

AUTUMN/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2003



KOONWARRA DIRECTORY

Koonwarra Merino Stud
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THE TEAM

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Charles Curran*

*Stud Manager -
Ben Lane*

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*Stud Classer -
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*Narruc Investments Pty.
Limited - ACN 000 137 379*

KOONWARRA OBJECTIVES

Koonwarra stud manager, Ben Lane, and the Curran Family remain committed to the ongoing success of the Koonwarra Merino Stud. To ensure we continue to supply top genetics and provide a high level of client service, our objectives for the coming year will be:

- * Uphold and improve the quality of the Koonwarra flock
- * Conduct our on-property ram sale
- * Assist and advise clients on ram selection
- * Continue our client visit program
- * Maintain current vaccination programs
- * Continue pasture improvement programs
- * Compete in the showing in 2004
- * Continue to contribute to the development of the Merino industry

We encourage visitors and clients to contact Ben and call in for an inspection of the stud sheep and Narruc Investment properties. Ben can be contacted at the office on (02) 6344 2788 or mobile 0427 206 239.



*Stud Classer, Stuart Hodgson and Stud Manager, Ben Lane inspect
the 2003 Koonwarra sale rams.*

**Next On-Property Ram Sale, Friday 17th October 2003,
120 selected vaccinated Fine/Fine Medium Merino Rams**

A MESSAGE FROM KOONWARRA
STUD PRINCIPAL CHARLES CURRAN

Koonwarra, under the guidance of former manager Rob Stein and stud classer Stuart Hodgson, has continued over the past 12-months with its artificial insemination upgrade program, to further enhance the wool quality and frame size of the flock.



*Charles Curran, AO, LL.B, FCPA -
Koonwarra Stud Principal*

The stud will continue to develop these genetics and continue on with its AI programs under the new manager Ben Lane, who we welcome back to Koonwarra. Narruc Investments recently purchased two new properties in the Canowindra district totalling 1500 acres. A substantial irrigation area allows the stud to provide first class nutrition for the stock during all seasons. The new properties also provide excellent paddocks for growing out young sheep.

There is no clear evidence that Koonwarra has any incidence of Ovine Johnes Disease. The inflexible rules of the OJD management program have imposed extraordinary restrictions on Koonwarra's ability to trade. However, I am confident industry will demand an appropriate response to this issue and allow free trade of its vaccinated sheep within the industry, in the near future. To allow our clients continued use of Koonwarra genetics during this time, we offered free semen packages, which a number of clients have accepted for their breeding programs, until Koonwarra is able to trade without restrictions. Koonwarra has vaccinated all the 2002 drop lambs with the Gudair vaccine and will be in a position to offer vaccinated rams at the annual on-property sale in October.

KOONWARRA APPOINTS
NEW MANAGER

AFTER recently completing his studies at Marcus Oldham College at Geelong, former Koonwarra overseer Ben Lane has returned to the Canowindra-based stud to take over the reigns as manager.

Ben, 25, was employed as Koonwarra stud overseer from June 2000 to October 2001, when he left to pursue a Diploma in Agribusiness as a winner of the Marcus Oldham Federation Award scholarship.

Well-known in Merino circles, Ben grew up on his family's property "Erinvale," Milbrulong and completed his secondary education at St Patrick's College, Goulburn.

Upon the completion of his Higher School Certificate, Ben commenced his career as a jackeroo at Uardry Merino stud at Hay in January 1997. He was later promoted to overseer before leaving the stud to take up the Koonwarra overseer appointment in 2000.

Following his graduation from Marcus Oldham in December last year, Ben was contracted to Australian Wool Innovation in Sydney for three months, where he was able to further enhance his knowledge of the industry.

He takes over as manager of Koonwarra from Robert Stein, who has been appointed manager of Twynam's Mungadal property, Hay.



*Ben Lane - Koonwarra
Stud Manager*



*Pictured are a selection of the 2003 Koonwarra sale rams.
The rams are showing plenty of stretch and growth for age.
Stud Classer, Stuart Hodgson was particularly impressed with the stylish
wools the young rams exhibited.*

26TH ANNUAL ON PROPERTY RAM SALE - 17TH OCTOBER, 2003

**RODNEY PEGGLER
WOOL MARKETING SPECIALIST
WESFARMERS LANDMARK**



Koonwarra sheep are a classic 20-21 micron, typically grown in the Canowindra district.

The current Koonwarra woolclip has been outstanding for its staple length and high tensile strength, as well as being stylish and well grown,

particularly given the seasonal conditions of the past 12 to 18 months.

Koonwarra bloodlines are most suited to the Tablelands and Slopes and Plains districts of New South Wales and Victoria, evidenced by the outstanding results that their clients consistently achieve in the marketplace.

Past experiences have highlighted Koonwarra wool's ability to resist weather damage in the most extreme conditions.

This all goes hand-in-hand with their capacity to combat dust penetration through the trying periods we have experienced.

Koonwarra's micron category has been returning high cents per kilogram results, coupled with the ability to cut heavy weights, resulting in top returns for their clients.

**CLIENT FOCUS
Mr Viv Press, "Illawong", Bathurst**

Mr Press, who has been a Koonwarra client for more than 30 years, resides in a 10" rainfall area, which records temperatures as low as -6 degrees celcius in Winter. His flock average has come back one micron over a period of eight years, without any fleece weight loss, to 20.5-micron. Weaners have an average of 17.5 to 18-micron. Lambing percentage is 85% average, but higher in the older ewes. He said because of the size, he receives top dollar for his CFA ewes and culls at the saleyards. His flock has done reasonably well throughout the dry season with minimal supplementary feeding. The weaners are on a diet of oats, lupins, lime and salt in trough feeding and are supplemented with lucerne/clover hay. Mr Press said he was very happy with Koonwarra genetics and this is demonstrated by his annual purchase of Koonwarra rams over a period of 30 years.

UPGRADE PROGRAM

The Koonwarra Upgrade Program will be retained for the 2003 On Property Sale. Once the buyers ram tally has reached 5 rams at the bid price, all other rams purchased attract a 10% rebate on the purchase price. The program has been implemented by Koonwarra to assist clients who have a greater need for quality rams at this time, with our objective being to assist our clients in obtaining the number of rams they require.

**KOONWARRA ON THE
WORLD WIDE WEB**



The Koonwarra website is one of the most comprehensive within the stud sheep industry and can be viewed at - www.koonwarrastud.com.au

Koonwarra Merino Stud joined the World Wide Web, with an official launch of their website at the Novotel, Homebush Bay during the 2002 Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Close to 50 Koonwarra clients and industry representatives joined the Curran family in what was described as a great night out prior to the opening of the show.

The stud has come a long way since its foundation in 1947 by John Williams, with its history dating back as early as 1908.

Four generations of the William's family successfully developed the stud up to 1998, when it was purchased in its entirety by Charles Curran's Narruc Investments, and relocated to Noojee Lea, Canowindra.

The Koonwarra stud sheep have been at the forefront of fine/fine medium wool genetics for several decades, having won major championships and awards at all major shows in the Eastern States.



Koonwarra client, Viv Press of Bathurst and Koonwarra stud advisor John Bensley, look over the stud's new brochure at the Koonwarra website launch in Sydney.

Stud Principal Charles Curran said, "Our success as a stud can only be measured through the success of our clients."

"For this reason, it is important for us to maintain active communication with our clients, through our newsletters, through fax and email, through meeting clients at shows, through client visits to Koonwarra Merino Stud and through our visits to the properties of clients.

"Now we are expanding our capacity to communicate with clients by the launch of our website."

The website details the stud's history, commercial, stud and semen sires, management, about us, on-property sales, newsletters, show success and breeding objectives.

Constructed by Pagation Services, the website will be continually updated to include all further developments of the stud.

One of the most comprehensive websites within the sheep industry, it can be viewed at

www.koonwarrastud.com.au



Libby and Stuart Hodgson, Kevin Coves, Wesfarmers Landmark Stud Stock and Charles Curran get together at the Koonwarra Merino Stud website launch.



John McLaren, NSW Stud Merino Breeders Association President and Eva Curran are pictured at the Koonwarra Website launch.

STUD CLASSER TAKES UP WORLD CUP ROLE



*Stuart Hodgson
Koonwarra Stud Classer*

Koonwarra stud classer and Wesfarmers Landmark Merino specialist Stuart Hodgson is gearing up for the opportunity of a lifetime.

Equally at home on the rugby field as he is in the sheep paddock, Stuart will cut short his sheep classing duties to take up a position as liaison officer with the New Zealand All Blacks rugby union side during the 2003 World Cup. Stuart, who is a former president of Riverina Rugby Union and board member of New South Wales Country Rugby, was appointed to the position by the Australian Rugby side and takes up the position in early October and, depending on how the All Blacks fare, will finish up after the final series during the latter part of November.

Securing the position through his association with All Blacks assistant coaches Robbie Deans and Richard Loe, Stuart says he is looking forward to the challenge of working with one of the world's best sporting teams. Initially he decided against the offer due to his work commitments, however, after a rethink he has accepted the once in a lifetime offer.

The position will involve dealing with problems that occur as well as helping out with the day-to-day running of the side. His duties during the World Cup will include organising bus transfers, booking ovals for training and fielding media enquiries.

Stuart will be based in Melbourne with the All Blacks, both in the lead up and during the World Cup.

KOONWARRA CLIENT SERVICES

- * Sheep Classing services
- * An extensive semen directory
- * Advice and assistance on ram selection
- * Management and advice on breeding
- * Hay - various grades at attractive prices

We also receive constant enquiry for our bloodline, so if you have pure bred CFA stock for sale please contact the stud

AN INVITATION FROM KOONWARRA

We welcome all clients and interested breeders on property to discuss your breeding objectives with the Koonwarra team, or to inspect the rams at the KOONWARRA ON PROPERTY RAM SALE, Friday 17th October, 2003, at Noojee Lea, Canowindra. We would also be pleased to arrange an inspection of other facets of our stud operation or the sheep of your choice.

SELECTED and FLOCK RAMS are available from Tuesday 21st October 2003. (all vaccinated)
All grades to suit your Stud or Flock requirements
All rams presented with current fleece test results
Free Delivery to most areas
Semen is available from leading Sires. Please contact us for details.

HEALTH REPORT

There is no clear evidence Koonwarra has any incidences of Ovine Johnes Disease.

The stud has taken all precautions to ensure it minimises disease risk, including vaccination, use of semen and testing for brucellosis and footrot.

At no stage has Koonwarra had any losses that could be attributed to OJD.

The inflexible rules of the OJD management program have imposed extraordinary restrictions on Koonwarra's ability to trade. However, we are confident that industry will demand an appropriate response to this issue and allow free trade of its vaccinated sheep within the industry, in the near future.

To allow our clients continued use of Koonwarra genetics until the stud is once again able to trade without restrictions, we offered free semen packages, which were accepted by a number of clients to use in their breeding programs over the past 12-months.

Koonwarra has vaccinated all the 2002-drop lambs with the Gudair vaccine and will be in a position to offer vaccinated rams at our annual on-property sale in October.

We remain committed to the on-going success of Koonwarra Merino Stud and will continue to supply top genetics and provide a high level of client service.

TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE THE TOP OF THE DROP THAT KOONWARRA HAS TO OFFER
KOONWARRA ON PROPERTY RAM SALE, Friday 17th October 2003

Offering: 120 selected rams, July 2002 drop, April Shorn, in single pens in the Koonwarra selling complex at Noojee Lea.
Sale commences 1pm sharp. Presale inspection by appointment or from 9am on day of sale
All enquiries to Stud Manager Ben Lane, Phone (02) 6344 2788 or AH (02) 6344 2344.