

CLASSINGS

CULLINGS '20

RISKY EDITION 2

CLASSINGS

CLASSIC 2020

MONDAY

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New Murray Bridge Racing Club
Brinkley Road
South Australia

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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 '19 sale averaged \$5,136 boosted by a top price of \$20,000 but included many affordable rams in the \$1,500-\$3,500 range to appease the budgets of the commercial buyer.

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WELCOME TO CULLINGS '20.

The Kangaroo Island bushfires were catastrophic in lots of ways and other than the thankful minimal human loss of life, the livestock scene was one of devastation and chaos. On the sheep front an estimated 30,000 - 40,000 animals perished with a huge percentage of females now out of the breeding equation. There was more carnage in other parts of the state/nation obviously yet the K.I. situation was close to home in many ways.

I don't have to reserve any more than a mention of the devastation Covid-19 has had on our wool market and associated export of the great fibre. Add to this the pressures that European buyers/supporters and end users are now enforcing regarding the education of Australian Woolgrowers regarding Mulesing awareness - at least. Most of our Merino Stud and Commercial clients are in a very good position should

the enforcement of 'no-mules' become apparent. Are you?

On a much brighter note some of the breeding tactics that are paying off in the paddock are turning my job into the most enjoyable ever! Backends and front feet have improved immensely coinciding with a more meaty animal. That wedge shape design where the shoulder set is not quite as wide as the backend with added 'twist' is a great look for fertility, ease of lambing and a bloody great photo!

Meat is now such a large component of the total package and it's good to see so many animals that are being created utilising wise breeding tactics aren't losing fibre quality and density which can be the major challenge in chasing EMD & Fat to the extreme.

The 2020 Classings Classic is going ahead despite the inconveniences Covid-19 has caused. If we had the sale tomorrow, the Victorian studs' rams could grace the pens in the Classic'20 marquee but the stud principles wouldn't be allowed to be present! The vision of the Vic/S.A. border with two trucks either side, a long plank joining both with six studs worth of rams crossing from one vehicle to another may just be the case - if they're game!

Time restrictions has had its effect with this year's Cullings'20 due to an ever increasing sheep classing load as there is was much more to add to this edition considering some new or resurfacing issues like OJD and the 'dropping our guard' nature of its Covid-styled return!

Enjoy the read...

2020 RAM SALES & FIELD DAYS THAT COUNT!

July 13th

UPPER EYRE PENINSULA FIELD DAY - ON PROPERTIES

July 14th

LOWER EYRE PENINSULA FIELD DAY - ON PROPERTIES

July 22nd

S.E. MERINO FIELD DAY
KEITH SHOWGROUNDS S.A.

July 31st

MALLEE MERINO F/DAY
*MURRAY BRIDGE SHOW
GROUND*

July 29th

PIMBENA Wirrulla SA
Les Hamence
0428 268002

July 30th

O'BRIEN POLLWudinna SA
Showground - Darren O'Brien
0419 772173

Aug 6th

LUCERNBRAE Callington SA
Keith & Judy Paech
0415 701493

Aug 10th

RIDGWAY Lameroo SA
Ric 0459 432679
Matt 0439460554

Aug 11th

BADERLOO Spalding SA
Daniel Hammat 0439 347362

Aug 11th

RAMSGATE Tintinara SA
Jed Keller 0427 691858
Craig 0418 259049

Aug 12th

RIDGWAY ADVANCE SA
Bordertown S.A.
David & Karen Ridgway
0409 408263 - 0887 542028

Aug 20th

CALCOOKARA Cowell SA
Brenton Smith 0886 285039
0427 285039

Aug 21st

KARAWATHA PARK
Buckleboo SA
Bert Woolford 0427 27403
Dion Woolford 0427 323583

Aug 24th

PEPPERWELL Keyneton SA
Hans Graetz 0427 790676

Aug 25th

NANTOURA Wharminda SA
Chris Prime 0427 289021

Sep 2nd

BORUNG Waikerie SA
Brenton Kroehn 0427 414494

Sep 3rd

GUNALLO Pinnaroo SA
Ray 0427 778485
Brad 0400 335660

Sep 3rd

CHALLARA Badgingarra W.A.
Peter Wilkinson 0427 427691

Sep 4th

SWM Tintinara SA
Richard Harkness 0428 758028.

Sep 4th

ESPERANCE RAM SALE
including PENROSE POLL &
WESTWOOD POLL

Sep 7th

CLASSINGS CLASSIC '20
New Murray Bridge Racecourse
Bill 0428 937804

Sep 8th

CAROONBOON Wanganella NSW
Margie Pye
02 68256203 - 0427 996911

Sep 11th

ADELAIDE RAM SALE

September

LONE GUM

Crystal Brook SA
Private Inspection Stuart Everett
0427 362801

Sep 15th

LEAHCIM Snowtown SA
Andrew Michael 0418 828431
Alistair 0427 352639

Sep 16th

FOREST SPRINGS Joel Joel Vic.
Bruce Dean 0407 054342

Sep 17th

WALLALOO PARK Marnoo Vic
John Carter 0427 501431
Trent 0427 776114

Sep 18th

SOHNIC Marnoo Vic
Scott Nicholson 0438 086403
Greg Hose 0427 507151

Sep 21st

FLAIRDALE Cooke Plains SA
Wayne Lehmann 0408 896877
Matt 0417 843063

Sep 23rd

HYNAM POLL Longwood Vic
Kev Hynam 0427 833262

Oct 9th

ELLA MATTA Parndana SA
Andrew Heinrich 0427 596108
Jamie 0427 361830

2021 Feb

LORELMO Walcha NSW
Ed Cordingley 0429 486380

**CLASSINGS CLASSIC '19
MURRAY BRIDGE
RACECOURSE SA
OFFERED 83
SOLD 82
TOP \$20,000
AVERAGE \$5,136**

For the first time since the Classic Sales' inception in 2002, the average dropped from all of the previous years' efforts. The 2018 result at \$5,155 included a \$60,000 Gunallo sale to the SWS syndicate which theoretically sees the 2019 a better result considering a top price of only \$20,000 and an average drop of only, dare I say it, \$19!!

Classic'19 also saw the great event's last showing at the, what's now the old racecourse, due to it's new future as real estate. To crack twenty years at this great venue would have been some sort of achievement I guess but on witnessing what the new Murray Bridge Racing Club has constructed it'll be a safe move less the great gum trees that surrounded us at the old setup.

Due to **Gunallo's** strong 2018 average they yet again headlined Classic'19 with an eight poll lineup that exuded everything you would expect from this quality outfit. SuperSire Gun-150460 bred 1/2 of the lineup including the first three polls on offer that raised \$36,000 in a blink!

Lot 1, twin bred, double polled, square backed yet stretchy with a YCFW 19.4 reached \$11,000 and was knocked down to Chris and Belinda Houghton's, Glenhurst - Nyngan NSW.

The eventual sale topper sitting in lot 2, 180081, reached \$20,000 much to the delight of Brenton and Jane Smith's Calcookara - Cowell S.A. who enjoyed the ram's staple length (YSL 13.7), fleece weight attributes (YCFW 23.5) and excessive lustre and bold crimp. ET bred and double poll tested this fella can only enhance what's already great at this West Coast stud.



Seen pictured above there was a lot to enjoy about the ram's balance with backend, pasterns, deep jaw and general makeup all in good fettle.

That brand new stud, Stobo Poll - Miga Lake Vic., owned by Mark and Cathy Chadwick and great boys have always had a lot of time for Gunallo genetics evidenced by their two poll pickup on the day.

Another 150460 sired lot three with a YCFW 24.2 with bold crimp and an arse like yours made an over realistic \$5,000 which allowed them to have a crack at another in lot 7 from the same super sire for a healthy \$7,250. ET bred and MP+ 160 including YCFW 20.4, YSL 15.7 & YWT 6.3.

Purchases like these, add the procurement of Gunallo and Ridgway Advance stud ewes over the last two years, will blast this new outfit into superstardom before we all realise what's happened! The flock has always been of stud potential which has now been fully realised. Watch this space..

Lots 4,6 & 8 all made \$3,000 each selling to Dean Pearson - Murray Bridge S.A., his partner of many crimes Wayne Schenke and that excellent Waikerie poll stud, Brenton Kroehn's, Borung Poll. All three pickups represented amazing value with their wools all top class backed up with excellent real time figures and ASBV's. The Graham family - Sandilands SA (& KI) SA bought

a \$3,500 ripper to complete a solid sale by the Schroeder clan.

150460 the aptly nicknamed 'Sir Cumference' due to his extremities regarding conformation is a genuine SuperSire worthy of note due to his High Top/Low Cull results at Gunallo. Remember he is the sire of 170295, that \$60,000 Classic'18 record price that incidentally has just part blitzed the 2019 drop SA Sire Evaluation Trial at McPiggery-Lameroo S.A. More on that result is a separate spiel later.

The always Classic supportive, **Ridgway Advance**, fronted up with thirteen Autumn drop screamers and sold all to average \$6,142 to a top of \$12,000. That bloke, bred by predictable sire RA090 (that put five sons into this sale), headlined their sale team and sold to the always supportive O'Brien Poll-Kyancutta S.A. This fella had everything that a supple skin can offer add whiteness and a killer outlook.

The next and from that same sire, sold to Nantoura Poll-Port Neill S.A. for \$8,000 and two more white woolled sons selling to John Lamb Pastoral again for \$8,000 each. One of the best in the lineup in my eyes was the pickup by Graham and Susan Coddington's, Coddington Poll for yet another \$8,000 and bred by RA095 with the typical realtime figures of 17.3u 2.3sd 13.3cv & 0.2pf. Superb white fibre from a silky skin - irresistible!



At lot 15 and still within the Ridgway Advance lineup was one of the boldest and lustrous crimps in the catalogue which sold to Gunallo for \$10,500. Hell of a sheep!

Jeff and Mark Baldock - Kimba SA secured two RA's for \$7,000 & \$2,000 with the latter being one of the bargains of the day. The RA 202 bred higher priced bloke was perfectly set for structure with the outstanding realtimes of 18.2u 2.3sd 12.6cv & 0.1pf and could have graced the cover of any merino publication such was his stature.

Craig Graham - YP & Kangaroo Island SA latched onto a very good lot 16 for \$5,000 with everything going for him in the all round stakes including white fibre.

Leigh and Karina West ventured all the way over from Gibson near Esperance WA for the sale and picked up a lustrous RA095 son for \$7,500 at 17.1u & 3.0sd with correct density and crimp alignment.

I liked the bargains that Forest Springs - Joel Joel Vic, Pioneer Bend - Parndana SA & PFR Pastoral - Bordertown SA picked up in the \$3,000-\$3,500 range ensuring that the sale is within reach for high quality at any realistic budget.

Tony Martin - Wynarka SA was after a ram breeder and stumbled across the ripper first lot of two offered from **Flairdale** 180052. Double poll bred and AI sired by the SA Sire Evaluation successful, Mumblebone 130850.

He sold for \$7,500. YWT 9.3 YSL 12.0 YEMD 0.7 & YCFW 17.4 is just the balanced numbers you need for safe predictable breeding with no waste. Flairdale's #2 sold for \$4,000 to great supporter, Lee Slape with a YCFW 20.0.

Due to **Belbourie's** great debut success with a \$10,000 sale at Classic'18 their three high up in the sale order didn't disgrace. With two selling at \$3,000 and the first sold to Glengyle Station - Bordertown SA, Heard Family Trust - Natimuk Vic. bought the top at \$4,000 and bred by Kamora Park 304.

Hynam Poll Vic., offered four very good poll rams with two selling for a mere \$2,000 and one at \$3,000 selling to Pimbena Poll - Wirrulla SA with a YCFW 24 & MP+ 167. Calcookara - Cowell SA and Stobo Poll - Miga Lake Vic., will explore the virtues of their bargain buys!

Check these numbers out before I introduce **O'Brien Poll's** sole entry into Classic'19. MP+177, YCFW 32.9, YSL 17.8, YWT 8.5 and realtimes of 17.1u 2.7sd 15.7cv & 0.9.

I was scorned at by three West Coasties for taking this bloke out of the O'Brien Poll (at Wudinna) sale and into the Classic!

With numbers like these add his huge barrel, backend and muzzle 180510 was a head turner. Had he not had just a slight conformation negative, the ram wouldn't have left the O'Brien's laundry!

Quality with numbers hunter, Andrew Mitchell was the successful recipient of a ram that some wished they had now competed on! At \$4,500 he was worth the punt - Leahcim 123153 was the grandsire here.

Sohnic - St Arnaud Vic. had what I believe their best ever Classic any year outing. A reserve that was on display at a small Sohnic site outside of the sale marquee was sold to the Superior Wool



Syndicate for a casual \$30,000! Pictured here on Sohnic's On Property a week later with admirers Wayne and Em Girando - Boyup Brook WA.

So, add to that a gross of \$17,000 for four great polls sold in the sale and the Nichol森/Hose partnership had a great day out!

The stud's first and bred by Walladale 161514 was a bloody beauty and sold to Ramsgate - Tintinara SA for \$6,500 - you know how it goes - bold, lustrous crimp with meat! No different with Nantoura's purchase either with Sohnic's fourth on offer selling for \$4,500 and bred by Lucernbrae 160032, a poll that Sohnic secured at Classic'17 for around \$7,000 on memory - good investment!

McNally Farms - St. Arnaud Vic. paid \$4,000 with the tight realtime measurement of 19.9u 2.7sd 13.7cv 0.0pf which typifies objective measurement results throughout any Classic sale across all years.

Michael Stanton - Parndana KI, latched on to the last of the Sohnic's for a measly \$2,000! ET bred and bred by high calibre meat genetics going back to Trigger Vale I hope this fella breeds like fury with plenty of lambs as to aid the Stanton's recovery from the KI bushfires which severely ravaged their country.

Terrick West had to leave the best one home thus just the one entry for Classic'19 which didn't disgrace with a \$4,000 sale going to Mark Copping - Lucindale SA. The grandsire of this fella was Coddington Poll 5034 which has

a history of breeding some very top end rams.

I like it when an upcoming stud has a great day at the Classic sale and I'd say CC'19 was **Forest Spring's** best so far. Of the four that sold, three were from the same sire, 160334 whose sire was Gunallo 140007 or intimately known as Bond!

Two were bought by Angus and Will McLachlan's Rosebank - Mt. Pleasant SA. The first and bred by the said sire cracked \$3,000 followed two pens later with arguably the pick of the two at \$4,250. Angus is a big appreciator of the quality fibre/frame tangle and quipped that his two purchases were the best in the sale! He had many supporters!

Don Erwin Vic. outlaid \$4,000 for the best backend in the catalogue (+ ram!) and bred by that same potent sire 160334. I snuck a bid in and latched onto a cheapy at \$2,000 on behalf of Grant Wagenknecht - Murray Bridge SA which I naturally thought was the best in the lineup too!

The **Ridgway Advance Spring** drops looked a picture and very much rivalling their older compatriots at the start of the sale. To average \$4,737 for twelve, everyone else obviously thought the same!

Daybron Farms - Wongan Hills WA were instrumental purchasers at the top end seeing them purchase the first for \$9,000 for a RA082 son followed two pens later accruing a RA090 son for \$12,000, the highest price for the group. Both exuded the fluid nourishment and fibre alignment that we are used to from this top notch outfit.

The Ed Hunt family - Wharminda SA and Gerald Woitd - Coonalpyn SA outlaid \$5,000 each for two outstanding wools whilst Paech Brothers - Callington SA and Roscrea Farms SA from Minlaton SA both bought well at \$4,500 each and client's Leigh and Karina West, Gibson WA paid \$4,000 for a RA090 son at 17.5u 2.7sd 15.4cv & 0.2pf.

PFR P/L bought two, Pioneer Bend - Parndana KI, one and a \$3,000 ripper to Grant Wagenknecht - Murray Bridge SA bred by the (steal of the century sire) Woodoona 445 saw possibly the best Spring Drop sale Ridgway Advance has had at all Classic sales.

I was hoping Ridgway Poll were to have a blitz styled sale at Classic'19 considering all was right with wool and meat commodities and they didn't disappoint.

The increasingly popular O'Brien Poll - Kyancutta SA put up \$13,000 to secure a RLS bred beauty with YWT 8.0 & YCFW 18.0. Quality appreciators, McPiggery - Lameroo SA chipped in with the support with a \$9,000 snifter with YCFW 23.8 and bred by Ridgway 170196.

The Steen Paech/Shirley Willison partnership bought a very good

River bred meat machine for \$5,000.

Grant Wageknecht - Murray Bridge SA snatched a double poll tested sire for \$3,000 with fibre plus and great density and bred by R140985.

Orrie Cowie - Warooka SA sold their sole entry for \$2,000 to Glencorrie - Sandilands SA with a great backend and bred by Eclipse 310.

Lucernbrae - Callington SA intrigue many with their lineup at Classic sales in the fact that not anywhere near enough people see this quality outfit during the year.

The mayor of Brinkley county, Dean Pearson SA bought the first, a Gunallo 140026 (x 'Pride 008) son for an over realistic \$2,000. I bought the next for Critter and Bec Freeman - Penong SA for \$3,000 and bred



Karawatha Park 160982 bred poll for \$8,000 with YWT 6.8 & YCFW 23.9.

The Graham's - Glencorrie - YP & KI SA bought two goodies for \$8,000 & \$2,000 both with very well setup backends and hock set. The first being a R140721 son. Gunallo bought that sire at the Classic'15 sale for \$14,000.

Glenhurst - Bordertown SA bought the first in the lineup for \$6,000 and another 140721 son and the Schenscher boys - Naracoorte SA bought a White

by the same sire.

Bevan and Cindy Siviour have had a good result from a previous Lucernbrae purchase and were happy to only outlay \$2,800 for their pick with 18.8u 2.7sd 14.6cv 0.0pf.

Goog and Mark Baldock - Kimba SA may have bought the pick of the group at \$2,600 for a super bold crimped Lucernbrae with great all round structure. Glenhurst and Miles Tomney - Steaky Bay SA at \$2,000 & \$2,400 are probably still in

shock at how much spondoolee they had left in their pocket at day's end considering the quality at hand! Both ram bred by Lucernbrae 150010 sired by Gunallo 140026.

The **Ramsgate** - Tintinara SA pair were convincing in that this is probably still the most underrated stud outfit in the South East! Both rams entered were from Brookdale 140012 (x L100858) that continues to breed pure polls with perfectly conformed back end structure with super long bodies.

If you own a stud or flock that needs an instant fix for skin wrinkle and tightness, (suggesting you're possibly located in our Mid North or the Williams area in WA) here's your boy!

Ramsgate's first sold for \$4,500 to the Johnson's, Mt. Boothby - Tintinara SA with the second, another double poll, I purchased for Butch and Jodie Dunn's super flock near Penong SA for a respectable \$3,000. Both rams echoed their father's attributes particularly with structure in mind.

The two **Borong** polls impressed and deserve more dosh considering the quality and breeding from this Waikerie stud. The first and bred by purchased sire, Wallaroo Park 160024 that has bred loads of top end sale rams for the stud, I bought for Critter and Bec Freeman's high calibre commercial flock at Penong SA for \$2,000. Yep the ones that consistently win or nearly win the Charra Hogget Comp every year.

The second bloke went for \$3,000 to Grant Wagenknecht - Murray Bridge SA who could charge an entry fee for people to go and view one of the best commercial merino flocks in the county there boy!

It's an ambition of Glendon Hancock and mine to expose **Ninuenook** - Wycheproof Vic. to more potential customers considering the excellent fibre quality of this stud.

Sure the two polls sold yet made only \$1,750 & \$1,000 which



represented unbelievable value. Keep an eye out for these rams in future as it's a stud that deserves our attention.

Superior Wool Merino (SWM) had an excellent day out considering the studs return to the Classic sale after a short holiday away!

Its first sold for \$3,250, bred by GP 150608 and owned the excellent figures of 17.3u 2.7sd 15.5cv & 0.4. This well structured poll sold to our company favourite, Rob Germein and boys - Port Vincent SA.

SWM's second recorded the stud's highest ever Classic result in selling a Karawatha Park 160211 (bought at Karawatha's On Property sale in 2017 for around \$5,000) son for \$5,250

that I secured for Steven's Farming - Seymour Vic. Good to have this stud on board again and with this result, hopefully for many years to come!

Leahcim - Snowtown SA made a welcome return to Classic'19 after a long hiatus and hit the deck running with a \$13,000 & \$6,000 sale! The first to Scott Welke's - Westwood Poll W.A. and have a look at these numbers Mergatroid!

His ID 182185 bred by renowned L152775. Real time figures quite staggering: 14.7u 2.6sd 0.0pf with YWT 7.6 YCFW 17.4 YSL 10.3 & YFAT 0.4. Another attraction was his bold crimped lustre but the best part was one week later at Leahcim's On Property, no-one recognised him sitting in the Reserve pen!! He looked twice as good!



The second Leahcim, 183172 (x 152775) sold to Lucernbrae Poll - Callington SA with more great numbers: YCFW 26.9 YSL 14.1 YFAT 0.7 YEMD 0.6 & MP+ 164.

The next three studs made their debut at Classic'19.

Writing about big numbers, **Baderloo** - Spalding SA have been working on it for awhile which reflected heavily with their three debut entries.

The first, 180060 and a twin, made \$6,250, looked the part with his huge staple length, (YSL 21.1!) density, (YCFW 22.7) and muscle (YWT 8.5, YEMD 1.7 & YFAT 0.6) and sold to our clients Andrew and Jenny Polkinghorne - Lock SA.

Appreciator of animals only with ASBV's, Glen Tilley - Kapunda SA bought the next for \$3,000 which included 17.3u 2.8sd add YWT 8.8, YCFW 20.5 YSL 18.8 & YEMD 1.5. These first two rams were bred by Baderloo 150171 who must be bloody good!

Sohnic - St. Arnaud Vic. jagged the last of the Baderloos for \$3,500 with more outstanding numbers including YCFW 21.6 YWT 9.6 YSL 16.9 and a twin - in fact all three ram were twins.

There was a lot of commentary regarding the Baderloo rams in the fact that their ASBV'S were so good and that the rams were virtually out of the paddock including that red Mid North type tip.

The stud's penned rams were over the way from shed prepared rams that may have had an extra 10-15kg's of body weight to their name. How good was it that the Baderloo's (and Leahcim) stood up for price considering their paddock reared appearance yet still thanks to the rams' inherent quality and great numbers, stood the threat of possibly being overlooked by many!

There is of course an ambition of mine to have the whole Classic lineup of similar preparation yet whilst the show judging circuit and stud vs stud competition still exists there ain't much chance of that!!

Sire Evaluation Trials and MLP trials are run naturally under paddock conditions with some amazing data to summarise these events. Nothing prepared here just good honest paddock data to strengthen on property results that could be slightly skewed due to preparation or 'better paddock' tactics.

Challara - Badgingarra WA bought Terrick West 160191 or 'Big John' at Classic'17 for \$21,000. Two years later two of his rams (and the stud) made their debut at Classic'19.

Stobo Poll - Miga Lake Vic., were pre warned that both Challara rams were very good after some casual warning from their classer! Both rams were housed at Lone Gum - Crystal Brook SA for a few weeks leading up to our sale and it was there that Mark and Cathy Chadwick inspected the pair.

181063 took their eye and it was this twin bred ripper that led the sale and sold to them for \$6,000 with possibly the Brophy boys from Tintinara as runner-up. Bold crimp with great staple length and cha-risma the ram also threw out these carrots at the potential purchaser...YCFW 20.0 YWT 9.5 YEMD 0.7 & YFAT 0.4.

Challara's second impressed the Prime family's Nantoura Poll - Wharminda SA with more bold crimp and silky skin on a big square carcass. 180480 sold for a respect-able \$4,250 with YWT 11.5 YCFW 17.0 YSL 12.0 & YEMD 1.0. Add to that the good real time figures of 19.5u 2.9sd 14.8cv & 0.0pf. and Bob's yer' Uncle.

Margie Pye's, **Caroonboon** Stud near Wanganella NSW sold the last ram of the day yet obviously not the least considering the \$18,000 price tag at sale's end!

If it wasn't for Duane Symond and Darren O'Brien's interest with the ram at Bendigo Sheep Show in July'19 I may never had seen him! On inspection it wasn't hard to dangle the carrot to see if we could get such a ram into CC'19. Bold crimp, long body,



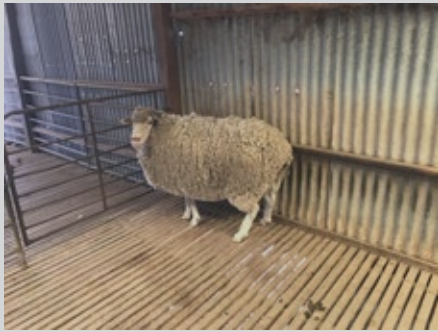
long staple and big clean muzzle yet no pedigree at that stage, 181395 was indeed intriguing.

Margie Pye accepted the invitation and after the bidding began with what I thought was a risky reserve, the ram sold in two bids to Darren and Jodie O'Brien's, O'Brien Poll - Kyancutta SA. (Eventually via DNA) Sired by White River 160546 that goes back to Nyowee NE134.



**CLASSIC QUOTES,
QUERIES THOUGHTS,
SHOTS AND
INCREDIBLES...**

Please peruse the following chaos in no particular sequence including a few quotes, photos and answers to a few questions I put out there to a list of clients. I ran out of time to setup a proper Q & A type effort but you'll get the gist I'm sure....



"We aren't trying to find life on Mars. We are talking about a sheep." Jim Gordon - Young NSW on hearing the news of MLA's \$10,000,000 investment in Fly-strike investment via Artificial Intelligence.

AuctionsPlus 'Weekly Wool Wrap' by Matt Cotton.

"Without data you're just another person with an opinion."
W. Edwards Deming



"Could Sheep Central please give the mulesing story a rest? If it wasn't for your support for the holier-than-thou plain-bodied vocal minority, this endless rambling would hopefully stop. Let

the market sort out who muleses and who doesn't."
John Symons - KI Woolgrower



A question? Cull Ram Lamb Sales for meat market - cull ram lambs are making seriously good spondoolee, as good as wether lamb prices per kilo BUT! have you been hit with serious penalties because they are, "too rammy," either in the yards on inspection or, serious deductions on kill sheet after processing? I'm talking \$6-\$7 per kilo slashed to \$2-3 per kg?

"We were caught or taken for a ride in 2019 with our cull ram lambs in March aged 10 months. They were locked in over hooks at \$6.00/kg and I made sure agents queried the term 'Ramminess' and that we would be okay.

Response was it's not our definition of what 'Raminess' is but up to the MSA Grader working on the chain on the day - nothing to do with carcass weight! Ram Lambs were sent and processed and dressed very well with an avg. weight of 30kg.

Upon looking at kill sheet it was plain to see a small percentage had excelled and dressed over 32kg and had all gone through at a \$3.00/kg discount! Complaint filed through agent - response from abattoir, "It's not us it's the MAS Grader!"

In our eyes 'Rammy' or not if it was over 32kg it equated to an instant discount! (Not happy Jan!!) Agents, abattoirs and MSA Graders need to be more concrete in a definitive pricing over hooks or the producer will lose every time!" Crackers S.A.

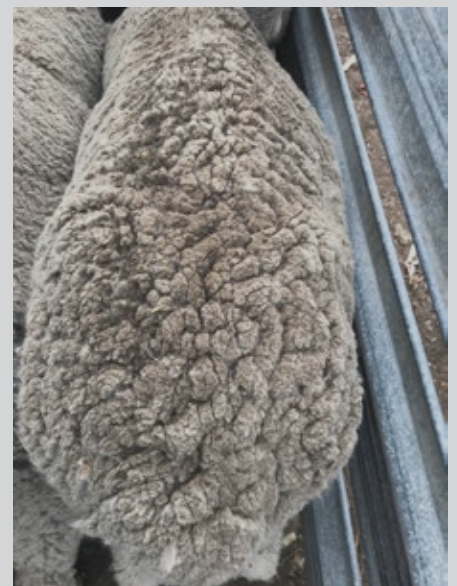
"Just some food for thought for you and your clients regarding semen rights. I don't think the current system most studs use works very well.

My suggestion to them is to consider would be for the purchaser to have 100% semen rights up until the purchase price has been recovered. This would include any semen shares as well. Once the purchase price has been recovered it would then revert back to 50% semen rights.

eg. If a ram sells for \$10k and there is 1 semen share sold at \$4k then \$6k of semen (150 doses x \$40). Then from that point on it becomes a 50/50 setup.

If a low profile/cheap ram breeds very well, then the breeder would benefit from semen sales.

If a high profile/expensive ram that turns out to breed less than desirable results this would benefit the purchaser for taking the risk, with any sales that did happen recouping some of the cost. In that same example the breeder would have their money from the high price sale."
Chad Burbidge - Murray Bridge S.A.



"My view is that on the whole, if mulesing were to stop over-night, then our industry would fall to its knees. If it doesn't stop soon, then it could also fall to its knees in a similar fashion.

It's important to continue to

play the long game, regardless of markets and pricing. What would we prefer, the industry failing because of something that we can control and do something about, or failing because of something that is out-side of our control and that we cannot fix?

Right now we have an opportunity to make that choice, if we leave it too long, the choice will no longer be ours." Anonymous Coasty S.A.

Employ marketing people to promote the best practice of animal welfare, nutrition and production in the wool industry to the mainstream media. This needs to happen within the industry, in the capital cities and abroad. This will counter the animal rights/vegan movement.

I also believe AWI must promote the wool high natural qualities in a greater way. This must be done in a diverse way, with less focus on China and more focus on other international markets with the opportunity for growth.

The highest quality wools should be showcased to the world, so they will be in awe of its natural qualities. This must replace the focus on synthetics.
Peter Wilkinson - Challara W.A.

"The Classic is not much different to a multi-vendor sheep field day, whereby it's great that sheep can be compared on the day, but there's a massive element of judgement on growth vs preparation.

Unfortunately this environment is more a showcase of who can feed/prepare their animals the best rather than people seeing each animal for its genetic merit, which at the end of the day is what ram selection is all about. " That Coasty again. S.A.

"In 2019 our maidens joined to merinos outdid our mixed aged ewes to merinos by 1%. Maiden percentage 119.2% including dries with 118.2% with the older groups." Liam McInerney - Keith SA
I thank Terry Sim and Sheep Central for researching some of the following commentary. WW



"...the only people who talk loudly about mulesing are those who don't want to mules. Those who do not want to mules, don't mules if that's what you want to do. But just shut up about it because it's a road to nowhere and I don't believe that it's customers who are actually driving this."
World Federation of Merino Breeders president, Will Roberts

"What does work is when we explain the story, which we do annually to all those houses, that mulesing is once in an animal's life," Ms Garnsey said. "Just once; it doesn't happen every year," she said in the Farmonline story. "It also enables wool production in Australia to continue to produce wool of the quality that is required by the world's garment manufacturers."
AWI's Colette Garnsey

"The bottom line is that a long list of global brands are acknowledging their consumers have an appetite to move away from mulesing," Australian Council of Wool Exporters & Processors president Matt Hand

"Incredible, we've only got to produce wool that's comfortable to wear and meat that is tender and tastes good!"
Jim Gordon - Young NSW

"Endless energy has been contributed towards convincing anti mulesing brands, retailers and consumers to somehow relinquish and accept what they've

been vocally rejecting for over a decade.

An approach weighted more towards the contrary, with a positive focus on progression away from the practice of mulesing may lead to an equally positive reception." Matt Hand

"Put more wool on, is the catch cry, How! Put more hard wrinkle on. A train wreck waiting to happen. What is this obsession with wool cut. It's crazy. We may see wool unsalable soon. It's the whole package.

Fertility, meat and quality wool. Look where the demand is. Price for surplus sheep, light fabric, next to skin wear, high end fashion and none mulesed wool."
Jim Gordon - Young NSW

I think Saturday 8th February 2020 may have been my hottest day of classing in my lifetime at



Cascade - 120km N.W of Esperance and literally took weeks to put the body back together before all was forgotten! The fella I was working for thought the same! WW
Regarding semen rights...



To be continued on pg 16

CLASSINGS CLASSIC'19 :

SALE RESULTS AND PROBABLE 2020 ORDER OF SALE

	OFFERED	SOLD	TOP	AVERAGE
CARONBOON	1	1	\$18,000	\$18,000
LEAHCIM	2	2	\$13,000	\$9,500
RIDGWAY	7	7	\$13,000	\$7,428
GUNALLO	8	8	\$20,000	\$6,968
RIDGWAY ADVANCE (AUT)	13	13	\$12,000	\$6,142
FLAIRDALE	2	2	\$7,500	\$5,750
CHALLARA	2	2	\$6,000	\$5,125
RIDGWAY ADVANCE (SPR)	12	12	\$12,000	\$4,737
O'BRIEN POLL	1	1	\$4,500	\$4,500
SOHNIC	4	4	\$6,500	\$4,250
SWM	2	2	\$5,250	\$4,250
BADERLOO	3	3	\$6,250	\$4,250
TERRICK WEST	1	1	\$4,000	\$4,000
RAMSGATE	2	2	\$4,500	\$3,750
BELBOURIE	3	3	\$4,000	\$3,333
FOREST SPRINGS	5	4	\$4,250	\$3,312
BORUNG	2	2	\$3,000	\$2,500
LUCERNBRAE	6	6	\$3,000	\$2,466
HYNAM POLL	4	4	\$3,000	\$2,000
ORRIE COWIE	1	1	\$2,000	\$2,000
NINUENOOK	2	2	\$1,750	\$1,375





CLASSIC'19 OVERVIEW

I can't write any further without mentioning the Classic'19 sponsors who are instrumental in their support and sponsorship which ensures that all Classic sales run smoothly and as professional as the day looks.

Please acknowledge this much appreciated support and colour they offer to the day and amongst general product competition possibly favour their brand in front of others.

The never ending support of the studs since the first Classic has kept it all together and without them there are obvious consequences! A special mention to both Ridgway clans who have given us consecutive yearly support since the inaugural sale in 2002.

There were thirty nine rams in that sale with only one passed in. Top price at \$8,000 was sold by Southrose to Bill Stock - Naracoorte in partnership with AJ & PA McBride.

Classic'02 averaged \$1,348.

In contrast Classic'19 averaged \$5,136 to a top of \$20,000 with only one passed in out of 83 offered.

Classic'18 averaged \$5,155 to a top of \$60,000 with 81 sold from the 84 offered.

Classic'20 maybe our first

real challenge considering the amount of stock lost through bushfires across the nation, a NSW centred drought, Covid-19 and a fluctuating wool market.

We were initially considering pulling the pin on the sale for 2020 only due to the 'bug' but thanks to a disciplined nation staying away from Mamboobie shows and the like, sees us turning that decision around into the sale being a 'given

The ever increasing adoption of ASBV's, the general growers utilisation of the same and ever building accuracies on Classic entries could hopefully see less shedding in the future and more paddock polls rearing becoming a new standard.

Subsequently the Baderloo and Leahcim result, excellent ASBV's and subsequent success at Classic'19 is a hint that anything is possible yet only within our own group of supporters - try that tactic in the big smoke!

The (old) Murray Bridge Racecourse has been a Mecca and the preferred site for all Classic sales up until 2019. Always well manicured and ready for our event there has always been a good rapport between us which will continue on to our new Classic venue for 2020 at the very new Murray Bridge Racing Club.



CLASSINGS CLASSIC RAM SALE 2020

★ PLEASE NOTE NEW VENUE ★

(NEW) MURRAY BRIDGE RACING CLUB

219 BRINKLEY RD., MURRAY BRIDGE SOUTH S.A.



Monday 7th September

80 POLL MERINOS 80

Inspection from 10am with sale commencing at 1.30pm



"Poll Rams and Studs specially selected for fibre, carcass, density and productive yet easy care skin attributes as to address the possibilities of Mules free stock, six month shearing, higher fertility and all of the advantages of the plainer bodied Poll Merino."

Enquiries to: Bill Walker - Classings P/L Mob: 0428 973804.

www.classings.com.au classing@internode.on.net FB: Classings: In the Race and Classic Merino Ram Sale



Nantoura

POLL MERINOS

On Property Inspection Day

Monday 17th August 10am - 3pm

ON PROPERTY AUCTION

80 Poll Merino Rams

Tuesday 25th August 1:30 pm

Inspection from 11am



Chris Prime - 0427289021

Scott Masters - 0458517883



**KARAWATHA PARK
ON PROPERTY
BUCKLEBOO SA
OFFERED 120
SOLD 120
AVERAGE \$2,131
TOP \$6,000**

Another professionally run sale with another outstanding result due to return custom enjoying the quality at hand from this top notch outfit.

To put up the most polls ever offered in one of the shittiest years for decades and sell all 120 was a testament to a lot of things that could fill four pages.

Now, that sale. What great support not only from the regulars who know what to expect but also the newbys like Pat Hannan - Cockaleechee S.A. who via Phil Hill - EP Livestock secured seven rip snorters and averaged just over \$3,500 to a top of \$5,000!

That fella was placed in lot 2 for a reason - square, great on all feet with fibre supreme add YCFW 26.0 YWT 7.0, MP+ 157 and bred by Karawatha Park 160211. Of equal intrigue was lot 10, a twin hosting fibre exotica with YCFW 22.4 & MP+ 154.

Paul Schaeffer's - Nalino - Buckleboo S.A., clients and Karawatha supporters for ever bought a handy six and even the bargain of the day right down at lot 85 for \$2,800 realised the excellent figures of YWT 7.0 YCFW 18.0 MP+ 164 and get this - 15.5u & 0.0pf!

Wayne and Sam Young know a good thing and launched themselves into bidding frenzies to make sure they got just what they wanted buying six.

I really liked their lot 18 pickup for \$4,200 and bred by Wallaloo Park 161171. Even though he was a finer crimper, he had the perfect structure that tied in well with YCFW 20.1 and pure whiteness of fibre.

Tom and Hannah Davey - Port



Neill S.A. crunched into lot 1 to make sure the sale got off to a flyer. \$4,200 for a long bodied yet deep poll loaded with fibre + and bred by homebred sire KPK 160211. They also bought lot 4 hosting some of the longest staple in the shed of pure exotica for \$4,600. MP + 162 YCFW 23.8 & YWT 8.8 added to their joy.

Symon and Josh Allan - Kimber SA and new Classings' clients snuck in lot 3 for a casual \$4,800 for a nourished KPK 1600982 bred hooper with massive numbers. MP+ 162 YCFW 24.1 & YWT 7.6.

But it's the mass buyers who deserve equal accolade in keeping the sale buoyant from go to woe.

The Nutt family's Pandurra were instrumental with this in securing 17 rams throughout and possibly averaging around \$800. Station owners as well, Lenny Newton's Mt. Ive and Sophie Nuske's Hillsea - Elliston SA were good for around fifteen polls between them.

We enjoyed having Sophie, (pictured right) with us for work experience two years ago.

It was during that week that she became accustomed to the Karawatha wool type and became addicted on the spot!

Sophie (and her great folks!)

bought a ripper Syndicate bred lot 20 for \$3,000, a twin with an backend like Auntie Marjorie's and EBV of YCFW 18.5.

The Koch's - Breezy Hill, Booleroo Centre SA got hold of six good flockies to add to the pastoral zone's huge support for the sale.

Clients, Matt and Amanda Cook - Condada S.A. chipped in on the day and bought four including one of the day's rare bargains at lot 98 for a mere \$1,000. Syndicate bred, FBV YCFW 19.0at 17.0u & 0.0pf will do!

By the look of the scrawl in my catalogue clients, Bruce and Kathy Heddle - Minnipa SA bought the best fibred poll of the day in lot 22 at \$3,000. 'W++'



suggests something very elite.

Shannon Larwood - Kimba SA found the ram he was looking for in lot 15 and topped the sale at \$6,000. (see great structure photo and note neck extension) 16.4 2.5sd 15.3cv & 0.0pf and MP+ 156 & YCFW 18.1.

He added another ripper though at lot 87 and paid the good juice of \$4,200 for the privilege! Good numbers here: MP+ 171 DP+ 178 YCFW 19.5 & YWT 8.0. Realties of 17.3u 2.9sd 16.7cv and yet again 0.0pf added to the appeal. He was bred by Turkey Lane 150077.

The Keller boys at Ramsgate - Tintinara S.A. asked me to keep an eye out for something good and secured lot 50 for \$2,800 and bred by Wallaloo Park 162333. Sensational fibre and skin, a twin and YCFW 22.0 & MP+ 155, there was a lot to like.

The Woolford Brothers - Kimba SA added to the local support with their haul of six including a ripping lot 30 for \$2,600 with YCFW 20.5 and the silky figures of 16.9u with the typical 0.0pf.

Tom Barlow - YP and the Trengroves from Spalding SA were good for six between them and selected well for fleece weight and quality.

I nabbed a goody late in the sale at lot 109 for Ed Hunt - Wharminda SA for \$2,800 with great staple length, MP+ 155 and realtime real good figures of 17.1u 2.8sd 16.4 & 0.0pf again!

The Green family bought four with Minnipa Research and the Zibels buying three each. Locals, Brook Seal and the Raysons were another securing three each as did Monte Horne who I hadn't seen for thirty years with another three.

The Evans, Ramsey, Story, Grocke, Francis, Inglis and Price families all added their single and double purchases as to guarantee another great sale.

Moving forward the Karawatha Park genetics will continue to leap ahead with a focus on ASBV's providing the vehicle to achieve this.

The use of Breed Elite's (BE) software and auto drafter is a great tool to confirm the classer's top end selections are just that. More fleece weight, more lambs, less skin = more profit!

An extensive investment in DNA testing to simplify the dual pedigree recording has resulted in high accuracies in breeding values and a guaranteed lift in productivity and profitability.

Our breeding objectives over the last 20 years of "To produce long stapled, well nourished, free growing fibre, on well structured, plain bodied animals," is still current. With this in mind Karawatha Park became share holders in the top priced ram at the Leahcim 2018 sale.

L17-3122 has produced outstanding progeny that will be a feature at this years on property sale and with strong support from Wallaloo Park 17-2003, Karawatha Park 17-0313 & 17-0413 the sale will be "Best Ever" and not to be missed.

Continued from pg 11
"...but since you asked in my opinion if a ram is up for sale you sell him complete - not try and retain his balls. If you want to keep any semen rights from the ram in questions collect it before he is sold. In reality you cannot have your cake & eat it to."
Trudy Pengilly - Cascade W.A.

"I think semen rights are a load of crap ! If the breeder thinks enough of the ram he should have either kept him or collected from him prior to selling.

If the new buyer is lucky enough to have a ripper who breeds very

well and gets orders for semen then good luck to him and he can re invest the funds into another ram from the original seller.

Studs claiming semen rights of varying systems are wanting to have their cake and eat it too."
G.W. Eyre Peninsula S.A.

"You can't breed a racehorse out of a donkey". It is also accepted that you can't win a race with a horse that is not fed properly. Sheep are no different!
Ed Cordingley - Lorelmo Poll NSW

"The great thing about an on property sale, is that all of the sheep are evenly prepared, so it's much easier for buyers (who aren't looking at sheep everyday of the year) to compare apples with apples.

Come to think of it, this aspect is not too dissimilar to everything I hate about the traditional way of marketing rams, and i feel like walking over to the shed and instead of feeding them, opening the gate and letting them back out into the paddock!"
Stud Breeder S.A.

"The neighbour walks into the backyard and looks over the fence to see a little girl, Sarah, digging a big hole. "What are you doing Sarah", he asked. "I'm digging a hole to bury my goldfish", she responded. "You don't need a hole that big Sarah", the neighbour suggested. With that Sarah spun around and sniped, "Yes I do because it's inside your fucking cat".
R.H.

"Yes I'm aware, (of the SA Sire Evaluation result) and if I found myself with more spare time, I'd pay more detailed attention to the results, but for the time be-ing, I'm dead set stoked to see the "type" of studs that are at the upper echelon of the most recent trial. (SA Lameroo) It shows we are heading down the right track with our breeding objectives."
Dion Woolford - Karawatha Park S.A.

Semen rights is very complicated,

To be continued on pg 30

**LORELMO POLL
ON PROPERTY
WALCHA NSW
OFFERED 57
SOLD 53
AVERAGE \$1,985
TOP \$5,500 x 2**

It was great to be able to attend the Lorelmo Poll sale in early February 2020 as opposed to bidding via the phone the year before from Tatchbrook Farms' shearing shed at Arthur River in W.A.!

Good to have Rose on board as well as to enjoy the typical hospitality that the Cordingley's lay on without blinking an eye as well as acting as my scribe for catalogue comments pre sale. Also good was the multitude of orders I had for the auction from three clients across S.A. & Vic. Want more good? It rained on the morning of the sale which, after a disastrous season, gave people the confidence that the skies still new how it was done!

Lorelmo own one of the best sires in the country for High Tops/ Low Culls as proven from their ewe hogget classing and what SuperSire 160172 threw in the ram group including a huge swath in the auction - just over 50% to be exact!

Next for him will be as an entry into Sire Evaluation somewhere and hopefully in the new SA version to be run at David Eckert's property at Malinong S.A.

Gerard and Michelle Glynn - Cygnet River KI, gave me a realistic budget as to secure three of the best so it was no surprise that the first of the 160172 ('172' from now on) progeny lead the sale and share topped it at \$5,500.

The poll had a GFW% 119 at 17.0u 2.6sd and a BWT% 109 and is the ram sitting at right in the main photo. I bought two more for the Glynn's with no loss in the quality stakes. Also bred by 172, lot 22 at \$4,000 fit their requirements to a tee with this bloke slanting more

to the meat side of the ledger expressed by BW% 122, FAT% +6.3 & EMD% +3.7. Add 15.1u!

There are four rams that make up Syndicate 5 and this group was responsible for a massive 30% of the sale! One of those four was responsible for creating lot 41 that sold for \$2,500 to the Glynn's. Try these figures: GFW% 124 BW% 113 FAT% 128 & EMD% 3.7. Looking forward to Gerard and Michelle's classing later this year to revisit these purchases.

The Andre family from Kangaroo Inn S.A in the state's lower South East have been a Lorelmo client and supporter since the partnership began with Willalooka P/C notching up around thirty years.

It's a quality flock and Peter needed up to ten rams as to satisfy his push for micron stability if not slightly reducing it as well as constant improvement with staple length to compliment his six month shearing aspirations.

Due to the depth of quality of the sale team, it took nearly the whole auction to pickup the numbers required (+1!) and to keep the budget within parameters.

Seven of the Andre's poll requirements were bred by 172. Possibly the pick of the bunch was a 172 bred lots 26 that I jagged for \$2,000 with a GFW% 121 add a lot 13 for \$1,000 that had a FAT % deviation that was 70% above the the group average.

I also bought nine for Brian Wilson near Ballarat in Vic. beginning at lot 4 for one of the sale's best at \$4,000 and naturally bred by 172. Fibre supreme at 15.7u with a BW% 11.3 above average, FAT% 48.8 above average & EMD 13.4% above par.

The next best may have been the \$3,000 pickup at lot 31 exhibiting the typical bold, super white gear that we're used to here. Or was it lot 44 for \$2,250 with a FAT% 27.6 and yet again bred by that famous sire!

The Forsyth Brothers - Chilcott's Creek, Wallabahdah NSW secured the other highest priced poll at \$5500 which was specially positioned at lot 10. 16.3u 2.8sd in tandem with GFW %128, BW% + 8.4 & FAT + 6.3% saw a lot of competition for this finer crimper which was incredibly white yet was a wool that typifies the surrounding district without necessarily typifying what's happening at the stud.

Lorelmo would have to be the boldest crimped Superfine stud in the New England yet objectively measures just as fine as any other contemporaries. So where's the bonus in bucking the village trend you could ask! Extra staple length capable of twice yearly shearing, which equates to a free skin which can only assist in more lambs!

Stewart Bulmer - Bolivia NSW bought around ten rams on the day as to win the gong that suggests a two week Lorelmo sponsored trip to the Maldives with all booze thrown in. What great local support in possibly the shittiest year in decades! I really liked his sneaky lot 39 purchase for \$1,000 with one of the best wools in the catalogue coincidentally bred by 172.

Jim and AJ Hunt - Niangala NSW were good for four polls including a booming thug in lot 7 bred by Syndicate 3 for \$2,750 boasting GFW% 110, BW% + 11.3 & FAT% + 48.8!!

John Beynon - Uralla NSW, Kubba Jimba Partnership - Glen Innes NSW, Justin and Jo Hoad - Uralla NSW, The Brazel family - Niangala NSW, Wittunga Props - Dundee NSW, West Mihi Merinos - Uralla NSW, A & G Holden Stawell Vic. and John Beynon were all great support with the single and two purchases to ensure a ripper sale considering the almost nationwide drought on the go at that stage of the year.

For those who read this article and require a semen sire that would have huge impact for low waste and top end result, 150172 would be a wise choice considering his huge impact at Lorelmo.



Our key goals at Lorelmo Poll is to produce a quality fibre and meat animal that is fertile and productive across all regions. Lorelmo Poll is located at 'Topdale', Walcha in the New England of NSW. We have an altitude of 1300 meters and annual rainfall of 1500mm. We are aware that these are the key focus of all studs, so what is the difference with Lorelmo Poll?

At Lorelmo Poll we have demonstrated that we breed dual-purpose sheep that are free growing producing long, bright, white 17-micron wool that is resistant to all the elements on a low maintenance sheep. So why are our sheep different? Most breeders are aware of numerous claims that have been made over the last 20 years about what is the ultimate potential of the merino.

There are few breeders that wouldn't like to have a flock of ewes that require 6 month shearing with two clips of 4kg, 80mm, 16-17 micron wool. There is always a transition period, which we have now passed. This gives our clients who are interested in adopting this logical approach the tools necessary to do the same. We now have sires cutting over 200mm of bright, rich, bold crimping wool with plain bodies and clean breaches where mulesing is unnecessary.

This year we have used our ram lambs for joining over our ewe lambs as they reached the target 40kg joining weight. The large selection of young rams is very exciting for our continued progression. Our sale team in Feb 2021 will be a strong reflection of the points we have discussed.

There is an old saying, "You can't breed a racehorse out of a donkey". It is also accepted that you can't win a race with a horse that is not fed properly. Sheep are no different!



**SOHNIC ON PROPERTY
MARNOO VIC.
OFFERED 90
SOLD 85
TOP \$12,000
AVERAGE \$1,950**



Sohnic's On Property sale is always one to look forward to as it's the second day of viewing so many polls with intriguing fibre following on from the Wallaloo Park sale the day previous.

It's a credit to the Nichol森/Hose tangle in maintaining excellent skins whilst broaching just what the customer needs with early growth rates and a balanced fleece weight approach.

Roger Hunt - Chain Pump, Bordertown S.A. is a big fan of the stud and bought arguably the equal best ram of the day.

Lot 8 was a bloody ripper with the ideal backend to conquer any hock issues that Roger may have. If he hasn't well he could sell semen to many a stud that don't think they have an issue.

Bred by Sohnic 140210 whose father was Sohnic 505 that seems to have been dropping good stock here for decades! No ASBV's here but some realtime figures aid the selection. EMD 37 reasonable but the FAT measurement of 10.0mm is almost unheard of in MerinoWorld.

Great spirited bidding ensued with many clamoring for ownership which encouraged the top price of \$12,000. He also cut 5.2kg at 5.5 months growth.

Nantoura Poll - Wharminda S.A. gave me a briefcase full of the good stuff to use as collateral to buy the best poll of the day which I did so at Lot 4 with a realistic outlay of \$7,000.

AI bred by WP161514, that thumping Wallaloo Park experiment via Triggervale 140477, this guy stood like a rock, was way above average for measured meat traits and cut 5.5kg at 5.5 months. This reflected by a massive staple length, bold crimp full of lustre and 19.5u 2.9sd 14.9cv & 0.2pf

As per usual Bretton Estate competed throughout the sale and were fearless in their purchasing of ten beauties. Rob Nichol森's lot 89 pickup, yep second last ram of the day for \$2,000 must have been an ex reserve such were his above average figures add 6.5kg's at 5.5 months growth.

His Lot 3 pickup for a measly \$2,500 may have been the bargain of the day by sale's end. Bred by Lucernbrae 160032 that Sohnic collected at Classic'17 for \$7,000 he had an extremely long body, aligned crimp and EMD 41.

Hazelwood Nominees - Balranald NSW must be getting great results out there as they consumed twelve across the sale and were really pushing



to win the gong for the Sohnic sponsored trip to Alaska for a week including Schnapps.

Graeme and Shane Jardine - Carisbrook Vic. were good for five and DR & RE Hately locked onto four including a burster in Lot 19 for \$2,250. This fella bred by an AI syndicate, which stirs the imagination, was 111kg, EMD 45mm and FAT 7mm.

AL & CJ Coombes also purchased four and T & S Brady were good with three including a great Lot 22 pickup for \$3,000 and bred by Sohnic 160200 x Leahcim 123153. Outstanding fibre with way above average meat figures I should have bought this fella for someone but thought I could smell the barby and lost concentration right at the wrong moment.

There was immense support from buyers who bought singles and double purchases to ensure another great Sohnic sale.

Jackson Ag., Goode, Long, McLennan, Heinz, Martin, Carter, Bibby, Bright, Poole and that surname I wished was mine, Fernandez were all names called to create that success.

Also on display at the Sohnic sale day was the young reserve ram that the stud sold to Superior Wool Syndicate for \$30,000 after an offer by the syndicate due to the extreme quality exhibited.



FOREST SPRINGS ON PROPERTY '19 JOEL JOEL, VICTORIA SOLD 36 TOP \$4250 AVERAGE \$1625

GENETICS USED: FOREST SPRINGS 160334 (GUNALLO 007), RIDGWAY ADVANCE 160007, MUMBLEBONE 130850, RIDGWAY 140721, WALLALOO PARK 160198, GUN-ALLO 160229, GUNALLO 150716, WALLALOO PARK 161514, FOREST SPRINGS 160642, GUNALLO 007, GLENLEA PARK 445, WALLALOO PARK 160198, WALLALOO PARK 150465

The sale topper was Lot 5 181117, who also had the best wool of the autumn drops. He was the son of Forest Springs 160642 (top priced ram at the 2017 sale, bought by Hynam Poll Merinos). His figures were Micron 19.8, CV 14.9, SD 3, Body weight 101kgs.

Purchased by Joe Peacock, Carmeloria Merino Stud and Gary Hannett, Navarre.

Best of the spring drops and possibly the best woolled ram in the sale was Lot 43 180900. He was purchased by Gary Young, Banyena for \$2500 and is the son of Forest Springs 160334 (a son Gunallo BOND 007). His figures were Micron 21.3, CV 17.4, SD 3.5, Body weight 88kgs.

The crowd was a mixture of return buyers and new faces with good support from long time buyers in Gary Young, Spencer Martin, Larry McLean, Shane Bibby, Brendan Roughhead, Adam Nicholson, Jason Gibson and Jack and Lyn Start all making multiple buys. Newcomers included Matt Hall, Ben Hughes, Phil Moore and Laurie Jardine. The top end rams sold well with an almost \$500 increase on last year's average price.



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MERINO SIRE EVALUATION YEAR 1: 2019 ASSESSMENT McPIGGERY LAMEROO SA



AWI have taken a bit of a hit of late in their, what's perceived to be, lack of promotion of genetics that address the now raging mulesing topic. Their funding of Sire Evaluation Trials and the information oozing out of multi year MLP projects could be just the shot in the arm that body needs as to regain some form of popularity.

Ironically the third SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial spills vital information to a hungry public that most definitely points to anti mulesing genetics that featured very well in this trial.

It is very important to understand that those dots on the brilliant quad graphs featured in this article represent one ram only from participating studs. There are sires that capitulate in some trials yet amongst other trials and a different sire from the same stud, a ram can excel far above his predecessor.

There's generally a \$3,000 entry fee plus labour support at various days amongst the trial per sire entry. Many studs are entering unproven animals as to gauge a relatively quick snap shot of the subsequent progeny result for future use or not.

To be over critical of any sire result after what I just mentioned is frowned upon and totally un Australian and certainly not commented on here!

It's my view only that would suggest that should a given stud enter sires that continually under perform across a number of trials

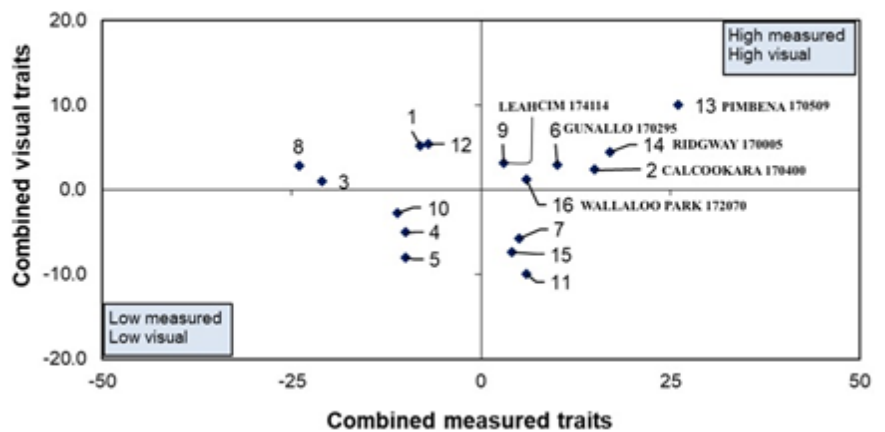
then maybe it's time for that stud to consider a massive genetical change. It shouldn't be hard for the commercial client of that said stud to hurry up and do the same!

Alternatively the opposite applies to those studs that continuously support trials with new, young and exciting sires that have the ability to be game changers.

studs that don't quite hit that sweet spot from the entered ram generally have others in corresponding trials, often in other states that excel.

Righteo check the above MP+ Index quad graph (figure 1b). MP+ is the index designed to target the common self replacing flock where income is derived from both wool

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



There are sire progeny results in this round that continue on those great Ridgway Advance 150103/ Kelvale 160088 type result from the first two completed SA Trials (2017/2018 drop) that were run at Keyneton Station SA.

It's a tight bunch at that much revered top right hand corner of where you wanna be amongst those imposing Index quad graphs. If you want a quick snapshot of who's done what in any of these trials just go to the MP+/DP+ Index graphs with Combined Visual Traits on one axis and Combined Measured Traits on the other.

Cast your eyes straight to the top right hand corner and there's often a cluster of 5-6 sires that have proven their worth in that very trial for all traits both visually by the classer and those who measure other traits pre and post shearing ie. Dag Scoring, Breech Wrinkle etc.

Always remember that those

and surplus sheep sales. It particularly targets Fleece Weight, Diameter, Body Weight, Staple Strength and Reproduction.

There's a good grouping of studs here yet one in particular is a standout: Sire #13 - Pimbena 170509. The poll topped the Combined Visual axis as well as the horizontal Combined Measured Traits amongst the MP+ system.

By referring to the booklet of which anyone can access via the SheepGenetics website, a number of Field Days or via our office, we can ascertain the reasons for his success.

At visual classing on March 10th 2020 at McPiggery, Pimbena 170509 led the actual trait leading stakes in Wool Colour, Wool Character, Dust Penetration and shared the important Blue highlight as shared trait leader in Fleece rot, Non Fibre Pigmentation, Legs and Feet, the ever important

Body Wrinkle, Breech Wrinkle & Breech Cover!



In checking the Measured traits table and targeting those traits that impact MP+, we see 170509 ranked equal third for GFW and 0.1kg above the group average. 5.2kg was the average for the lowest two groups.

At shearing all stock had a 10.5 month jacket on board.

Gunallo	170295	6.1kg
Calcookara	170400	5.8kg
Pepperwell	177031	5.8kg
Hilton Heath	150817	5.8kg
Moorundie	NE73	5.8kg
Pimbena Poll	170509	5.7kg
Ridgway Poll	170005	5.7kg
Roemahkita	160018	5.7kg
Wallaloo Pk	72070.	5.7kg

When yield was taken into account Pimbena 170509 averaged right on the group mean of 64.3%. The Hilton Heath 150817 progeny lead the way at an average of 67.2% ranging to 59.6% for the lowest group.

The Pimbena 170509 progeny's Fibre Diameter (17.4u) came in at 0.2 under the group average of 17.6u. yet the finest was Flairdale 170070 at 16.6u. The strongest progeny group averaged 18.5u.

His progeny were fourth highest for Staple Length (SL from here on) at 113.3mm. The group average was 106mm and the lowest group performed at 93.6mm - 31mm less than the top brass!

Kelvale Poll	170004	124.0mm
Anderson Poll	160390	115.2mm
Challara Poll	150245	113.8mm
Pimbena Poll	170509.	113.3mm

At 29.2 N/ktex, Pimbena 170509 out measured all rivals bar one. Group average sits at 26.7 N/ktex

with the lowest coming in at 22.0.

Malleetech	177141	32.8	N/ktex
Pimbena Poll	170509	29.2	N/ktex
Pepperwell	177031	29.1	N/ktex
Hilton Heath	150817	28.8	N/ktex

Pretty good numbers thus far for the Pimbena fella but it was his Body Weight figures that really blew the charts away with 170509 trait leading all three: Weaning Wt., Post Weaning Weight & Yearling Weight.

Weaning Weight (14 weeks) average was 30.1kg - it was a fairly tight range with 28.7kg the lightest up to Pimbena's 31.6kg the heaviest closely followed by Leahcim Poll 173114 at 31.5kg

Pimbena	170509	31.6kg
Leahcim	173114	31.5kg
Moorundie	NE73	31.0kg
Anderson	160390	30.8kg
Roemahkita	160018	30.5kg
Ridgway Poll	170005	30.4kg

Post Weaning Weight at (9 months) saw Pimbena 170590 progeny stretch their body weight ascendancy with a 3.2kg jump away from their rivals and a near 5kg jump up from the average of the group. (48.8kg)

Pimbena	170590	53.7kg
Ridgway	170005	50.5kg
Anderson	160390	50.5kg
Gunallo	170295	50.4kg
Leahcim	173114	50.2kg

Yearling Weight at 12 months again sees his progeny as trait leaders with a 3kg head start from rivals and a bit more than 7kg's up on the group average. (52.7kg)

Pimbena	170509	58.2kg
Ridgway	170005	55.9kg
Calcookara	170400	54.5kg
Wallaloo Pk	172070	54.4kg
Anderson	160390	54.1kg

Pimbena 170509 progeny slipped away a bit when it came to Eye Muscle and Fat measurements compared to his most trait enjoyment previously.

His progeny's Fat measurement was bang on average of all groups at 3.1mm and Eye muscle depth measurement was 1mm less than the average of 29.5mm. Not disastrous by any means as the range across all sire groups was probably the tightest I've seen across all Sire Evaluation results. 2.9mm-3.3mm for fat to average 3.1mm and 28.2mm-31.0mm of muscle to average 29.5mm.

Still, Anderson 160390 leads the pack on both counts with Wallaloo Park 172070, Ridgway 170005 and Leahcim 173114 performing well.

When the tangle of CFW is thrown into the mix there needs to be a balance should EMD & Fat be considered. Look at Sire #8 (Figure 7) blitz the field for EMD and fairing well for FAT yet no CFW bonus. Alternatively check

Figure 3. Fleece Weight and Fibre Diameter (FBVs)

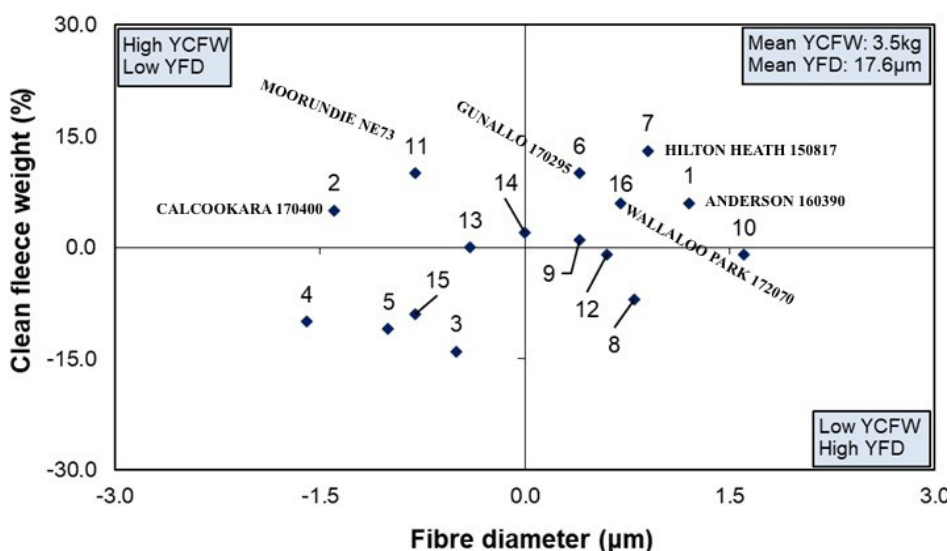
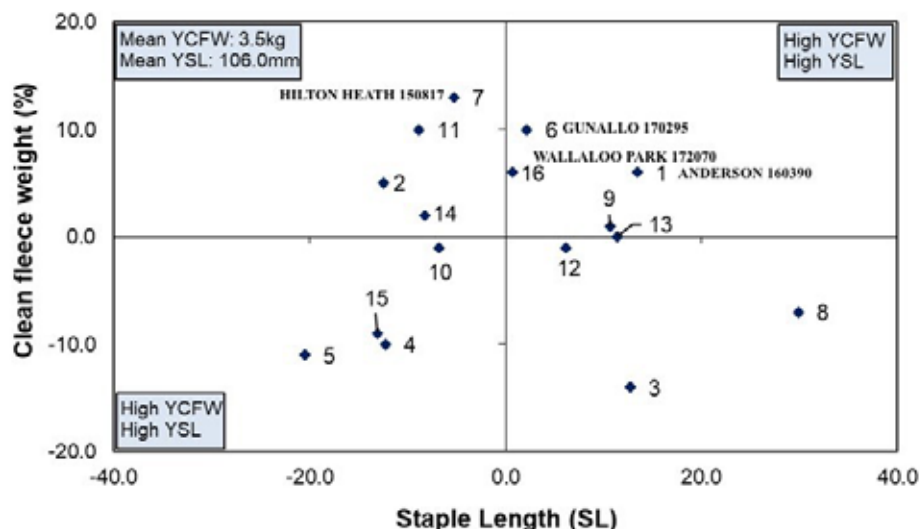




Figure 4. Fleece Weight and Staple Length (FBVs)



out the three biggest highest CFW's yet note the EMD imbalance.

The Anderson 160390 progeny result was outstanding when CFW, EMD & FAT and that important balance was taken into account. Added to that, the classer thought highly of the progeny as well being the fifth highest 'liked' group for 'Tops' and the second ranked for 'Low Culls'.

All of this suggests that with the huge push of late for fleece weight there can be a lot to lose with other traits as pictured amongst the graphs. Some of the highest ranked YCFW figured animals in the country at the moment are most likely negative for EMD & FAT so balance is required.

I was the classer of this SA Sire Evaluation Trial only by default as it was Rob Russell's gig but he had to pull out for business reasons. All progeny are tag coded with no hint on what sire is represented.

It is always encouraging after scrutinising Figure 2: Classers Visual Grade - Tops and Culls that the visual top enders are those that have done well in the measured

trait section as well.

The Pimbena 170509 progeny not only measured very well but were held in very high regard on classing day. Other sire groups that have been mentioned throughout this article for measured traits are also in the correct quadrant for High Tops vs Low Culls. (Top left quad this time!) (See Figure2)

It would be of great concern should the lowest fleece weight group be up where Pimbena 170509 sits on the above Fig 2. graph!

Next thing - what's behind the breeding of such a successful sire both on the physical visual and measured traits perspective.

As shown next page there's some good pedigree associated here on both sides of the tree and on viewing no surprise as to the success of the ram.

So, starting with the success story Pimbena 170509 - he was selected as a reserve to be retained at the stud due to his physical presence as far back

as a ten month old weaner at the February classing in 2018. I remember his fibre and makeup well - a fluid nourishment and the boldest crimp with staple length on an extremely long body of five hands from behind the neck to the tip of the tail. To be honest his body was so long he nearly looked abnormal! Extra loin an attraction.

The top set of numbers for 170509 shows the highlighted growth columns WWT, PWT & YWT. Highlighted because these are national trait leaders and in effect matched those results that came out of this trial.

His ASBV's for YSS (Staple Strength), YSL (Staple Length), EBWR (Breech Wrinkle) and MP+ & DP+ Index runs in tandem with this SA Trial result to a tee. His slightly weaker YEMD & YFAT trial result also runs parallel with his lower ASBV's. Note 180 MP+

Now look at the family tree table for Pimbena 170509 and let's lean on the sire side to start with. His father was Ramsgate 130390 that fetched a massive dollar tag at Classic'14 for ...\$2,500! Check his ASBV's and see similar patterns forming for the same traits dis-cussed thus a cheap piece of jig-saw! Note 170 MP+.

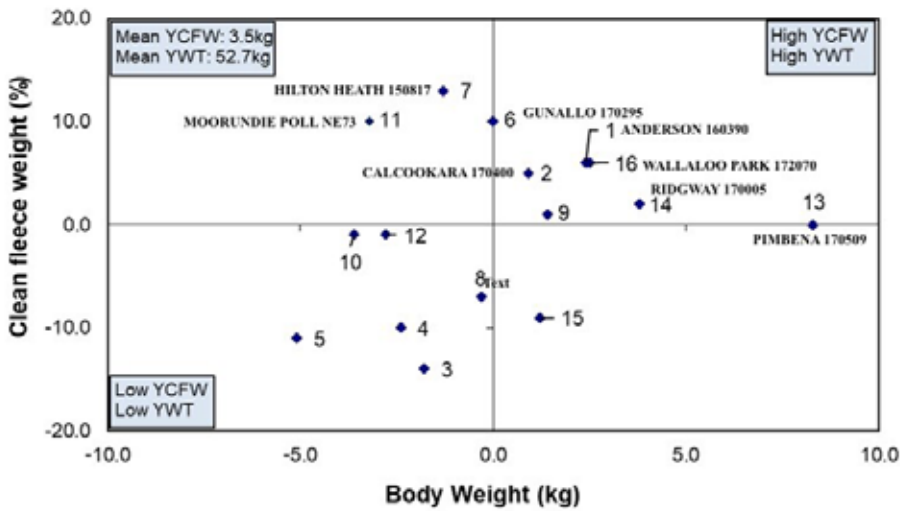
Even though the pedigree table runs out of puff on the sire side of things I know that Ramsgate 130390's sire was Kamora Park 110017 that Ramsgate's principles, Jed and Craig Keller in partnership with Mark Richardson - Culburra SA bought at Classic'12 for \$10,000!

Classic'12 was Kamora Park's finest moment genetically.

And try this - one more step away is the renowned Leahcim 050154 who sired KP 110017 via AI in 2009. His MP+ now sits at 138.

Now go to the next table and find Pimbena 141152 - the mother of the hero 170509.

Figure 5. Fleece Weight and Body Weight (FBVs)

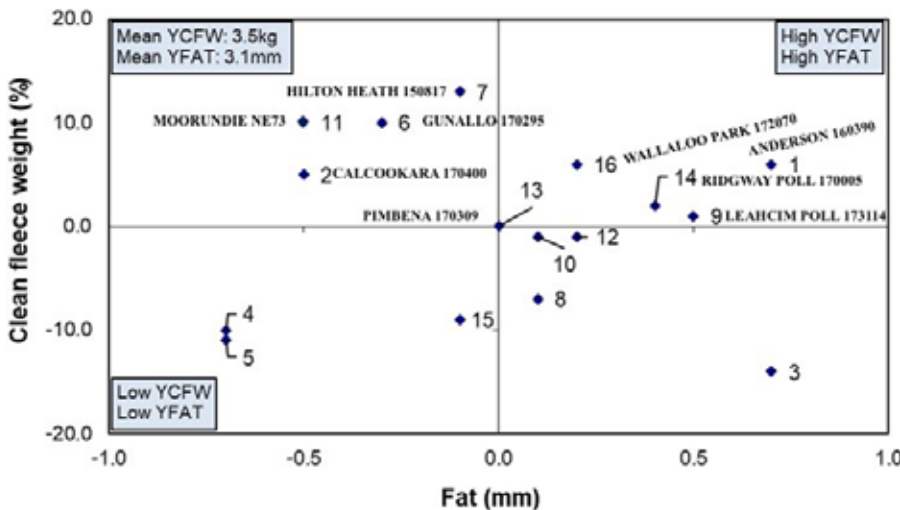


Pretty good numbers with this girl including MP+ 163.

And the sire of this great girl - Glenlea Park 012395, the \$51,000 CC'13 sale topper bought by Les Hamence - Pimbena's principle since the stud's inception in 1902!

GP 012395 had a backend that was bigger than yours and a huge length of body and this is what he bred every time progeny hit the deck. He never lived up to his fleece weight potential (YCFW now at 13.3) where physically he was the heaviest cutter of the drop yet it was his progeny's meat attributes that shone and was responsible for lifting that area of the stud.

Figure 6. Fleece Weight and Fat (FBVs)

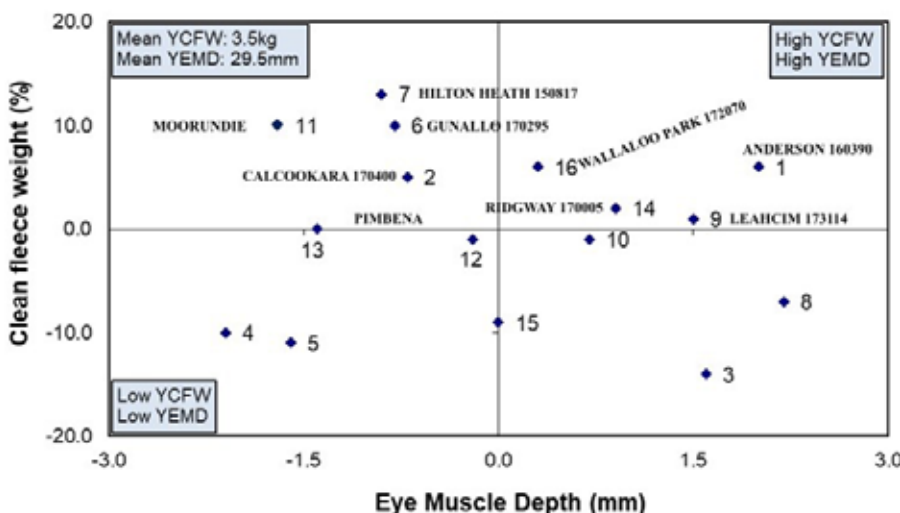


So you say it's time for another of those great quad graphs?! (See Figure 1 next page)

For you DP+ preferrers the scene doesn't change much except for the crossing of the vertical axis by the Anderson ram - 160390 due to excellent trait leading FAT & EMD and the excellent PWT that was mentioned previously and is more part of the DP+ makeup than MP+.

The next bit in my eyes is of critical reading so pour yourself a Wild Turkey, add shit loads of ice, just a quick blast of any exotic cola and soak this up because there is a nation dividing issue that's boiling hot right this minute - mulesing.

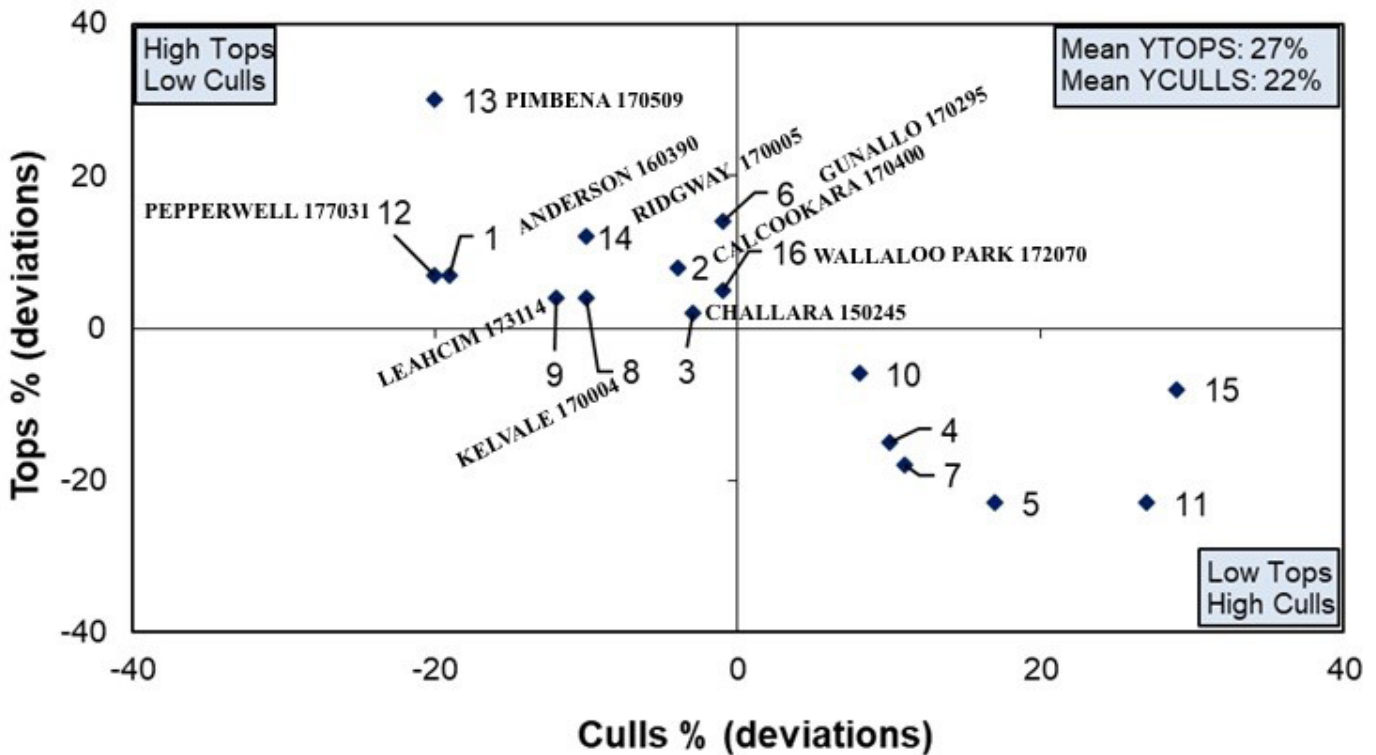
Figure 7. Fleece Weight and Eye Muscle Depth (FBVs)



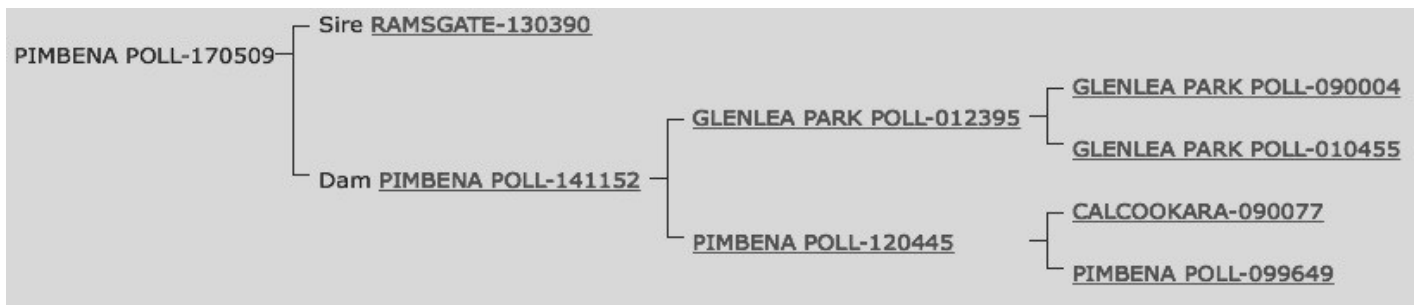
Amongst all MLP and Sire Evaluation trials there is visual and recorded assessment on Breech Wrinkle which has to be assessed at marking. This information is also added to SheepGenetics' data base via ASBV's such is its importance in the form of EBWR - Early Breech Wrinkle. Breech Cover is also assessed at the same time and there is a lot of correlation between the two.

Considering the DP+ graph is right beneath let's use that as a guide to see what sires performed well for Breech Wrinkle. Trait leaders for Breech Wrinkle goes

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



Animal ID	WWT	PWT	YWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	YFD	YSL	YSS	EBWR	EBCOV	POLL	MP+	DP+
PIMBENA POLL-170509 <small>MSS</small>	8.5 95%	11.3 96%	14.2 94%	-1.3 86%	-0.2 81%	20.0 92%	-1.5 93%	18.6 94%	2.3 88%	-0.9 91%	-0.3 88%	PP	181 51%	180 43%



View all traits	WWT	PWT	YWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	YFD	YSL	YSS	EBWR	EBCOV	POLL	MP+	DP+
RAMSGATE-130390	4.5 97%	5.6 97%	6.7 96%	-1.4 89%	-0.2 86%	18.9 85%	-1.5 86%	12.2 94%	2.2 66%	-0.5 96%	-0.1 95%	PH	170 46%	163 40%
Averages View Percentiles	2.6	3.0	4.6	0.4	0.1	14.1	-0.9	6.3	0.5	-0.2	-0.1	0	142	144

Animal ID	WWT	PWT	YWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	YFD	YSL	YSS	EBWR	EBCOV	POLL	MP+	DP+
PIMBENA POLL-141152	5.5 79%	6.1 79%	7.7 79%	0.1 68%	-0.2 66%	12.6 71%	-1.5 72%	9.3 74%	1.8 61%	-0.5 77%	-0.1 73%		163 52%	170 52%

Animal ID	WWT	PWT	YWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	YFD	YSL	YSS	EBWR	EBCOV	POLL	MP+	DP+
GLENLEA PARK POLL-012395	4.7 98%	3.9 98%	5.3 98%	1.3 96%	-0.1 95%	13.3 96%	-1.7 98%	7.8 97%	3.2 84%	-0.4 97%	-0.1 97%	PH	170 82%	183 80%

like this and a negative figure is preferred:

Kelvale 170004 -0.5
 Pimbena 170390 -0.4
 Ridgway 170005 -0.3
 Anderson 160390 -0.3
 Leahcim 173114 -0.2
 Gunallo 170295 -0.1

claims trait leadership for YCFW 36.2 & more importantly ACFW 32.1!

One small step away is the Ridgway 170005 progeny that show up as EBWR -0.6.

Let's convert those Greasy

shouldn't be allowed through Bendigo's front gate!!

Think Body Wrinkle Scoring done at yearling stage and add a Breech Cover score at marking and there are a lot of parallels with these two trait scorings and Breech Wrinkle.

Thus with Breech Wrinkle and Breech Cover scoring similarly, it reinforces the fact that plain bodied, easy care, smooth/uncomplicated skinned stock can genuinely fleece weigh as good as traditional efforts and be mules free as to meet worldwide demands.

If we don't ever lose wool quality in our endeavours to maintain a balance of meat and fibre our merino will remain a high calibre commodity for years to come.

Whilst on the fibre quality subject, another yearling trait at visual classing is a 1(best) -5 scoring on Wool Character. The following % figure is how many of that sire's progeny made it as #1's & #2's suggesting crimp definition, lustre and fibre alignment.

Those that lead the pack:

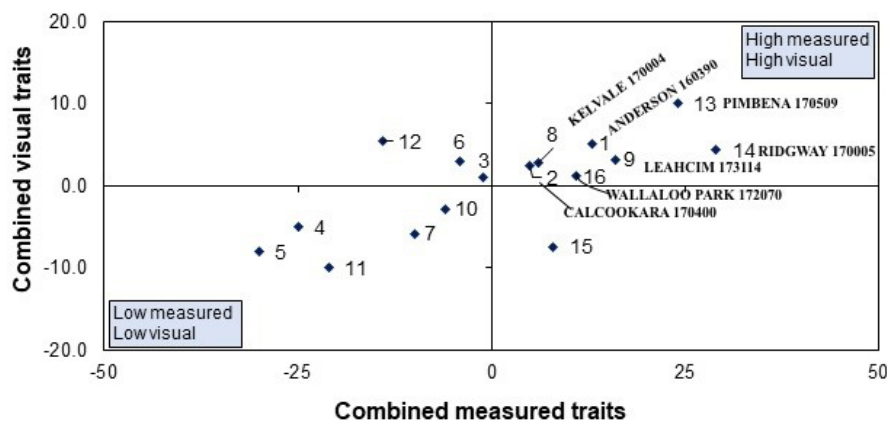
Ridgway Poll 170005 (45%)(52%)
 Gunallo Poll 170295 (50%)(21%)
 Calcookara Poll 170400(34%)(50%)
 Pimbena Poll 170509 (31%)(41%)
 Pepperwell Poll177031(16%)(62%)
 Leahcim Poll 173114 (17%)(57%)

Most of these sire progeny groups have been mentioned all the way through this article as trait leaders of various definition. It can only equate to one thing - **CRIMP MATTERS!**

A 1-5 also exists for Staple Structure with (1) representing a thin light cutting fibre and (5) a tight, short, fatty, suinty fibre reserved for the Lion's Lair. (3) is the number to own here which suggests length and density combined.

When the (5's) for Staple Structure are compared to the Wool Colour disappointments, there is an awkward comparison that I'll write about the day before I die brother!

Figure 1a. Visual and measured performance (DP+ index)



Five of the best scored for EBWR are in the preferred corner of the DP+ quad.

What about when fleece weight is thrown into the mix. Those traditionalists who suggest that plain breeches with no wrinkle won't cut the Kg's shouldn't be surprised anymore but here's yet another great example of animals that could be unmulesed because of free skins and plain breeches still cutting the kilos. See highlighted

Gunallo 170295 6.1kg
Calcookara 170400 5.8kg
 Pepperwell 177031 5.8kg
 Hilton Heath 150817 5.8kg
 Moorundie NE73 5.8kg
Pimbena Poll 170509 5.7kg
 Ridgway Poll 170005 5.7kg
 Roemahkita 160018 5.7kg
 Wallaloo Pk 172070. 5.7kg

Three of the higher end for greasy fleece weight are also trait leaders for Breech Wrinkle or lack of it! In SheepGenetics county Pimbena 1970509 is a trait leader for EBWR at -0.9.

Not far away is Gunallo 170295 who by the way is the Classic'18, \$60,000 sale topper that sits at EBWR -0.7. Not bad for a poll that

Fleece Weights to Clean to create another list still considering the impact on EBWR.

Hilton Heath 150817 3.8kg
 Gunallo Poll 170295 3.7kg
 Anderson Poll 160390 3.7kg
 Moorundie Poll NE73 3.7kg
 Calcookara 170400 3.6kg
 Leahcim Poll 173114 3.6kg
 Wallaloo Park 172070 3.6kg

Due to better yields thus affecting Clean Fleece Weight there is a bit of guard changing with the most notable being Anderson 160390 whose progeny were in the top three 'yielders' thus making this list. His ASBV's for EBWR are trait leading and match Pimbena 170295's at -0.9 with another trait leading effort for EBCOV at -0.6. Check this rams' ASBV's when you get the chance.

Leahcim 173114 despite getting up there for YCFW also stuns the crowd with another trait leading effort at EBWR -0.9 on the ASBV charts.

My point is that we **can** breed our way into NON MULES GENETICALLY without waiting for the silver bullet that will allow some breeders to continue to create mon-strosities that

Ok the leaders for Staple Structure with the % figure showing how many of the group made the desirable (3) grade.

Kelvale Poll	170004	(82%)
Anderson Poll	160390	(78%)
Pimbena Poll	170509	(74%)
Leahcim Poll	173114	(74%)
Challara Poll	150245	(64%)

This all rings a bell concerning another trait class with a similar result. I've actually copied the staple length chart close by as to see the comparisons which does make sense. Good staple structure equates to extra staple length inner world at least.

Kelvale Poll	170004	124.0mm
Anderson Poll	160390	115.2mm
Challara Poll	150245	113.8mm
Pimbena Poll	170509	113.3mm

Just 'cause I can I'll copy the YCFW chart across to see who's familiar:

Hilton Heath	150817	3.8kg
Gunallo Poll	170295	3.7kg
Anderson Poll	160390	3.7kg
Moorundie Poll	NE73	3.7kg
Calcookara	170400	3.6kg
Leahcim Poll	173114	3.6kg
Wallaloo Park	172070	3.6kg

The Rural Press combined had a weird feature the other day (see next page) on whatever happened to some of the record priced rams of yesteryear entitled 'Where are these rich rams now?' After a fair bit of carry on and diatribe it hinted that most of them were disasters waiting to happen because of over preparation subsequently creating an infamous dry blowing technique out in the paddock! This great industry is in better hands now than in that strangest of eras that could have signalled the end of all things great about the Merino.

I genuinely hope the Glenlea Park fella leaves the ill fated historical skin machines in his wake as to get some worth out of any future article on high priced rams!

This written piece about 'proof in the pudding' trials like the SA Sire Evaluation and many others across the nation are expelling all things mythical that still plague

the industry. There's nothing to hide behind with the 'fact only' summaries and evidence they produce which can only be to the betterment for a young breeder trying to understand just what makes serious money and what most definitely does not!

I don't know the exact stats but I can't think of any broad ribbon winner that's had any success at all in this type of trial.

Gunallo 170295, the \$60,000 CC'18 record priced sale topper has certainly proved his worth with an excellent result in the McPiggery trial. I have already classed young progeny of his at SWM and Lucernbrae to add to the great result here. He looked superb on the day of purchase, he still looks the part, he's very fertile with lambs everywhere, the results allround are outstanding and to top it off, his numbers in this trial speak for themselves. \$60,000 - a worthwhile investment and helped by excellent pedigree as an aid to predictable genetical result.



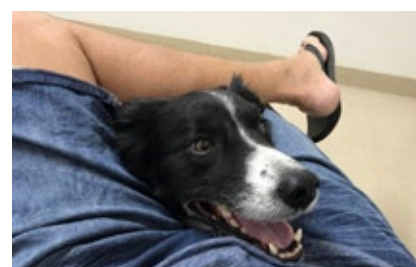
Calcookara 170400, the sire that also did well in this Trial is retained at the stud for two main reasons - he's a winner plus he broke his back leg in an accident not long after this photo was taken! Seen here with Brenton Smith and Jim Gordon who rates the ram very highly with semen sold to half of NSW - make that progressive NSW!

So pictured above are the 2019 drop SA Sire Evaluations' pinup boys! 170509 featured well in close to all traits. Pimbena's principle, Les Hamence has always had an astute eye for predictable future breeders. 509's dam pedigree included



Glenlea Park 012395 the \$51,000 national record priced Classic'13 poll that Les bought outright. At the other end of the price range but definitely not the quality scale and at a measly \$2,500 at Classic'14, Ramsgate 130390 is now of heroic status after siring this now to be, influential son.

Les has been part of the ASBV circuit longer than anyone I know of and has volumes of pedigree information that looks, from a distance about as interesting as Uncle Bob's slide night! But due to the build up of pedigree and subsequent accuracies over such a time, that depth of info



has culminated into a winning formula for the stud and those encyclopedia type volumes now allure some kind of intrigue!

That's Ridgway 170005 below who rated well in the SA Trial and was consistent throughout with lots of good trait rankings as well as very well liked by the classer. I think that's what outlook is supposed to look like!



His progeny are currently rating well in most traits for ASBV's including YWT 10.0, YEMD 1.5, YFAT 0.6, YCFW 25.0, YEBWR -0.6, MP+ 164 & DP+171. Again another ASBV result very similar to the trial's statistics. PP as well!

The poll pictured with huge depth and making out he didn't see the photographer is the Anderson ram.



The classer had a good run with the Anderson 160390 progeny lining up 5th for High Top % and second only to Pimbena Poll 170509 and Ridgway 170005 for Low Cull %. which puts him on the board as a trait leader. He came next in line to Ridgway Poll 170005 (129), Pimbena 170509 (124), Leahcim 173114 (116) for FBV's or Flock Breeding Values for DP+.

Remembering that FBV's regularly mirror ASBV's but they are only across flock or trial not across

RICH RAMS



all sites at this stage. The trial results once complete are than ran through SheepGenetics data base and added to existing data.

Anderson 160390 is probably ASBV indexed the best in this trial. Check out these honky numbers: YWT 11.9 YEMD 3.1 YFAT 1.6 YCFW 25.0 EBWR -0.9, MP + 155 yet DP + 199 due excellent carcass trait measurement.

Incidentally Pimbena 170509 lead the way for three Index Values for MP+, FP+, WP+ and only falling one notch to slide underneath the Ridgway ram.

Not surprisingly the highest YCFW sire in the whole trial was Gunallo 170295 which sits at 36.2 and maybe even more important, ACFW sitting at 32.1 which suggests fleece weight predicability. He was heaviest for GFW in the trial and fell away only slightly for CFW due to his progeny yielding 2% yield less than the group average placing him just behind the Hilton Heath progeny that out ranked all for yield at 67.2%

There's one thing synonymous with all of the progeny all of the sires that I've mentioned throughout this piece and that's the important one - crimp!

Crimp when well aligned and exhibiting that reflective silky type lustre suggests that the underskin biology is ticking over

as it should. Primary follicles, secondary follicles and secondary derived follicles, when nutrition is right, correctly spaced and purposefully bred can only produce an organised fibre that is well marked for crimp. It is super soft to touch due to it's smooth cylindrical makeup and capable of growing 160mm in twelve months.

As depicted in this trial most of these advanced genetics really bowl the fleece weight critics over and have an annoying tendency to cut just as well if not better than some traditional counterparts.

What does the fibre look like that belongs to the sires that have featured so well in the McPiggery trial you could ask. I cart a camera or phone with me everywhere and could host the longest slide night ever so I have a few to aid the discussion. I thank Matt Ridgway for one shot:



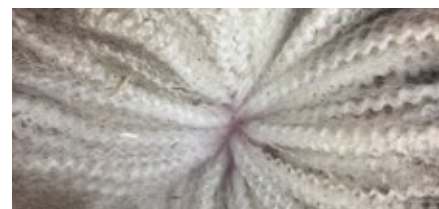
Ridgway Poll 170005



Gunallo Poll 170295



Calcookara 170400



Pimbena Poll 170509



Pepperwell Poll 177031

I genuinely believe that this state has the best genetics for a balanced animal particularly when staple structure, crimp definition in tandem with top end real time figures and ASBV's is concerned.

That Wool Quality summary from the top sires in this McPiggery Trial and the Keyneton Evaluation Trials is unmatched when compared to similar evaluations in other states. A lot has to be said about the quality of both SA flocks with the ewes that were put up for AI as well.

A high cull rate and low top scenario with any sire in the three SA Evaluation assessments couldn't be ewe blamed. Condition wise the Keyneton trials were run in extreme droughty conditions coinciding with AI days always seeming to be completed on some atrocious hotties. (weather that is Hansi!)

Still tough at McPiggery but nowhere near the conditions suffered in the Barossa and both AI days certainly more weather conducive to some good percentage result which did occur in this trial.

Duane Symonds and the crew at McPiggery have done a great job in presenting the trial mob this year in



some testy conditions at times.

The good times continue with a 'hot off the press' lambing percentage just in for the new SA Sire Evaluation Trial once again hosted at Lameroo.

A letter (in part) to the site committee from backbone, Anna Cameron as follows:

Hi All,

I just wanted to fill you in on the lamb marking results from Monday and Tuesday this week. From 742 (AI'd) ewes, 877 lambs were tagged (118%), visually scored for 6 traits, and TSU's were taken....

Good job Duane. That's all for now. Anna

More numbers on the deck equals higher accuracies and better interpretation of results. This is a great result with credit going to all involved including obviously the management skills of Duane and the team, Marg Trowbridge's quality AI outfit, the kind weather over the two days of AI and the donated time/help from stud entrants and committee members.

The labour and time donation from entrants is as important as the trial itself where the hosts are not supposed to be required for many trial days ie. skin scoring, classing.

It's important that all studs supply some form of labour on at least one of these days as not to stretch resources and lead to paying for outside labour as

to assist the critical work days. This effect would make the substantial entry fee needing to be increased which suits nobody!

As a committee member, just a slight dig to entrants to please consider supplying labour for at least one Trial occasion as to keep it seamless and worth the effort so that it's not the hosts' emergency or cost!

The 2020 entries are listed in the following table thus making this lineup the SA Sire Evaluation 2021 drop - the second trial result at McPiggery that has just had the excellent AI result pre mentioned.

A great blend here of six interstate and twelve SA entrants which is a record number entry for SA and thanks again to McPiggery for putting up the number of ewes that they have to cater for that big list.

There are three basic prerequisites that the Site Committee use as to ascertain who gets a guernsey into the trial.

Yes there is a sway toward SA genetics but of polled variety only as this reflects the state of thought for most progressive breeders in the state.

Early response an important one as there are after deadline attempts that have to be ignored due to oversubscription.

Young upcoming sires are to be encouraged rather than for example, eight year old genetics that have proven its worth in other trials. Although the Collinsville 130545 sire is now a seven year old sire he is used across many sites as a reference/benchmark animal and is deemed necessary as a 'control'.

The Stockton ram has some of the highest realtime Intra Muscular Fat figures I have seen and will be an interesting feature of the trial.

2020 Drop - Sires used

1 Baderloo Poll	180049
2 Calcookara Poll	170060
3 Caroonboon	181395
4 Challara Poll	181063
5 Collandra North Poll	180645
6 Collinsville Poll	130545
7 Flairdale Poll	180015
8 Glenville Poll	T88018
9 Hazeldean	000113
10 Malleetech Poll	188039
11 Mernowie Poll	180500
12 Mumblebone	170129
13 Old Ashrose Poll	150445
14 Pepper Well Poll	188187
15 Ramsgate Poll	180451
16 Ridgway Poll	180157
17 Stockton	DB00744
18 Willandra Poll	180080

Continued from pg 16
no one rule fits all. I think often the sale price is a reflection of the semen rights, eg a stud that retains 100% semen rights won't make as much dollars. With your clients proposal there is no incentive for the stud master to sell semen for the buyer. At the end of the day before the sale you know what the semen rights are and you role the dice and bid accordingly.

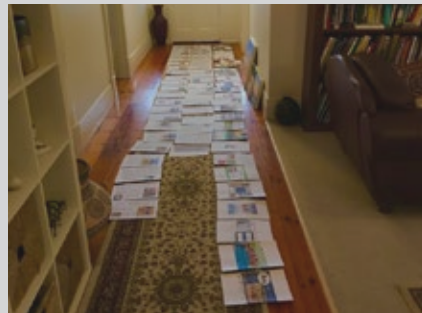
Jed Keller - Ramsgate S.A.

"So what was it about the clown?"

Odile Welke - Westwood Poll

"Yes the horn ram is dead and there seems to be no demand for them. Their only advantage is being easier to spot in the ewes. A Vic. stock agent went as far as to say they would be banned due to OH&S risk."

How big Cullings'20? Half the hallway! WW

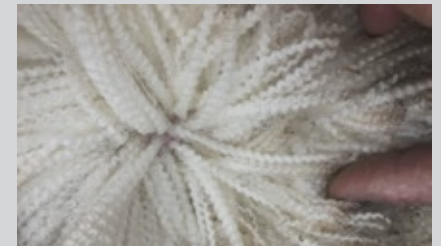


Why do we continually put up with wrapping a heavy chain through a slot in a tin panel, around a post and back again before it's latched - even with newly built yards!

".... I'd like to see them (AWI) trying a little harder to find markets outside of China so we are a little less reliant on them. They will always be our largest market but we need to spread the risk as much as we can. I think its lazy marketing to target China because of population. Get on-to the rest of the world..."

Brenton and Jane Smith
Calcookara SA

"You could learn from the McPiggery Sire Evaluation result in the fact that a clear often trait leader, Pimben, has been a non mulesed stud since 2007 as was Ridgway Advance's trait leading sire in the first Keyneton Trial." WW



To be continued on pg 56

I classed around 1,000 of Hansen Farms' July drop Merino ewe hoggets near Coomandook SA in mid December 2019. The 225 culls of the group sold last week on AuctionsPlus at a majestic \$376! bare shorn and scanned in lamb to White Suffolk weighing 65kg. Nearly as mind blowing was the property's 255 5.5 year olds selling at \$271 joined to the same.

Classings P/L has had a proud association with the Hansen's for many years and I rate the flock very highly.

It has been based on SWM genetics for years and Garry is also a member of the Superior Wool Syndicate accessing some of the nations best genetics via large AI programs initially.

There's a lot of pride on that face of Garry Hansen's which could be due to his now retirement, the quality of the stock he produces and the spondoolee and the

worth that they accrued.

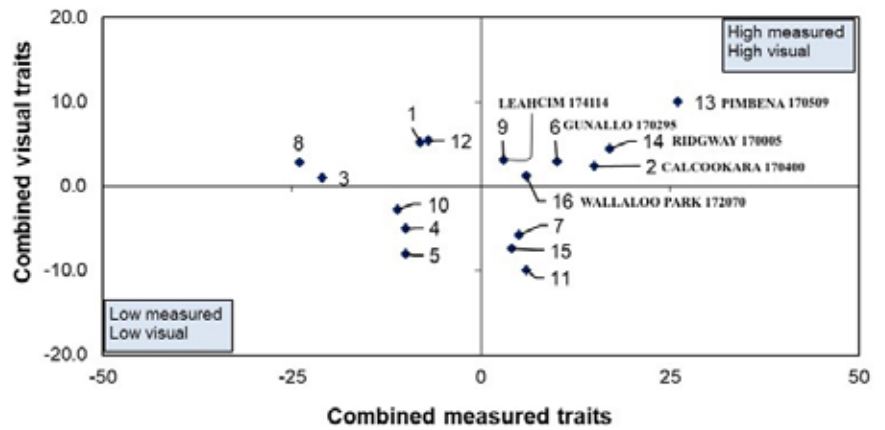
All the best Garry and Merrawyn, catch you on that river.



FIBRE VS WOOL



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



Wool! Such a broad term that can be associated with the crap that floats from the pitiful Dorper's back right through to the other end of the scale, the elite merino fibre producer that punches out never before seen staple length, silkiness and lus-tre from a healthy, fertile and supple skin.

Wool! Bred by tight skinned atrocities that still produce the 'golden fleece' of yesteryear with an ingrained and inherent colour that is borne from an ill bred follicle makeup full of suint and gunk designed by a totally unorganised, just below skin surface, chaos!

Fibre! Bred by design! Intelligent breeders listening to concrete market signals not fads as to breed an organised merino skin that is capable of creating enmasse, a 17u 'silk' from young ewes that can subsequently be garnished into a fabric that can be worn next to skin for all occasions.

Wool! Bred by enterprises that hope that the silky, free skinned, fertile talk won't catch on whilst they continue to breed what the client has always endured not necessarily wanted, nor require!

Fibre! A product so long that there are six month shearing possibilities as to maximise Tensile Strength, Animal Health, Lambing Percentages, Market Risk, Lice Control and genetic enjoyment!

Wool! Produced by intentionally bred wrinkly skinned flocks with higher breech wrinkle and cover scores that are guaranteed to have less lambs and of dire importance, less weaning rates. See these

potential industry wrecking animals with a broad ribbon at any show particularly in the Eastern States where any kid entering this great and precision industry may think that ribbon holding qualifies for genetic importance or improvement!

Fibre! From progeny that are equalling their rivals in Sire Evaluations for all production traits including fleece weight leaving those liabilities dead in the traditional waters of the woolly showing circuit.

Wool! Short 'heavy cutting' over nourished, non white fuzz that come from sheep that claim to be dual purpose and do not address the now raging, in denial to many, most important subject in the history of growing the stuff - MULESING!

Fibre! If you can grow 120-140mm of 17-19u fibre that you can shear twice a year at 4kg at 65-75mm you are addressing that same debate and if the screws are turned tomorrow, you're ready!

Unmulesed possibilities don't happen overnight yet there are so many commercial and stud clients who haven't mulesed for over twelve years. There are many tools around now to get an inappropriate flock heading in the right direction but if you're not amongst that yet, prepare to lose your stud master's friendship if you're going to move forward with pace!

Fibre Studs: All the studs that support Classic Poll Ram Sales and many that don't. Not all big

noises yet huge in their own right in addressing breeding directions that will subsequently influence your decisions in breeding techniques designed to breed NON MULESED stock!

Wool Studs: No comment! Litigation prone subject but you'll know them!

Sire Evaluation: Don't go where the heart is - rely on proven results that end up in the correct quadrants of those great quad graphs of AMSEA design. A brilliant design as to ascertain at a mere glance a help in direction if required. Then follow your heart! Should be easy!

In reading the angst of the multitudes of Italian processors that represent the sentiments of others at the moment it's important to throw this in the face of everybody. The most challenging press releases of late particular-ly those generated in Sheep Central, won't make the pages of the Rural Press in a hurry as they have too much to protect.

AWI, that represent a great diverse and divided subscribing clientele will be in the same rocky boat as to indirectly protect a breeder guilty of the pre mentioned atrocities.

That body do sponsor and fund 'proof in the pudding' Sire Evaluations and the ultra important MLP projects thus indirectly again, promoting great sire prog-eny that is 'doing it' for un-mulesed promotion.

**PIMBENA POLL
ON PROPERTY
WIRRULLA S.A
OFFERED 54
SOLD 40
AVERAGE \$1,240
TOP \$3,400**

I was given a very realistic budget to buy the best ram at the Pimbena Poll On Property auction and after lot 1 reached a surprising \$2,700 only, I thought to search for another.

Trevor Gameau - Cummins S.A. was possibly relieved that the budget was easily met and didn't have to hear the reason that I had to go past a set figure 'cause the ram was that good!

Lot 1, if Les Hamence so desired, could easily have been part of the Classic'19 team such as his outstanding quality. Bred by Pimbena 170141, the rams super elite fibre was matched with 18.2u 2.7sd 14.7cv & 0.2pf with YCFW 20.0 YWT 7.2 YSL 12.0 & MP+164. Trevor happy!

Accolades early in the sale though must go to Myles Tomney - Streaky Bay S.A. and Trevor and Sylvia Pittaway - Wirrulla S.A. who were responsible for twelve rams between then with many of those in the first half of the sale.

The Pittaways topped the sale with their lot 5 purchase for \$3,400 and bred by Pimbena 170509, the sire that has just done so brilliantly in the current SA Sire Evaluation Trial at Lameroo S.A.

His numbers typified Pimbena stock coming in at YCFW 19.0 YWT 8.1 YSL 11.0 & DP+153.

I really liked their purchase in the following pen, long bodied and bred by Kamora Park 160200, a ram shared with down the road neighbour Craig Rule via A.I. Another bit of the elite stuff combined with YCFW 20.0 YWT 7.4 & DP+ 164.

They added, amongst others, a ripper lot 12 with another long bodied poll this time bred by Kamora Park 37 which included the excellent ASBV for YWT of 9.4.

Just to cap it off, the Pittaway's, right down at Lot 45 picked up a Pimbena

170509 son for \$2,000 that flaunted a massive YWT 10.4!

Myles Tomney kicked his collection off by securing Lot 2 from the same just mentioned sire for \$1,600 that was visually the meatiest in the catalogue.

Another KP 160200 son in Lot 7 for \$2,700 was next in line for Myles. No ASBV's for some reason but 17.0u 2.8sd 16.6cv & 0.0 was enough hint! Lot 20 at \$1,500 helped the average - big, square, long bodied and YWT 8.2 made for an easy selection.

Daryl Lawrie - Wirrulla S.A. and Les's nephew, was active in buying six and bought well throughout somehow stealing Lot 4 for \$800! 18.0u 2.8sd 15.7cv & 0.0 a good start yet maybe a lower YWT affected some punters.

Our mate Craig Rule - Wirrulla S.A. is starting to like the Pimbena's and bought four including one of my highest catalogued ranked animals in Lot 3 for \$2,100. YWT 7.3 YCFW 20.0 and bred by Leahcim 162170, an on property purchase. Craig's next three surprised him as they made \$700 each across the mid of the sale. This totalled his quota to work out to \$1,500 each equates to bargain personified!

Lot 10 was irresistible with all things merino going in his favour and I bought him for Peter Kuhlmann - Nunjikompita S.A. for \$2,800 with a YWT 7.0 YCFW 16.0 at 19.1u 2.7sd 14.0cv & 0.1pf.

Similarly, and on behalf of the Hunt family - Wharminda S.A. at \$2,400 I latched on to a beauty in Lot 24. Elite fibred, fluid nourishment and bred by Southrose 130405 (x L858) YWT 9.3 may give you an idea of his virtues!

Add to the client list but this time away from the 'Coast was a slick pickup in Lot 47 bred by Pimbena 170141 for the Johnson family's - Mt. Boothby, Tintinara S.A. for \$1,700. YWT 7.0 YCFW 20.0 and super bold with lustre at 18u, the client is happy!

Local Tim Kelsh was great support with five good pickups in the first half of the sale. I had his lot 11 purchase well marked in my catalogue and should have tried harder considering his bloody \$700 price tag dammit! Another Southrose 130405 son with a very fertile head and YWT 8.9.

The Nelson, Trewartha, Mooralin, Linke, Tremein, Glebe Nominees and Mooloola Props were great with their single and double purchasing to help an ok result for Les Hamence but more growers need to see these rams as to realise the outstanding value per quality they are.

The ASBV data here is very solid with accuracies very high due to Les's involvement with SheepGenetics & Merino Select since 2003.



SUPPLE SKINS, PIN WRINKLE AND ORANGUTANS by Jim Gordon

Once again, a big thank you to Bill and Rose for another opportunity to hopefully contribute in a positive way to this wonderful publication. I would like to apologise - Bill and I were going to organise two workshops in SA this winter, however that pesky virus put a stop to that. We will try again in 2021 if the interest is still there.

Supple skins - Supple skins, there is no ASBV for them!! People ask me about figures. The reason I struggle with figures is that they encourage commercial breeders away from looking at the sheep - people have their rams selected, before they even get to the sale.

ASBV's are a quick way of breeding sheep yet it encourages studs to cross breed to lift their figures. When I go to a stud, I want to buy their genetics, not half of someone else's genetics. It makes it too hard to settle the wool type down. There is a lot more skill involved in breeding quality wools, than just going on ASBV's.

Talking about looking at sheep. While I am on this subject, I would like to congratulate the person or persons from the MLP Projects, who have chosen the best two Classers in Australia, in my opinion, Bill Walker and Chris Bowman. They both understand skins to a very high level.

Most important, if you are trying to own and or run a fertile, mules free, fly proof, good shaped, high quality processing woolled merino operation talk to them. Chris Bowman talked at the MLP day at Trangie, a little while ago. What he said was priceless, pure gold, everyone heard him, but I don't think many were listening. There are others, Glendon Hancock, Neil Smith, just to name a few. Art Collins is another but you will have to get Covid-19 to talk to Art!

As soon as you get hard skins, flat and or hard wrinkle, you have problems. Inferior processing wools which succumb to flystrike and colour in a wet year are renowned to have less lambs.

Add to that, the important shearer not being happy and chaos prevails! This is a big one, the Kiwi's aren't coming in at the moment. If we have a big lambing year, the numbers will dramatically increase, however the shearer numbers are not. They will drop the hard shearing sheep first.

The sheep themselves, don't want to be mulesed, don't want to get flyblown, want a pleasant trip through the woolshed. They are working for us. We just have to help them achieve their goals. Why have so many breeders over the last 150 years that have just the opposite, and sadly, it is still going on today.

Put more wool on, is the catch cry, How! Put more hard wrinkle on - a train wreck waiting to happen! It's crazy there is such an obsession with wool cut. We may see wool unsalable soon unless we realise it's the whole package - Fertility, Meat and Quality Fibre. Look where the demand is. Price for surplus sheep, light fabric, next to skin wear, high end fashion and none mulesed wool.

If Bill Walker leases or buys the old racecourse at Murray Bridge and puts 300 ewes on what sort of sheep does he breed to give himself maximum money and satisfaction. Fertility, meat and plenty of high quality processing wool, will do the job and a loose supple skin will help achieve these objectives. What has he got to do to make those sheep cut more wool? This problem has perplexed the industry for 150 years. Can you answer before you read on.

Bill has to decide what % of energy will go to wool and what % will go to meat. If he keeps the heads open, and the skin off them, the fertility will basically

look after it self.

Bill has two choices, he feeds them better, which will give him more wool and maintain all three objectives, fertility, meat and wool quality with quantity. Or, he can start fleece weighing and keep the heavy cutters. This system rewards sheep that distribute more energy to wool.

In time he will lose his good skins, quality processing wool, produce less lambs, less meat, and have more fly trouble however he will breed heavier cutters. Yes slightly more wool, if he feeds them, definitely more wool.

You don't get more wool unless you add more nutrition or subsequently you cut nutrition going to other areas for example fertility, meat and fat. I believe with that fleece weighing option, you will make less money and the satisfaction is completely gone. Holistically, personal goals are very important, let's say around 40%.

This is why I make the comment that people who understand skins are very valuable.

There is also a misconception that if a grower marks 120% of merino lambs he will cut less wool than if he marks 70% of lambs yet this is not true if you add the extra 50% lambs born, wool into the equation.

So, to answer a question - to cut more wool do you want to feed your sheep better yet run more dry sheep? Hopefully not! You will notice, I haven't mentioned hard wrinkly skins - they are the CANCER of this industry. As soon as the wrinkle goes, you can stop mulesing.

What I have talked about above, in my opinion, accounts for about 80% of wool cut. The other 20% is made up with more follicles, a lift in micron, surface area, and staple length. However, with all these four things and no more feed, there is very little increase in kgs of wool.

The sleeper in all this is the distribution of energy. Thank you to Trigger Vale for a wonderful field day where Andrew Thompson spoke about Whole Body Energy. It was brilliant. They are doing great research at Murdoch University in WA.

You can do all of the above with a loose supple skin, and this sheep won't need to be mulesed, get flyblown, will have and rear twins, produce high quality wool for the next to skin wear market, (100% comfort) and target top end women's fashion, where the growth areas are - not wool for a coat for a Russian tractor driver.

Hard wrinkle and stiff skins will tend to breed a shorter stiffer staple, more suited to suiting material. The problem is that this is a shrinking market as less people wearing suits worldwide.

MJ Bale sells most of their suits for one day of the year, the Melbourne cup. There is some other demand particularly with Chinese uniforms and fire fighters.

It is dangerous to then take this wool and blend it with the next to skin wear wool and expect it to be 100% comfortable.

The shearers have just finished with me and one of the shearers said, the last shed they were at, the owner asked them to go in and out of the wrinkles! The shearer said to me, "He's got to be joking, I just float over the top of them!"

Straight away you have all different lengths of fibre coming from those sheep making the fleece of very poor quality which affects yarn quality and subsequently a seriously under performing fabric - yet another reason for the consumer not to buy wool.

As a general rule the thinner the skin the longer the staple, but as you go to thin, initially, you can lose follicles. This doesn't have to be, but if you are not concentrating it can happen.

Extremes of anything are dangerous. If you let length get too

far a head of density you can have a beautiful loose supple skin with less than the desired amount of wool weight. However this is a very desirable ewe to work with, because of the good skin - she just needs more follicles.

The big question that needs to be answered is just where is the extra wool weight coming from in a grower's flock, when he feeds them more nutrition. I am talking CFW. I will leave this one with you and you can tell me when you next see me.

Everyone wants more weight of wool and very few know where it comes from.

The Trade want less weight in wool. We live in crazy times. We should be paid on metres of yarn produced per kg of wool - more singlets per kg of wool and lighter singlets. Not doing it with finer microns but with lighter wool.

Please think about the brands, retailers and welfare groups when you are selecting your rams, and planning your joinings. We have to make it as easy as possible for them to help this industry sell more product.

We don't want the consumer to have any reason to balk at the last hurdle - a swing tag with mulesed on it, or a garment that is scratchy!

If the wool industry genetically changes to a sheep that doesn't need breech modifications the welfare groups will give us a tick of approval and disappear. They will go back to worrying about the Orangutans in Borneo. But if we don't, they will keep being a major thorn in our side for ever, and there is thousands of them. All potential customers.

Another subject to think about is collecting semen in the breeding season. 6000 Wildebeest in Africa, calve in 17 days. The bucks belt hell out of each other, leading up to this 17 day joining

period, and then the females say ok. Outside of this period, DNA damage can occur, leaving the offspring being born on their own or with faults. In both cases, the lions get breakfast.

When semen is ejaculated, out of the breeding season, there can be damage to the DNA as it passes out the end of the penis. This can make way for black spots, damage to secondary derived follicle development and so on. Males try and destroy their DNA as they age, females try and hang onto their DNA.

As a general rule if you want more influence from the male, join him when he is young. If you want more influence from the female, join older rams.

This is a subject that needs discussion at a workshop. April is still within in the breeding season in fact Anzac is the most ideal or two weeks either side of that - it is cool and a lot of rams have had a clean out over joining, thus the perfect time for collection. Those potential young sires have to be semen collected, so to me, April is as good a time as any, and you will get full potential from that semen. **You can get up to 50% DNA damage with out of season collection.**

I believe you will get more wrinkle, and more fibres that are finer by lambing in the spring than the same mob of ewes and rams joined for an Autumn lamb. Those Autumn lambs will be plainer in the skin, and have a higher micron. I also believe the earlier you lamb in the year the easier it is to have a higher content of meat. It is harder to put a meaty carcass on a September drop lamb than an April lamb in merinos providing sufficient nutrition is available.

If you take a thick wrinkly skinned sheep and you run that sheep hard for an extended period of time it can reabsorb about 70% of the collagen in that skin. (The QLD quote, "they end up like wood ducks,"

this is what is happening). It will give the appearance of a thin smooth skinned sheep. When an abundance of nutrition comes available that sheep will lay down collagen once again but without the wrinkles. It can become a thick, stiff, flat skin. The hard wrinkle is only formed in utero. The genetic package of that sheep hasn't changed. If they are born with wrinkle they will breed wrinkle unless joined to a plain bodied sheep.

Dust in the wool. Wax is lanolin.

Yellow wool has very very little to do with wax. The job of wax is to waterproof and condition the wool. Every fibre has a wax gland, if not two. The more fibres the more wax, relative to micron. If there is enough wax, it will travel up the staple taking dust and grime with it, cleaning the staple. This is why you see a line where the dust starts. The faster the fibres grow the wax glands have to step up.

Colder climates seem to produce more wax seen if shearing in the winter. The wax accumulates at the tip with the dust and grime and forms a black emulsified tip. If you can roll that tip in your fingers and it disperses, all good. However if the tip won't disperse and you have a gluggy mess, get the red chalk out! Higher protein diets can produce more wax. In a drought where there's nothing to eat with low protein and no green grass there is very little wax therefore more dust in the wool.

All of the above, I have tried to be as accurate as my knowledge extends to, however this is an opinion piece and hopefully the reader will be challenged to think about things.

Knowledge bares no weight.

Let's take this industry by storm, listen to Irene Cara: "What a Feeling," she sings and I quote, "Take your passion and make it happen."

Let's combine wool growers and those knowledgeable classers

and all get involved before the processing starts. Imagine! Early processors, brands, retailers, welfare groups and consumers all with the same goal! No politics, just providing quality apparel. Is it possible? It should be - just have to drop AWI out of the equation! **Jim Gordon**

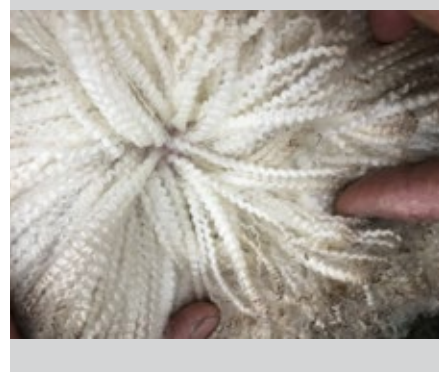
If I can finish with a call out to all readers. Some history! Going from blade shearing to overhead gear, it first happened in about 1880. The first overhead gear was two horizontal pulleys, in an S shape, with a continuous hemp rope drive, like on a ski lift. The main trouble they had, was shearers cutting the rope, not wanting their mate getting an advantage using these new fandangled handpieces. The rope would have to be re spliced which took time.

Then they went to a shaft, driving a vertical wheel, which drove a cone, which drove the gut in the down tube, and the shaft was originally driven by a steam engine, then progressing over the years, to a more modern power plant which anyone with a few grey hairs will know about.

This is where the story gets interesting - the first vertical drive wheels had 4 straight spokes, and they used to fly to pieces.

They quickly discovered that if you put in, curved spokes, the problem was solved. When you look today at all the old fly wheels, most have curved spokes.

The reason for my query is because I think it is interesting and does anyone know if this overhead gear still exists, as in the first down tube drive system, or the vertical drive wheels with straight spokes. A photo or a visit would even be better. Someone may have an old photo, of the overhead shearing gear or know of a shed that we can explore. Cheers, JG



Creating Value with EID's

Tim Johnsson – Co-Founder BreedELITE - Helping Sheep Farmers Turn Data into Profit, Faster.



Every year you make decisions about which sheep to keep and which sheep to sell. The decisions you make have a big impact on your bottom line. **The economic value of the best sheep can be more than 2x that of the worst animal yet they both cost you the same amount to feed.** You will likely be able to sell those sheep for the same amount, so make a commitment today to have no more free loaders on your farm. In this article we discuss the benefits of the correct selection of Ewes and Wethers for Self Replacing Merino Flocks and how the top producers are driving gains through better selection decisions backed by data. **EID technology simply allows you to track and implement those decisions with greater simplicity and precision saving you stress and time. It is still up to you to make the decisions.**

Flock Variability

Irrespective of how uniform your sheep are, there will be natural variability in the range of measured performance of the animals. This is nature's way of ensuring that genetic diversity is maintained where the parents of an animal pass on a slightly different combination of their genes to their progeny (50% ram and 50% ewe).

The variability in different measured traits can also be affected by things such as the genetic potential of the animal, birth and rearing status, differences in management, disease and animal health.

In general, each animal costs about the same to run, so exploiting this variability provides a significant opportunity for producers to increase their profitability through simple measurement and decision making in areas that drive profit for their enterprise.

The graph below shows real data from a self replacing merino flock on Kangaroo Island. The data is a complete set across one age group of hoggets with 9 months wool growth and has been used to demonstrate potential gains available.



The variation in fleece value between lowest and highest fleece value sheep is a whopping \$40.00

in an average wool price market, so it is worth investigating in your flock.

Exploiting Flock Variability for Profit

By measuring your hoggets (both visual and measured traits) each year and keeping the best performing animals you will increase your profitability through:

- **Current Generation Gain** - realised immediately following measurement and selection.
- **Genetic Gain** – compounds through time as better sheep breed better progeny.

Current Generation Gain

Assuming that you don't separate fleeces at shearing you will realise extra profits through the shift in average fleece value of your flock. Using the previous figures, the Average Fleece Value = \$45.73 per sheep/9mths.

The higher the percentage of the drop you can cull the greater the increase in average fleece value. The data below shows how the Average Fleece Value per sheep increases with different culling percentages (note that 10% culling is the same as keeping the top 90%).

Average Fleece Value per sheep/ 9mths

- Top 90% = **\$46.77 (+\$1.04)**
- Top 80% = **\$47.63 (+\$1.90)**
- Top 70% = **\$48.45 (+\$2.72)**
- Top 60% = **\$49.28 (+\$3.55)**
- Top 50% = **\$50.19 (+\$4.46)**

If we assume that the repeatability of ranking on measurements in the following years is 0.8 (e.g. 80% of the ranking will be the same as the hogget ranking), and you keep the ewes for four (4) adult shearings following the initial cull the values below

represent the lifetime value of selection based on measured hogget performance.

Lifetime superiority through selection:

- Top 90% = **\$4.95** per ewe/wether
- Top 80% = **\$9.05** per ewe/wether
- Top 70% = **\$12.96** per ewe/wether
- Top 60% = **\$16.91** per ewe/wether
- Top 50% = **\$21.25** per ewe/wether

If the flock owner stops testing and selecting, then the Current Generation benefit is slowly lost.

Genetic Gain

Remember that the figures above are before you take into account the compounding effect of genetic gains. Genetic gains compound as:

- Selected ewes breed lambs of higher genetic value.
- The total value of ewes with selection = Current Generation Gain + Genetic Gain
- Half of their superiority is passed on to their progeny.
- Over time the current generation gain benefit of ewe and wether selection plateaus (i.e. once each age group has been selected based on performance, see black bars in graph below).
- Genetic gains continue to increase through time (see blue bars below).

The Genetic gain through time is worth significantly more than the current generation gain. The graph below shows the “compounding interest” of genetic gains.

Worked Example

The following assumptions relate to this example:

- Flock composition - 2,000 breeding ewes (4 age groups @ 500 per age group)

- Number of lambs - 1,800
- Ratio Ewe to Ram Lambs - 50:50
- Number of Ewe Lambs - 900
- Number of Ewe Lambs Retained - 500 (to replace oldest age group of adult ewes)
- Number of Ewe Lambs culled - 400
- Culling percentage - 44% (or keep top 56%)
- The average increase in lifetime value per sheep by Current Generation Gain is **\$18.65**.

Making selection decisions based on measured, repeatable data in your hoggets each year will result in an increase in annual wool value of \$9,325 in a 2,000 ewe flock and an average wool market once all ewes have been selected in this way. Remember that these sheep all cost you about the same to run, so this money goes straight to your bottom line (minus the minimal testing costs for the hoggets only each year).

NOTE: This profit is directly scalable. If you run 3,000 ewes then the extra profit is $3,000 \div 2,000 \times 9,320 = \$13,980$ every year you apply it.

On top of this you are now on your way to driving the Genetic gains that compound through time.

Getting Started

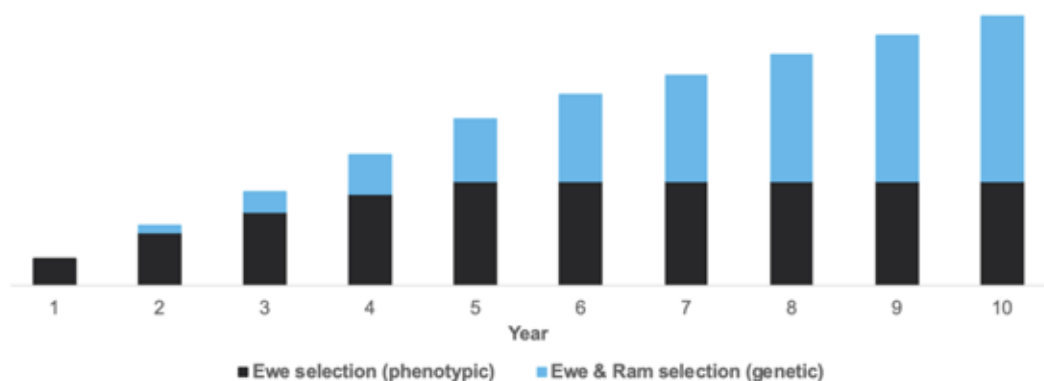
Every piece of data you collect costs you money, so it is important to have a clear strategy:

1. Define goals and develop strategy
2. Collect relevant data that supports strategy
3. Identify technology that enables efficient collection and implementation
4. Collect data
5. Make and implement decisions.

Need help? Book a call with us to find out how.

Email: admin@breedelite.com

Relative Economic Gain Form Different Selection Modes



**WALLALOO PARK
ON PROPERTY
MARNOO VIC.
OFFERED 196
SOLD 188
TOP \$18,000**

I have always categorised Wallaloo Park as the Mecca for all things quality skin and fibre. Lately though through the stud's emphasis on meat trait improvement via various outside intrusions as well as within, its a different looking outfit. The stud now lends itself to a genuine, dare I say it - Dual Purpose enterprise.

I say that nervously only because dual purpose is such a loose term as is SRS where both terms depict such a diverse range of animals. Many so named dual purpose animals have complicated tight skins whilst some 'soft rollers' depict an association with association with meat breed genetics with no fibre quality in sight!

Not so here as this joint had another rip roarer of a sale. I'll start this report with our own clients' efforts in what they procured on the day and then see how much room I have left as not to fill the whole magazine with too much praise!

Richard Harkness and his Superior Wool Merino enterprise at Tintinara S.A. (not to be confused with Superior Wool Syndicate) liked lot 1 so he bought the bugger (180088) for \$18,000. Reasons why? Double Poll an instant attraction followed by a perfectly chiseled backend with a wide stance and up on all four toes add a deep barrel.

Bred by WP 150422 x MP Kelvinator that has progeny all over the place due to his quality success. 17.6u was a hint at this bloke's softness plus whiteness plus a bold lustrous you know! MP+ 163 & YCFW 26, YWT 7.0 & PWWT 4.3 added to the carrot - he topped the sale by the way.

Lot 18 (180067) was always going to belong to Craig and Jed Keller's Ramsgate - Tintinara S.A. ET bred,



Double Poll tested, a twin, YSL a massive and important 17.0 with a YCFW 27.0 to match. PWWT big at 7.8 & YWT 9.9 with MP+ 158.

He hosted a lighter wiggled head that only points to increased fertility. Breeding by WP161514 that goes back to the Triggervale experiment that created these exciting meat virtues. He made \$8,000 which could have been seen as the lucky escape for the Kellers as there was a lot of praise for the ram post sale.

Karawatha Park - Buckleboo S.A. have created a stud that's relied on the Wallaloo Park/Leahcim tangle of genetics to race to the top of the West Coast 'heap' for depth of quality and offering (7th in the state last year for ram sold.)

Their WP selections have over the years have produced some of the stud's highest prices due to the high calibre of skin quality these sires produce.



The lot 33 pickup for a realistic \$5,000 can only enhance the good that's happening at the stud. 180766 bred by WP160640 exhibited the meat trait focus that the stud now aspires to. Square as your German uncle and very deep sided like the same bloke, this fella hosted the fluid nourishment and bold crimp that the environ at Buckleboo and that of Karawathas' clientel relish. YCFW 29.0, 17.6u & MP+ 164 topped him off.

David Woodard - Kananga -

Eden Valley S.A. grows the grapes that are subsequently bottled into some of the greatest Shiraz you'll ever taste! Matches his taste for quality merinos and that's what he procured at lot 78 for a realistic \$4,000 for dare I say it - a horny!

Still if they made them like this more often perhaps we'd sneak one into the Classic sales at times! Excellent fibre here with a lustre that only David buys for his higher rainfall property. Add YSL 15.0 and a safe YCFW of 20.0 I'll be looking forward to more outstanding results to compliment the big sip we indulge in after hogget classing! One of the pleasures of this great job!

David went on to buy another at lot 122 for \$3,000 to add to his syndicate joinings due to a YCFW 22.0.



Wayne and Em Girando - Trigwell's Bridge W.A. crossed the Nullabor for a squizz at what the Marnoo had to offer and were very impressed with the WP's so he bought one!

I actually had Wayne's initials added to my catalogue commentary in hope that he would be a candidate for 1980806' purchase. It was meant to be and at \$3,500 he now resides in some of the most attractive country the West has to offer, half way between Arthur

River and Boyup Brook W.A.

Some great numbers here matched the excellent visual carcass, skin and fibre package. YCFW 27.0, PWWT 5.5, YWT 6.4 YEMD 0.7 & YFAT 0.2 & DP+ 156 to match.

Did Karawatha Park sneak in and nab the most elite fibre in the whole catalogue if not the nation?!! I think so with their \$7,000 purchase (180116) at lot 127 and bred by a WP Ram Lamb Syndicate. I would be DNA-ing every candidate to see who bred the best skinned sire in the County! Some great numbers here for an extreme fibre/skin sheep where sometimes meat numbers can falter a tad. MP+ 157, YCFW 22.0 YEMD 0.2 and try YSL 19.0 you Northerners!

I've used the word 'catalyst' next to this ram's pen number in my worn catalogue which I look at now and wonder why. Maybe it was due to his extraordinary skin and was the best word I could identify as a description for a ram that captures the whole reason for our support to this hugely influential enterprise! Or maybe this pen was the catalyst for a glance across at the bar as to what may be on offer after a rip roaring sale!

The Girando's picked up another late in the sale for \$3,250 at MP+ 159 and typified the WP realtime figures all day long: 17.0u 2.6sd 15.2cv & 0.3pf.



Away from our own clients now but special mentions to Mark and Kay Barr - Newdegate W.A. and John Flannery - Boorowa Flats NSW with twelve rams apiece. Strewth what about the Gorey family's Dhuramein Nominees for thirty two sale pickups!

Verona Partnership NSW five, Shingle Hut seven and Korrangie Farms - Kerang Vic. with 20 rams between them had a major influence on the competition throughout the day.

John Franklin - Bombala NSW outlaid \$9,000 and bought a Triggervale influenced sire with what you'd expect: PP, PPWT 4.6 YWT 6.2 YEMD 0.5 & YFAT 0.2.

At another \$9,000 Tom Edgell, Tasmania got hold of a ripper in lot 9 hosting a backend like a tram and for a super free stapled fibre still had YCFW 30.0 and very good meat numbers.

Ryan Kluska - Kiandra Poll, Bordertown S.A. loves his numbers and in this instance coincided with a very good example of a poll ram. Structure great, skin great and at a \$10,000 reserve, got himself a PWWT 6.3 YWT 10.7 YEMD 0.7 YFAT 0.2 YCFW 24.9 they suspiciously only a DP+ of 161 which is ok yet with those kinda numbers....

That's it! A lot more in this sale than what I've written but I need to get this thing published in July and not at year's end!

WUNKAR AG BUREAU FLEECE COMPETITION'20 (see table on opposite page)

The Wunkar S.A. (near Loxton) Hogget Competition has been running for as long as I can remember. Entrants every year bring ten of their picked best ewe hoggets to a central host property for assessing visually by an invited judge - usually from a S.A. stud.

No it's not a Sire Evaluation trial where around 900 ewes are A.I.'d and subsequent results ratified and explored but it is a great indicator of where the market sits at that present moment. Three of the ten hoggets are selected by the owner then shorn, fleece weighed, previously micron and yield tested to arrive at a dollar income from each group.

Looking at the table opposite it is self explanatory to see how each team faired from the three sheep entered each.

I have included the names of two entries only as I know these guys and know that they will think any information regarding the great merino is worthwhile information.

Although the Evans & McPiggery results were the highest two ranked teams, everyone who enters this styled assessment is a winner by entering sheep in the first place.

Generally at the minute, there's a fleece weight trend that determines how animals are positioned regarding income. This has not always been the case over the years when the wool market very much favoured 16-18u for warranted premiums. A lighter fleece weight without being ridiculously so, would outdo most at finer micron than average.

The Evans team averaged 8kg greasy and 5.3kg clean. It was the fleece weight first and micron (19.2u avg.) second that got

the Evans team over the line. In comparison the McPiggery team at 7.4kg greasy and 4.9kg had a reasonable fleece weight that was only 0.4 less than the Evans average but the team micron average of 17.7u (-1.5u to Evans) really helped their second positioning.

Despite the micron indicator generally very squeezed at this market and worse right now, there was still a premium for the fact that the McPiggery team was 67c clean better off as an average for their team compared to the Evans trio. See McP's tags #176 & #178. Same GFW, CFW & Yield yet a full micron difference between the two equated to a dollar value difference of around \$5.00.

Of course the PIRSA fella of old would then say,"Imagine that price difference over a flock of 2,000 head....."

Check out tags #183 & #184 with two of the higher microns which here are possibly only around 30c clean less than their 19 micron counterparts yet it was the fleece weight that let these two down.

Historically higher microning stock in trials like these would be the highest fleece weight by far but due to some incredible breeding tactics over the last twenty years much finer animals are cutting just as much if not more as shown here. Have a look at 'F' team's tag #175 at 22.8u/3.9kg CFW versus the McP's #176 at 18.0u/4.9kg CFW. That's a full 1kg difference and 4.8u difference!

Another thing that distinguishes Classings Lab. from all others is our pre test Visual Comments section on the test sheet. Once again check out those same two samples that we just discussed. The 22.8u micron girl (#175) had the coded comments of 26,14,28a. This equates to 26 = dust (hence lower yield fortunately for this exercise!) 14 = plain/no character & 28a = dry/harsh to touch. (22.8u which incidentally was +3.0 to the

average of the group.

Subsequently look at #176's commentary - 1,10,19,15,* - 1 = top visual qualities, 10 = super styled, 19 = lustre 15 = good fluid nourishment and the magic * = Elite fibre - our highest accolade. Although the winning Evans team still stood well for commentary it was the McPiggery team that took out the honours for top end visuals to line up with their up the scale success here.

We test thousands of samples per year and add visual comments and quality count on request. The pre test commentary combined with the final objective tested result has taught me all I need to know about the reasons why wools do what they do with this trial no exception.

You will note that generally most of the results here with 1 top visual, 2 above average visual,* elite, 9A soft & 15 nourished, attached in the comments are reasonable to excellent testers for micron. Their often tends to be a yield advantage with these as well which is generally uncharted territory yet luckily we have some answers! There's always an animal that stuffs most conversations though with #183 one of the highest microns with the equal highest yield!

The more you study the Wunkar test the more you discover. Without visual comments, any test result becomes less informative and we feel their inclusion is essential in identifying top end stock or the least.



Number of Samples=
CLIENT: WUNKAR AG BUREAU
Ref: FLEECE TRIAL
2020

Sirolian Laserscan Vers 2.0

ENTRANT	TAG	GREASY FLEECE WT	AVE WEIGHT	CLEAN FLEECE WT.	Yield %	VISUAL QUAL.	VISUAL COMMENTS	MICRON	MIC DEV	C.V.	S.D. %>30u	Clean c Kg	Fleece Value	AVERAGE FLEECE VALUE	ID	
	Flock	Kg	Kg	Kg				u	R							
	AVG >	7.01		4.62	66			19.78		15.9	3.1	0.6	Based on Southern auction MARCH 28TH 2019			
EVANS	164	7.1	8.0	4.8	67	64S	2,13,11	19.8	+	0.1	14.3	2.8	0.6	2274	\$108.17	1
	165	8.4		5.7	68	64S	1,12,15	19.1	+	-0.6	14.7	2.8	0.0	2288	\$130.69	2
	166	8.5		5.5	65	60s/64s	1,10,13,15	18.6	+	-1.1	17.7	3.3	0.0	2304	\$127.30	3
D	167	6.2		4.0	64	60S	1,11	18.8	+	-0.9	16.3	3.1	0.6	2297	\$ 91.14	4
	168	6.4	6.3	3.8	59	64S	2,11	20.3	+	0.6	12.4	2.5	0.2	2268	\$ 85.64	5
	169	6.3		4.2	66	64S	2,7	20.3	+	0.6	14.6	3.0	0.4	2268	\$ 94.30	6
E	170	6.9		4.6	67	64S	1,15,11	19.7	+	0.0	15.4	3.0	0.2	2276	\$105.22	7
	171	7.8	7.5	5.3	68	64S	14,15	21.2	=	1.5	14.8	3.1	0.4	2260	\$119.87	8
	172	7.9		5.1	64	70S	14,9A	20.6	-	0.9	16.1	3.3	0.6	2265	\$114.52	9
F	173	6.6		4.4	67	64S	14,28A	21.1	=	1.4	18.8	4.0	1.8	2261	\$ 99.98	10
	174	6.6	6.5	4.4	66	64S	2,7	19.1	+	-0.6	15.0	2.9	0.0	2288	\$ 99.67	11
	175	6.4		3.9	61	60s/64s	26,14,28A	22.8	-	3.1	18.2	4.2	3.8	2218	\$ 86.59	12
McPIGGERY	176	7.5		4.9	65	60S	1,10,19,15,*	18.0	+	-1.7	15.6	2.8	0.2	2325	\$113.34	13
	177	7.1	7.4	4.9	69	60S	1,10,15,19,*	18.3	+	-1.4	14.9	2.7	0.4	2315	\$113.41	14
	178	7.5		4.9	65	60s/64s	1,11,15,9A,*	17.0	+	-2.7	15.5	2.6	0.2	2425	\$118.22	15
G	179	5.7		3.5	61	70S	31,14	19.9	-	0.2	16.1	3.2	0.8	2272	\$ 79.00	16
	180	6.5	6.2	4.4	68	70S	2,9A,12	19.4	=	-0.3	15.3	3.0	0.2	2282	\$100.86	17
	181	6.5		4.4	65	64S	22,14	19.1	+	-0.6	15.8	3.0	0.2	2288	\$ 96.67	18
H	182	7.1		4.5	63	64S	2,7	19.6	+	-0.1	18.1	3.6	0.8	2278	\$101.89	19
	183	6.6	6.8	4.8	70	64S	14	22.1	-	2.4	16.6	3.7	1.0	2248	\$103.86	20
	184	6.7		4.2	63	70S	14,31	22.2	-	2.5	13.4	3.0	0.6	2244	\$ 94.72	21
I	185	7.5		5.3	70	64S	9A,12	18.0	+	-1.7	19.7	3.5	0.6	2325	\$122.06	22
	186	6.9	7.3	4.7	68	70S	14,31	20.2	-	0.5	16.1	3.2	0.8	2268	\$106.41	23
	187	7.4		4.8	65	70S	9A,15	19.3	=	-0.4	16.5	3.2	0.2	2284	\$109.86	24
J	188	7.3		4.7	65	64S	2,3,15	20.2	+	0.5	18.5	3.7	1.8	2268	\$107.62	25
	189	7.1	7.7	4.6	65	70S	14,12	19.9	-	0.2	14.4	2.9	0.2	2272	\$104.85	26
	190	8.8		5.7	65	60s/64s	1,15,3	19.4	+	-0.3	14.2	2.7	0.2	2282	\$130.53	27

**SUPERIOR WOOL
MERINO
ON PROPERTY SALE
OFFERED 100
SOLD 100
TOP \$5,400
AVERAGE \$2,117**

So, the White River ram that topped Classic'17 for \$21,000 and was bought with legs and general structure in mind by Superior Wool Syndicate (SWS), bred two sons that topped the Superior Wool Merino (SWM) 2019 sale.

Yet it was a sale where all sires were firing such is the buying power of this always ascending enterprise in producing top end stock comparable to the nation's best.

Lot 8 was the trophy pen which hit the sale topping \$5,400 price. Superb structure with a backend like Julia's this guy filled the pen with not much room to spare. Bought by James Mowbray - Millicent S.A. the poll had EMD 43mm & FAT 8mm with a modest GFW% 103 at 19u 2.8sd & 14.9cv.

James went on to purchase another four including one at \$4,200 at Lot 17 with EMD 43 & GFW% a massive 130.

Classings clients, Garry Hansen - Coomandook S.A. hit the hero stakes again by securing thirteen rippers across the sale and mostly in the sought after top half of the sale. His lot 3, SWM 457 bred grab for \$2,400 got the ball rolling but try these for figures re his lot 7 pickup for \$1,900: 17.6u 2.1sd & 11.9cv with a EMD 44.5!! The poll was possibly the boldest crimp in the catalogue yet had the figures that we all aspired to when we first started to notice Lorelmo genetics years ago!

The friendly bidding rivalry between Classings clients, Colara and Mt. Boothby both properties near Tintinara, always adds a bit of spice to sale day.

Mt. Boothby bought Lot 30, a White River bred thumper for



\$3,200 but lifted the bar to make sure they didn't miss one of the rams of the day at Lot 31 for \$4,800. Bred by the killer sire Karawatha Park 211, he had a GFW% 132 and a body like an ox.. or a tram hinging on what you're really in to. Pretty sure Colara was runner up here.

Colara Farms latched straight onto one of the sale's best in lot 34 for a WR558 son for \$2,500. But I think it was Aaron Freeman's second that stole the show. Lot 42 and bred by SWM 457 made a deserved \$3,900 such was his quality. 18.4u 2.7sd, GFW% 113 and as square as they come.

Neville McGee - Cressy Tas. knows his stuff and bought five very high quality polls starting at Pen 2 for \$2,800 for a Karawatha Park son that was coated in some seriously good fibre by gum. I liked his Leahcim 526 bred, extremely bold crimped Lot 10 purchase at \$2,600.

Brian and nephew Glen Landseer - Milang S.A. like the SWM's and made that point clear with their three top end purchases. A Glenlea Park 608 bred goody was in Lot 5 with a GFW% 119 and fetched \$2,900.

Neil McKenzie - Tintinara S.A.

needed only one to compliment the best commercial flock in the Tintinara district which he secured in lot 16 for \$3,100 and bred by Leahcim 526.

Peter Blacket - Wynarka S.A. leant great support in picking up fourteen realistically priced rams and averaged just over \$800.

Burge Trading - Padthaway S.A. was another thirteen ram purchaser and put a beautiful floor in the sale.

Vanessa Hooper - Culburra S.A. was another who 'cemented the sale floor' with an eight ram haul. I really liked her Lot 54 pickup, bred by SWM 457 and possibly a steal at \$2,700. 15.3u 2.2sd 14.3cv may give you a fair idea on what that silk looked like on the ram's back!

Peter Miel, Storcher, Boothby Downs, Reichstein, Florando, Brookly Park, Yurgo Farms, Kenny O'Malley, Merridale and others were all supportive with their 1-3 purchases to ensure another very successful SWM sale.





Wallaloo Park

MERINO & POLL MERINO STUDS

Wallaloo Park is recognised as one the leading studs impacting commercial breeders and renowned studs, with innovative leading genetics for over 40 years.



The Home of Wool Quality



Top Price of \$18,000, purchased by Richard Harkness - Superior Wool Merinos SA

2020 has kicked off with the most exciting drop of lambs yet, weaned at 130%. Exciting shape, depth of body, growth, and supple skins. The continued positive client feedback from all environments has been fantastic on both stud and commercial levels. Reinforcing the versatility of the Wallaloo Park genetics.

This year we are returning to Adelaide & Classings Classic Sale – we will be offering our best of the whole 2019 drop. So, do not miss this opportunity to see what we are offering!

“ Twenty years ago, at a workshop at Murrumburrah, we were impressed by both John and his sheep and chose to commit to Wallaloo Park genetics. It has been a rewarding dedication with big gains in wool quality, lambing percentages (120% for the last four years) and meat quality. The Carters client service is outstanding and their aggressive attitude to measurement puts Wallaloo Park ahead of many of the other studs. ”

- John Flanery, Boorowa NSW

Out & About

Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th August 2020 – Dubbo Sheep Show

Display of the leading 2020 rams

Monday 7th September 2020 – Classings Classic

Stud Rams for sale & display

Wednesday 9th September 2020 – On Property Inspection Day

200 head sale team tethered from 10am till 4pm

Friday 11th September 2020 – Adelaide Ram Sale

Stud Rams for Sale

Thursday 17th September 2020 - 29th On Property Ram Sale

200 Rams on offer at 1pm, inspection from 10am

2019
SALE
RESULTS

96% clearance at
an average of
\$2796 - with a top
of \$18,000

ALL WALLALOO PARK SHEEP ARE APPROVED VACCINATES, OJD MN3 & BRUCellosis ACCREDITED



John: 0427 501 431 Trent: 0427 776 114

info@wallaloopark.com

www.wallaloopark.com





Gunallo
MERINO & POLL MERINO

Annual On Property Auction



Inspection 11 am
Sale 1 pm
SA TIME

Thursday | September
3rd | **2020**

Gunallo 170295
Gawny

Offering first sons of Gawny, sold for \$60,000 at the 2018 Classings Classic.

**100 POLL
MERINO RAMS
AVAILABLE**



Ovine Brucellosis Accredited & MN3

ALSO SELLING AND DISPLAYING AT

South East Field Day
Location: Keith Showground
Date: 22nd July, 2020

Classings Classic Ram Sale
Location: Murray Bridge
Dates: 7th September, 2020

**Karoonda & District
Stud Merino Field Day**
Location: Murray Bridge
Date: 31st July, 2020

Adelaide Ram Sale
Location: Adelaide Royal Showgrounds
Dates: 11th September, 2020

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

Brad Schroeder
0400 335 660
brad@gunallo.com.au

Bill Walker
0428 973 804
Stud Adviser



Simon Aldridge
0439 078 872



David Daniel
0407 975 773

www.gunallo.com.au

"Gunallo gives greater gains"



RIDGWAY

Poll Merino Stud

On Property Sale
200 Poll Merino Rams

Monday 10th August, 10am Inspection, 1pm Sale
Offering at Classings Classic & Adelaide Show.
Displaying at Keith & Murray Bridge.

A Genuine Dual Purpose Sire

Ridgway 170005 performed exceptionally well in the 2019 drop SA Sire Evaluation Trial. He achieved better than average for nearly all measured traits and was a trait leader for:

- Pwt
- Ywt
- Fat
- DP+
- MP+
- FP+
- WP+
- Wool Character
- Wool Colour
- Dust Penetration
- Breech Cover
- Breech Wrinkle
- Classes Grade Tops %

The full trial report is available from www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au.

His sons contribute to our high quality offering this year.



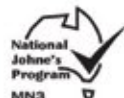
Ric, Gail, Matt & Rachel Ridgway

Phone: (08) 8578 8039

Mobile: Ric 0459 432 679 Matt 0439 460 554

Email: merinos@ridgwaymerinos.com.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ridgwaymerinos



www.ridgwaymerinos.com.au

Established 1870

Stud No 18

Caroonboon Merinos

150 years of breeding expertise



Annual on Property Sale

75 rams

Sale Date: Tuesday 8th
September 2020

Location: Caroonboon Station
Moulamein Road, Wanganella NSW 2710

Will also be displaying at the following;

Elders Wool Sheep Expo Deniliquin
- Fri 15th August 2020

Henty Field Days - Tues 22nd September -
24th September 2020

Contact:

Stud Principal: Margie Pye 0427 996 911

Studmaster: Jim Dickson 0427 847 509

Stud Classer: Ian Lilburne 0428 505 252

Station Manager: John Stephens 0429 930 692

margiep01@bigpond.com

jimdickson5@gmail.com

js@calga.biz



Facebook: Caroonboon Merinos

caroonboonmerinos :Instagram

Superior SWM Merinos



SWM was
winner of the
Elders Clip of
the Year for
2018

Lot 8 - top priced ram at our 2019 Sale - sold for \$5300, pictured with (from L to R) Kael Harkness & Richard Harkness of SWM, James Mowbray (buyer), James Telfer (SAL Mt Gambier) and Steve Doeke (Elders Keith)

Full information available on all rams. Also offering free 'In Yard' advice to clients.

13th Annual Ram Sale
Friday 4th September 2020
Inspection from 10:30am | Sale 1pm
On-Property "Gumburra Park", Tintinara SA

Offering 100 Merino & Poll Merino Rams in main auction.
(More private selections available)

Maximise your Gross Margins

Structure | Mobility | Constitution | Fertility | Elite Wools

Enquiries always welcome

Richard Harkness M: 0428 758 028

Email: richardharkness@internode.on.net




BORUNG

POLL MERINO STUD

44th | Annual On Property Auction

60

QUALITY RAMS ON OFFER

Rams April / May drop 2019.
All current 2020 test figures
on display.

Inspection from 11am
- Lunch at 12 midday.

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions on the day.



Wednesday 2nd September 2020, 1.00pm


Simon Seppelt 0408 707 907


Rohan Stoeckel
Elders Loxton
0438 847 779

Brenton & Penny Kroehn
9km south of Waikerie, Maggea Road
Brenton: 0427 414 494
Email: bkroehn@hotmail.com



BRUCELLOSIS
FREE




HYNAM POLL MERINOS



3rd On-Property Ram Sale Wednesday September 23rd

Inspection from 10am
Sale starts 12 noon

3% rebate to outside agents attending

Check for updates on 

Hynam Ag Pty Ltd

643 Carmody Rd, Longwood VIC 3665

Kevin: 0427 833 262 | Tracy: 0428 833 262

hynamkevin@gmail.com

CALCOOKARA

POLL  MERINO

Annual On Property Auction



Thursday 20th of August 2020

90 Rams offered for Auction with the first sons of
Calcookara 170400 available this year

Inspection 11am Auction 1:30pm

1491 Ferns road Cowell SA 5602. Phone Brenton 0427285039

Brucellosis free and OJD Vaccinating

On Property Field Day Tuesday 14th of July 9am to 4pm

Inspection Day Thursday 13th of August from 1pm to 4pm

'The home of Quality Merinos'

3% rebate to outside agents introducing buyers in writing 24hrs prior to sale



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Bruce Dean

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Breeding objectives: Breeding a sheep that gives growers the option
to participate in both the wool and meat industries.

• Bold Crimping • Heavy Cutting • Highly Fertile • Great Carcase

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2020 Diary

Sept 7th - Classings
Classic Ram Sale
selling 6 rams

Sept 11th - Pre Sale
Inspection Day
1pm - 5pm

7th On-Property Annual Ram Sale Wednesday September 16th

Inspection from 10.30am - Sale starts 1pm - Refreshments provided

BJ & TE Dean 96 Frampton Road, Joel Joel, VIC 3384 Flock No.1465 - Poll Merino Stud

Phone: (03) 5356 9147 Mobile: 0407 054 342 Email: brucedean@bigpond.com

Brucellosis Accredited & Approved OJD Vaccinates



[forestspringsmerinos](https://www.facebook.com/forestspringsmerinos)



CHALLARA POLL MERINOSTUD

Easy Care and Striving Ahead

Challara Open Inspection Day - August 28th from 10am

Selling rams at **Classing Classic Sale** - September 7th, 2020



Offering 150 Rams On-Property Thursday September 3rd 2020

Inspection from 10am. Sale starts at 1pm.
Lunch to be provided.

In 2018, our vet declared Challara as OJD free from 359 tested ewes.

Lot 821, Koonah Rd, Badgingarra W.A

Ron & Deanna Wilkinson

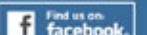
Ph: 08 9652 9062

Peter & Emma Wilkinson

Ph: 08 9652 9340 | M: (Peter) 0427 427 691

Stud Classifier: Bill Walker

WWW.CHALLARA.COM.AU



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Westwood

POLL MERINO

CASCADE, W.A.
FLOCK 601490



SELLING 20 RAMS

AT

ESPERANCE RAM SALE

- FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2020

WESTWOOD FIELD DAY - FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST

Private sales thereafter - first in best dressed!

Scott Welke

Mobile | 0427 792 044 Email | scottwelke@bigpond.com



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When to visit?

**OFFERING 80 POLL RAMS
RAM SALE - FEB 2021
on property "Topdale"
Walcha NSW**

Contact: Eddy Cordingley: 0429 486 380 or Bill Walker: 0428 973 804
eddy@lorelmo.com.au : maggie@lorelmo.com.au

www.lorelmo.com.au

RAMSGATE

**POLL MERINO STUD
TINTINARA SA**

Displaying:
SE Merino Field Day & Hamilton Sheepvention 2021

**ON PROPERTY AUCTION
TUES 11th AUGUST 2020 1.00PM**



Jed - 0427 691 858

Craig - 0418 259 049

ramsgatepoll@outlook.com

www.ramsgatepollmerinos.com.au



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FIBRE & FERTILITY ON FRAME



Proven Performance

Leahcim elite performance rams are only for sale at our two on-property sales and at "Classings Classic"

Leahcim 2020 Calender

Sale Inspection Day - Weds 2nd Sept

Classings Classic Sale - Mon 7th Sept

Leahcim Poll Merino Sale - Tues 15th Sept

Approx 250 Poll Merino Rams

Leahcim White Suffolk Sale - Fri 18th Sept

Approx 130 White Suffolk Rams

Contact us to ensure you receive our latest Newsletter and 2020 Sale Catalogues



Contact Us:

Andrew: 0418 828 431 Allstair: 0427 352 639

E: leahcimgenetics@bigpond.com

W: www.leahcim.com.au



PIMBENA

POLL MERINO STUD

POLL FLOCK NO: 601048

ON-PROPERTY SALE

WEDNESDAY, 29th JULY 2020, 1.30PM

70 RAMS

Joined Sheep Genetics in 2003

OJD Injected from 2006

Non Mulesing from 2007

All Sires DNA Tested

LESLIE HAMENCE

Phone / Fax : 08 8626 8002

Mobile : 0428 268 002

Email: pimbena@bigpond.com

WWW.PIMBENAPOLLMERINOS.COM.AU



ELLA MATTA

Parndana Kangaroo Island, SA
Poll Merinos & White Suffolks

- ✦ Producing Modern Merinos suitable for high rainfall areas with special emphasis on worm resistance, carcase attributes & free growing white wools
- ✦ Using the most suitable genetics Australia wide through AI & ET programs
- ✦ Rams only on offer at annual sale - top muscling results in this drop
- ✦ **Annual on-property ram sale Friday 9th October 2020**
Offering includes approx 50 Poll Merino rams

◀ Top priced ram at our 2019 annual sale, EM 180160 - sold for \$3400 to Mitch Willson, Penneshaw

Enquiries Welcome - Andrew, Tracie & Jamie Heinrich

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

Email: ellamatta@bigpond.com



O'Brien Dohne Merino
O'Brien Poll Merino

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

On Property Inspection Day
Monday 13th July 9am-4pm
22897 Eyre Highway Kyancutta

Annual Sale
Thursday 30th July 2020 @ 1pm
Wudinna Show Grounds

www.obrienmerino.com | www.obriendohne.com
Contact: Darren 0419 772 173

PEPPER WELL POLL MERINOS

ON PROPERTY AUCTION 1.00PM MONDAY 24th AUGUST 2020

INSPECTION DAY 17TH OF AUGUST 60 JUNE JULY 2019 DROP RAMS

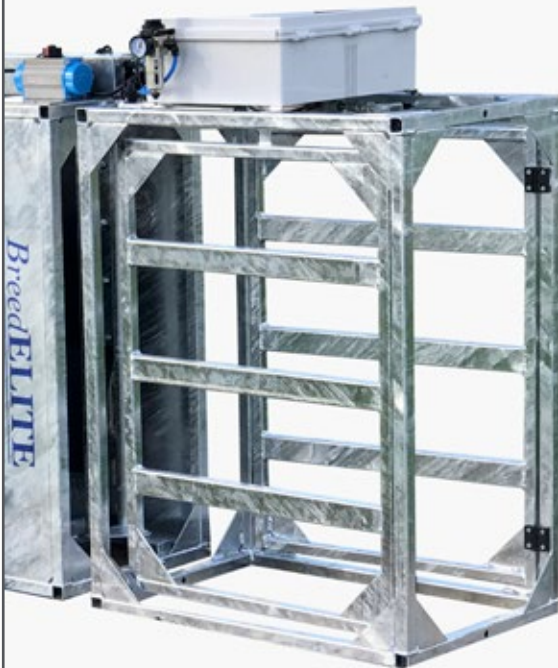
- Avg 100 day WWT 39kg
- Grass Fed
- Unhoused
- No Foot Trimming
- ASBVs
- Very Fertile
- Good Doing
- Large Framed
- Early Growers
- Un Mulesed
- Long Bold, Deep Crimping White Wool
- Mature Ewes 19 Micron
- Brucellosis Free
- OJD VAC since 2006
- PFC 350 OJD FREE

Pepperwell, 84 North Rhine Road, KEYNETON SA - 1km North of Township

For more details contact Hans Graetz MOB: 0427 790 676 PH: (08) 8564 8337 EM: pepperwell1@gmail.com

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65 KG

Weights/Carcase

19µm

Wool/Classing

**Ewe SIRE
DAM**

Pedigree/
Reproduction



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FLAIRDALE
POLL MERINOS

ON-PROPERTY INSPECTION DAY

Monday 3rd August 2020
12.30pm - 4.30pm

ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE

Monday 21st September 2020
Inspections 10am Sale 1pm

ASBV'S ON ALL RAMS AVAILABLE
OJD MN3 Vaccinated

OFFERING 2020

Classings Classic

3 RAMS 7th Sept

Flairdale

80 Rams 21st Sept

Flock rams available by appointment
post sale

WAYNE LEHMANN
0408 896 877

MATT LEHMANN
0417 843 063

www.flairdale.com

flairdale@internode.on.net

Private inspections available anytime on request



Penrose Poll Merino



**FIELD
DAYS**

28 August
2020

SALES

04 September
2020

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DATE INFO**



Bruce & Trudy Pengilly

Penrose@activ8.net.au

08 9078 6062

Thomas Pengilly

0438657739

**Brucellosis
accreditation
#0571**



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Due to the COVID restrictions, this year we will be offering private inspections from 7th-17th September. This will be an opportunity to assess the sale team at a time which suits you, and a great chance to spend sometime with the people at Sohnic to discuss your breeding objectives and direction.

To book your time call Scott 0438 086 403 or email scott_nicholson@icloud.com

SOHNIC MERINOS



2020 Calendar

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

Classings Classic
7th September
Selling 4 Rams

On-Property Ram Sale
Friday September 18th
Inspection from 9am(tba) - Sale @ 1pm

Sohnic Is Looking For New Clients With Shared Goals.

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

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

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

Sohnic focusses are

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

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

@sohnicmerinos

**CALCOOKARA
ON PROPERTY
COWELL S.A.
OFFERED 85
SOLD 83
AVERAGE \$2,079
TOP \$6,000**

Have a look at the backend of the top priced poll bought by long time supporter David Foster for \$6,000. Bloody good right? Now have a look at the same setup on the one standing behind Elders' Tony Weatherald which was penned at lot 2 on the day that made a healthy \$4,600, selling to Peter and Matt Story. (Included GFW% 116)

Calcookara has always been renowned for soft, white fibre yet it's the structural lift in recent years that has seen an ascendancy of this stud into genuine allrounder status in my eyes.

Some wise choices with outside sourced bloodlines has had the desired effect particularly from a sire that was bought at Classic'17 for \$12,000 from Hynam Poll - HP 160787 (6741).

With his first progeny outing he filled 25% of the sale pens including twelve of those within the first twenty pens as well as the sale topper!

That ram 180122, tethered in position four on the grid, realised a lot of competition. 17.0u 2.5sd 14.5cv & 0.4pf suggests just how silky that fibre was. David Foster also bought lot 7 for \$3,800 and bred by Coddington Poll 5098. Try these figures Marvin! 18.7u 2.2sd 11.8cv & 0.2 from a very reliable testing house!

Considering a GFW% 108 that 2.2u Standard Deviation is a rarity left me tell you and suggests a skin that's loaded with all the goodies necessary as to punch super aligned fibre. David added another to his exquisite stash at lot 10 for \$4,000 with a GFW% 124.

I can't remember where Duane Symonds - McPiggery, Lameroo S.A. would have sighted his



Calcookara purchase in the first place but he was obviously impressed and bought lot 5 for \$5,200 - square, deep bodied, 17.2u & GFW% 109 and bred by HP6741.

Big supporters from the state's South East are Bruce and Josie Hunt - Mundulla S.A. who secured seven goodies by days end. Hancock Farming were handy and bought seven as well including an excellent lot 13 pickup for \$2,600.

The year by year support from the Byerlee family - Orroroo S.A. doesn't go unnoticed. Neil and Emily were instrumental in ensuring the excellent flow of the sale in it's early stages and secured their five (finishing at lot 19) including lot 1 for \$2,800 and bred by HP6741 with an extreme long body to match his long legs!

I liked their very white fibred lot 18 pickup and bred by Gunallo 547 for \$1,800.

Locals, RG & CS Hannemann know their stuff and bought four beauties including a \$3,200 effort at lot 15. A lemon tag can only signify a direct drop from the legend himself, Leahcim 100858 and this representation looked terrific!

A big, square thumper in lot 3, bred by HP 6741 sold for \$3,600 to D. Hannemann with above average meat traits and

GFW% 112. GP Hannemann bought a Glenlea Park bred son for \$3,600 that had the longest body in the catalogue maybe represented by an above average EMD plus a GFW% 113.

Freeman Puckridge - Port Lincoln S.A. bought a few including a \$3,600 Leahcim 100858 son in lot 35 with a near sale high GFW% 121. P & L Puckridge secured a \$4,000 GP858 son in lot 24.

The Kilroy Farms, Elson, Turner, St. Claud Grazing, Stringer, Gibb, Gregory, Willis, M. Hannemann and Piggot single and double purchases helped complete a success-ful sale for Brenton and Jane.

I earned myself one beer and bought the last lot of the day, another HP6741 for a massive \$700, raved about the fibre, hand balled him onto Neil Byerlee and subsequently downed a Fourex!

An added bonus for all on the day was the sighting of 170400 with leg in full cast after breaking it in the shearing shed previously. This sire has just featured very well in the SA Sire Evaluation Trial at McPiggery - Lameroo S.A.

Please study his efforts in the report at the start of this newsletter. That's his fibre top of next page.

At Calcookara we are aiming to cut 4.5kg/skirted wool per ewe for 6 months at 80mm length and retain our existing 18-19 micron range - we have already hit the 4kg mark. We are very focused & always have been on the purity & quality of our wool. In the last couple of years we have started to concentrate on lifting certain traits within our flock, but not by using animals of extremes, as we believe that gaining a little at a time will create a lot less waste over all.

After all we want a well balanced uniform flock with predictability. We would much rather take positive steps steadily than compromise the quality that we already have.

We look forward to the infusion of Calcookara/400's offspring over the next few years, especially with his positive results in the McPiggery Sire Evaluation - Lameroo S.A.

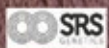


BADERLOO

Annual Baderloo On-Property Auction

Tuesday 11th August 2020 | Inspect 11am

Sale Starts 1.01pm (SA time) | Auctions Plus Sim Sale



120 POLL MERINO RAMS FOR SALE

Inspection Day - Mon 3rd Aug from 1pm

- ✓ MORE LAMBS
- ✓ MORE MEAT
- ✓ NON MULESING
- ✓ MORE WOOL
- ✓ WRINKLE FREE
- ✓ FLYSTRIKE RESISTANT

Our Merinos are bred to be tough and resilient. As industry leaders for growth, muscle, fat, fleece, staple length and fertility, Baderloo will fast-track your genetic gain and increase your profitability.

Full ASBV's available. For more info visit: baderloopollmerinos.com.au



Quality Wool: Simon Seppelt 0408 707 907

Quality Livestock: Dave Whittenbury 0455 600 488

Call Dan 0439 347 362

128 Baderloo Rd, Spalding

E: daniel@baderloo.com.au



**PEPPERWELL
ON PROPERTY
KEYNETON SA
OFFERED 32 SOLD 28
AVERAGE \$1,293
TOP \$4,000**

Nothing too high priced at Pepperwell's 2019 On Property except for the \$4,000 top - just a great quality sale with realistic prices throughout for paddock reared rams with good pedigree.

Darren and daughter April Sanders from Coombe SA were first timers at Pepperwell's auction and didn't hold back in bidding strongly for Lot 9 at \$4,000. Bred by Pepperwell's own elite woolled 143220 this fella was above average for all traits including PWWT, PEMD, PFAT & Body Weight.

The Sanders also bought two more including a Wallaloo Park AI sire, 160291, bred ripper in lot 19 for \$2,400 and another two pens later for \$1,200.

Even though they're from my home town, I don't even know Chad and Kym Leske - Murray Bridge SA. They were the pick multi purchasers for the day in securing seven across the sale. I especially liked their Lot 8 pickup bred by PPWL143220 with a great skin and fibre package at a mere \$1,000!

As a testament to possibly over realistic prices per quality at hand, the Leske's averaged less than \$1,000 for the seven. I'm not sure there's a stud that we are involved with that offers this sort of quality from the paddock for those with value for many on their radar!

Richard Henschke - Mt. Pleasant S.A. bought a classy Lot 10 for \$1,500 and again bred by the popular Pepperwell sire 143220.

Quality hunter, Andrew Mitchell - Mintaro S.A. couldn't resist a bargain at \$1,000 bred by the Wallaloo Park sire.

Brenton Kubenk -Tepko S.A. was good for a couple at \$1,800 & \$1,000.

RP Kleinig bought lot 2 for \$1,400 and again bred by that very good Pepperwell sire 143220. This fella was A+ for conformation with a backend like that large bastard in the lift and weighed a paddock reared 91.5kg.

S. Cook procured two polls including a ripping lot 3 for \$1,500 with huge staple length and that same wide set backend all studs need to aspire to! See photo.

M. Seidel was good for two including Lot 1 for \$1,500 & Lot 7 at \$1,200 both bred by Pepperwell 166070.

The Morgan family chipped in with three - lot 11 was a Leahcim 153180 bred, great woolled beauty for \$1,200.

A safe Pepperwell sale with very good value for budget which should encourage old and potential clients back for years to come!



Continued from pg 30



"It was quite a shock to start a new classing job last year when, in completing a vast amount of ewes over a few days the fellas wandered into the yards - all 500 of them and all horned!

It took most of the day to class them with the top end vey good and the bottom end no where near it yet no different to the first classing of a poll equivalent. It's just the impractical side of things with the dangers involved with a full set of horns when the human element is included!

I personally haven't seen a silky skinned horn ram for quite a few years now with the last sighting in a Classic sale a few years back in the Ridgway Advance stable selling to Glenville for around \$10,000.

Sure they cut as much, their wool quality is similar and in ASBV world they do as well as their poll equivalents but it's no coincidence that of the twenty two studs that I class there ain't one horned sire in sight!

The horned version obviously need to be referenced though historically as a critical piece of the breeding puzzle that has transformed the strong woolled poll of old into the productive animal that it is today.

In my eyes it took mostly whiter and softer fibred Victorian horn genetics crossing with South Australian strong woolled horned and poll merinos to get the ball rolling three decades ago. Some of the resultant poll 'sports' from both sexes with softer skins yet bolder crimp crossed with pure poll genetics from, let's face it, one particular poll stud
To be continued on pg 58

**RAMSGATE ON
PROPERTY
OFFERED 72
SOLD 68
AVERAGE \$1,760
TOP \$4,000**



Ramsgate's recent influence on the 2019 drop SA Sire Evaluation Trial at McPiggery - Lameroo SA in breeding the sire that bred multi trait leader Pimbena 170509 is another hint at just how well this stud is travelling.

Passing in only four rams from the 72 offered and a \$150 lift in average from the year before suggests a supporting core of content customers. The two Classic rams that were on display added to the day's success.

Keilira Station not far from Kingston SA in the state's South East deserve early mention as does Steph Brooker-Jones, Elders Naracoorte in advising them to secure a massive fourteen rams in the main auction and a handful out of the selection pens at sale end.

Typical of their purchasing was even at lot 65 at \$1,100 was a well built poll bred by Leahcim 152775 with YCFW 23.1 YWT 5.5 & FAT 0.1 add a real time GFW% of 124!

The Johnson Family's Mt. Boothby SA are a welcome sight at any sale yet only rock up if the quality of previous purchases is up to scratch.

They were instrumental in ensuring competition on all high

end polls and not hard to work out considering the quality of their flock which I'm fortunate enough to class!

Brookdale 014012 was back in action with progeny in this sale and he featured throughout. He bred seventeen progeny that made the sale with nine in the first two sold including the top gong!

Mt. Boothby are big fans of BD014012 and acted accordingly! Lot 4 for \$3,000 with stunning elite fibre and whiteness at YCFW 19.4 & YEMD 0.2 add GFW% 118 typified his progeny.

Their Syndicate bred lot 5 pickup may have been the poll of the week and was considered by Nantoura Poll as a stud sire purchase. Huge staple length of elite gear with YSL 12.6, YCFW 21.1 & GFW% 124 at \$3,400 made Chris grin once secured! The Johnsons went on to buy another three rippers including two more BD014012 bold crimpers that I'm already looking forward to viewing at this year's July ewe hogget classing.

Scott Davidson - Lucindale SA was obviously impressed with his Ramsgate debut the year previous and again purchased five early in the sale.

I'll have a crack and suggest that his lot 2 pickup for \$3,100 topped the list - bred by Leahcim 152775 with a back end like Little Jack Horner's! You know, "Little Jack Horner sat in the corner and now he's got a square arse!" No wonder when YWT 7.2 YFAT 0.2 & YEMD 0.3 is part of his makeup!

Anthony Foster - Bool Lagoon SA was good for a typical five poll haul including another L152775 son in lot 3 for \$2,900 that again sat in the pen like a bull with squareness and depth and a body weight of 105kg.

Greg Kennet's - Florando flock near Tintinara SA would be looking pretty handy I'd say in what I see them purchase between Ramsgate and SWM annually. I really liked their square, lot 25 grab at \$2,900, bred by Syndicate with a bit of stub but crikeys he was fleece weight personified! YCFW 20.7, YSL 12.6 & GFW% 132 answers a few questions!

Top price gong went for \$4,000 and sold to Nantoura Poll - Port Neill SA and naturally was bred by that SuperSire BD014012. He showed off the best fibre/skin package in the sale, with great staple length and a must-have square setup over the backend and great allround conformation

points add YWT 6.2 & EMD 0.4.

Bernie and Shane Vowles - Tintinara SA must be getting great results considering their yearly support. They purchased six rams at a realistic price range including a productive lot 29 for \$1,200 with YCFW 23.1 with realtime GFW% 126 which was near top for fleece weight measurements across the whole sale.

I bought five polls for two Penong SA clients. Three for Butch and Jodie Dunn starting at lot 11 for \$2,000 and lot 42 for \$1,500. These two bargains left me enough money in their budget to secure the near best ram in the whole goddam catalogue - the fourth ram from the end lot 69! No-one in the shed, classer, principles, agents and gallery could work out why he was catalogued so late in the sale - and I was the one who put him there!

Bred by first outing for progeny, Ramsgate 170003 thus lower ASBV's, he was a thumper exhibiting all the rave commentary for wool traits and deserved the near sale topping price tag of \$3,100. Main competition - Mt. Boothby of course!

Andrew Mahar - Penong SA needed two that included a very good Wallaloo Park 160042 bred long bodied hooer in lot 45 for \$1,400 at YCFW 17.5 & GFW% 114 and bold crimp of course.

Good to see Michael Guthrie - Mt. Pleasant SA there for his regular grab of four rams including a very long bodied WP 160042 softy for \$1,600.

His real time micron figures at 18.6u 2.7sd 14.5cv & 0.6pf at YFD -1.7 typify most Ramsgate sale rams due to diligent purchasing for soft skins for the lifetime of the stud.

The mayor of Brinkley SA, Dean Pearson likes the Ramsgate's and slipped into buying mode at lot 15 for \$2,000 with YCFW 18.6 and covered in the good stuff and added another productive fella at lot 18 for \$1,300 at YCFW 19.3, GFW% 118.

Thomas Farms - Murray Bridge

SA bought three including lot 46 for \$1,800 with YCFW 23.3 & DP+ 159. The Weinke, Seidel, Willis and Nevilis names added their ones and two purchases to ensure a successful day.

RAMSGATE'S vision for the future sees a truly dual purpose, next level genetic package that ticks all the boxes in striving for a low maintenance, robust and highly profitable converter of pasture or fodder into protein and elite fibre.

These animals must meet the demands of an ever-increasing population calling for a cease to mulesing and the ethical treatment of animals. Shearing takes place at 6 monthly intervals, producing elite fibre bundles that shear, handle and process extremely well and thereby producing 19 micron, 65 - 75 mm length at 3.5 - 4.5 kg cut, extracting market premiums.

The ewe base must be highly fertile with an increasing emphasis on fat cover leading to lower maintenance costs in tough conditions, with higher conception and lamb survival, whilst wether lambs finish and convert feed quicker to turn off earlier. In striving to meet these goals and continually improve, technology and strict visual assessment are paramount.

20 years of using Classings Ltd Bill Walker | Breedelite Data Recording | Electronic Tags | Merino Select ASBV's Member Muscle Scanning | Pedigree Matchmaker | Fleece Weighing | Micron Testing and recently DNA Testing of all stud ewes entering the nucleus flock, means more pedigree leading to greater ASBV accuracies and predictability in your genetics.

We are excited to offer this year's sale team.... each year just gets better!! New additions include Ridgway Advance 144; Karawatha Park 268; Sohnic 970 and Leahcim 173114 and 173071.

Continued from pg 56
due north of Adelaide set us up beautifully to where we are today.

When the important factor of fertility is discussed I'd suggest that the Poll Merino is now the allrounder for the job due to the dedication in so many poll breeders as to make this merino version easy care yet productive just as this year's McPiggerey Sire Evaluation attests to.

I put the question out to mostly Classic'20 supporters and others who are respected in this great industry."

Horn rams have to carry additional unwanted weight. Horns are an OH&S issue to other sheep and humans. Horn rams are harder to handle through races and are renown for being found caught dead in fences. Many good sets of testicles have been permanently damaged by them. We now have the genetic strengths and diversity to leave them behind. Tom Silcock - Balmoral Vic.

Yes, the horned ram should be dead. Why? Health and safety (Shearers and the farm workforce) and there is just as good poll rams available. Add the fact that there is a lot less need for flystrike chemicals amongst a poll sire battery... Jim Gordon - Young NSW

NO he is not dead it's just your knees that feel dead after he has made contact with them! Thomas Pengilly - Penrose Poll - Cascade W.A.

It is for us - we have not been able to sell a horned ram for 10 years as our clients just don't want them. I think it is the fact that poll rams are easier to handle and progeny don't have those pointy little things that stick into your leg. But for some people they are like the ram with two folds up the neck - a must have! Chris Prime - Nantoura Poll S.A.

Breeding horned rams? - living in the dark ages! You just don't
To be continued on pg 61

**FLAIRDALE ON
PROPERTY
COOKE PLAINS S.A.
OFFERED 77
SOLD 68
TOP \$7,200
AVERAGE \$2,201**

Kevin and Scott Bartlett - Orroroo S.A. bought sixteen polls at the Flairdale sale that set the perfect base for a very successful day. Debut purchasers in 2018 with an eight ram haul, this 2019 backup effort should suggest a two week holiday in the Lehmann's riverside B&B with grog and tucker supplied!

Sure nine rams were passed in yet that didn't take it away from how good the line up was with all the besties making some serious spondoolee!

Trevor Laske - Orroroo S.A. set the pace of the sale in buying the day's first in Lot 2 for \$3,600 and bred by Flairdale 170040 (FL040) with YCFW 20.6 & YWT 7.85 with a butt like yours! Trevor added another three by sale completion.

The Burgess family - Gulnare S.A. were at it again this year buying three of the sale's very best starting with a \$6,600 pickup in lot 3 with a YCFW 21.3 & DP+ 163 and followed two pens later with a \$3,000 grab.

Graeme Buchanan - Karoonda S.A. bought two straight in Lots 6 & 7 for \$7,200 & \$5,200. Lot 6 which was the day's top price was bred by Mumblebone 130850 (Mum 850), the sire that featured so well in the first Keyneton Sire Evaluation Trial. Very square and penning up at 116kgs' this fella was one of the top three picks of the sale in my eyes and included PWT 5.2 & YWT 6.48.

Rod Marsson - Meningie S.A. was in on the act early and outlaid \$5,400 for a FL040 son in Lot 8.

Dale Paxton - Parndana K.I. has been a Flairdale fanatic for years and seeing what he bought on the day could only add to the fixation!



He bought a Mum 850 son at Lot 17 for \$5,000 with a great fibre and the whiteness required for the higher rainfall section of Kangaroo Island. Another Mum 850 bred son was added in Lot 23 for a hefty \$5,800 with a DP+ 160. Dale bought seven all up yet was instrumental in keeping everyone honest in the early part of the auction with competitive bidding.

Steph Brooker-Jones - Lucindale S.A. reeled in half a dozen or so and kept the show afloat throughout. Ben Nevis - Ararat Vic., were good for six as well and great support.

The Colwell clan bought two including a ripper Lot 29, bred by FLA 040 and coated with the good gear for \$2,400.

Joe Feist - Port MacDonnell S.A. bought two as did Tim Freak - Coomandook S.A., Kevradale & Nigel Pfeiffer.

The Roberts, Kuhlmann and Crouch families all added their ones and twos to complete the sale.

On inspection of the 2020 On Property and Classic'20 teams, Flairdale has hit it's straps in producing way more

quality animals than I have ever witnessed at the stud.

Great carcass shape with lashings of great skins producing more and more 'safe' high density, lustrous fibre puts this stud high up on the often exaggerated dual purpose list.

Some of the Flairdale buddies of the past still residing north of Adelaide could do with a serious viewing of the Flairdale animals of this era just to see what has happened in the right direction since their departure from the Mid North.

**RIDGWAY ADVANCE
ON PROPERTY
BORDERTOWN SA
OFFERED 168
SOLD 145
AVERAGE \$2,564
TOP \$6,800**

You have to give it this stud in building a clientele that's thick with support year after year built on results through balanced genetics. With NSW and Victorian support from high rainfall zones as well as the all environ station scenarios add on the huge SA support from the same, suggests a stud that breeds a genuine all rounder.

Allrounder makes sense as opposed to the often misinterpreted and awkward 'dual purpose' animal usually exhibiting the 'big sheep big cutter' syndrome which just ain't holding up particularly in Sire Evaluation Trials nationally.

The Advance allrounder exhibits a fibre that is derived by a well bred skin that's existence isn't there by fluke. There are some pretty handy architects here that understand balance - meaning too much fleece weight succumbs to over done meat traits and vice versa.

It's no fluke that Ridgway Advance produced a ram that entered this states first Evaluation Trial for a long time that caused a few graphs to be expanded just to fit their entrant's dot on it! (150103 bought and entered by Darren and Jodie O'Brien's - O'Brien Poll at Classic'16 for \$13,000)

"We are trying to move down the non mulesing path..."

This was a statement from one debut RA supporter who could see the virtue of the plainer bodies with no production loss. Steen Paech - Palmer SA operating not only for Paech Brothers but also for his share farming guernsey with Shirley Willison - Palmer S.A. secured many of the best on offer starting with the typical thumping lot 1 at \$5,200 with the highest real time FAT measurement of 11mm!



Steen bought five of the first fifteen including what I thought was the pick (for Shirley Willason) at lot 15 for the sale topping \$6,800. Bred by a Ram Lamb Syndicate (RLS from here on) from RA002. EMD 42mm and 6mm of Fat and try these: 17.5u 2.2sd 12.6cv & 0.3pf - normally numbers reserved for Lorelmo type animals.

Dean Carter bought three in the first nine offered at \$3,200, \$5,400 & \$5,200 such was the intense bidding frenzy typical of past sales.

The great Turner family NSW were instrumental in keeping the sale competitive with their twelve ram haul throughout starting with a very good lot 21 for \$3,000 bred by RA 024. A big bold lustrous stark crimper for \$2,000 with huge staple length in lot 45 would be worth a look at now such was his intrigue!

RG Brown - Wolseley S.A. averaged over \$3,000 for his ten purchases that included two at \$3,600. One of those in lot 30 was a beauty - square backend, long stapled and very white at 18.6u 2.5sd 13.3cv & 0.0pf.

Vasey Farms - Vasey Vic. kept the competition up with eight grabs including an RA 095 bred screamer at lot 72 for \$3,000. 41mm of EMD at 17.7u with the

elite stuff glued to his great carcass, such quality at such a late penning is not usual here.

Jim Rathjen - Mt. Torrens S.A. again was instrumental in competing at the quality top end to ensure animals of high calibre didn't reach bargain status! He bought around seven polls and his auction foray began at lot 24 for a booming (8mm Fat) Woodoona 445 bred son that made \$4,400 with possibly one of the best backend constructed butts you'd ever want to see Jethro!

Jim's next purchase was a few pens later at \$4,600 for a G257 son with an EMD 41 and super long loined. A very fertile looking (clean head/no top knot) lot 33 that I had earmarked for Ed Hunt on EP made \$3,800 and also went to this quality horder!

Going over the catalogue now it would be easy, if you're running late to the sale, to just follow Jim around and see what he starts bidding on and just go for it!!

Our clients, the Pym family at Rockleigh S.A. bought well again with three to their name including a magnificent lot 64 that was well marked in my catalogue. Square and long bodied, 113Kg & 9mm of Fat, bred by RA 006 and covered in the good gear, \$3,600 was

nearly too cheap!

The Martin/Sherriff duo bought on of the best in the catalogue at lot 20 for \$5,200 and bred by RA001. Try these: 17.5u 2.5sd 14.1cv & 0.1 typical!

I bought Ed Hunt - Wharminda S.A. lot 91 for \$2,700 and bred by my favourite RA sire RA 080. Huge staple length here.

Peter Kubenk - Tepko S.A. bought one of the best of the day of the three he nabbed. Sitting at lot 86 for \$3,000 was a July drop at 91Kg with a backend like a hippo with great white elite type fibre.

The Gerald Woidt clan from Coonalpyn S.A. bought around six rams and have always been huge supporters of the stud. Same goes for the Hallums who secure around six by days end and the McGorry's with five.

Daryl Frahn - Murray Bridge SA bought two with the Long, Line, Dahlitz, Bennett, Grocock, Nankivell, Farr, Pfeiffer, Kintra, YG Pastoral and Dart names all familiar with their support for yet another successful Ridgway Advance sale.

Continued from pg 58 need them, shearer's hate them, flies love them and there's more ram fighting with them. No rams stuck in fences or tree forks without them. Less injuries or scrapes handling them and their offspring without horns (razor sharp Wether Lamb horns). Poll Merino genetics, now with a depth of breeding we are spoilt for choice. Next time you see a ram lamb starting to show horns do the industry a favour and reach for the elastrators!
Craig Keller - Ramsgate S.A.

Just thought you needed to see this one again...."In 2019 our maidens joined to merinos out-did our mixed aged ewes to merinos by 1%. Maiden percentage 119.2% including drys with 118.2% with the older groups."
Liam McNerney - Keith SA

The quote above from Liam and

Jen McNerney's extremely fertile Maroona flock near Keith S.A., also claims host to this year's Cullings'20 front cover super lustrous fibre shot taken from a young home bred ram.

The McNerney's are another member of the Superior Wool Syndicate that I initiated around twenty years ago. The group of our clients access only top genetics nationwide via mass buying power and then 'A.I. only' across eight flocks.



Started a new job officially this year for EPASCO near Condingup W.A. east of Esperance. Had the enjoyment of Managers Nick and Karina Ruddenklau's two boys Drew and Jonty in the yards for a few days to keep a watchful eye on proceedings.

The term Super Aligned Fibre was instilled into their vocabulary and although not used enough over three and a half days classing, that's the plan for the future along with fertility, free skins and poll rams!

The work ethic of these two was fantastic particularly considering their age of seven and five which appeared to be genetically induced!

To be continued on pg 63

Lucernbrae
Merinos Callington

Annual on Property Sale

Thursday 6th August 2020

Inspection 11am Auction 1pm



Keith & Judy Paech

0415 701 493

lucernbrae@internode.on.net

Plain, wrinkle free, non mulesed sheep with elite wool

**BORUNG -
WAIKERIE SA
ON PROPERTY
OFFERED 60
SOLD 41
AVERAGE \$1,230
TOP \$3,800**

Strange sale was that of Brenton and Penny Kroehn's Borung Poll in 2019. The largest crowd and the most registrations in the stud's history yet early sale support was worrying to say the least. Four rams made \$800 in the first ten penned including a thumping lot 1 which also would be a stud first.

I bought the first bloke and then handballed him onto Kym and Michelle Thiele - Pompoota SA post sale once his over realistic worth was realised!

Lot 2 made \$2,900 more at \$3,700 and was a bloody ripper but that false start I'm sure played on the punter's minds for the first ten minutes! Brian Hampel - Nadda SA secured him due to his presence and 112kg adding to his excellent conformation add GFW% 114. Bred by Wallaloo Park 160024.

The pictured poll, loaded with all good things Merino albeit a bit of stub, topped the sale yet was pitched at lot 18 and made \$3,800! This was the nature of the sale here I'm sure the buyers held off thinking that a high priced front row was imminent, as has been other years.

Ten years ago at this sale, I'm sure no-one would have touched a poll ram with a bit of stub protruding from the head yet this sale the bidding was close to frenzied!

I bought him for Mt. Boothby - Tintinara SA. where the Johnson's suggest to me that, "If there's a ram they need to have..."

His skin was more than terrific exuding a correctly nourished staple length coated with lustre and alignment. 127kg and excellent conformation with 17.1u 2.8sd 16.6cv & 0.2pf plus GFW% 107 suggests balance.

Photo - depth of body, upright on all feet, backend stance totally square,



masculine head and great neck extension. Bred by WP 160024.

Kym and Michelle Thiele - Pompoota SA added great competition throughout the sale and bought four. Pretty sure they were runners up on the sale topper yet secured something just as good - nearly! Lot 25 at \$1,600 was another Borung standout and bred by a WPK/Lucernbrae syndicate. Long and deep bodied with a backend like yer neighbours, he was a mid sale standout.

Dogwood Farms - Horsham Vic., bought four starting at Lot 5 at \$1,900 with GFW% 122 mind you, and bred by a syndicate of WPK sires. Great fleece weight considering 18.9u 2.5sd 13.0cv & 0.0pf! \$1,450 average for the four.

The Loxton based Stasinowski family were also good for four purchases starting at lot 7 for a massive \$800! The Smith family followed the trend with a four ram draft as well starting with an \$800 steal in lot 8 and bred by WPK 160569. Fibre great, shape great, \$800! Come and get 'em in 2020 should this ever happen again! They also bought another ripper in lots 14 again at \$800.

I bought a WPK/Lucernbrae syndicate bred screamer in lot 3 at \$2,000 for Critter and Bec Freeman - Penong S.A. with all things great and another for Peter Kuhlmann - Mudamuckla S.A. bred by WPK 150609 for \$600!! GFW% 126 with a super elite skin!

Mick Evans - Wunkar SA, DA & BD Nutt - Orroroo S.A., Hoffman - Loxton SA, Krause family, Law, Arnold and Bruce families all great help to keep an unusually mediocre tempo sale running along.

GC & LK Moore - Jamestown SA averaged just over \$1,000 for their three goodies including a \$1,700 pickup in lot 51.

That's a big bottle of plonk to the Johnson family for top price honours that is ageing well in my office!

We are delighted with how this year's sale team are progressing and it is without a doubt the most even team we have presented.

Wallaloo Park, Sohnic and the more recently purchased Gunallo Sires have all had a positive impact on the direction we are heading and highlight our focus on size, frame, wool quality and visual character.

With seven months wool growth and at 11 months of age, this year's sale rams averaged just over 6kg with the heaviest being a Wallaloo Park/ Gunallo syndicate bred thumper coming in at 7.6kg!

The average body weight of last year's sale team was 110 kg, with heaviest 128kg. We are confident this year's team will be heavier again.



HYNAM POLL LONGWOOD VIC.

Hynam Poll had a great 2019, selling more rams than ever before, which is a good result given that the stud relocated 400kms east to Longwood 3 years ago and has established many new clients.

HAMILTON:

Av \$1,166 Top \$1,500 to Jackson Ag, Maroona Vic.

BENALLA:

Av \$2,250 Top \$4,000 to VJ & DM Gedye, Dundonnell Vic. Sired by Hynam 15024

2nd Top \$3,250 to Lesley Siems, Euroa Vic. A great barreled long-stapled ram by Hynam 160741 (who was sold to Calcookara for \$12,000 at Classings in 2017)

ON PROPERTY:

Av \$1,282 Top \$1700 (x3)

Lot 5: \$1,700 by Hynam 170891 x WP422 to Bassett Rural, Seymour Vic.

Lot 6: \$1,700 by Orrie Cowie 310 to Jackson Ag, St Arnaud Vic.

Lot 8: \$1,700 by Hynam 170891 x WP 422 to A&V Komen, Baddaginie Vic.

CLASSINGS:

Av \$2,000 Top \$3000 by Hynam 170891 x WP422 to Leslie Hamence, Pimbena Stud.

Hynam Poll, with the assistance of breeding values, is aiming to improve growth, doing ability, fat and muscle with a focus also on staple length, whiteness and style.



Continued from pg 61

CLASSIC'20 POTENTIALS

Not all Classic'20 entries are noted here but only those that I had selected prior to print. Stay tune on our Facebook page former accurate stud en-tries from here on.

The early selection of Classic ram potentials becomes much easier today than what it might have been twenty years ago due to progressive skin types that any stud that we have been classing for a decade or two now possess en masse.

The more a ram possesses tightness, wrinkle, short staples and suint the less chance a breeder, classer or advisor has of predicting its future visually. Highfalutin and high priced rams of yesteryear were bought and one year later unrecognisable as a quality purchase - progeny worse!



Wayne and Matt Lehmann of Flairdale - Cooke Plains S.A. were very lenient in letting me select FLA 190212 and FLA 190028 for the Classic'20.

Keep an eye out for the following tag numbers and I know you will, like me, appreciate these as the best Flairdale Classic entries ever!

1900212 PP: YWT 9.4 YCFW 31.6 YSL 11.9 YEMD 0.7 YFAT 0.4 MP+ 175 SIRE: WALLALOO PARK 172003

190287 PP: YWT 7.3 YCFW 22.9 YSL 10.7 YEMD -0.5 YFAT -0.5 MP+ 155 SIRE: FLAIRDAL 170194



Darren and Jodie O'Brien's O'Brien Poll - Kyancutta S.A. will follow on with their excellent single ram debut in Classic'19 with one ripper that we selected on 12.6.20. OB191035 exhibit great conformation and fibre quality as shown with the following shots that I took at classing.

191035 YWT 5.4 YCFW 31.5 YSL 10.7 YEMD -0.3 YFAT -0.5 MP+ 167 SIRE: RIDGWAY 170443 purchased at CC'18 for \$6,000.



Chris and Andrew Prime's Nantoura Poll - Wharminda S.A. have returned to Classic'20 with a powerful duo exhibiting great growth with a skin punching out some serious fibre might I say! These rams are pushing out some serious fibre length considering their April 2nd shearing. 190061 bred by Sohnic will lead the pair and may just have close to the best fibre quality in the sale. 190098 at left 190061 at right.

190098 PP: YWT 7.8 YCFW 21.8 YSL 18.7 YEMD 0.3 YFAT 0.4 MP+ 155 SIRE: TERRICK WEST 406 purchased at CC'18 for \$6,000.

190061 PP: YWT 9.8 YCFW 28.3 YSL 22.1 YEMD 0.5 YFAT -0.1 MP+ 164 SIRE: SOHNIC 71634 purchased at CC'18 for \$8,500 from Sohnic display.

Brenton and Jane Smith's Calcookara Poll - Cowell S.A. will enter two sons of the near famous 170400, the young Reserve Calcookara kept in 2018 and gained rapid popularity every where he was

To be continued on pg 74

LUCERNBRAE POLL ON PROPERTY SALE SOLD 36 TOP \$3,200 AVERAGE \$1,636

To witness the Lucernbrae representation at Classic sales fair very well over the years it's disappointing not to see the same buyer support at the On Property sale.

Sure the sale kicked off with a bang with the first fifteen well presented polls oozing with pedigree and performance averaging around the \$2,500 mark to a sale high of \$3,200 and were well sort after. Similar animals to these though were very much part of the second row of fifteen yet it was during the auctioning of these rams that support starts rapidly to wain.

There were no station orders whatsoever in this 2019 sale and yep, this had a dramatic effect but it bugs me that there are so many local growers who do not give themselves a chance to witness just how good these Lucernbrae polls are.

The Wegener family's - Colrae, Callington S.A. certainly appreciate what's on offer and snavelled a thumping Lot 1 bred by Lucernbrae's own Green 010 with a GFW% 116 for \$2,600.

Their Lot 3 White River 558 purchase for \$2,600 at GFW%122 & 16.2u was followed later at Lot 11 with one of the best on the day from the same sire for \$2,600. Another was added at Lot 15 for \$2,000 to complete a stellar group.

Critter and Bec Freeman - Penong S.A. have an enormous respect for Lucernbrae genetics as it's much due to the stud that they owe many wins in the Charra Hogget Competition annually.

As they find the distance an obstacle annually I have their trust in picking up the best one or two polls on the day. I'd like to think that Lot 4 was exactly that! At \$3,200 Lucernbrae 180102 bred by Luc Green 010 had a jacket that glowed in the dark! Fibre loaded



with lustre and exhibiting extreme staple length and a GFW% 127 he was hard to go past and hence topped the sale.

Check the outstanding photo above as to just what this stud can produce! Neck extension, perfect upright pasterns and straight feet with depth of carcass and wide back end. Add two small stubs to bunt traditional breeders and a reason why the ram was one step away from Classic superstardom!

Locals, Kym and Denise Frahn - Mypolonga SA were instrumental in keeping the sale alive throughout and bought extremely well at very realistic prices. A White River 558 headlined their seven pickups at \$2,400. I liked their syndicate bred Lot 8 for \$2,600 and a Lot 5 thumper bred by WR 558 for \$2,800.

Kym and Michelle Thiele - Pom-poota S.A. bought their first of five for the day at Lot 6 for \$2,000 and bred by Wallaloo Park 140245 with a GFW% 111 & 17.8u 2.4sd 13.5cv & 0.0.

Lot 32 was placed suspiciously late considering his high calibre quality and I considered him for the Classic sale should he not make any real value. \$1,800 and bought by the Thiele's sealed it considering their great support. They were still at it at Lot 55 for an easy pickup of quality for \$800!

Kitschke Ag - Jamestown S.A.

were a surprise addition to the day and were a welcome sight considering their fantastic support with a six ram haul. They made their presence felt in securing a ripper Lot 10 for \$2,000 and bred by Gunallo 361 covered in fibre quality.

I thought very highly of their pickup at Lot 22 for a high density Wallaloo Park 140245 bred son with a massive GFW% 129 - the highest of the catalogue. Add to this 17.0u 2.3sd 13.7cv & the typical Lucernbrae, 0.0pf and white fibre for \$1,900.

Fleece weight like this combined with Objective Measurement figures of the same are a difficult tangle. GFW% 129 & 2.3sd epitomises this. That type of Standard Deviation is generally reserved for super fines of very low density.

I bought Haydn Weckert - Yumali S.A. a Lucernbrae poll the previous year hence his return in 2019 for a few more! Two at \$1,000 was an easy start for great quality yet the \$1,700 purchase in Lot 29 deserved Classings Classic type accolade! GFW% 101 18.9u 2.7sd 14.2cv & 0.2 helped the cause including being bred by Leahcim 153.

Ian and Rod Paech, Max Paech via his daughter, I & R Frahn and the Blight and Herbig families helped in keeping the sale afloat with their single and double purchases.

**CHALLARA POLL
ON PROPERTY SALE
BADGINGARRA W.A.
OFFERED 141
SOLD 135
TOP \$4,500
AVERAGE 1,241**

I thank Tamara Hooper and the Farm Weekly for allowing me to reproduce the Challara sale report. Although I was at the sale for the first time there are many Challara clients that I've never met so attempting to get all names correct was a tad dangerous on my behalf!

IT WAS the year for breaking records for the Challara Poll Merino stud, Badgingarra WA with its annual on-farm ram sale following on from a highly successful inaugural interstate sale.

This year's top of \$4500 last Thursday was the highest it had ever reached and was a notable \$800 lift from last year's sale.

This year Challara also participated in the Classings Classic Ram Sale in Murray Bridge, South Australia, on September 2, selling two sires for a stud record of \$6000 and \$4500.

The \$6000 ram was snapped up by Mark and Cathy Chadwick, Stobo Poll Merino stud, Harrow Victoria, who are building up their stud with sons Ben and Luke.

The \$4500 sire from the Classings Classic sale went to The Prime Family's, Nantoura stud, South Australia.

Achieving such high prices interstate and with first-time buyers is a nod to the quality genetics bred by Challara principals Peter and Ron Wilkinson, who along with stud classer Bill Walker, Bill Walker Classing Proprietary Limited, presented the animals for sale in Murray Bridge.

It was no wonder then that the

annual on-property sale was also a highly successful event, seeing a higher top price, and clearance than the 2018 sale and a very healthy average of \$1241, over the 135 rams sold under the hammer, and one negotiated post sale.

For the second year running, the 141 rams offered were haltered and tethered to rails in lines in the shed, giving buyers the opportunity to get up close and inspect them and see the effort the Wilkinsons have put into their breeding program. Primaries of WA senior auctioneer Jay Macdonald said it was an excellent result for the stud and a credit to the hard work of the vendors.

"There has been some anxiousness over wool prices and the season up this way," Mr Macdonald said. "Although the season is not terrible, it is behind where it could be, but it did not affect today in terms of prices and clearances. It was a quality lineup of sheep from start to finish, with good interest from the Eastern States."

Mr Macdonald said the Wilkinsons had put in a lot of work with the assistance of stud classer Mr Walker, which had helped raise their profile outside of WA.

The momentum from the earlier South Australian sale carried through and the exposure it garnered the Challara stud was evident, with Mr Walker tasked with bidding for three new interstate buyers.

The first being lot three the \$4500 top price paid on the day for a big Gunallo sired Poll Merino ram with measurements of 18.2 micron, 3.2 SD, 17.6 CV, 7.2 PWWT, -0.2 YFAT, -0.6 YEMD and 149 DP+. The sire was purchased by Mr Walker for Stuart and Gavin Brophy, Tintintara, South Australia, who had seen the Challara sheep in Murray Bridge.

"They actually missed out on



winning the bids on the top priced Challara sheep at the Classic sale," Mr Walker said. "They quizzed me about other rams Challara might have. They are also big Gunallo fans, so they will be very happy this sire is on the Gunallo bloodline.

"The Challara rams skin and fibre is absolutely amazing, they have a bold crimp and it feels like silk."

The \$3750 second top price of the sale was also well over the sale top of 2018, with the buyer travelling from Beacon to attend the day. The Leachim sired Poll Merino ram exhibited measurements of 17.2 micron, 3.3 SD, 19.2 CV, 2.1 PWWT, 0.9 YFAT, 1.7 YEMD and 159 DP+ and was knocked down to Jeff Munns, Synandra Farms.

Mr Munns said he had purchased at last year's sale, but had bought Challara ewes in the past also and really liked their wool type for his 3000 head breeding flock. "I was selecting today for long white soft wools," Mr Munns said.

"I breed my own rams and purchase from about 10 different studs and use a fair bit of semen in my program. I am trying to breed a multi purpose Merino that we can shear every six months and that we don't have to mules."

"We haven't mulesed in three years and are at the eight months shearing, or three times in two years now. The Challara genetics and wool has really been good



for this, it helps pushing the staple length." Mr Munns purchased a second ram for \$1300. With 33 registered buyers in attendance, there were plenty of volume buyers in the catalogue.

One stand out regular volume purchaser was Andrew Kenny, Rubicon Trust, Badgingarra, with his purchase of 13 sires. Mr Kenny said he had been buying Challara rams for 11 years and was confident that whatever he purchased would perform well in his commercial flock of 4000 breeding ewes.

"I like the Challara sheep for their high fertility, their straightness and white wool," Mr Kenny said. "They are easy care sheep and being a local stud, they are bred for our conditions. They really are a dual purpose sheep, with a good combination of meat and wool."

Mr Kenny said his purchases were dictated a fair bit by price on the day, with the elite rams well contested at auction. He purchased to a top of \$2000 and a average of \$1262.

Also purchasing 13 rams on the day was first-time buyer Richard Notley, Western Nodes, Dandaragan, to a top of \$1500 and an average of \$854. Mr Notley is getting back into Merinos and had heard about the Challara genetics and was obviously impressed with the rams offered.

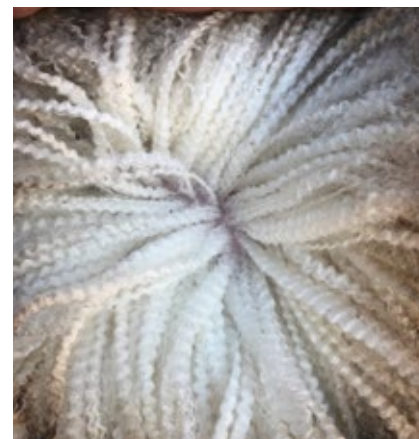
Another return volume buyer was JF & MM Brennand, Southern Cross, with their 10 to a top of \$1900 and an average of \$1400.

RP & J Gates, Casterton, Victoria, purchased two sires to a top of \$2500, while Butch and Jodie Dunn, Penong, South Australia, rounded out the interstate clients with their \$1700 sire.

With too many volume buyers to mention it is no wonder Peter Wilkinson was extremely happy with the prices and clearance achieved at the Challara sale this year.

"We had 10 new registered buyers this year in total," Mr Wilkinson said. "We were also missing seven of our regular buyers, some due to retirement and others, who have reduced sheep numbers due to the seasonal conditions, so it was a bit of a buyers market, meaning we still have some rams available for private selection."

"We are very thankful for the support of our clients and thank all the buyers and underbidders who operated in the sale. It was also great to see the recognition of interstate buyers and a stud record price for us."



Challara's goals is to breed plain bodied, productive dual purpose Poll Merinos. This year all Poll Merinos ram hoggets were DNA tested to identify the double copy poll gene as a focus.

Challara continues to improve its wool quality standards with SRS characteristics. Stretching the boundaries for justifying shearing every six months is also a priority.

Identifying suitable carcass traits which can meet abattoir requirements is a priority. A good length of body is another trait that is evident in Challara sheep to meet sale yard demands. Aspiring to improve the structure of the animals is also important to us to maintain their durability.

Continued success mating ewe weaners gives Challara greater culling pressure and more lambs to select from.

Challara's stud genetics for 2020 include;
 Challara 150245 (son of Karb 120165)
 Challara 170308 (son of Ch 150245)
 Challara syndicate 181797
 Challara syndicate 181533
 Challara 180323 (son of Westbrook 160065)
 Calcookara 170400
 GlenLea Park 180173
 Terrick West 160191 "Big John"
 Challara 180566 (son of TW 160191)
 Baderloo 140395
 Baderloo 150171

**RIDGWAY S.A.
ON PROPERTY
OFFERED 140 SOLD 140
TOP \$12,600
AVERAGE \$2,448**

Pretty good stats those to create one of the best sales of the year across all states! A lot of registrations from three states saw competitive bidding high to pen 140 to accrue a total clearance.

There are so many buyers here that to mention all may take until the last page of this publication to complete so I might speak of our own client support in particular followed by a few more volume buyers.

Perhaps I should start off with the red hot highest price paid for Lot 4 though considering he was worth every cent! Bred by White River 546, YCFW 20.0 with a gutsy bit of gear on the back, hit the \$12,600 figure going to Tubbo Station NSW assumably to breed a few rams!

Tintinara mates yet potential rivals on a ram sale day the Johnson's Mt. Boothby and the Aaron Freeman managed Colara Farms were instrumental in offering keen competition on all of the 'must have' lots across the sale. They procured 17 ripper polls between them.

Another WR sired poll got the ball rolling with Mt. Boothby opening their account at Lot 6 for \$2,400 with YWT 6.5 & YFAT 0.2. I think it was their second purchase though that really stacked a few runs on the board Trevor! Lot 23, bred by Ridgway 721 that Gunallo bought at the Classic a few years back for \$14,000, was a classic!

He was one of the most lustrous fibred rams in the catalogue with a YCFW 19.8 & MP+154. I look forward to another viewing at hogget and ram classing later in the year.

They added another R721 for \$3,400 at Lot 46 before a Lot 49 pickup for \$3,600 with a YCFW 20.4. A late pickup at Lot 116 for \$2,200 and a bold crimping Lot 118 with a YCFW 24.8 completed a nine ram haul for



the Johnsons.

The Munro owned and Aaron Freeman managed Colara also picked up some absolute screamers starting at Lot 8 for a Ridgway 451 (bred by Kiandra 644) for \$3,600 - YCFW 20.2 & YWT 7.0. Same sire different lot at 18 saw Aaron get hold of a big square thumper for \$2,800 with YEMD 0.2 YFAT 0.2 YWT 7 that matched his look.

Such is the depth of this stud that even at Lot 127, Colara was able to stick to the quality stakes and latch onto a monty for \$2,400. Bred by R112 with a YCFW 26.5, YSL 11.1 & MP+ 154 his fibre was as good as most in the front row.

The Smart family's Smart Group sent smart sheep manager Aaron Woods to invest in smart polls. A new job for us I'm very keen to get some skins over the line here by suggesting genetics that will soften the flock up, free up the skins thus creating even more staple length that the excellent Kelvale Poll has successfully instilled.

It's an easy task to secure big stock at Ridgway yet that's not necessary in a commercial flock that wasn't lacking frame in the first place.

Hence Aaron bought one of the best polls in the sale right down at an unassuming Lot 119 to add to two early sale purchases. Bred by a Ridgway Lamb Syndicate and hitting \$3,200 with a super styled, white woolled ripper at YCFW 22.5,

I expect some great change at this flock over a short time.

Rob and Sonya Chalk - Willalooka S.A. picked up three good quality white wools to suit and maintain their excellent commercial flock for \$1,200, \$1,800 & \$1,500 suggesting great bang for buck!

Mitch and Ros Willson - Penneshaw S.A. bought a couple and Jeff and Andrea Buick from the same great town bought three or four including Lot 11 with staple length, YCFW 21.9, YWT 7.5 and great fibre for \$4,000.

Lynton and Susie Barratt - Lameroo S.A. were instrumental in keeping the sale vibrant at all times with a massive thirteen ram haul.

Peter and Simon Brady - Rhymney Vic. bought eight, Graeme Fagg - Mt. Mercer Vic., seven and Tim Philip - Maroona Vic., kept the ball rolling with their competition for five.

Steve Kroehn - Nildottie S.A. picked up some well marked in my catalogue, rippers including a R112 bred Lot 37 for \$4,200 with a YCFW 22.6 & YWT 6.2.

Neil Wormold - Wunkar S.A. did his homework and picked up some great flock polls including a \$3,000 pickup at Lot 51.

That's it! There's loads more to talk about after a very successful sale but I need a red!

'A YARN' - FROM PADDOCK TO GARMENT.

By JONATHAN BYERLEE WYNDHURST - ORROROO SA

I began classing for Jonathan Byerlee - Wyndhurst, Orroroo S.A. this year after his relationship with the great Jim Watts, as with many others, came to a tragic end last year. His flock is in seriously good shape yet no surprise considering that classing history. Have a read of the following re his endeavours to create a quality product from his own high end produced fibre. Many of our clients are in a similar or close to similar stage with their breeding strategies although the 125-130% lambing (inc. dries) when not in drought is one we could all aspire to! Read on...

"I started my project in 2015 when there was no financial premium for 18 micron wool in comparison to the 22-23 micron. The work taken to produce such a premium product with no additional incentive was becoming increasingly frustrating."

Although there is a lot of additional costs in the processing, manufacturing, marketing and selling of a garment the mark up to expense ratio just doesn't seem to add up. So, I began researching the process of sheep to shop. As I thought there was next to no wool clothing lines that grew, processed and manufactured the wool 100% in Australia.

Many claim to do so with the Australian made logo but as with many companies half truths were been told either in relation to the processing of the wool which is done overseas or most of the manufacturing and the bare minimum is done in Australia just to get the accreditation.

I also found companies were using very tenuous links to the farming and wool industry as a marketing tool to show some credibility to their brand. I knew



if I could stick to my original vision of only using wool from Wyndhurst, processing and manufacturing everything in Australia I could have something pretty unique.

I first rang a couple of the industry bodies to see if there was guidance they could give me, basically what came from those conversations was to get into a syndicate with other farmers as the minimum processing order overseas was around three years of our farms normal production. Being stubborn as I am, I wasn't willing to compromise my original vision of having a single source label that could tell the single story of our farms 118 year history and all the family stories that go along with it.

I'm by no means claiming our family story on the farm is any more interesting than any others but it does have unique aspects, especially the women of the

family who's stories aren't always documented or told from the pioneering days. Overseeing the whole production also meant we can also guarantee all of the wool going into the garment was our own, it was all mulesing free and every fleece was of the highest quality.

I wanted it to be all made and processed in Australia too, but like most of us had heard that all of the processing had long ago moved overseas. I knew there were a couple of scouring places left in Australia so I decided to make a list of all the different processes along the road to a final garment and tick them off one by one. It took a couple of years before I could find everyone along the supply chain that could do what I wanted and were willing to process the small amounts of wool I could supply.

What I have found most difficult so far has been that we have been





working our way back from the end garment that we have already designed and trying to decipher all of the technicalities of each individual processing step to make it.

We have made plenty of mistakes in this regard and haven't been able to get the yarn to where we need it to make our full collection yet, which is six different men's and women's options but the yarn we have produced has still come up great so we will be making some scarves first with a bomber jacket to follow soon after, ready for this winter.

One of the biggest issues we had was that we are shearing every six months and while we are making gains with the length at 65-70mm length we need it at 90-100mm to make the yarn we need. Our long term aim is to get the wool to this length by six months, with individual staple testing and an AI program focused on wool length, but in the meantime our hoggets will be shorn nine monthly. With this small change in place we should have our full collection ready for winter 2021.

Of course our sheep are the focus of the whole enterprise and none of this would have been possible if the quality of the wool wasn't of the highest standard.

We started with the SRS sheep in 2007 after attending a workshop in Burra where Dr. Jim Watts was speaking. For the 8 years prior to this we had just been buying

in ewes and breeding crossbred lambs as dad had had enough of merinos as a lot of people did in the 90's. He was shearing 10,000 sheep by the late 90's with a wool check of between \$50 - \$60,000 AND IT became very un motivating.

I finished school in 2005 and wanted to get back into merinos so with the high expectations of wanting to keep our crossbred lambing percentages and growth rates but grow heavy cutting fine wool we went to the workshop. Jim's talk as well as others that day convinced us that by breeding the right sheep our lofty goals were actually achievable.

We purchased a stud dispersal from NSW and were instantly impressed with the wool quality and even more so with the lambing percentage the first year. I am not saying that our lambs quite have the growth rates of crossbreds or our wool cut is massive but we have a very good multipurpose sheep.

Other than in the past couple of drought years where our lambing percentage was down to 100% we usually are between 125-130% and our last shearing

in march the ewes averaged 3.8kg of 19 micron wool for their six months. We have just EID tagged every sheep and individually fleece weighed and tested them to try and improve these results more but the driver will always be quality over quantity.

I hope this doesn't come across as a "brag" but more as a testament to how putting into place the right people and breeding qualities a truly all round profitable sheep is possible, all without mulesing. All we really have done is acknowledge that we don't know everything about breeding sheep and that history shouldn't dictate how we breed now or into the future.

For all of this we have the late Jim Watts (see photo at bottom) to thank, firstly his perseverance in pursuing what he knew was the right direction for the sheep industry even with all of the naysayers and secondly with us individually, travelling to the farm a couple of times a year and listening to what we wanted to achieve and putting the program into place was instrumental.



ELLA MATTA PARNDANA SA ON PROPERTY'19

I thank Ian and Wendy Turner of Superior Selections for this report due to my W.A. commitments that coincided with the sale.

47 of 54 sold to \$3400 and averaged \$1530.

Ella Matta celebrates 40 years in style.

At their annual Ella Matta on-property sale at Parndana, Andrew, Tracie and Jamie Heinrich were quietly and proudly celebrating the 40th year that their family has been breeding stud sheep, started by Andrew's father Peter back in 1979 at Bute.

The huge sale catalogue of 54 Poll Merino rams and 251 terminal breed sires attracted a big crowd that included 74 registered bidders from four states, plus those registered through Auctions Plus, and saw 295 find new homes in a 97% clearance at a terrific average of \$1,456.

The Ella Matta quality is becoming more widely recognised these days because of their extremely high ranking within the Sheep Genetics recording system, plus the success past clients have had using Ella Matta genetics.

The Poll Merino auction of 48 individually lotted rams, plus six mini auction rams followed the other two lines. This was an increased offering in response to last year's strong result and total clearance.

They were carrying elite quality wools and again the catalogue was filled with highlighting colour, indicating industry leading performance levels through Merino Select. 47 cleared to a \$3400 top, averaging a solid \$1530.

EM180160, sired by Leahcim Poll 122899, impressed with six traits in the top 10% nationally, including a Multi-Purpose index of 161.7 and a Dual Purpose Index of 171.3. It was purchased by Mitch Willson,

Willson River Trading, Penneshaw for the \$3400 top price; one of four Poll Merino rams he bought at a \$2600 average.

Last year's top priced Poll Merino purchaser, Glen Tilley, Hillcott Grove Props, Kapunda was back again, purchasing three top rams to \$3000 and at a \$2300 average.

Simon and Madeline Kelly, Mine Creek Partners were the biggest volume buyers of Poll Merinos, selecting 10 at a \$1420 average. Not far behind was another repeat client, Geoff Nutt with nine at a \$1056 average, while the Tremaine family, Parndana averaged \$1500 for six rams.

Another highlight for the Heinrichs in this draft was the sale of EM180169 to a Tasmanian breeder via the Auction Plus network for \$2000, the first time the Heinrichs have sold a ram to that state.

A naturally delighted Andrew Heinrich said post sale, "What a wonderful way to celebrate 40 years of stud sheep breeding; the result, along with the quality of

the people prepared to bid on them was very humbling really."

"Also, to have stud breeders prepared to operate from several states was mind blowing really."

CLASSINGS CLASSIC 2020

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 7th 2020 | 1:30pm
New Murray Bridge Racing Club
Brinkley Road
South Australia



Tom Silcock and I have sat on the same MLP Committee together over the last few years and in that time we have had some great chats regarding the industry's high and lows.

After sharing a great plonk at he and Alison's majestic homestead one night after an MLP classing at Tuloona near Harrow in January I asked if he could contribute to this year's Cullings'20. I asked him to centre in on recent technologies and how it has affected his own enterprise and what's available for you the reader.

Here it is...

UTILISING TECHNOLOGY By Tom Silcock

BREEDING VALUES:

Visual assessment, even when backed by measurements, only shows you how good an individual sheep is - it provides no indication of how well that animal will breed.

Breeding values provide predictability for the sheep's breeding potential. I prefer within flock breeding values (EBV's) to identify the best sheep in a mob, as it is a comparison just within that flock, in the environment you are looking at the sheep in. Across flock breeding values (ASBV's) will then tell you how good that animal is, when compared nationally.

DON'T BE FOOLED BY VISUAL WORTH:

One of my hardest lessons learned, was losing all our rams and top stud ewes (young and old) in a bush fire that ravaged our stud flock in 2004. I naively believed we could bounce back quickly, recreating our stud again.

We had plenty of good commercial ewes that survived and a heap of semen in the tank. We had been using all measurements available to us, including an independent annual Flock Breeding Value (FBV) assessment. In brief, what the experience showed us was it took 10 years to regain our level of genetic worth, using the FBV.



We could recognise a great looking animal walking up the race, however when we looked up its performance, disappointment was often overwhelming. Time and time again, the good looking sheep just did not give us the top results we were used to and seeking. The utilisation of an influx of outside genetics also gave us mixed visual results, complicated by hybrid vigour. The top visual sheep we were identifying didn't have strong breeding values and were not breeding strong results.

SHEEP IDENTIFICATION:

Victoria has implemented mandatory Electronic Ear Identification (EID) tags and I

believe (and fully support) it is only a matter of time until other states follow.

EID tags have opened the door to utilising the most exciting, innovative technology, when used in conjunction with complimentary programs and equipment. Breeders can now employ this equipment to open the door to lifetime data evaluation of performance, providing better decision making.

SIRE TAGS:

I make no apologies for encouraging the use of individual sire identification tags in any stud breeding program. This provides the visual ability to link any good or bad traits in

a sheep, straight back to the sire, highlighting genetic patterns.

Many breeders have moved away from the use of sire tags with the introduction of EID tags – I see this as a mistake, as it removes a critical visual assessment tool. Collecting pedigree data and aligning traits to their genetics is all-powerful.

RAM POTENCY:

I am often astounded when breeders spend huge sums of money on rams, then fail to care for them adequately.

For those showing rams, if it is a top one, ensure you collect plenty of semen before doing the circuit. There have been many cases when a prized ram has won many ribbons, but then found to be infertile, or worse still has died.

Fly prevention, vaccinations and (only in rams) foot trimming, are all great investments to protect your ram's fertility by minimising the risk of infections. Too often, a ram's lack of ability is blamed for lower than expected conception rates. Proven rams (capable of joining over 100 ewes each) can only deliver if the ewes are cycling. Too often ewes are below ideal joining condition and the genetics is blamed.

GENETIC WOOL CUT:

Pursuing genetics that deliver heavy cutting fleeces and lifting wool production are not the same thing. Sheep that measure well with a high Yearling Clean Fleece Weight (YCFW) do not necessarily end up maximising your property wool cut.

Some genetics jump out of the blocks and deliver impressive Yearling Clean Fleece Weight (YCFW), then fail miserably to deliver with Adult Clean Fleece Weight (ACFW).

Recent results from the industry Merino Lifetime Productivity Trials (MLP) highlight this fact. It also supports some industry critics, who claim YCFW is a poor predictor of ACFW. This is correct for some sheep, but not all. Also

balancing growth rate, doing ability, survivability, fertility with fleece weight, will mean you get to shear and class more good wool cutting sheep every year.

The ability to produce a quantity of wool even under nutritional pressure, delivers wool cut. Some genetics have fantastic breeding values for CFW, but lack doing ability. In some cases, CFW shuts down with nutritional and environmental stress. Get your balance right and look at selecting for fleece weight for the average age of sheep you run = ACFW. This is difficult to collect and rarely offered.

ADULT BODY WEIGHT (AWT) EFFECT ON PER HA RETURNS:

Selecting for a high weaning weight (WWT), a high yearling weight (YWT) and a high ACFW = High fleece weight, though it does not necessarily maximise your property wool production.

This selection will also reduce your carrying capacity and your potential of Number of Lambs Weaned (NLW) per Ha, unless you restrict the adult weight (AWT). Ideally you want an animal that jumps out of its skin, until it is 12-18 months old, then its weight plateaus, while conceiving with a maximum number of lambs. This will push all your production measurements per ha, as long as the ewe's milk well and the lambs have good survival with doing ability.

WORM RESISTANCE:

Do you want sheep that have low breeding values for worms (WEC) or do you want sheep that have great doing ability? Resistance, or resilience?

The answer is you want both. A great example of this was seen in a trial recently – There were 20 different sires, though unfortunately 1/3 of all young sheep were lost from exposure following shearing, combined with a sudden crash from worm exposure. Almost unbelievably, one sire group did not lose a

single animal, despite other sire groups losing up to 68% of their progeny. I am privileged to class at this stud where interestingly, FAT, EMD, WEC, YWT along with CFW, are the focussed genetic selection. Many badly affected sheep in the whole trial mob that suffered but survived, then lost their wool, or ended up rotten tender.

You can have genetics that don't want to die, cut plenty of quality wool and wean plenty of lambs.

Start by being careful about balancing your selection. Sometimes the best worm resistant animals may be poor doing, obtaining their low WEC levels by scouring out the worms. These sheep have no place in the industry, regardless of their measurement - Chase resistance with resilience.

IMPACT OF FAT & EMD ON FERTILITY:

Industry now knows FAT and EMD have a big impact on doing ability and fertility, though be careful of some of the predictions - Let the proven science provide trusted information.

Again, MLP will deliver some fantastic backed up information on this. A number of years ago, a prediction got a lot of publicity stating "An extra 1 ml of FAT will give you an additional 18 % live lambs."

Our Balmoral trial group grasped this prediction and went out and found the highest measuring FAT and EMD sires available in the industry.

Our thinking was, surely if such an extreme prediction had any merit, even though the sire result would be watered down by 50% (due to how much impact the ram has on progeny and even if we only had 40 – 50 progeny per sire), surely we would expect to measure an improvement in number of lambs weaned (NLW) from these extreme measuring sires?

We found no difference - we had all sorts of reasons supplied in

response, including our trial design not being robust enough. We think we should have seen some difference if the prediction was correct - what do you think? Let's wait and see what MLP tells us.

HOW IMPORTANT IS BARE BREECH COVER (BCOV)?

AWI have done a lot of robust research on susceptibility to fly strike. The results are very conclusive. The number one impact to reduce fly strike, is Breech Wrinkle (BWR), not BCOV. The next biggest impact to reduce fly strike is dags. No one wants dags and again they are heritable. Breech cover finally ranks as the third biggest impact.

Most of us have moved on from heavy wrinkled sheep from the industry past, but you should know what will give you the best results from selection. It is a fallacy that all less wrinkled sheep will cut less wool. Yes, there have been some good industry examples of that, but there are equally great examples of heavy cutting, quality woolled, soft skinned, plain bodied sheep. Use the figures - A bare breech may be ideal, but focus on getting the wrinkles off the bum first.

DNA:

We have reached a time with DNA technology where every breeder, stud or commercial enterprise can justify every ram used on their property having a DNA blood test taken and recorded. Once you have all your sire's DNA sampled, for \$25 you can sample any lamb progeny and identify the sire (for both good and bad reasons). This is a powerful undervalued tool.

Blood cards are simple but can be challenging and often require resampling.

Taking a biopsy sample via TSU sampling is faster and easier in comparison, especially for large numbers. Many rams now sold are already DNA tested.

THE FUTURE:

WALK OVER WEIGHING:

A voluntary sheep walk-over weighing system (WOW) is to be released later this year by Datamar.

I believe this new equipment has huge potential for our industry, allowing management decisions to be made based on actual body weights, long before they would become apparent to the eye.

The Balmoral (AMSEA) committee was involved in evaluating a WOW system eight years ago. We trialed this technology, capturing body weights on 30% of a mob of sheep weekly. This weight was collected, as animals played on a weigh crate without the need for encouragement.

The cost of the unit will be cheap, compared to the cost of inefficient feeding – keep your eye on this technology.

Benefits of this technology: Automatically monitoring mob health and well-being. Accurately matching feed supplementation with wanted outcome.

Tracking ideal growth rates for sale.

Maximising joining weights for better conception rates
Identify missing stock

VIRTUAL FENCING:

The CSIRO developed an animal-friendly fencing system, enabling livestock to be confined or moved using collars with coordinates, wireless technologies and sensors (without the need for an actual fence).

This technology is being adapted for sheep grazing utilising sheep tags. The concept is proven, though not fully developed and taking far too long. Virtual fencing will provide huge commercial and environmental benefits.

These will include fire control, livestock protection from exposure and soil protection with improved grazing management. Our industry will benefit massively from this technology once it is fully developed for sheep - Watch this space.

Tom was born and bred into the stud industry, as eldest son of the late John and Ruth Silcock, who established the "Gringelagona" merino stud operating, based on commercial measurement and performance evaluation.

Tom's father represented the wool industry in many positions, providing a wealth of knowledge, as Tom then went on to represent the industry in various leadership roles, locally, state and nationally.

Tom with his wife Alison, after winning the "Victorian Merino Flock Of The Year Competition" and having achieved leading performances in wether trials, founded "The Mountain Dam" fine wool merino stud in Western Victoria.

Tom took on leadership positions in merino genetics, including hosting the first 2 years of the Balmoral Sire Evaluation trials in 1998 & 1999.

Tom then Chaired the Balmoral committee for 10 years and Chaired the national body of AMSEA for an extended 6 years, to help facilitate the establishment of the current MLP trials. Tom manages the Balmoral MLP trial.

Tom is passionate about good farming succession. In his own situation, Tom felt compelled to sell their stud, when he found no other family member shared his passion and it became obvious the stud stood in the way of completing a succession of the farming operation to their son and his family.

Tom is extremely fortunate to have been able to facilitate the sale of his stud to good friends and the enthusiasm of the nearby Close family, who with 3 young sons now

home, operate Kurra Wirra. He was also even more fortunate to be asked to stay involved with the stud as classer and consultant.

Tom in recent years was engaged as stud classer for Lynley Anderson in WA, who is making her mark with Anderson genetics. Tom also continues with some commercial classing and feels privileged to be able to remain engaged in the industry at such an exciting time.

Up until trying to reestablish their stud after big fire losses, Tom always sold sale rams as 2 years olds, with good data on them. With the change to selling rams at 1.5 year old, Tom became very concerned about the industry being misled by immature measurements, used to predict life time performance.

His involvement in MLP has been passionate to discover better evaluation methods. Electronic ear tags, computer programs, improved electronic equipment, DNA utilisation, FAT & EMD evaluation, worm resistance evaluation are just a few of more recent evaluations Tom has witnessed and utilised.



Continued from pg 63

displayed, particularly at the 2019 SE Merino Field Day where his fibre, skin and general makeup was admired by many.

The two sons entered into CC'20 exhibit the same fibre quality as their father, loaded with density, extreme fibre quality on a stretchy carcass. Pictured is the young Reserves class out including the two Classics.

190535: YWT 6.7 YCFW 21.3 YSL 6.9 YEMD 0.0 YFAT 0.0 MP+ 155
SIRE: CALCOOKARA 170400

190243: YWT 7.3 YCFW 20.6 YSL 5.0 YEMD 0.0 YFAT -0.2 MP+ 163
SIRE: CALCOOKARA 170400



Above is the backend of Karawatha Park 191104 that I came across at the KP classing a few weeks ago. The Classic'20 sale was discussed and I'm hoping we've nabbed at least this bloke to ensure Karawatha's re entry into the Classic arena is seamless and successful! With a backend like that...



Craig and Jed Keller's Ramsgate Tintinara S.A. bred the sire that bred Pimbena's 170509 that just recently blitzed the McPiggery Sire Evaluation. Their two possible Classic entries have the potential visually to repeat that effort. These two are both sired by Brookdale 12 and a very similar pair. Ultra elite wools on sound frames with both testing double poll.



Ray and Brad Schroeder's Gunallo Poll have had enormous success in every Classic sale they have entered. I've got a feeling that CC'20 will be no different with another exciting team predominantly bred by two sires - the now famous 140460 and his \$60,000 CC'18 sale topper 170295. Here's the possible team leader for starters.

190464: YWT 6.3 YCFW 29.7 YSL 15.3 YEMD -0.6 YFAT -0.3 MP+ 155 SIRE: GLENLEA PARK 170614



Baderloo - Spalding SA have entered three fine specimens exhibiting all that's required for a fibre/meat package. 190126 will be the meat trait leader at the sale with exceptional figures and a great bit of fibre:

To be continued on pg 80

NANTOURA ON PROPERTY WHARMINDA S.A.

OFFERED 69
SOLD 56
TOP \$4,400
AVERAGE \$2,226

There was a regular station order missing at Nantoura's twelfth On Property which was the only thing that got in the road of an otherwise ripper sale.

I don't know John Sampson from Kimba S.A. but I've got a feeling he know's his stuff after witnessing his purchasing power at the sale including the top price gong of \$4,400 at Lot two and totalling five pickups.

This stretchy poll with an backend like Trumps and bred by stud hero, Leahcim 132009, hit the \$4,400 mark after great bidding competition. He backed this great pickup with another in lot 14 at \$4,200 with similar conformation with YWT 5.7 YFAT 0.3 YCFW 17.0 and bred by Wallaloo Park 160073.

David Newton - Tumby Bay S.A. got the sale off to a safe start with a \$2,800 purchase for a Gunallo 360 bred ripper with a bold crimp that was stamped throughout.

Such is the quality at this joint now you can even drop into Pen 40 and pick up a screaming July drop for \$2,800 with a GFW% 123 & YCFW 16.2 with a grandpa who is L100858!

I'll meet Old Murray one day but assume he's some old bugger who smokes a pipe up Wentworth way where the Murray meets the Darling. This wise fella was good for six pickups on the day and began purchasing at Lot 4 at a whopping \$3,800 for a syndicate bred nourished fibred, GFW% 122, deep bodied hooer!

Lot 9 could have stayed at the stud if it wasn't for a slight blemish but his fibre was second to no other in the sale! Super aligned crimp and a sale high GFW% 136 & YCFW 20.0 this jacket was irresistible!



I liked ol' Murray's Lot 21 purchase with a ripper nourished aligned fibred mongrel at GFW% 127, YCFW 16.0. and bred by WP 160073.

Pretty hard to pick the contender for the Nantoura sponsored two week holiday to the Maldives with beer thrown in but near locals, Carl and Louis Pfitzner - Pfitzner Farming would have to be high on the list due to their solid support with seven buys.

Local, Darrem Millard was great for six, Grantley Telfer - Stokes S.A. for four, John Masters four including the 'Meat Machine' in lot 27 bad by Coddington 4212 for \$1,500. YWT 7.3 YFAT 0.8 YEMD 0.4 with a real-time EMD 40.5!

Three Classings P/L clients supported well with local Wharmindaites Tim and Michelle Ottens outlaying \$3,200 for a Ramsgate 134 bred giant killing, square back ended, stretchy, beautifully fibred poll with YFAT 0.6 YEMD 0.0 YCFW 17.6.

Tim added another with a great Lot 44 July drop procurement for a well fought \$3,400 with more bold elite fibre as to compliment a seriously good commercial flock.

Trevor Gameau - Wanilla S.A. snuck in for a look and latched onto the pen before Tim's for another July drop for a very realistic \$2,000 and bred by Gunallo 360.



The local Hunt family who are new Classings' clients have a flock that is in top order due to diligent accessing of great genetics from this ever ascending stud.

They picked up Lot 13 for a mere \$1,500 yet it was yet another blazing July drop in pen 41 for \$3,200 that was the pick of the two. Nourished and a fibre of alignment, whiteness, extra boldness and staple length combined with GFW%110 YFAT 0.2 YEMD 1.2, this youngster was one of the picks of the day.

Jeff Cromer bought a very good Lot 3 for \$3,000, Luke Fauser - Port Neill S.A. two including Lot 5 for \$2,800 with GFW% 124, Peter Coleman a bloody ripper in lot 7 bred by the Ramsgate sire for a sale near top \$4,400 with fibre plus and a very square butt!

Clinton Charlton and Bangor Props - Port Germein S.A. bought three each with the latter securing the longest fibre in the county in Lot 29 and bred by Coddington 4212.

Anthony and Matt Carr - Lipson S.A. were handy support with two and Cade Hardwick and Koppio Chaff cleaning up with one each.

**O'BRIEN POLL
WUDINNA
SHOWGROUNDS SA
OFFERED 65
SOLD 65
TOP \$7,000
AVERAGE \$2,392**

“Due to a conflicting ‘two sales on the same day’ scenario, I was unable to get to this very successful sale in 2019 so Darren and Jodie O’Brien asked a guest writer to concoct their sale report for this year’s Cullings.”

O’Brien Poll Merino and O’Brien Dohne Merino had a very successful sale in 2019 with almost a doubling of the average prices paid for rams from the 2018 sale. The O’Brien’s approach is the concentration on balancing traits, and a focus on the doing ability traits.

The top priced O’Brien Poll Merino made \$7000, an extremely deep bodied ram with a dash of Dohne sired by Leahcim 142035. He weighed in at 120 kg and 19.9 mic with YWT 8.1; Yfat 0.7; Yemd 1.1; and YCfw 17.1.

The Murphy Family - Warramboos SA also grabbed the second top priced ram at \$5600, a Ridgway Advance 150103 sired son with great figures: weight 108 kg; 18.9 mic; Ywt 6.7; yfat - 0.2; Yemd 0.1; and YCfw 24 with stylish crimping wool to boot. The Murphy’s family third purchase was Lot 5 for \$3800.

Westwood, Wudinna went to \$4200 for Lot 1, the first of two purchases - 118 kg long bodied Leahcim 163041 son with 19.2 mic; Ywt 8.6; Yfat 0.4; Yemd 0.5; and Ycfw 19.5 JH McKenna and Son, adding some merino sires to their excellent Dohne ewe base and went to \$3600 for a heavy cutting GP 160709 son with a dash of Dohne, weighing 113 kg; 19.5 mic; Ywt 7.4; Yfat - 0.1; Yemd 0.2; and Ycfw 26.3. They bought six rams including equal top price O’Brien Dohne Merino for \$3200.

Keeping Go, Koongawa SA went to a top of \$3800 for their impressive lineup of 11 sires, Lot 21 a Leahcim 163041 son at 109 kg; 18.5 mic; with Ywt 7; Yfat - 0.1; Yemd - 0.2; and Ycfw 22.9

New buyer, TE & A Gameau, Wanilla SA picked up two Ridgway Advance 150103 sons to top of \$4200 for Lot 39 a 110kg; mic 16.4; Ywt 6.4; Yfat

0.0; Yemd 0.2; and Ycfw 24.

Beingawa Pty Ltd, Koongwa SA went to \$4200 for Lot 11 for a Ridgway Advance 150103 son with wool cutting ability weighing 100 kg; 20.5 mic; Ywt 4.8; Yfat - 0.4; Yemd 0.7; and Ycfw 30.2.

Omaroo Pastoral, Kyancutta SA went to \$3000 for Lot 6, a half Dohne sired by Ridgway Advance 150103. We purchased a half share back for first use in a bold crimping great shaped young ram 111kg; 19.4 mic; Ywt 6.4; Yfat 0.0; Yemd 0.3; and Ycfw 19.2. Omaroo Pastoral also purchased 10 half Dohne and Dohne sires for their highly fertile mob.

The 2020 sale team consists of rams sired by Brookdale 014012; Westbrook 150065; Kambalie 160162; Ridgway Advance 150103 150003 140005 170415 170423; Ridgway 170443; Ellamatta 170274 and various Dohne sires and half dohne including OB170301

Disappointingly the Dohne breed didn’t go with the same Sheep Genetics analysis as merinos this year (we are promised next year). This will help define how the Dohne and Dohne influenced rams really



fit. We are seeing the raw data as outstanding in some traits.

In 2020, we will be placing more sire selection effort on sires with correct and accurate data into Sheep Genetics. We are finding you can have enough trouble getting progeny to stand up, look right, with bold crimping wool without having to worry about whether they will grow at the pace required, cut enough wool, or have fat or muscle at required ‘to do’ moments. All traits can be accurately measured and selected for using Sheep Genetics.

90% of the 2020 drop have paternal and maternal pedigree. Data collection continues, with lambs being scanned for eye muscle and fat at 8 to 10 months.

Scanning at this age we think is important, as it is closer to commercial selling age. Older fed rams at scanning is made difficult for the scanner to work out where the muscle and fat start in the scan i.e. you know the fatty chop - with a band of fat then a band of meat. Is it counted in the fat or the meat. (might need a scanners comment.)

Measurements including micron, yield, sd, cv, cf and curv on lambs, together with weight measurements at weaning (wwt), post weaning (pwwt), yearling (ywt), hogget (Hwt) and adult (Awt) are all collected and sent to Sheep Genetics.

Other data collected includes: scan and reproduction data (for the last 2 seasons, as I worked out how to record); EBwr EBcov recorded along with Ybwr, Ybcov and scrotal circumference on sale rams.

Also collected this years whole drop was a belly wool length and belly wool creep score while they were upside down in the handler, this made classing in the race a lot easier.

Many studs have been doing this for years its about time the rest of us caught up.

While these animals progeny may or may not perform better than those without accurate data, at least you have confidence that know how their lambs will perform in traits recorded.

**GUNALLO ON
PROPERTY
OFFERED 100
SOLD 96
TOP \$5,200
AVERAGE \$1,975**

It's too easy to plonk a photo of the top priced ram right and centre of any report but I've just generalised here by beginning this report with all things that make Gunallo a much revered stud nationwide.

Photos taken on sale day that personify great carcass attributes including lot one's body attraction that sold to Lorelmo - Walcha NSW for \$2,600 or lot thirteen's fertile, easy care yet masculine head selling to McPiggery - Lameroo for the sale topping \$5,200.

Follow this up with I think the best fibre exhibited at any stud in any state in lot 21 sold to Brophy brothers - Tintinara SA for \$3,200 add a meaty backend.

Add to this, but not photographed, the fact that SuperSire, Gunallo 'Sir Cumference' 150460 dropped 5% of the catalogue including the mentioned three, and it's no surprise that this joint is now influential in all serious merino growing states.

Sir Cumference being that best sire that never quite made it to the Classic sale!

That McPiggery purchase in lot 13 excelled with ASBV figures as well as looking like (the eventual) potential sale topper: Bred by GUN150460 YWT 7.9 YCFW 27.4 YSL 14.8 & MP+ 172.

Two volume buyers and both hailing from Victoria were responsible in purchasing a third of the auction catalogue with Stuart Croft's Delrossie Pastoral - Hamilton Vic. now famous for their 22 ram haul. Didn't mind the lot 6 pickup bred by Gunallo 'Lustre 55' for \$3,600 at 117kg YCFW 20.7 YWT 7.7 & YSL 14.7 with fluid nourishment and visual staple length.

Lyndon and Amy Brewis' Blairgowrie, Willaura Vic. kept the



competition active with their ten purchases including a well figured lot 30 with plenty of production and density reflected by YCFW 25.9 YSL 13.9 116kg at 18.8u 2.6sd 13.8cv & 0.2pf - typical of the Gunallo figures all day long. Their lot 5 pickup at \$2,600 included the highest YCFW of the day at 29.8.

The Kroehn family from Nildottie SA bought well securing six starting at lot 4 for \$3,000 with YCFW 23.3 and bred by Leahcim 2918, the sire of Sir Cumference.

Cejay Dabinett - Parilla SA grabbed a handful of quality as did Clint McArthur - Glencoe Station, Hattah Vic with six to his name by sale completion. Two clients like these with over ten purchases between them are essential items for competition and sale flow sake and are well appreciated.

Murray Bridge (Brinkley) SA support was also vital in the same breath with the Glen Richards/Wayne Schenke tangle securing bloody good poll genetics.

Check the numbers with Glen's first pickup at lot 11 for \$2,200 - YCFW 22.5 YSL 14.0 YWT 7.0 and bred by Ridgway 140721 (x L858). Great stuff considering the outstanding realtimes of 17.9u 2.1sd 11.7cv & 0.2pf!! Those type of objective measurement figures are normally reserved for Lorelmo type genetics - the best measuring fibre in the country! Not easy to get objective figures like this to match any form of fleece weight!

Not to be outdone, Wayne Schenke's - Brinkley S.A.



threesome started at lot 19 for a Ridgway 140721 bred twin with more great numbers: YCFW 21.6 YSL 14.3 YWT 9.3 at 18.5u 2.9sd 15.7cv & 0.2pf - all of this with 111kg!

Craig and Jenny Smith - Yanac Vic. lent great support with five or so as did the Rah Dabinett's Longtrail P/C with about the same quota. Longtrail's pickup at lot 64 for a paddock reared thumping 107kg for \$2,100 also had a CFW of 22.8.

Peter Gilbertson - Lameroo SA always purchases well including lot 14 at \$3,000 for yet another '460' son. YCFW 28.2 YSL 15 & YWT 6.1 and the crimp that only Peter knows how to select, he went on to buy another two.

Peter Kubenk - Tepko SA bought a couple including a ripper lot 76 twin for \$2,400 bred by Ridgway 140721 with all the goods. Good numbers especially the realtime figures of superfine proportions: 17.5u 2.2sd 12.7cv & 0.0 - quality skin breeding at its very best let me tell ya'!

The typical and sometimes new Dodson, Altus, Bennier, Day, Bluffview, Maddern Farms, Langdene Station, Sheldon, Annville, Marrett & Traeger names were of familiar support with their 1-2 ram purchases to help turn this sale into one of the year's best.

The True History and Story of Measurement in the Wool Industry.

by Jim Litchfield

For those who know Hazeldean and my family they will know we are committed performance breeders. We have been using measurement in our sheep breeding program since 1954 and see measurement, advances in genetics and improvements in data processing as a natural 'fit' - a valuable add on and natural progression to enhance traditional selection methods.

What concerns me in this grand old industry of ours is that there is still an old guard of traditional sheep classers and breeders who reject completely the idea of using measurement to aid selection, and their views are now more tightly held than ever.

Part of their argument is based upon mistruths that have circulated our industry for years and go along the lines of 'the scientists and bureaucrats forced the processing industry to adopt sale by objective measurement' and 'since sale by objective measurement started, the quality of the Australian wool clip has deteriorated significantly'.

Closer to the farm gate we are told that using measurement in sheep breeding automatically means you will lose sight of everything else and your sheep will be unable to reproduce or walk around. 'What's the point in having a sheep cutting 7 kilos of 17 micron wool if it can't walk' is a catch cry I have often heard. The logical thought that a sheep who cut this amount of wool would find it difficult to accomplish such a feat if it didn't walk is simply swallowed up and lost in the argument.

With the advent of Sheep Genetics and ASBVs there is now a move towards greater use of objective measurement than ever before but equally it has been met with a steely resolve and contempt from many traditional classers and breeders.

In all my time breeding sheep probably the most illuminating period was the end of the Reserve Price Scheme and the great crash in prices following that event. It was a time of much soul searching and hand wringing but many worthwhile initiatives came from it.

I learnt more about our industry during those few years than ever before and probably since. During those grim years of the early 1990s part of our strategy to climb out of the hole we were in involved buying a half share in a recently established knitwear business and although after 5 years it went the way of many new business startups it was a very educational experience.

We also established direct links with processors, doing our bit to streamline the supply chain. We supported businesses such as Australian Wool Enhancers that were utilising research done by CSIRO to develop a simpler and less costly process of getting wool from the sheeps back to the spinner while guaranteeing the purity of tops produced.

We also sold wool directly to German top maker Bremer Woll Kammerei (BWK) retaining 50% equity in the combing consignment so that we were paid for half of the consignment as greasy and the other half when it was sold as combed tops. The up front greasy payment helped us meet immediate costs (shearing, etc) and then the balance we received later when BWK sold the tops on the spot market.

We thought this was a great system as there was a clear incentive for BWK to get the best possible price and we just did what we were good at - growing wool.

After doing an historical analysis of the greasy market versus the top market there was a clear margin over and above processing and financing costs when selling wool in this way.

I have to mention here an

interesting anecdote. When we sent the raw wool to BWK Geelong we did so using the TEAM (Trials Evaluating Additional Measurement) formula which meant fleeces, apart from ensuring stain was removed, were pressed unskirted and everything baled together, fleece, locks, bellies, pieces.

After processing BWK were very pleased with the standard of the top and complimented me on the quality of the wool consigned. They then asked me to invoice them for 50% of the greasy value as agreed but when they received our bill they phoned me to say there had been an error - the wool consigned was surely all fleece wool and the value I had put on it was too low!

Although I would have been far better off financially to go along with their assumption, I had to tell them the truth - the consignment included bellies, pieces and locks as well and that was the reason for the valuation. They were as astounded that such high quality tops could be produced in this way and proved to me that tradition and lack of accurate information flow was, and still is, a critical problem in our industry.

Like many producers in the late 1980's and early 1990's, we were very concerned the grand old industry might fail however we were not alone and there were hands across the sea from processors such as BWK (top makers) and Sudwolle (spinners) who thought the drop in production (after the collapse in prices) might spell the end.

There were also approaches from clothing manufacturers and retailers who were looking to shore up supply through direct contact with growers committed to staying in the industry. They were looking to ensure ongoing supply commitments and I remember a visit to Hazeldean from the CEO of Johnstons of Elgin - the famous Scottish woollen manufacturers who sell under their own label but also manufacture for high end European brands.

They were the first high end woollen manufacturer I had ever spoken to and presented an opportunity to find out whether the stories I had heard over the years were fact or fiction. At lunch one day I asked the CEO about the impact of sale by objective measurement when it first commenced, particularly on the quality of wool they received.

He thought for a while and recounted the old days before sale by measurement. He said in those days they had wool sorters whose job it was to sort through each fleece and split it into various quality gradings. He remembered one of the best his company employed was completely blind and incredibly good at his job as his loss of sight had made his other senses far more acute.

However he finished by saying that once measurement came in, although initially involving some loss of product quality as they transitioned, the quality of their product became far better than it had ever been. In addition, the need to employ wool sorters was no longer necessary and their overall efficiency and throughput speed was greatly enhanced.

On a visit to Italy and Germany shortly afterwards I asked the same questions of the businessmen who ran spinning mills and top making plants and again their answers were the same. Indeed, one said categorically it was not the wool growing industry that pushed for sale by measurement - it was the processing industry.

Measurement gave them more certainty and more uniformity so that they could run their modern machinery at higher speeds and reduce down time significantly.

One of the benefits of a family occupying the same house for many years is the collection of various wool industry publications amassed over the years and the other day I came across a copy of the Australian Sheep Classers Association Convention Proceedings, Dubbo, 1969.

It makes very interesting reading

and although there was clearly some scepticism of scientists by sheep classers even then, the organizers were very far sighted and progressive and included many scientists in the list of speakers at that event. At that stage, wool was still being sold by visual appraisal and although testing for fibre diameter and yield was widespread, it was done post sale – not pre sale.

The then Australian Wool Board was unsupportive of sale using 'Scientific Measurement' and stated that any uptake should be delayed however the processing industry was marching on and AWTA was testing 1 million bales per annum, with somewhere near a further million tested elsewhere. All done post sale before processing. In other words wool was tested following a request by the wool processor and arranged by the wool buyer after the sale, not before the sale, as is now the case.

Finally the AWB relented and sale-by-sample was introduced as an optional marketing method for the 1972-73 season. As they say, the rest is history and now virtually all wool is sold with full measurement details.

Woolgrowers now receive test results and an appraisal of value from their broker based on measurement. These include fibre diameter, coefficient of variation of fibre diameter, yield, staple length, staple strength and of course weight.

There is little argument among woolgrowers that these test results form the fundamental basis of the valuation they receive and ultimately the price paid for their wool. It therefore begs the question why you wouldn't use the same information to help select the rams you buy?

The wool industry changed dramatically in the 20th Century and back in 1969 the bogeyman was synthetic fibres. Synthetic fibres could be produced with accurate and exact specifications and were produced and marketed

as a measured fibre. This was the world wool was dealing with and for wool to remain competitive processors had to do away with costly labour and lengthy preparation time.

Wool sorters had to be abandoned regardless of how good they were at their job. Wool processors demanded that wool be able to cope with the vastly increased speeds of their modern spinning machines and measurement was able to deliver far more precise results and less downtime than the old count system where differences of up to 5 microns were often discovered in wool sale lots of the same count or quality number.

The wool industry, both on the production side and the processing side, has benefited enormously from the introduction of measurement but it still has some way to go to utilize the full benefits of this technology as well as modern genetic knowledge, molecular science, modern data analysis and data processing and the boost all these bring to the breeding of superior animals. There will always be the critics, the ones that say that measurement is irrelevant because sheep change with age and in some instances re-rank.

These statements are true but regardless of the method used to assess sheep, growers and classers have to deal with these anomalies irrespective of whether they use measurement or not.

Traditional classing and common sense will always have a place in our industry and it is a shame that those who see developments such as ASBVs as threats to the industry, their livelihood or both and not as an opportunity to use more information to make better decisions and develop and promote the breeding of better sheep into the future.

"I bumped into Jim at the Keith Bakery during the classing season in 2019 after not sighting each other for possible twenty years. I classed the Hazeldean flock during the Litchfield family's tenure with properties at Burra and Booborowie S.A. for around ten years at a guess.

The early infusions of the Hazeledean genetics across our drier, flatter skins particularly in our Mallee was an integral step in the quality development in many flocks. The genetic was and still is the heaviest cutting on a rolling average due to their breeding diligence and successful trial work in all states.

Jim was keen to add a piece to Cullings'20 after CC'19 was thrust into his hand amongst a coffee, and a quick yack that was no where near long enough.

The accompanying photo was sent by Jim and I think was taken in the late nineties before I started dying my hair grey..."



Continued from pg 74
 190126: WWT 5.5 PWT 7.2 YWT 10.8 YCFW 21.2 YSL 18.1 YEMD 3.0 YFAT 1.3 DP+ 155.

After a very successful Classic'19 campaign, the Classings Classic team for 2020 is an even better look with a twelve member outfit of huge depth from Ridgway -



Lameroo S.A.
 Seven of the twelve are bred by Gunallo 170295, the \$60,000 Classic'18 sale topper that's breeding very well over three states. Ridgway are a large semen share of this sire and were runner up bidders to Superior Wool Syndicate on that day. I like 190121 but the whole team have a lot to enjoy. 190197 for example has the extreme gear on his back with

190121 YWT 8.8 YCFW 34.4 ACFW 32.9 YSL 13.5 & MP+ 158.

Classings Classic'20 welcomes back White River with a thumping, plain bodied 143kg poll, WR 91087. Huge body length, upright pasterns, fertile head with no burr/seed attracting showy bonnet, 1087's presence is addictive on inspection last Friday.

WR 91087 DOB April 23rd 2019
 SIRE: WR881 By Moorundie NE8 - DAM: JC&S PREMIER 102
 Daughter - Premier 102 was sired by Glenlea Park 004.
 20.5u, 2.9 SD, 14.1 CV, 99.5 CF
 Body weight of 143 kg as at 7/7/20. WR 91087 carries the Double Poll gene.



To be continued on pg 84



It's been a true test for wool's resistance to drought and subsequent dust over at least the last two to three years in some parts of most states. The Laboratory has taught us a lot on just how important crimp definition and it's tie with fluid nourishment is from skins that are well setup to breed it.

The samples pictured above are from the same age group of young rams feeding in the same paddock since weaning/shearing from SA's West Coast. There's a 12% difference of yield between the two with the flat, thick skinned dust sucker at right sitting at 47%. The bold crimper at left at 59% and loaded with staple length and correct nourishment can only be a flock improver for so many reasons.

We see this too often to be a coincidence and add to that with current Sire Evaluation results suggesting that crimp really counts, it's a no brainer to sway toward these types massively when making joining decisions on both the sire and dam side of things.

My father Don Walker began our Lab operations in 1972 and found out way back then that big bold crimpers of 58's count could actually test 22u! This altered the way he classed successfully for thirty years.

Jim Watts reinvented the understandings of skin biology and made it comprehensible that that same 22u look could actually be 'bred' down into the sub 20u's with extra staple length, super alignment from a thinner supple skin without initially any compromise with fleece weight.

By selecting for bold crimp of low micron and SD in a combination with a balanced approach to weight gain, eye, fat and ASBV's without extremes, everything falls into place including the ability to shear twice yearly, increased fertility and extra lambs that can avoid the mulesing cradle. Add to this, that yield improvement and I'll see you in Candidasa twice yearly such will be the extra income to make it happen!

Caroonboon Merinos

First Sale Ram for Caroonboon Merinos sold at auction achieves the second top price of \$18,000 at Classings Classic 2019 Murray Bridge SA.

There was unbridled excitement for the Pye family, with their Caroonboon James 1395 ram, the last lot of the day achieving the second top price of \$18,000 at the 2019 Classings Classic. The ram was their first time entry into the Classings Classic sale being their first merino stud ram up for auction since purchasing the Caroonboon Merino Stud back in 2018.

A week later they held their first Caroonboon Merino Stud on property ram sale offering 75 rams. 71 rams were purchased with a top price of \$2,750 and a average of \$1,485. With rural Australia looking to rebuild sheep numbers the demand for rams continued well into 2020 and supply has now been exhausted.

The Pye family purchased the 150 year old Caroonboon Merino Stud west of Wanganella in NSW from Jim Dickson. The Stud had been under the careful direction of the Dickson family since it was first founded in 1870 by J & J Dickson, with a selection of Groongal ewes from Carathool. The ewes were then mated with rams from the Scone Stud in Tasmania.

Recent bloodlines have been introduced by ram purchases and annual AI programs. Purchases have been from Terrick West in 2017 for \$15,000 & a Ridgeway Advance ram for \$10,000 in 2016. AI programs have included use of semen from Willandra Impact 18 and in 2019 Caroonboon James 1395 and the Poll Boonoke 160536.

The Caroonboon sheep are known for their size, early maturity,

fertility and wool quality.

When Jim Dickson first approached the Pye family offering the stud for sale, Margie Pye said that it was an opportunity too good to be refused. It was only fitting to bring the stud back home to its birth place.

Caroonboon Station, was purchased by her late husband Bill Pye in August 2014 to work in partnership with their mixed farming property Calga Station west of Coonamble in northern NSW. A Dohne stud and a commercial Dohne enterprise has also been run for the last 18 years, in conjunction with the broad acre farming operation.

The stud maximises their foothold in the Riverina where they run a commercial Dohne

flock along with the now Merino stud operation. The Merino stud capitalises on the clients that are after wool cut.

The Pye family have retained the services of Jim Dickson as Studmaster and classer Ian Lilburne. Both Jim and Ian spent time as jackaroos on Uardry in their early years and were fortunate to learn from Tom Lilburne OAM (Ian's father) the Uardry classer for many years.

Margie, Georgie and Sandy Pye in conjunction with the classing team and staff look forward to presenting display rams at Deniliquin Expo and Henty Field days. We welcome you to our 2nd on property sale. Morning tea along with refreshments will be available on the day.



Darren O'Brien of O'Brien Poll Merinos SA was the successful purchaser of Caroonboon James 1395 for \$18,000. He is pictured with Caroonboon Station manager John Stephens. At the

time of his shearing Caroonboon James cut 9 kgs of wool at 7 months growth. His fleece was very even throughout his frame microning at 19.8, Comfort Factor of 99.7 and a CV of 12.1.

ESPERANCE RAM SALE inc. PENROSE POLL WESTWOOD POLL. ESPERANCE SHOWGROUNDS W.A.

Something has to change if this sale is going to exist down the track - It should and could be so much better!

I had a chance to witness the Esperance Ram Sale after a window of opportunity arose amongst a thick schedule the week after Classic'19. I'm so glad it worked that way as I now understand why even the best polls only make a meagre \$2,000 - \$2,500 tops!

Picture a wide variety of 272 Merinos blended under the same roof with 62 Dohne's and White Suffolks - all at two to a small pen with straw up to their bellies and an auctioneers pen rail hovering above that often conceals one of them!

I'm proud of the quality that exists at 'our' two Esperance studs - Westwood Poll & Penrose Poll and we've all worked hard to create a product that rates as well as the best of our stud equivalents in South Australia.

That quality deserves a sale arena that rewards that same product, which is crafted often via serious A.I./E.T programs and poll rams sourced from leading studs from two states often at great expense.

Add to that the extra information that now exists to update the potential purchaser with current ASBV's along with the 'realtime' figures that have always been on hand. Sheep Genetics and the constant runs of generated ASBV's is no cheap exercise as every inputted animal is another expense to the stud.

DNA testing for pedigree and Poll/Horn factor is all costly to the stud and is provided now by most progressive enterprises. Not only is this info used for their own genetic decision making but also as another criteria to be used by any potential customer. Once again at big cost.



And how about a catalogue with no information except for the stud name and owner's details! If it wasn't for the stud's pen cards above the pen with any relevant numbers, too bad!

I'm actually pissed off writing this as this day still haunts me yet I'm surprised no one else flinches when I bring it up - crikey I'm not even 60 yet!

There were naturally some great animals in the room and I thank the Pengilly's and Welke's for that relief!

Westwood Poll got their group rolling at Pen 91/Lot 177 with Tag 173 (you have to write that tag number in yourself.)

The lead ram was a ripper and bred by the safe, balanced big cutting Wallaloo Park sire 140245 (sold at Wallaloo Park On Property'15 for \$22,000 to Frankland River Grazing W.A.)

Ramsgate - Tintinara S.A. were the lucky recipients of this square backed, long bodied, boldy with YCFW 18.0 YSL 13.6 YEMD

1.0 YFAT 0.7 and selling for \$2,100. I added another 140245 son to their list such was the over realistic pricing of the first! He was fourth in the Westwood lineup and was a replica of the first visually.

YCFW 24.0 YSL 16.8 YEMD 0.4 YFAT 0.2, silky density and \$2,900, the Kellers ended up with two potential sires for \$5,000 total. Both rams were double polled.

Two local Classing clients also featured in accessing some of the best genetics in W.A. without competing too hard for ripper polls.

Mark and Liv Walter - Cascade W.A. bought well with two great purchases early in the lineup at \$2,000 and \$2,200 followed by another four. Leigh and Karina West were good for three at \$2,000, \$2,100 and one later in the sale at a bargain, everyone else sleeping, \$600!

The WP sire was prodigious in producing polls in the lineup that exhibited supple skins that

just oozed with bold crimped style and softness with staple length backed up with very good ASBV's.

I bought the third in the lineup bred by that same hero for Karabein - Goomalling W.A., a young stud finding it's feet and owned by Daniel Dempster. Good ASBV's essential here as to compliment the Brookdale stud dispersal ewes he had bought a few years previous. YCFW 31.0 YSL 16.1 0.3 YEMD & YFAT 0.2 did the trick combined with the slick skin and bold lustrous fibre it pushed out!

EPASCO's new manager Nick Ruddenklau has always admired the quality and ever building numbers at Westwood and is keen to reboot that flock into a new stratosphere particularly in the area of growth and fertility of which Westwood is somewhat renowned! He bought a beauty for \$2,300, another WP 140245, with YCFW 32.0 YSL 15.4 & YWT 5.1 and an earlier bargain at \$1,000. Had it not been for a blemish on the moosh of one of these, he would have been a stud reserve!

Bob Reid 3, Peter Pearsey 4, Alistair McIntyre 6, and the Welch family 4, all leant support in making the Westwood sale a reasonable success with all thirty offered sold.

I thank the Pengilly family's **Penrose Poll** for filling their pens with a classy looking team as to brighten the place up a bit!

It wasn't hard or expensive to purchase their sale topper at \$2,400 for Stuart and Nancy Everett's Lone Gum Poll - Crystal Brook S.A. He was bred by the Penrose purchased, Leahcim 173725, with the fine stats of YCFW 22.0 YWT 7.8 YFAT 0.1 & YEMD 0.6. This poll exhibited tremendous conformation to support one of the best wools in the shed and like many of the Penrose team, a bold lustre seriously lacking in many of today's 'meat merinos.'

Leigh and Karina West - Gibson W.A. are great supporters of both

Westwood and Penrose studs and bought two goodies up to \$1,700. That bloke had a YCFW 16.6 YWT 8.7 YFAT 0.3 & YEMD 1.4.

Mark Walter - Cascade W.A. gain supports both studs and again bought two to top out at \$1,900 with that well structured ripper showing YCFW 18.5 YWT 5.8 YFAT 0.4 & YEMD 0.4.

New Classing's client Paul Letto - Scadden W.A. was too valuable not to mention with his eight ram haul up to \$1,800 for a Leahcim 3252 son.

I bought two for Butch and Jodie Dunn - Penong S.A. including an absolute Monty in Lot 218 for \$1,800 and bred by WR 558 that topped Classic'17 at \$21,000.

Peter Piercey with three to

\$1,200, The Leske's with two at \$600, John Bruechle 2 to \$700, Ian Sassella 2 @ \$900, and Josh Sullivan, Oakmarsh Farm and Esperance School Farm with single purchases helped kept the Penrose sale flowing.

Pen Lot	TAG	PURCHASER
11	17	
11	18	
12	19	
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PENROSE 2020 REPORT

Like others across our nation, 2019 proved to be a very trying year! A dry start saw local ewe numbers fall leading to a reduced clearance at the ram sale. 2020 has not started any kinder, with no water runoff over summer leading to even more ewes leaving the area.

We have been fortunate though thanks to our recent breeding objectives and a management style incorporating dry feed management, meaning that our sheep have been able to stand up to the challenge.

6 years ago we chose to slowly add some fat and eye muscle into our genetics in the hope of increasing our ewes ability to maintain her health through joining and be able to support herself and lambs through winter. Supported by a supplementary feeding regime based on lifetime ewe management protocols maintaining condition score, saw our resulting marking percentage increase in 2020, to 106% of ewes joined.

Usually when you add fat or muscle, wool cut would decrease. With careful CFW selection, we have managed to keep our flock averaging 5kg in an 8 month shearing cycle, whilst pumping out a minimum of 10mm per month with our best genetics superseding this.

Turbulence in our local export market, lead to our choice to focus on early growth as our 3rd breeding objective. This allowed us to start breeding a lamb that could be weaned at 7 months into any market in a poor year, or be held over for another yearling shearing if the season permits in a good year.

2011 was the year we chose to focus on biosecurity and started our national MAP accreditation and vaccination program. Making our flock one of the few in WA able to sell accredited MN 3 vaccinated breeding stock.

As times continued to change, so did practices and long term breeding goals and astute classing (by you know who) allowed us to successfully cease the mulesing of rams in 2018. They were shortly followed by our ewes in 2019 marking the beginnings of our

unmulesed flock.

Continued genetic progress and success of breeding objectives have been monitored by software programs and technology, to trace pedigree and more recently DNA data creating a very powerful source of in flock information.

WESTWOOD POLL DIRECTIONS:

1. Full pedigree into the 3rd year with DNA taken of all dams and progeny. Seeing fantastic linkage and consequent ASBV's from having a known dam.
2. Leahcim 182185 purchased from Classic'19 for \$12,000 will have a big impact I feel going forward and will feature well in the 2021 sale team.
3. 2020 sale team consists of Leahcim 152775, Gunallo 170295 sons and sons of proven sire Wallaloo Park 150245. They will be the pick of the drop. Looking forward to nice drop of rain. Soon hopefully.....



Continued from pg 80
After a comprehensive, many traits leading exercise with new cult hero, **Pimbena 170509** at the SA Sire Evaluation Trial this year, a shot of the master breeder, Les Hamence, is warranted!

The Pimbena team this year has never been matched for quality or depth.

The two Classic'20 selections share something unique - the same mother and born naturally from a paddock joining!

The twins mother, 140124 (YWT 11.7 YCFW 18.0 YSL 13.0 MP+ 151) was bred by A.I. to that SuperSire Leahcim 100858. She too has mass appeal due to some sensational progeny outcomes since 2016 but this takes the cake Wazza!

The twins exude quality silky skins with safe density, nourishment and staple length. PIMB 190371: YWT 9.4 YCFW 23.0 YSL 12.0 MP+ 161 SIRE HYNAM POLL 170889

PIMB 190379: YWT 9.2 YCFW 24.0 YSL 13.0 MP+ 162 SIRE HYNAM POLL 170889

Big bucks for genetics ain't always the standard as the **Hynam Poll** sire was picked up by Les whilst many were snoozing at Classic'18 for ...\$3,000!!

A PUB YACK WITH STEVE WHILLAS...



I've been visiting growers on farm around my back yard of the Eyre Peninsula for over 20 years and I still run into new and interesting characters. The last few years have been challenging for most in the Ag sector with drought, frost and financial hardship prevalent in most districts.

Through Tony at the Wudinna Hotel, I was introduced to Bill Walker, who is as passionate about the sheep industry as I am about the grain industry. We cross over numerous clients and share similar passions including Ag in South Australia, travelling when we can, and music – he can play, I can't. He asked me what I had been up to...

Well, in 2019 the EPIC Charitable Trust teamed with Mentally Fit EP and worked to raise over \$200,000 to bale and deliver over 6,000 bales of straw to the EP drought-stricken farmers. With the remaining funds we held two community events; one in Cowell and the other in Streaky Bay. The events included Sam Keckovich (The Lamb Man) as the guest entertainer, and a strong focus around wellbeing and positive mental health.

One might query why EPIC Grain Brokers would do so much for the livestock industry when our

own business was struggling with a lack of SA grain tonnage. Remember the saying, "happy wife, happy life." I believe in a strong agricultural sector. One that supports all local businesses in our community, that fosters strong sporting environments and creates healthy, happy families. From that, we all benefit.

The growers that managed to hold onto their stock throughout the drought, have seen wool prices at great levels, meat at record to decile 9 pricing, and a huge restocking market paying good money for stock to be relocated to Mid-Upper North, Kangaroo Island and NSW as they look to rebuild. Again, the grain outlook for the EP is 50/50 at this point, with large areas remaining dry.

Twelve months later, while on my late seeding run around after the COVID lockdown period, I ran into Bill again at the Wudinna Hotel. We chatted again about what we both had been up to and discovered we had another similar connection - Kangaroo Island.

My involvement with KI stems from their recent bushfires. I have been quietly supporting drought affected farmers through a role I have with PIRSA, based around Family and Business support. After Fire Support and Recovery was added to my role, I spent 28 days over January and February on Kangaroo Island assisting those affected.

My experience around farm rebuilds comes from the Wangary bushfires 13 years ago. It's a long way backwards when your family home, records, photos, equipment and stock are all burnt with little insurance. I probably would still be a farmer today if it wasn't for the Wangary fire.

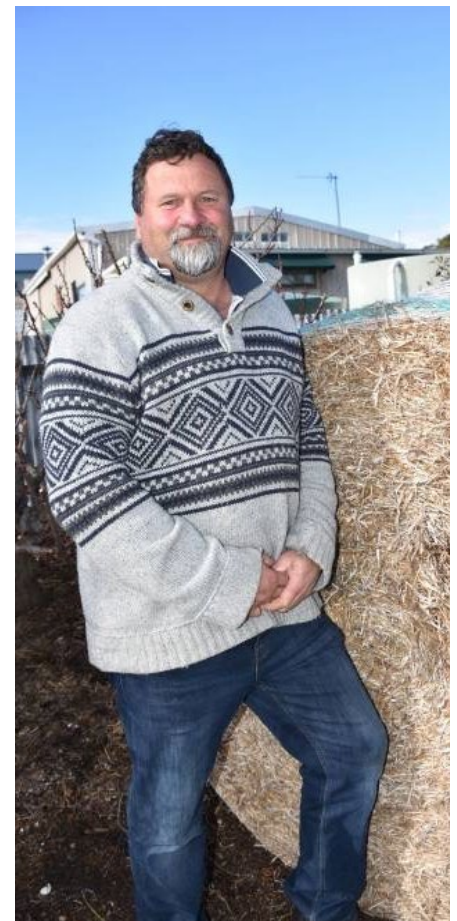
Through my school of experience, I get to share stories and support people doing it tough through the agriculture sector. Whilst it is a challenge, I find it so rewarding and I've found that people can only

appreciate all the good and positive things in life if they have experienced some negative ones too.

The COVID experience hasn't hugely affected those in Ag as much as our city folk, except for KI where volunteers were stopped. Drought, bushfires and COVID is probably the most challenged we have all been in this state. However, due to food security, the Ag sector is now probably one of the safest and best industries in the world to be in. Sure, we will have weather and price fluctuations, but we will be valued higher as an industry now and into the future.

Remain positive and we will all get through this together.

Steve Whillas





Our youngest, Sam is close to completing a house renno in Murray Bridge and we're chuffed again that he and his great girl Leah have chosen to purchase the joint and hang around locally. Mama happy and so is this author!



Classings Laboratory marches on into another year with Rose now taking a slight back step and devoting more of her time after 35 years toward her great passion, Ceramics. Her energy, devotion and skill required in running this facility for so long is admirable amongst other accolades!

We welcome Bec Hughes from the Adelaide Hills as our Lab assistant. Bec (then Pym) spent a week of work experience with us eighteen years ago and she's a welcome sight another eighteen years on considering the huge influx of samples this year. I have been classing her family's flock for a number of years near Mt.Torrens.

With the huge push for accuracies with ASBV's, many studs are now testing all of their ewes as to build up extra data to add to existing pedigree information.

The Classic'20 sale as advertised throughout this publication will be held at the brand new Murray bridge Racing Club - 342 Brinkley Rd.

With the possible non attendance of Victorian/NSW studs it was great timing that we are including new entrants from Eyre Peninsula this year including Pimbena, Nantoura, Calcookara and Karawatha Park.

On the Western Australian front, Westwood Poll is a chance along with definites, Challara and a welcome return to Penrose.

Lone Gum - Crystal Brook S.A. will be a welcome return after a decade absence.

I'll reserve discussions regarding the OJD law relaxant and subsequent ovine pandemic to online chatter as this edition could have been another twenty pages longer should it have been discussed!

Let's hope the latter part of the year and into 2021 is better than what the world is experiencing right now and that we can restart with a healthier economy and a healthier wool market.



LAST SAY.....

Rose and I now have a Grandchild and we couldn't be more chuffed thanks to the good work of our eldest Jesse and his great girl Meggie who live in Peregian Beach Q.



Flossy (Florence Rose) was born on February 6th and all of the crew are doing well.

We were lucky to see them on a recent visit.



18TH ON PROPERTY RAM SALE

Friday 21st August 2020



SALE LIVE ON AUCTIONS PLUS
INSPECTION 11AM . AUCTION 2PM



120 RAMS

brucellosis free
ojd vaccinated

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POLL MERINO STUD
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On-Property Ram Sale

WEDNESDAY 12th AUGUST 2020

Ram Inspections Welcome Sale at 1.00 pm (SA time) Rams penned by 9.30

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