferred).
- The yield is much lower in the au tumn shearing.
- The vegetable matter is higher in the autumn shearing.
- The lack of sulphur and other minerals do effect the wool growth.

Overall, it is worthwhile at Challara shear-ing every 6 months. I certainly would rec-ommend 8-9 months as a preference with at least 70mm wool growth.

The main reason a 6 month shearing is better for us is that a 8-9 month shearing would clash with other management pro-grams on our farm.

We have a growing number of commercial clients shearing once every 8-9 months and a few clients who are shearing twice per year. I have also observed over the years that the more that we select for wool length and density, the more we can push the boundaries with what the sheep can produce for us.

With the scientific evidence behind our breeding, these plain and productive sheep can often be over-looked or under rated in the wool industry.

The wool value/wool demand, high ferti-lity and easier care aspects are strong as-pects to consider.

Peter Wilkinson - Challara W.A.



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RIDGWAY

On Property Sale '17 - Lameroo S.A.

OFFERED 128 SOLD 126 - TOP \$5,200 - AVERAGE \$2,133

RIDGWAY 721, 985, 339, 112, 1137, 609, 660, 643, 599, 204, 528, LEAHCIM 858, WALLALOO PARK 115, WILLERA 20, WP160/R525 SYN, RLSYN



I had an unfortunate accident with the Ridgway catalogue post sale and don't have all the information I need for a complete tally of all of those clients who secured rams on the day but I'll do my best!

Things are running well when you have a long list of homebred sires doing it for you without huge amounts of investment via A.I. or purchased outside genetics.

That's the case here including Ridgway R721 bought at Classic'15 for \$17,000 by Gunallo - Pinnaroo S.A that has bred very well at that stud.

I like the 'floor' buyers who need volume and Rob McCarthy - Orroroo S.A. (17) and Lynton Barrett (11) bought nearly thirty rams between them in the auction and selection pens.

McPiggery - Lameroo S.A. were on the hunt for a collection of top enders in 2017 and Ridgway were on the target list.

They might have bought the two best rams of the sale which happened to be in the first two pens at \$5,000 each.

The second bloke had great density and nourishment backed up with YCFW 26.5 & MP+ 162 add the great figures of 18.3u 2.7sd 14.8cv & 0.1pf - bred by R643 which goes back to Kiandra 644.

I really like their lot 12 purchase, a R721

bred thumper with a YCFW 26.4 & YSL 10.9 and MP+ 156. Duane Simon has a great eye for the fibre and the first three pickups epitomised just that.

Aaron Freeman - Munrose - Colebatch S.A. jumped in early and was keen to secure everything he liked including lot 5 bold crimper bred by R721. 18.1u 2.7sd 14.9 yet YCFW 23 & YSL 13.4 made \$4,000 look worth it!

Near neighbours, the Johnson family's Mt. Boothby did the same and started collecting at lot 18 and bred by may favourite all time sire L858. At \$2,400 they latched onto a winner and then added another five throughout the sale to be invaluable support on the day.

Another R721 bred son featured way down in lot 66 to top the sale! The enjoyable Glen Hampel couldn't get away from him in the sale lead up so his \$5,200 outlay was just reward for a great animal. MP+ 162 and YCFW 32 reflected just how the poll looked with fluid safe density without the 'incorrect' skins often associated with such a high fleece weight. The Hampels went on to buy another three quality polls.

The Graham clan A/C Glencorrie - Maitland S.A. were great all day starting with a ripper lot 7 with again great density and try these figures wool lovers: 16.8u 3sd & YCFW 20 at \$4,600. They added another two high calibre rams and averaged over

\$4,500 for the privilege.

Stephen Allen - Goroke Vic. purchased six including lot 4 for an easy \$3,200. At YCFW 19.2 & YWT 7.3 all's well!

Simon Brady - Rhydney Vic. ended up with six which appeared to be the common denominator for multi purchases. I liked his lot 10 pickup for \$3,200 and bred by R721 whose quality shone throughout the sale. I might have been runner up for this guy for Nantoura such was his presence.

Michael Altus' Mallee Produce - Lameroo were good with the support starting at lots 27/28 at \$2,000 & \$2,600 with the second pushing out YCFW 21.4.

Mates Jeff and Andrea Buick and Mitch and Ros Willson - Penneshaw S.A. kept things rolling with six purchases between them.

I bought six for Rob and Sonya Chalk - Wilalooka S.A. and somehow managed to buy three to average \$1,000 amongst a red hot sale! The first two were in lots 67 & 68 yet the quality was still top shelf here at around the sale's halfway mark.

Other multiple buyers were Tim & Cheryl Freak - Coomandook S.A. who bought five including a cracker lot 83 for \$2,100 and bred by R721.

The Philip family from Maroona Vic. also bought five to average around \$1,400 and another five went to the Auricht's - Pinnaroo S.A.

I bought two for Wilkatana Station and another for Butch Dunn - Penong S.A. to add to their battery of pickups from other studs over the sale calendar.

Lots of familiar past buyers attended with the one to three purchases including names like Ben Nevis P/C, Hein, Paech, Hallam, Mark White, Pudney, Hoare, Piggot, Carey, Walker-ville P/C, Marrett, and the Lee families who made the sale a complete success that it was.

2018 SALE: MONDAY AUGUST 13th.

PIMBENA

On Property Sale '17 - Wirulla S.A.

SOLD 40 - AVERAGE \$1,074 - TOP \$2,800



Full credit has to go to Les Hamence of Pimbena S.A. with his persistence in hosting a quality stud outfit in an area that is testing to say the least on all facets involved with the merino including the obvious - growth and fibre. To present animals to the public via an on property auction during testing times deserves full accolades and he's been doing it for decades!

The 2017 season was a testament to this yet forty rams selling to average \$1,074 to a top of only \$2,800 suggests depth of quality due to good decision making with genetics in use.

Stalwart sire Leahcim 858 and a tremendous son of his, Southrose 405 led the way with the sales with the top price of the day bred by the latter for \$2,800 and going to our client Mark Baldock - Kimba S.A. - YCFW 16 YEMD 0.5 and YWT 7.3 with a bold crimp will blend in well with this high calibre flock.

But it was again the 858's that blazed away and helped push the sale along in its early stages. Lot 1, YWT 9.7 & 112kg's at \$2,400 to WB Jacobs - Minnipa S.A., Lot 2, YWT 9.6 at \$2,300 to John Duncan - Wirulla S.A.

Lot 5, YWT 5.1 at \$2,100 to Butch and Jodie Dunn - Penong S.A., Lot 6, YCFW 17.0 at \$1,800 to Scott Trewatha - Ceduna S.A., Lot 7, YEMD 0.8 at \$1,600 to Craig Rule - Wirulla S.A. and Lot 8, YWT 6.7 to Trevor Pittaway - Haslam S.A. for \$2,500 just showed how much influence this sire has had at Pimbena over time.

The '858' ewe portion have formed a huge base for this stud and are often the dams of top rams bred by other external sires used at the stud.

One of the highest YCFW (20.0) & MP+ (151) poll was at lot 3 and sold to WB Jacobs for \$1,700.

John Duncan - Wirulla S.A. was great with the typical support and secured four rams including the mentioned lot 2 for \$2,300.

Long time supporters, Trevor Pittaway - Haslam S.A. bought five, the Bergman's Ooralin - Ceduna S.A. with four, Myles Tomney - Poochera S.A. with two, Scott Trewatha - Ceduna another two, Steve Wilson - Streaky Bay with two and the Lawries - Nunjikompta S.A. and J. Nielsen - Penong S.A. with one each helped complete a reasonable sale.

I bought six for Broughtonvale Station - Little Topar NSW who has been a longtime admirer of Pimbena due to its stance with non mulesing and ASBV's for yonks!

Another long term appreciator has been Netallie Station - Wilcannia NSW of whom I picked up four beauties for at the over realistic average of around \$900.

Les deserves a good result in 2018 with another great crop of youngsters awaiting your perusal!

2018 SALE DATE: WEDNESDAY AUGUST 1st.



RIDGWAY 170005 will turn heads at Adelaide sale this year as much he deserves the Classic'18 gurnsey!

Built like the proverbial and a muzzle that you can see like a beacon on a dark night, this fella is bred by 150451 which was in turn bred by Kiandra 130644. All of these naturally bad by some bloody good mums!

YWT 10.5 YEMD 0.9 YFAT 0.7 YCFW 20.4 & MP+ 157 should see the punters clamoring for a glimpse of this frame coated with fibre density and Armidale whiteness.

The Ridgway Classic'18 team is only a small step behind this guy with the team of eight presenting with the elite fibre and great carcass attributes that we are used to from this ever during Mallee stud.

Merino Wool Resurgence

No matter how you look at it, wool is booming. Individual micron price guides for 16.5 to 24 micron are at or near all-time highs. Hallelujah!

Recent spikes in the market have been short lived and can make growers feel a little nervous. However, it appears the current increases are of a much more sustainable nature built on the back of increasing consumer demand and new products coming on to the market.

China has virtually no stock on hand and combined with worldwide merino productions at 70 year lows and consumer confidence in Europe and the U.S. at 20 year highs, it would seem the stars are in alignment.

A.W.I. marketing and product development and leading companies such as Adidas are fuelling demand for next to the skin active and leisure wear which is rapidly expanding opportunity for wool.

However, with wool becoming a \$20 fibre comes more scrutiny and accountability.

Consumers around the world are becoming increasingly concerned with provenance, sustainability and animal welfare. While wool ticks a lot of boxes, these issues will be among the ongoing challenges for our industry.

However, we are currently enjoying prices for odd-ments that we have been happy to accept for fleece wool in the not too distant past.

Prices for MPCs in excess of 1000c are not uncommon as are MBLS at 800c plus, MLKS at 700c and even MSTN at 500c-600c.

Good luck for the coming season!

Cheers,

Trevor Smith
Elders Wool



BORUNG

On Property Sale '17 - Waikerie S.A.

OFFERED 50 SOLD 42 - TOP \$4,800 - AVERAGE \$1,335

GENETICS: GUNALLO 150067 'SANDILANDS', LUCERNBRAE 965, SOHNIC 0261, WALLALOO PARK 545, 322, WPSYN, KAMO-RA PARK/WALLALOO PARK SYN, LEAHCIM/KELVALE SYN.



Always a pleasure to write about Merino sales that go from strength to strength by the year due to diligence shown by the principal in obtaining genetics at all costs that have had huge influence across the stud. Borung is one of these and due to these tactics there has been a rapid transformation of a once cantering enterprise.

It's a first for me at an on property sale that I've witnessed genuine crowd clapping when the stud record price ever was reached!

Lot two was the culprit and it wasn't bred by the sale pen filling sire Gun067 but a Wallaloo Park 5445P version that won the bidding competition at \$4,100 and bought by Brian Hampel - Nadda S.A.

No ASBV's at the stud yet but the real time figures were a treat: GFW 114%, BW 106% 18.8u 2.4sd 13.0cv & 0.4pf. on a deep yet stretchy frame with the fibre bold and lustrous to back up the excellent figures. Crit-ter & Bec Freeman - Penong S.A. were runners up after their nervous representative bowed out at \$4,000!

Brian also added a Gunallo 067 bred ripper in lot 8 for \$2,600 and try these figures chaps: GFW 100% BWT 107% at 19.4u 2.4sd 12.2cv & 0.0pf!

The Freeman's recovery from their pen 2 runner up was another outstanding poll bred from Borung's \$10,000 purchase at Classic'15, Gunallo 'Sandilands' 067. This guy's progeny filled eight pens in the first twelve offered and has become the stud's impact sire. Subsequently those eight pens grossed nearly \$15,000 to average over \$1,800.

The first, lot 3 at \$2,600 became the Freeman's first purchase with the second at \$2,900 bred by a WPSYN containing three older Wallaloo Park Sires which in their day were heroes! The poll was superb and at one stage was a possible for Classic'17: 19.6u 2.6sd 13.4cv & 0.4 attractive!

First timers, DA & BD Nutt from Orroroo S.A. are the clients you dream about attending your sale. They picked up four including the second highest price for the day at \$3,700 for lot 4 and bred by Gun067 with outstanding figures - have a go at these merino lovers: GWT 108%, BWT 110% 17.9u 2.9sd 16.0cv & 0.4. Their following additions averaged that high price out a bit with the next costing \$1500, \$1,800 &



\$2,100 for I believe the heaviest in the cata-logue at 125 Kg's. Lot 30 had BWT% 127 GWT% 110 and bred by Lucernbrae 965 which Brenton purchased at Classic'15 for around \$3,000.

I had a list of orders for three stations that we class for: Netallie - Wilcannia NSW, Aston - Pooncarie NSW and Wilkatana Port Augusta S.A. The Borung rams are perfect for these station conditions considering they are brought up in pastoral like conditions ie. Waikerie ain't exactly Esperance!

The Ingram owned Aston started the day's proceedings with the purchase of lot 1 for a bargain \$1,500 considering his presence and growth at BWT% 110. Quite often the case with lot one where the punters are often intimidated by the first offered compared to how the rest of the sale may proceed. Aston added another three to their list including a Gun067 for \$1,500 at lot 7.

I latched onto three for Jeremy and James McClure's Netallie - Wilcannia NSW to add to a collection that eventuated over five or six sales. On a recent classing trip to the station just this side of Wilcannia NSW, I stumbled across a Borung purchase from a couple of years back. Prize winning fleece with crimp, nourishment and density on the longest frame of all time with a horse like muzzle but....dead!

We're trying to conquer a yield issue at Wilkatana managed by Andrew Smart for Sawers Props. It's a gritty property and we are all hoping that between Karawatha and Borung genetics the issue can get close to being cured. Hopefully the six purchased at this sale for an average of around \$800 will have the desired impact.

Dogwood Farms - Richard and Harry Young - somewhere north of Horsham, bought a very good lot 5 for \$2,300 and bought another Gun067 for the same money in pen 12 with a BWT% 113 but try this micron for a thumping cutter and take no-tice Peter Hayman: 17.1u 2.8sd 16.2cv & 0.4 at GFW 108%.

Righte here's a slightly lighter cutter at 6% below the average but check out the figures on lot 6 bought by the Faltings - Loxton S.A. for \$1,800. Ready? 19.2u 2.1sd 10.7cv & 0.2pf. Very rare to see this in this state. Except for the micron the other measurements are reserved for superfines up around Armidale somewhere. Willaloo-ka/Lorelmo used to have a few like this every year!

Local yocal Mick Evans picked up his traditional 5/6 including a super square backed hooer at lot 16 for a Gun067 at 110% BWT for a paltry \$800!

Merino freaks, Kym and Michelle Thiele - Pompoota S.A. were a surprise Borung supporter on the day and picked up three including lot 31 bred by Sohnic 261 for a tiny \$700! Here we go with some rare figures again: 20.9u 2.5sd 11.9cv 0.0pf - that is one hell of a narrow band for 20.9u!! That's rarer than a Burra based stud master attending a Classic Ram Sale!!

The Hoffmans - Loxton S.A. bought two for added support as did first timer Haydn Hein - Murray Bridge S.A. as well as the Schmidt, Cross and Bruce families to turn this sale into the best Borung has ever had!

2018 SALE: WEDNESDAY AUGUST 29th

THE AUGMENTED SHEPHERD

Dr Mark Ferguson, NeXtgen Agri & Dr Andrew Thompson, Murdoch University

Trent Carter of Wallaloo Park - Marnoo Vic., trialed sheep collars recently and I was keen to tap into the information as to pass on to readers of all things new with sheep technology. I thank Dr. Mark Ferguson in putting this piece together at extremely short notice due to another possibility falling through at late notice. Nothing too peaty Mark, promise!

When we did the Lifetime Wool project, that is, the science behind Lifetime Ewe Management, we manually recorded every weight, condition score, pasture measurement etc. Hundreds of thousands of tags read, data points hand written and later entered into a computer. To re-run this work today with the gear that is now available, would be a completely different story. We would be a lot more efficient, a lot more accurate and a lot more precise. Increasingly, these opportunities are coming to us as stud and commercial sheep producers. These are exciting times.

One of the trendiest words in investor circles at the moment is AgTech. Short for Agricultural technology, this wave of investor activity is bringing us everything from autonomous drones to vertical farms in the basements of buildings. For us in the extensive agricultural industry this wave of investment will also bring us new opportunities many of which may have seemed like science fiction not that long ago.

So, what does all this mean for the merino sheep industry? It means that our traditional skills of having a good eye for stock; knowing when they are well, knowing which ones to breed from etc. will be increasingly assisted or augmented by information. This doesn't mean our skills will be less important tomorrow than they are today, it means we will be more efficient, accurate and precise because we will have access to information in realtime that we simply couldn't have had before.

To get this clear early in this article, I think it is important to state that the only technologies that have a future are the ones that make the jobs on-farm either easier, more efficient or more effective. That is, the technologies that help farmers make more money, through either increasing productivity or reducing labour and costs, will win out, the rest have no place in my future or yours.

I would encourage you to be open to new technology and open to help entrepreneurs really understand the difficult parts of your job so that they can solve some of the problems that you have. Equally, I think you need to use your gut feel to assess potential new technologies, if your gut is telling you that it is never going to work, it is a good idea to let the entrepreneur or company know and stay well away.

Where are we at now...

The last decade has seen a real maturing of the capabilities of EID with the equipment and software now available to us we are much more able to gather accurate data than we have ever been. On many ram breeders properties, EID tags, a scale head, EID reader, barcode printer and barcode reader are rapidly replacing the brass tags, clipboards and pencils of our past. There are a range of brands of all of this gear on the

market. We all probably have our favourite options of each and it would be unwise for me to write mine down here, but I'm happy to share my experiences with anyone who calls or emails me.

Auto-drafters and sheep handlers also come in a range of breeds and it is worthwhile having a good think about the way you will be using this equipment to help determine which one is the best for you. I would always encourage people to find someone that has one and go and spend a day in the yards with them before investing.

There is absolutely no doubt that our ability to collect accurate data is now very high – when it all works. Many readers might be cursing as they read some of this having suffered through many misspent mornings in the yards, on the phone, trying to get the bluetooth to pair or the EID panel to read. The systems are far from perfect and there remains a big opportunity for one of the companies or a new company to really nail a true 'plug and play' system that works without fail.

Where will we be soon...

This is where it starts to get exciting. What are the new technologies that we will have available to us soon? Across all of farming we see an increase in the use of sensors to collect information and send it via the internet. The output of these sensors ends up in smart systems that are interpreting the information and helping farmers make important decisions. For the sheep industry the last few years have seen 'the internet of sheep' start to become a reality.

The first wave of this technology is in the form of proximity sensors – sensors that can detect and record when they are close to other sensors. The most obvious use of this technology is to match ewes and lambs as they wander around the paddock. Over the last few years a lot of work has gone into looking at this potential.

The most comprehensive study was funded by AWI and undertaken by the teams at Murdoch University and DPIRD in Western Australia. This work compared the sensorbased approach to mothering up to the other methods currently in use. The sensors used in this work were medical grade and designed for understanding a range of things in humans, not in sheep! They measure around 3cm x 5cm and are quite light. Generally, they are fitted on a collar on the sheep and on the lamb.



Table 1. Comparison of mothering up using proximity sensors with other methods commonly used in industry

lamb and the ewe and removed 48 hours later (according to the website)

Method (number of flocks in brackets)	% of all lambs matched to a dam	% match with sensors
Sensors (n = 40)	96	-
Lambing rounds (n = 16)	98	97
DNA pedigree (n = 10)	94	96
Pedigree Matchmaker (n = 4)	90	91
Yard mothering up (n = 2)	89	84



Photo acknowledgement – Smart Shepherd website

Taking into account the purchase price for the collars and related equipment, data analysis costs, labour of putting them on and off, it costs an estimated \$9-\$11 per lamb matched with this technique. This is considerably cheaper than DNA parenting and comparable with other methods that stud breeders currently use. For this type of technology to be rolled out in commercial flocks we are going to need to see a further reduction in price.

What is on the horizon....

Now this is where we really get excited. The technologies that are out there but currently not being properly deployed in the sheep industries. One of the other things that the Actigraph sensors (the ones used for research purposes) provide is accelerometer data. The easiest way to explain that is that it is like a fitbit for sheep. We have recently completed some data analysis on behalf of The New Zealand Merino company investigating this data with artificial intelligence techniques, known as machine learning.

This work has provided some real inspiration as to what the future holds for our industry. This accelerometer data can provide amazing insights to what is going on in the paddock. Once we have these systems deployed on an eartag and delivering information in real time, we will be able to check the sheep from the comfort of our office!

Through this work we have shown that lambing events can be identified, so date of birth and the time taken to give birth (and if a lamb is stuck) can be picked up in the data. Equally the amount of time that an animal is grazing, walking or ruminating can be estimated with around 90% accuracy (from the sheep fitbit output alone). We are aiming to have systems that use this information to provide alerts when problems strike.

We are confident that fly strike, lameness and lambing difficulties will be identified by the sensor network and an alert issued. There is a very real chance that this will all be possible within the next few years.

We are also exploring the potential of camera systems paired with machine learning to start to recognise sheep from their faces, to accurately predict liveweight and start to score some of the subjective traits like wrinkle. We are working with AWI to develop some early prototype systems to see how well these techniques work. This will be the tip of the iceberg, the machine learning capabilities will grow and grow and the camera technology will get better and cheaper.

**data from trials completed by Murdoch University, DPIRD WA and funded by AWI*

This work showed without doubt that the sensor-based approach is highly effective at matching lambs and ewes. Most of the unsuccessful matches were due to sensor failure rather than error in the method itself.

Importantly this study also showed that there was NO effect of:

- *birth type (equally effective on singles and twins)*
- *stocking rate (tested from 1 to 40 ewes per hectare)*
- *mob size (tested in mobs from 30 to 450 lambs)*
- *paddock size (tested in paddocks from 1ha to 320ha)*
- *ewe age (tested in everything from ewe lambs to adults)*
- *lamb age (effective up until 80 days after the start of lambing)*

This work also clearly showed that things happen pretty quickly in terms of the sensors making a match. Within 24 hours, most of the work is done (figure 1).

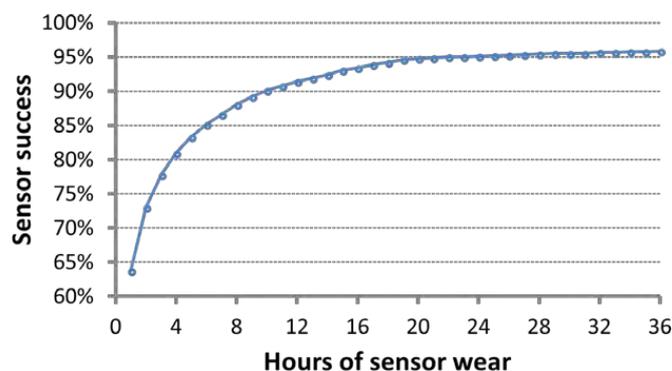


Figure 1. Hours of sensor wear compared with the proportion of lambs successfully matched. *Source: Murdoch Uni, DPIRD & AWI

There is a commercial version of these sensors on the market, many of you will have heard of SmartShepherd. This technology uses proximity to pair animals in a similar way to the trials explained above. It is a small pod that is attached to the



Can we predict who this is and how heavy it is by cameras paired with machine learning algorithms?

The best is yet to come!

There is no doubt in my mind that we stand at the beginning of the single most exciting time to be in the sheep industry. And I am not talking about the awesome prices that are currently being received. The rate of change in technology will be astounding and it will make a material difference to the lives of sheep farmers everywhere. In the near future, your sheep skills will be augmented by the immense power that computer technology is bringing to the world. I implore you to embrace the change, look for opportunities and lean in. If you are keen to find out more, by all means flick me an email or a text.

mark@nextgenagri.com, +64 21 496 656

Acknowledgments

There are a whole swag of people that have helped us with this work to date. We gratefully acknowledge the funding from Australian Wool Innovation, Sustainable Farming Fund & The New Zealand Merino Company. We also sincerely thank all of the awesome people that we work and collaborate with that help us do what we do across both Australia and New Zealand.



CLASSINGS CLASSIC '18

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd 2018 AT 1.30pm

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Abraham Lincoln

Coddington Uardry
Poll Merino



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Three specially selected May/June drop Polls for Classic'18

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LUCERNBRAE

On Property Sale '17 - Callington S.A.

OFFERED 57 SOLD 45 - TOP \$3,100 - AVERAGE \$1,173

GENETICS: SWS LEAHCIM 965, SWS LEAHCIM 282, SWS GUNALLO 140026, PLUS LEAHCIM SYNDICATE, WALLAOO PARK 500, VARIOUS LUCERNBRAE SYNDICATES.



No point in me raving about just how good this place is again after mentioning the same since the creation of the first Cullings! The Lucernbrae rams looked great in 2017 and most of the sale pricing reflected the growing interest in a sale that's being going for yonks!

It can't be ignored of the major players of this sale who appreciate some of the best quality in the state yet at prices that could double in other districts.

It was Gunallo 140026, the ram that sold for \$16,000 at Classic'15 to the Superior Wool Syndicate (of which Lucernbrae are a member) who led the way with filling pens of high standard. Almost half of the first thirty were from this sire.

Kym and Denise Frahn - Mannum S.A. respect this and were great sale support in picking up four beauties including the top price for the day at \$3,100.

Kym started his unique collection at lot 4 with a thumping Gunallo 140026 bred poll for \$2,900 and standing at 110 Kg's. A Leahcim 282 son followed at \$2,200 and a great

figured Leahcim bred ripper after that with 19.1u 2.6sd 13.4cv & 0.2 adding to the spice in the fibre quality stakes.

The bloke who continually features well in the Charra Hogget Competition and winning it in 2017 gave me his standard order for two on property Lucernbrae polls.

A Gunallo 140026 lot one at \$2,000 was considered a steal by sale's end and Critter and Bec Freeman - Penong S.A. were going to pleased with what they saw with figures to add: 18.6u 2.7sd 14.7cv 0.6pf. In my view the best ram in the sale that could have gone to Classic'17 was slotted in to pen 6 and again bought for Critter for \$2,700 and again sired by the Gunallo hero! A double circle around the catalogue pen number in my book suggests something special!

Colin and Nathan Wegener - Colrae - Callington S.A. know the good stuff and bought a L282 son for \$2,400 in pen 2. They added another three with great support. I have classed the Colrae ewe hoggets for 2018 and the flock is in great fettle due mostly to Lucernbrae genetics. One of these came a close second in the Monarto Hogget Compe-

tition a few weeks ago and took the eye of any serious grower on the night. Bloody cold though!

I snatched a Leahcim bred lot 9 at \$1,200 for Mark Baldock - Kimba S.A. that was highly ranked in my catalogue but didn't fetch the competition - Mark's luck!

Kym and Michelle Thiele - Pompoota S.A. really do know quality Merinos and were a great influence in the success of the sale with their four pickups. I liked the pen 17, Gunallo bred poll for a mere \$1,200 the best due to his all trait look.

A Lucernbrae sale wouldn't look right without the ongoing order from Netallie Station - Wilcannia NSW where I bought five for a property that is in its one hundredth year of existence.

A flukey lot 5 at \$1,000 led the way followed by three Gunallo 140026's at \$700, \$700 and \$800. Nowhere else can I buy this quality for not enough!

I had a great volume order for the year's worth of sales through Steven's Farming who have property scattered everywhere including Little Topar NSW, Dubbo NSW and Seymour Vic. At pen 54 I had notched up 12 unmulesed, white woolled, easy care polls with good test figures to average around \$700.

Four rams were secured by the Willis family - Brinkley S.A. as was the same for Ian and Rob Paech. Michael Willis bought a ripper horny in pen 19 for an easy \$1,200 which wouldn't have been this cheap twenty years ago when horn was king! Try these figures to add: 18.2u 2.5sd 13.8cv 0.2pf.

With some great results on the scoreboard and still producing stock that ranks as well as most, Lucernbrae have always kept an eye on fibre quality control for whiteness and silky, bold crimped winners and are worth an in-spection if you have never been to their sale.

An extra reflection of this was their \$7,000 sale to Sohnic Merino - St. Arnaud at Classic'17 that had all of the attributes to warrant that SuperSire title!

2018 SALE: THURSDAY AUGUST 2nd

CORRIEDALE, SUFFOLK, OR MERINO: SHEEP MEAT EATING QUALITY

Jackson Adams has written for Cullings Newsletters in the past and I'm always keen to hear what projects he is involved with as part of an Internship at Uni of Adelaide.

The following piece doesn't involve merinos as yet but it's not far away as there is low accuracy data available at the minute that will soon be upgraded with the likes of Jackson furthering his research.

Amongst other things, the meat science work I am currently involved in is with a Corriedale Project at the University of Adelaide yet based in Tasmania! We also have a very similar project running in Suffolk's and are in the process of extending that into the Merino progeny from the S.A. Merino Sire Evaluation.

The Corriedale project is looking at benchmarking current sires against other breeds and continuously develop Genomic tools for ongoing genetic improvement. This is especially important in Corriedale's as Genomic tools are currently not sufficiently accurate for use in industry.... yet!

The project has a particular interest in eating quality, which comes off the back end of Corriedale breeders generally being quick to espouse the superior eating quality of Corriedale, relative to lamb from other breeds.

Eating quality is a function of tenderness, juiciness and flavour and amongst over 30 different traits are being recorded with the Corriedale progeny. There are two in particular that I am directly involved with, that being Intramuscular Fat (IMF%) and tenderness (Shearforce or SF5).

I say I am directly involved with the IMF% side of things, but realistically, I just drop the samples off to the wizards at FoodPlus - Waite campus ready for them to work their magic!

The SF5 samples however, have been keeping myself and Honours student Hannah Gordon busy for a few solid weeks now as we have had 213 samples to process for the Corriedale project, another 200 Suffolk samples and potentially another 200 or so for the Merino Sire Evaluation.

With simplicity in mind, the process of processing a batch of SF5 samples is as follows;

- Cook cryovaced loin samples in a water bath at 70°C for 35 minutes.
- Immediately remove and place in an iced-water slurry to cease the cooking process.
- Following this the samples are said to be cooked to level of 'doneness' that is consistent.

Using two different pairs of scalpels set at two different widths cut the loin sample into six pieces of identical width and height, this will provide six replicates for one loin sample.

Place each replicate loin sample in the clamp of the Lloyd and press the green button. Shearforce is determined by measuring the force (N) required to pull a blunt blade through the sample and severing the muscle fibres.

In order for all of this to happen requires a tonne of miles to be driven and in all honesty, despite it making me cringe sometimes at how fast the odometer is ticking over on my new ute, I am utterly grateful as it has given me the opportunity to see a lot of the country that I hadn't seen before.

It has also given me the opportunity to work with a number of legendary humans that I have given this status for reasons that aren't necessarily limited to relations of work.

In particular, I would like to give special thanks to the likes of Sean Miller, Emma Winslow, Greg Cock, Wayne Pitchford, and Stephen Lee. They are all great role models that I am extremely lucky to work alongside with and look forward to what the future may entail.

It must be noted that whilst I am currently dabbling in the sheep meat industry, I still have a soft spot for the wool industry and endeavour to look for opportunities in the future to work back with it ASAP.

Twang on!
Cheers,

Jackson Adams

**Livestock Consulting Intern
Davies Research Centre
The University of Adelaide**



ROEMAHKITA

On Property Sale - Cummins S.A.

OFFERED 80 SOLD 78 - TOP \$5,800 - AVERAGE \$2,525

GENETICS: ROEMAHKITA 066449, 122732, 140033, 140119, WHT SYN, GRY SYN, PNK SYN, KAMORA PARK 333 A.I., KAMORA PARK 304 A.I., POLL BOONOKE A.I., SOUTHROSE 140292



Pretty hot sale this with a new on property record cracked at \$2,525 and only passing two for the whole day to a top price of \$5,800.

Due to an accident with my Roemahkita catalogue and others in 2017 due to a rain affected bundle of sale books I won't be able to rave about certain animals as per normal due to missing commentary. Even ASBV's that I had manually written in catalogue on the day of interesting rams won't be included here.

The average fleece weight of the team was 5.6. Add EMD 40.8 - FAT 5.8 which was no surprise considering their condition!

Kamora Park 333 the ram sold to North Cowie in 2015 bred the top of the day going to Trevor Voight - Yorketown S.A. at the said \$5,800. 19.1u 2.6sd, 13.6cv with EMD 42.3 & a massive FAT 7.0 he was a reared twin as well.

For an enterprise that starts at lot 1 and secures six polls throughout the sale to average around \$3,000 demands an early mention. Those great local Baines Brothers should have just returned from their Roemahkita sponsored Greek holiday with all tucker thrown in due to their support!

Their lot 1 pickup was RO122732 bred and over filled the pen at \$3,600. 18.2u 2.5sd 13.7cv & 0.0pf & EMD 42.9 was one reason! From the same sire, lot 30 for \$2,800 had HFAT 8.2 which was possibly the highest in the catalogue.

Hale River Ag. - Mintaro S.A. were the other large bulk purchasers in securing nine including two from the selection pens.

Bucky Mickan - Cummins S.A. was good for two of the best including second highest price of the day for lot 18 bred by RO140033 at \$5,200 and up there again for dosh, lot 21 for \$4,400 and bred by KP333 with EMD 42.7.

The astute Chris Watson had to average over \$4,000 to secure his four. The first another RO140033 son in lot 8 at 20.2u 2.7sd 13.4cv & 0.1pf. I liked his lot 13 grab for \$4,600 and bred by KP333 with EMD 43 & FAT 7.2.

Darryl and Bev Frahn - Murray Bridge S.A. were on the 'Coast on holidays and thought they'd drop in for cake and sandwiches and ended up transfixed with lot 5, bred by KP304. They outlaid \$3,800 for the GFW 6.2kg poll as they washed the tucker down with a cup of tea! Darryl later said that they were some of the best sangers he'd eaten whilst Bev was talking to someone else!

Andrew Hall - Manoora S.A. was keen for a KP304 son and got hold of lot 10 for \$4,200 with all of the good numbers.

Lenny Newton - Elliston S.A. yet dirt in other places bought three budget rams from the auction at \$900 each as to supplement his station order.

Another loyal and big number purchaser was B & K Claughton - Cummins with a five ram haul at auction including two at \$4,200 & \$4,000. This guy in pen 23 and bred by KP304 had EMD 43.4 and FAT 7.2.

Yet another loyal, TW Borthwick Estate again were great support with their five purchases

to average around \$2,000. Lot 76 and bred by RO122732 was 19.3 3.0sd 15.4cv & 0.5pf.

Ross Mickan from just up the road started at lot 12 for a Poll Boonoke 948 son at \$4,000. Great numbers here including 19.6u 2.6sd 13.2cv 0.3pf, 5.9kg. EMD 44.7 and FAT 6.9. His next also at \$4,000 and bred by the Southrose fella had some of the best real time measurements at 17.9u 2.5sd 13.9cv & 0.0pf. Another PB948 followed for \$3,800 in pen 37 with a GFW 6.0.

Maurice Collins near Mt. Torrens S.A made the trip for just the one purchase sitting right there in lot 2 and paid \$5,000 for the privilege. Poll Boonoke 948 bred with outstanding figures no matter what type of stud you own or where it is! Try these Bob! 17.5u 2.2sd 12.6cv 0.0pf with GFW 6.0, EMD 42.5 & FAT 6.0.

Tola Ag - Kimba S.A. were good for three including lot 4 for \$3,800, a KP333 son of obvious presence and 17.4u 2.4sd 13.8cv & 0.3pf.

I think on memory that Trevor and Craig Gameau were shearing so they left me their order for three. Two of these were RO140119 bred at \$2,600 & \$2,000. The other at lot 25 and bred by RO601382 for \$2,800 enjoyed a GFW 6.2. I think these kg figures would be better expressed as percentages.

I bought Rob Germein - Port Vincent S.A. a ripper lot 16 for an on-the-day realistic price of \$2,000 and bred by KP304.

Bull and Ashley Warner - Cummins S.A might have bought the best of the day in lot 15 backed up by terrific test results: 17.8u 3.0sd 16.0cv and try GFW 7.7kg! Cost 'em \$4,600 but you get what you pay for at this joint.

Stuart Schneider of Closeburn Partnership - Grenfell NSW bought two on the day for \$2,600 & \$3,400 and I added to the list over following sales as to meet his wool/meat criteria.

Good to see Neil and Liz Loffler there and they picked up a couple for \$1,000 & \$2,000.

Pat Hannan - Cummins, Kurraden Partners, Drinavale Pastoral, the Wursts - Laura S.A., the Myers - Port Lincoln S.A., the Frick Family - Wilmington S.A., Bascombes, Whittaker, Thordinda Props, Willybee P/C, Lawrie, Carr and Nettle families supported well as to make this record sale the most memorable yet.

2018 SALE: TUESDAY 31st JULY.

CHALLARA

On Property Sale '17 - Badgingarra W.A.

OFFERED 147 SOLD 136 - TOP \$3,800 - AVERAGE \$1,300



Unable to get to the Challara On Property sale due to Classic Sale commitments I thank the Farm Weekly and Kane Chatfield for permission of the use of their sale report...

By COURTNEY WALSH

THERE was no shortage of competition in the bidding last week at the Challara Poll Merino stud on-property ram sale at Badgingarra, where prices hit a top of \$3800. In fact values were up on all fronts for the stud, with despite one less ram selling under the hammer in comparison to last year, the top price, gross and average were all solid increases year on-year.

Newly minted local Primaries livestock representative Greg Wooton said the results of the sale were positive. "All of the quality rams were well sought after and met with spirited competition throughout the catalogue," Mr Wooton said. "The values returned during the sale reflected the efforts of the vendors and the presentation of the penned rams was excellent as always at Challara. "It was nice to see new and returning buying support from across the State from as far south as Ongerup, as well as out to Southern Cross and north of Badgingarra as well.

Last year's top price was set at a solid value of \$2900, but that figure was easily bested when the Munns family, Beacon, went all the way to \$3800 for the ram in pen two.

Jeff and Sue Munns made the trip to Badgingarra to purchase a Challara sire after looking at the results from the Muresk Sire Evaluation trial. "I was really interested by the information made available for the sire evaluation trial and that certainly was one of the main reasons we

decided to come along to Challara today," Mr Munns said.

The Munns family has been running Dorpers out at their property in Beacon but have decided to move back to Merinos given the possibility in the wool market. "We got out of Merinos back when wool crashed and went to Dorpers," Mr Munns said. "But now with wool where it is, we're excited to give Merinos another go. "We had our eye on the Challara genetics back when we had Merinos years ago and I've been happy with what I've seen since then." Of the top priced ram they bought, Mr Munns said it had the wool and carcass characteristics he was looking for. The Munns family also bought the ram in lot one sired by Challara 131232 for \$2600 to round out their sale topping purchase.

Taking out the title of volume buyer was long-time Challara client Andrew Kenny, Rubicon Pty Ltd, Badgingarra, aided in the bidding by Desmond Wilkinson, to take home a total of 13 rams to a top of \$1800 and at an overall average of \$961. "We've been using Challara genetics for a long time and have always been happy with the results," Mr Kenny said. "Recently we have had to decrease the numbers of Merino ewes we're mating to terminal sires but we want to maintain our numbers mated to Merinos because it's a great time to be in wool."

When asked about what traits he was wanting to have in his line-up of Challara rams, Mr Kenny said he was mainly looking for fertility, yield and staple length.

Another returning volume buyer was Mark Brennand, JM & MM Brennand, Southern Cross, who took home a total of 10 rams to his

property at South Yilgarn. Mr Brennand said he was looking for three main factors in the team of rams he put together. "Basically I was after a good frame, stylish wool and high fertility, all of which when combined equal a very productive sheep," he said. "We've been achieving very good lambing percentages, particularly with our maidens due to the Challara genetics we already have so we're looking to continue that." Mr Brennand's selection of 10 Challara sires included a top price of \$2200 and averaged \$1510.

Also coming a long way for a team of rams was Geoff Palmer, GD & G Palmer, Ongerup, who was buying on behalf of his son. "I was impressed by the consistency of the rams throughout the catalogue," Mr Palmer said. "And I thought it was good value buying for soft wool sheep with good cutting ability." Mr Palmer was chasing yield, cut and micron ranging between 18-20 in his selections and said it was worth the long trip for the plain type and highly-fertile Challara genetics.

By the end of the day, Mr Palmer had put together a team of six Challara sires, hitting a top value of \$1900 on three occasions and averaging \$1766. Other buyers who secured teams of more than five sires included Taylor Shiralee, Badgingarra, Denison Plains Pty Ltd, Jurien Bay, Mallee Hills Farming, Carnamah and GA & PA Martin, Badgingarra.

Challara stud co-principal Peter Wilkinson said following on from the stud's sale last year, which was in his opinion a little flat, the 2017 sale result was more positive. "We're very happy with the genetic progress of our stud and the standard we are setting for our-selves," Mr Wilkinson said. "And we've been getting great feedback on the performance of our rams, so it's nice to see that backed up by return and new clients at this year's sale.

"Several buyers were encouraged to purchase rams because the Challara semen sire 140394 performed very well in the Muresk sire evaluation, as seen from the Dowerin Field Days. "But at the end of the day, given the seasonal conditions which I think impacted on the clearance and attendance, it was still a good result.

"There was one pleasing observation concerning the buyers of several top-priced rams and this was these particular buyers were prepared to purchase higher quality rams, even though they were in drought conditions, which is a statement in their confidence in Merino sheep and in our genetics."

2018 SALE DATE: THURSDAY SEP 6th

PEPPER WELL

On Property Sale - Keyneton S.A.

OFFERED 30 SOLD 29 - TOP \$5,000 - AVERAGE \$1,353



Due to a collision of two stud client sales being at the same time on the same date it was impossible to attempt the obvious! Here is Hansi Graetz's description of the day's events...

"The Pepper Well Poll Merino sale day produced a ripper! With fine weather finally, after 124 mm of rain for the month of August All appreciated the unhusked, quality wools on meaty frames offered.

Col Fawcett welcomed the gathering of new and old faces then without hesitation started the auction, scowering the shed for that first elusive bid - waiting, waiting, then yesss and another and we're away, then another rally of bids, finally seeing lot 1, a 102 kg thumper with 19.5 mic soft handling wool going to DW Kubenk & sons - Tepko S.A. for a respectful \$2200.

Onto lot 2 a 101 kg poll with very white 19 micron wool, 3.0sd, PEMD 33 and snapped up by first time buyer Thornby Trust - The McGormann family - Sanderston S.A. for \$1,600.

Lot 3, a double poll, sired by Orrie Cowie Eclipse at 106 kg, 19.3u, 3.0sd CF% 99.2, PEMD 36, PFAT 3.5, PWWT 81kg had a deeply crimped super white waxy wool on a very long body. Bids coming from everywhere 3k - 4k - 4.5 then \$5,000 going to Brenton & Jane Smith Calcookara Stud - Cowell S.A. Bottle of red coming your way Ferret. Cheers!

Lot 4 a tested double poll ram (PP) sired by L858 was the heaviest ram in the catalogue at 63

114 kgs with 18.1u, 3.3sd and PEMD 34 was a big long brute of a ram and sold for \$4400 after some calculated bidding to Richard & Tracy Henstchke - Thorlindah Park - Tunkillo S.A.

The next 3 were rams 90-100 kg, 19u, 2.6 - 2.3sd, 99+ CF%, 30-33 PEMD was a horn locking affair between Ku-benk, Thorlindah & Thornby all securing rams at \$1100, \$1500 & \$1000.

Lot 8, a PP, sired by Eclipse had a 19.9u, 2.9sd, CF% 99.6, PEMD 33 and was snaffled by Peter Kleinig - Greenock S.A. for \$1500.

Lot 9 saw the Holt family step into the fray, always seeking a quality super white wool with no exception and were successful for a bargain \$1,200. Check these numbers ... 96.5 kg., 16.2u, 2.4sd, CF% 100, PWW 77.5kg, PFAT 3.5 & PEMD 36.

Lot 10 and sired by L858, weighed 96 kg, 17.1u, 2.5sd, CF% 100 & CRV 57. At the drop of the hammer and at \$1000 there was finally success to Rob Milne White Park Pastoral - Wilmington.

Lot 11 and yet another L858 son weighed 95 kg out of the paddock or not at 19.5u 2.9sd & 99.8 CF%. He was gathered up by long time client DM & S Schirmer \$900 and the next ram for \$800.

Lot 14 another PP and sired by PW 4074 exhibited 101kg, 16.9u, 2.7sd & CF% 100 and was procured by Rodney Seidel - Sedan S.A. for a 'trip over your jaw,' \$1000! Thornby chipped in for the next at \$800 when I noticed my my banker giving me a glare!!

Lot 16 by Eclipse at 92kg, 17.1u, 2.7sd & CF% 100, caught Shannon Warnest's - Willalooka eye and he collared him for \$1300. Wrapping up the sale 29 rams sold to a new high of \$5000 averaging \$1353. Many thanks to all involved and hope to see you all at this years sale."

Hansi

2018 SALE: TUESDAY 28th AUGUST



I inspected the Ridgway Advance team a fortnight ago and the photos here typify what I discovered - that this stud is a genuine parent stud with poll rams sliding down the race one after the other exuding fibre quality and great shapes.

The Advance team for Classic'18 will be large due to the huge depth of quality that exists - the Ridgway families have been huge support since the sale's inception in 2002.



FOREST SPRINGS

On Property Sale - Joel Joel VIC.

OFFERED 60 SOLD 55 - TOP \$3,300 - AVERAGE \$1,168

GENETICS: FOREST SPRINGS 120813, 130031(x HYNAM POLL BIG KEV), 130073, 140164, 140448 (x GLENLEA PARK 080007), FSP SYN, GUNALLO 'BOND', MUMBLEBONE 140350, RIDGWAY 140599, KAMORA/NETLEY 21, GLENLEA PARK 514, ROE-MAHKITA 2257.



Bruce Dean's Forest Springs Merino had a very successful debut sale in 2017. I couldn't make it so I have relied on the Stock and Land report and I thank them for letting me use it for Cullings'18.

FOREST Springs Merino stud celebrated a successful first attempt at an open-cry auction, at its fourth on-property sale last week.

The Joel Joel stud offered 60 Poll Merino and Merino rams, selling all but five, to a top price of \$3300, and an average price of \$1168.

The top-priced ram, Lot 5, was snapped up by Hynam Poll Merinos stud principal Kevin Hynam, Longwood, who is no stranger to the stud.

"I bought the top-priced ram here two years ago, we like that the stud's breeding bold, crimped wool, with big wool cut-

ting capacity," Mr Hynam said.

He said Lot 5 stood out because of his overall correctness. "He's not the biggest sheep of the lot, but he's got good muscle and fat figures, and has also been tested as a double poll," he said. "His wool is white and bold, which is what we're looking to achieve."

The ram recorded fleece measurements of a 20.1 micron, 13.4 per cent coefficient of variation (CV), and a 2.7 standard deviation (SD). It was the only ram Mr Hynam purchased at the sale, and will be joined to some "specially picked out ewes" in November.

Spencer and Shannon Martin, 'Watta Wella Park', Concongella, bought five rams. There were some big volume buyers in the mix, including Spencer and Shannon Martin, 'Watta Wella Park', Concongella, who bought five rams, top

\$2300, av \$1680.

Return buyers of three years, the Martin family appreciate the stud's crimped, well-nourished wool.

"We're looking to put more nourishment in our wool, and increase staple length and lambing percentage, and the rams here have been doing the job," Mr Martin said.

Jaye, Ashley, Robert and John Farnsworth, 'Dell Water Pastoral', Navarre, took home six rams. Robert Farnsworth, 'Dell Water Pastoral', Navarre, took home six, to a top of \$1600 (twice), av \$1200.

Having already bought two rams from the stud at Sheepvention earlier this year, Mr Farnsworth said the rams suit their climate.

"We're local to the stud, and we have a similar climate, so the rams do really well in our country," Mr Farnsworth said.

"We like their size and their wool, they'll be joined in the next six to eight weeks."

Forest Springs stud principal Bruce Dean said he was very happy with the result of the sale.

"That's the highest clearance we've ever had, we're getting a bigger profile and a bigger clientele to match," Mr Dean said. "We had a lot of repeat clients, but some new faces too."

He said moving to an open-cry auction style definitely paid off. "It's always a risk when you're first starting off that you'll just get lots after lots passed in, but we had a really good clearance today," he said.

2018 SALE DATE: THURSDAY 27th SEPTEMBER



G'day,

My name is Tim Johnsson, and I run a company called BreedELITE. Bill knows myself and our products well, and as many of his clients use it, he has kindly offered me the chance to tell you a little more about what we do.

In a nutshell, we deliver hardware, software and specialist advice in a seamless system to help you breed elite performing sheep. We work very closely with our clients to constantly upgrade and build our products and in turn serve them to a higher standard. A few of our clients that you may know are Wayne Lehmann of Flairdale Poll Merinos, and Andrew (Aphid) Heinrich of Ella Matta.

One of our biggest differentiations from any other company out there is that we started with the ambition to serve the stud industry better than anyone else, and have built our products upon the standards that the top studs require. This means we have positioned ourselves and our products to be very easy to input data, very easy to manipulate and analyse that data, very easy to send to sheep genetics, and very easy to manage your sheep based on the data.

We have a one company policy, meaning that no matter what products we supply you, whether they be our own or from third party, we will provide support for them. That means you only have to deal with us for support, us, as in myself or another person that actually knows what a sheep is, knows what it is like in the yards, knows the products inside out and back to front, and can help you properly without delay with no blame shift to another company. This same policy applies to the products as well, you can get all of the technologies you will need for your

sheep farm through us, from EID's to auto drafters and everything in-between.

BreedELITE SHEEP is the ultimate pedigree and performance recording software for both stud and commercial producers. This is a very powerful software and is getting better every day with the feedback of our customers. Our developer Greg Johnsson is well known in the industry and is more than qualified to help you with any data recording questions you have. Over 35 years of specialist sheep knowledge forms the framework that BreedELITE SHEEP is built on. We have priced this product at a very modest \$367/yr that includes all upgrades and support.

Our elite stud breeders are pushing the boundaries and need a software that enables them to do so, one that can handle all their needs, is easy to use, and is upgraded regularly with new functionality. On top of the software, we offer data manipulation and entry services, as well as help with integration with sheep genetics. BreedELITE SHEEP will cater to your needs whether you are a only just starting out, to breeding your own rams, running two or three studs, or running a 16000 head commercial operation.

BreedELITE SHEEP is built to be used sheep-side throughout the whole management cycle, and all of our technologies are built to interface with it directly, meaning no double or triple handling of data, no more disjointed excel spreadsheets, no more needing internet to get analytics, no more hassle. Running a sheep farm is complicated enough without your software being hard to navigate and use properly. If you wonder, "can BreedELITE SHEEP do...", chances are it can, just ask us! If it can't, we'll build it!

The Smart Draft'n'Weigh System

I can guarantee that if you are a stud producer, or anyone that is wanting to get more data than just weights, you will not find a smarter and more streamlined auto drafter and data recording system than that of the Smart Draft'n'Weigh system. Now, that is a pretty big claim, but I am

willing to stand behind it and will promise to deliver on it time and time again.

Two and a half years ago, I was really unsteady about the current autodrafter options on the market, and really saw breeders struggling with a technology that in its essence was not built for them at all. I decided that something had to be done, even though it seemed as though it was reinventing the wheel. But I can tell you the difference is night and day.

I was very particular, and overhauled every drafter on the market through the eyes of a modern day breeder. I had a long list of criteria: weighing accuracy, drafting accuracy, drafting ability, drafting setup, drafting speed, ease of use, finish quality, animal visibility, animal handling capability, design, ease of assembly, portability, ability to fit into yards, troubleshooting/support, animal stress, durability, upgrading/repairing ability, data analytics/outputs, multi-use ability, and cost. Pretty exhaustive right! Well it needed to be.

I checked every drafter against these criteria, and tasked myself to fix every single issue with the current drafters, so fast forward a few years and here we are. I am so passionate about this, as I speak time and time again to so many breeders who have other technologies and feel so stuck with a sub par machine that doesn't fill that dream they had when considering the purchase. It is my mission to bring technologies like the Smart Draft'n'Weigh System to farmers such as yourself, as quickly and cost effective as possible, because I know it is the only system that can serve you to the level that you need it to.



We are the only company that provides a fully hot dipped steel frame drafter, built to fit into your yards (510mm wide!), fully tailored to suit both stud and commercial producers, that is highly portable for multi-farm operations, has complete component replaceability/upgradeability, with an independently supported weighing floor (no more weighing issues), used with simple plug and play operation live from your device. It does more than just autodrafting and weighing, providing live in-yard analytics after every sheep, without expensive clunky scale heads, all surrounded by free support and upgrades. This system is our core business, not just a side project, and we take it very seriously.

You are probably thinking that because of all of these amazing features, the price will be well above the competition too, but once again, we are lower than anybody else on the market. We question heavily why other systems cost so much, and don't believe they are providing the value for money that they need to.

We sell direct to the farmer, meaning we cut out the middle man, and his margin along with it. The Smart Draft'n'Weigh System is priced at \$14,670 ex GST, and includes 2 years subscription to the software, free upgrades and support, EID and Weight capability, remote control, and personal delivery and training by myself. That's value for money.

We are doing another manufacturing run right now, and we have only 10 drafters being built, and I have already filled a few spots, so don't miss out.

If you want to learn all about the drafter, or to book your spot, or have a chat to me, you can at our website: www.breedelite.com. You can also see some footage of it in action there!

The software and drafter combo is pretty impressive where it is now, but I will never be satisfied. The system will never be finished, it is but a canvas for you and me to build the greatest autodrafter, performance recording software and surrounding technologies ever, both now and into the future. When you buy our products, you buy our promise that we will do everything in our living ability to make your job as easy as possible, as cost effective as possible, in the most streamlined manner as possible. Don't think that you will get left behind with a previous

version either, whenever we do a major upgrade, both to the software or the drafter, everyone gets updated, for free, period.

I want my company to become the best and most respected in the industry, so help me to help you achieve your dreams. Let's build this company together and see how far we can go. There is nothing that makes me happier than farmers enjoying what they do because they have the right system by their side, so why not join our community of elite farmers using elite products.

If you want to hear any testimonials, get in touch with me and I can pass you onto one of our clients, but I will leave you with a parting story from Wayne:

When Wayne was shearing the other day, he had to draft off the ewe hoggets but didn't have time to attend the drafter to oversee its operation. Not to be deterred, Wayne put his criteria into his tablet and fired up the Smart Draft'n'Weigh System, and penned the ewes. He then returned to help out with shearing.

Whilst inside the shed, the ewe hoggets completely drafted themselves without supervision by person or dog! Wayne only had to push up a stubborn sheep twice out of the whole mob. Pretty cool aye! Wayne is not alone with stories like this, it really is a magic experience watching the very same sheep that you used to fight with when manual drafting just wander through on their own without you hardly needing to lift a finger. This could be your story, so give me a call if you want it to be...

Cheers,

Tim Johnsson

Head of Sales & Co-Founder

BreedELITE Pty Ltd

tim@breedelite.com



Farm Fair Plonk Winner!

We used a leftover sample from the Flairdale young rams as part of the 'Guess the Micron' routine at Karoonda Farm Fair'18.

Last year's winner, Wade Boughen who estimated the exact micron believe it or not was 0.1 of a micron off of the correct answer this year as was Duane Symonds at 17.4u a piece!

The eventual winner after a count of around 50 entries was Kylie Newman - Callington S.A. who earns herself a 1.5 litre of Wolf Blass plonk for guessing right on the money at 17.5u. Congratulations!

It must be in the genes as Kylie is daughter to Keith and Judy Paech who own one of the rare and underrated 'soft wool' studs in the state.



CALCOOKARA

On Property Sale '17 - Cowell S.A.

OFFERED 81 SOLD 76 - TOP \$4,000 - AVERAGE \$ 1,697

GENETICS: CALCOOKARA SYN, 'FRANKY' (x L858), 'GP' (GLENLEA PARK SIRE x L858), GLENLEA PARK 383, LEAHCIM 3202, SOUTHROSE ECLIPSE, GLENLEA PARK HORN 001,



There were good rewards for Brenton and Jane Smith on the stud's official, get this, one hundredth merino ram sale! Instilled in all of the all rams displayed was a culmination of intelligent breeding in that time to produce an animal that suits all of the environs that this nation can throw at them. Whether it be the challenges of station country or conquering the effects of high rainfall the Calcookara ge-netics can handle that type of variation due to early maturity and a whiter fibre than this state's familiar with.

There were early high prices easily justified by the quality of the polls especially in early pens. But I find it hard to go past the huge support that the multiple purchasers offer at this sale.

Never unnoticed is the Byerlee family's - Orroroo S.A. support right from the onset and were huge bidders throughout the sale. Their first procurement was a CalSyn bred fine crimper at lot 8 for \$2,400 with 14.8u and 0.0pf! I really liked there next move though for a GPK 858 son in lot 11 for \$2,200 with a fertile head, the boldest of crimp and great staple length at 16.6u & 2.7sd.

The Byerlee clan ended up with nine rams by sale end to average a tad over \$2,000 to suit there pastoral type country with ease. What support!

Top price and the standout animal in my eyes went to Hansi Franz Graetz's Pepperwell Poll - Keyneton S.A. at \$4,000 for a very classy lot 7, PPL 022, bred by GP383. Stretchy body, square backend and a fertile head at 17.4u, this bloke can only add to the quality of this underrated stud.

Rod Hanneman - Mangalo S.A. set the pace right from the first pen with a \$2,800 L858 son at 15.5u and 0.0pf. Paul Turner - Cleve S.A. chose well and picked up the next two for \$2,600 & \$3,000 with the second a GP383 son. This sire featured well in early pens.

David Foster - Port Lincoln S.A. paid \$2,800 for a GPH bred square bastard with stretch thrown in. The Elson clan were there in the first



row with a lot 6 pickup for \$2,000 and they added to this fella with two more later in the sale.

Len Hill - Faraway Hills W.A. buys what he needs and bought just the one for \$3,600 with typical Calcookara numbers: 16.7u 2.7sd & 0.0pf.

Grant Hanneman - Mangalo S.A. was great up front and now, researching the catalogue for this spiel, probably deserves a week holiday paid by Calcookara to our little joint at Penneshaw K.I. with all beer and tucker paid for!

Mark Hanneman - Cleve S.A. and the Hams family were good for three each with the Hams latching onto pen 9 for \$3,400, a ram that Brenton and I thought highly of due to his carcass attributes and if didn't sell for a discussed figure he would be retained at the stud...

He started with that SuperHero 858's son in pen 12 for \$3,400 with a thumping backend with plenty of extra loin with top quality, white lustrous fibre. Three pens later he was in action again with a great lot 15 pickup for \$2,400 with an a backend like ...Two pens later a \$2,200 horned ram was added to the list.

Pete and Matt Story - Mangalo S.A. were in it early with a Leahcim 3202 grab for \$3,000 with all the goodies including top ranked figures. Another \$3,000 unit was added at lot 19 for a thumping horned outfit. At \$3,200 in lot 25 was their last. They took home a trailer full of quality due to the realistic budget in buying some of the best on the day.

Bruce and Josie Hunt - Mundulla S.A. were in the action throughout and averaged around \$1,500 which included a chumpy backed whoer at \$2,200, Cal Syn bred and a beauty in pen 29. They bought six all up with one of their last at lot 84 pretty reasonable at \$1,600.

Jonathon Eckert - Quorn S.A. was active with a six ram haul with Brad & Chloe Wake purchasing five to add to the multi buying fraternity. Andrew Bates - Arno Bay S.A. were just as supportive with their six ram scoop.

The Cathrow's and Brendan and Sally Cret-tendon's secured eight between them to add to the great floor as to create a successful outing. Leon Hams - Whyte Yarcowie S.A. travelled the distance to secure three.

I liked what Freeman Puckridge - Port Lincoln S.A. bought on the day with three in the trailer of exceptional quality. Included was a Leahcim 3202 son with great fibre density for \$2,200, a big square L858 son for \$1,500 and a bargain horny by the GPH sire for \$1,500.

Yvonne Puckridge and Kym and Simon Allen - Kimba S.A. were great with their single ram purchasing as to complete a successful auction for this historic stud.

On first classing of the Calcookara young rams in February there was a lot to enjoy with my prediction that this group will be the best ever due to the result from one ram in particular.

The \$11,000 Coddington Uardry Poll that sold at Classic'16 to Calcookara has left progeny that are hard to find in this state - true New England-like white wools with aligned crimp and lustre yet on high trait, meaty carcasses. Keep an eye on these stud people!

2018 SALE: THURSDAY 23rd AUGUST

CUT OUT...



I wished that I had more time to early promote individually some of the amazing Classic'18 polls entries that I have selected so far with more to come over the next fortnight.

Keep an eye out for Gunallo 170295, O'Brien 170969, Ridgway Advance 170144, Lucernbrae 170111, Ridgway 170540, Roemahkita 170023, Ramsgate 170018, Flairdale 170555 and all of these stud's associated teams. Stunning polls from these elite studs who continually surprise each year with increased depth of quality to fill every pen with a winner!

I've been fortunate to be a selected classer for the Balmoral Vic. and Keyneton S.A. Sire Evaluation Trials as well as part of the Wells Classer Projects at Trangie NSW, Temora NSW and again Balmoral with Chris Bowman NSW and Nathan King W.A.

The approach by all involved with this trial work is super professional and with the huge support of AWI, will continue to feed all of us with essential tools as to influence all wool growing enterprises with 'need to know' information.

There are a huge amount of sires utilised across all projects and whilst some fair better than others there have been no absolute cracking standouts in my eyes that are rave machines...until Keyneton!

I believe that once the fleece weight data has been recorded and added to the existing data there will be some industry standouts especially once converted from FBV's to ASBV's.



It's a game person to stand up on a tomato box in this era and effectively suggest that, "we have made it this far without ASBV's so what's yer problem!" I know a few of them and you can't disagree that their stock don't look just as good as the near identical ASBV versions!

BUT! Any new kid who's fresh to Merinoworld is a tech savvy one who relishes the break from the ol' man's trends and wants the freshest information thrust in front of him! Sheep EID collars, DNA tissue sampling, ASBV's, Percentile charts, Preg scanning, Double Poll gene, a progressive classer (!) are all high on the list of prerequisites of hanging around the property!

Two rams close to being identical with bold crimp, eighteen micron with a great backend and structure at 100mm of staple length at eight months growth is attractive to all. The one with the ASBV chart hanging above the pen will be the likely pick from Henry Groover fresh out of Wooltech College!

I rant a lot about the hock situation amongst most flocks. Be super critical with that backend problem in your flock and especially with any ram purchases including commercial selections. The photo below is a result from a leading sire in a Sire Evaluation Trial.

It's not important if it comes from the ram or the ewe in this discussion - it's a nationwide problem and that's the issue! Next feed change or abundance of will cause this girl to crap directly onto those almost touching knee joint and the rest is history! One sire threw a lot of these yet there could be a problem with the associated base ewe flock as well.

No ram even slightly resembling this photo

should make any sale of any description unless direct to TFI or your dog's gob!

A quick glance of this photo typifies what we need to see more of in any Merino sale - a wide meaty backend. This ram is part of this year's Classic'18 team and will be the envy of many!

Rose and I and a group of mates spent November'17 in Rajasthan - India. A beautiful race and country and a trip of a lifetime. Only one work related moment when I walked in to a suit making shop in Udaipur surrounded by hundreds of meters of Australian Wool in cloth form. I enjoyably showed the shop keeper and his nephews the above wool photo. They had no idea of what I was displaying and I had no idea why they didn't know!

Rose and I were thrilled with the knot tying of our eldest, Jesse to his great girl Meggie Murdoch from Warooka, daughter to Richard and Leanne."

Hope a solid rain just around the corner... and Glendon try this for an oldy - Paul Kelly's, 'So Much Water So Close To Home' from all the way back in 1989 - a Classic!





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