

# NEWSLETTER WINTER 2017



## STUD OWNER C.T. MERRIMAN & SON | STUD PRINCIPAL, MANAGER & CLASSER JONO MERRIMAN

**Jono, Anna, Digby and Toby Merriman have great pleasure welcoming clients, friends and interested merino breeders to Little Range, Boorowa each year in September to inspect their Koonwarra Merino Stud sheep.**

We sincerely thank all buyers and under bidders who supported Koonwarra Merino Stud last year at it's 39th Annual Unhoused Ram Sale on 21st September 2016, with was very pleasing result of 80 rams sold from 90 offered. Plus an extremely pleasing average price of \$2,019 and a top price of \$4,400 for Lot 89, and also \$4,000 for Lot 50.

We would also like to thank everyone, – clients, family and friends – for the support shown to us and the Koonwarra Merino Stud since Koonwarra's move to Boorowa in January 2006.

At this year's **Koonwarra Merino Stud 40th Annual On-Property Ram Sale** on Wednesday 20th September we will be offering 90 May/June 2016 drop rams. They are all paddock reared and will have current fleece samples taken in August 2017.

The auction commences at 1pm and the Koonwarra rams can be seen at the **preview inspection day** on Friday 15th September from 10am to 4pm.

We welcome all clients and interested visitors who may like to come and see the Koonwarra sheep and inspect how they are developing and assess this year's sale rams.

Alternatively, prior to the on-property sale a **private inspection** of the sale rams can be arranged by appointment with Jono, Charlie or your agent.

Koonwarra Merino Stud will continue to be a participant in the **South West Slopes Merino Field Day**, which will be held at the Murrumburrah Showground on Thursday 31st August.



Jono holding Lot 89, the top price ram at the 2016 Koonwarra Merino Stud's 39th Annual Ram Sale bought by Ian and Vanessa Geppert, seen here with two of their children, Alara and Amelia. They also bought the second top price ram, Lot 50. Both these 20 and 21 micron rams had 99% and 99.1% C.F. and been paddock reared, not shedded.





One year old paddock reared rams for sale in 2017

# **40th ANNUAL ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE**

**WEDNESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2017**

1pm, LITTLE RANGE, BOOROWA

**90 MAY/JUNE 2016 DROP UNHOUSED RAMS**

**OPEN DAY • FRIDAY 15th SEPT 2017, 10am – 4pm**

**FLOCK RAM SALES COMMENCE MID OCTOBER, BY APPOINTMENT**

This will be Koonwarra Merino Stud's 12th sale at Little Range, 16kms from Boorowa (NSW) on the Cunnigar Road towards Harden, and fourth sale under the full ownership of CT Merriman and Son. These rams were shorn on 26th April 2017 and fleece samples will be taken in August 2017, within the six weeks before the preview and sale recommended by NSW Stud Merino Breeders Association.

Above each ram will be their individual fleece figures for micron, SD, CV, spinning fineness and greasy fleece weight percentage. Each ram will be weighed the week before the sale and its bodyweight will also be displayed above each ram.

**A preview inspection day of all 90 sale rams will be held at Little Range on Friday 15th September from 10am to 4pm, with all rams**

**individually penned. All visitors welcome.**

Individual details on each of the 90 rams will be available on the website – [www.koonwarrastud.com.au](http://www.koonwarrastud.com.au) – before the sale once the side samples are taken and the fleece tests results are returned from Riverina Wool Testers and the rams catalogued. Individual body weights will be available on the day of the sale.



Jono and Anna with Digby and Toby, the latest addition, and Oscar

## MESSAGE FROM JONO

The 2016 ram sale saw 80 of the 90 rams sold for an average price of \$2,019 per head.

It really was great to see so many returning clients and some first time buyers, as well as some interested people coming for the first time to Little Range to inspect and look at our Koonwarra sheep.

We were very happy with the way the rams presented on the day, with these rams being outside in weather conditions that saw one of the wettest winters on record in this area. The ability of these rams to deal with the climatic conditions of a very wet winter was a great test for them.

In late November Anna and I, along with Digby, welcomed Toby James Charles Merriman into the world. All went well and both Anna and Toby have settled into life's new roles here at Little Range. We look forward to introducing Toby to everyone that has not already met him at this year's Koonwarra Ram Sale, preview day or at the SWS Field Day. Between the birth of Toby and a very long strung out harvest I did run out of time to send our Christmas newsletter, which hopefully will be a one off.

This year's 2017 Koonwarra sale rams have been through a very wet 2016 winter and I think all the sheep and

cattle here on Little Range were glad to see the sun come out and the ground dry up. These 2016 ram lambs started to bloom as a big spring set in. Since weaning, these rams have been in an improved pasture paddock with some mineral licks and left to their own devices for a while. As the spring started to tale off the rams were introduced to oats through the lick feeders.

The lick feeders were kept going through the summer and early autumn as the bulk of the big spring feed had well and truly left Little Range. From the middle of January 2017 the lack of pasture throughout the whole of our property meant the feed carts were out, and as the stubbles started to be eaten out the feeding program kicked into full swing till around the 21st March, when the first rains started a good autumn break. Once the autumn breaking rain gave the pasture good growth the feeders were able to be put away. The rams did receive minerals and some oaten hay as roughage to balance out the new grass growth.

The rams were shorn on the 26th April by F'n'F Shearing Contractors, which ended up being a week or two later than last year's shearing date. These 2016 drop rams came off the shearing boards in really good shape, in both wool and body shape, impressing all those who were in the shearing shed.

Since shearing these rams have been growing out well on pasture paddocks, continuing with the minerals and oaten hay supplements to balance the pasture.

We are impressed with the uniformity of this year's sale rams, with all Sire's used having an impact on the attributes that we are looking for. Due to the genetic type and strength of the Koonwarra ewe lines it gives Koonwarra the ability to get these attributes from the specially selected sires into the flock, but still maintain the uniformity and type that Koonwarra sheep are well known for.

These rams to be offered in September will NOT BE SHEDDED in the lead up to the Koonwarra ram sale. As they are not shedded when they go to buyers properties, we believe that we should prepare these rams in the environment that they have to live in, both here and once they leave Little Range. What you'll see at the sale is a true reflection of what these rams can do out in the environment that they have had to live in for the first part of their lives.

### 2017 KOONWARRA SALE RAMS

This year's sale rams, their sire lines and ear tag colours are:

#### AI sires

- West Plains / Hinesville Poll "Mercenary" – mustard tags
- Glenpaen "Majestic" – dark green tags
- One Oak 104 – grey tags
- Winyar 450 – white tags

#### Sires / bloodlines (all Koonwarra bred) of the paddock joined ewes

- Charinga/Yarrowonga x Koonwarra: CHN 20 – blue tags
- Roseville Park x Koonwarra: 014-015 – yellow tags
- Tara Park x Koonwarra: 159-056 – orange tags
- East Strathglen x Koonwarra: 038 / 040 – brown tags-synd joinings
- Grassy Creek x Koonwarra: 177-025 – light green tags
- One Oak x Koonwarra: 104-008 – grey tags
- Winyar x Koonwarra: 450-037 – white tags
- Koonwarra Uniform x Koonwarra: 079-071 – Purple tags
- Koonwarra BG x Koonwarra: 177-178 – Red tags

It has generally been a good past 12 months for livestock with wool prices picking up and at the moment they seem to have steadied up around these prices over the last six months. There has been a good increase for the better wools with the micron and style to match seeing a real increase in prices, which was needed. The livestock meat price have been on a good increase for the past 24 months, which has seen the merino sheep true total value really increase as a package.

## TWO YEAR OLD STUD EWES – ANNUAL MARCH SHEARING RESULTS

Below are Koonwarra wool tests results done annually with all the 2 year old ewes, which we commenced doing seven years ago.

We had an excellent season for the 2013 ewes but not so good for the 2014 born group which experienced a very hard summer but still managed to have lambs and cut good fleece weights. It's this inherent ability to perform no matter what the season that forms the basic fundamentals of the Koonwarra merino sheep genetics.

- 2015 drop ewes: Micron 19.0; SD 3.6; CV 19.1; CF 98.8%; GRW 7.2 kgs
- 2014 drop ewes: Micron 19.3; SD 3.8; CV 19.1; CF 98.7%; GFW 7.1kgs
- 2013 drop ewes: Micron 19.8; SD 3.7; CV 18.8; CF 98.5%; GFW 8.6kgs
- 2012 drop ewes: Micron 18.6; SD 3.5; CV 18.9; CF 99.1%; GFW 6.7kgs
- 2011 drop ewes: Micron 18.8, SD 3.3, CV 17.4, CF 99.2%, GFW 7.1kgs
- 2010 drop ewes: Micron 19.6, SD 3.3, CV 16.8, CF 99.0%, GFW 7.0kgs



At the Canberra Royal Show (February 2017) Koonwarra won Reserve Champion Medium/Strong Wool March shorn Merino ewe Also Reserve Champion Fine Wool March shorn Merino Ewe.

- 2009 drop ewes: Micron 18.8, SD 3.4, CV 18.4, CF 99.0%, GFW 6.9kgs
- The whole flock micron average for 2017 is 18.7.

## SOUTH WEST SLOPES MERINO FIELD DAY

Harden/Murrumburrah Showground – Thursday 31st August 2017 from 10am

Koonwarra will be participating as usual in the South West Slopes Merino Field Day, which is only about 30kms from Little Range, this is the second year at the Murrumburrah showground.

Jono will be taking a group of Koonwarra sheep which will include some young sires and a selection of the rams to be offered at the 40th Annual On-Property Ram Sale.

## FLOCK RAM SALES

Commence mid October 2017, by appointment at a time which also suits clients.

This is done individually so each client has plenty of time to inspect and discuss their individual requirements. These rams are from the same drop as those to be offered at 40th Annual On-Property Ram Sale.

There will be two grades \$800 and \$500 (ex. gst).

Koonwarra Stud does not offered rams for sale at any outside venues only on-property. Koonwarra does shed a couple of rams and ewes each year to show and to also collect semen from young sires.



# NEW KOONWARRA SIRE

## CLAYPANS POLL MERINO SIRE 232

Through the trip to China with AWI in 2016, I have become friends with Steven Bolt from Western Australia, Steven and his family own Claypans Merino & Poll Merino Stud. Since December 2016 we have had the pleasure of having the Claypans Poll Merino Sire 232 in our ram shed at Little Range. Steven took this ram to Bendigo Sheep Show in 2016, which is where we first saw this Sire, and then back to WA for the show season there. Then through phone conversions and Steven's willingness to keep showing this Sire, in late December this ram made the journey back over to eastern Australia.

We have been impressed with this poll sire, Claypans 232, since he arrived at Little Range, his build, structure and purity of this ram. This ram is really appealing to the eye from when you first see him and when you get your hands on him. His wool quality stands up too, with a great wool style and crimp pattern of a bolder fine wool, and since being shorn at Sydney Show 2017 has settled into a really good fine wool type.

Claypans Poll 232 has already got some very impressive AI lambs on the ground in the Koonwarra Stud's 2017 drop lambs. We are really looking forward to this ram's input as a stud sire into the future, helping Koonwarra Poll genetics through his influence.



His production class results from Sydney Show 2017 were:

- Micron 17.4
- GFW 12.9 kgs
- Fleece value \$204.5
- Eye muscle of 37
- Fat score of 11
- Body weight bare shorn 137.5kgs.

Now co-owned between Claypans Merino and Poll Merino Stud (Western Australia) and C.T. Merriman and Son, Claypans Poll Merino Sire 232 resides at Little Range.

Merrignee Stud has used semen from this sire and we are looking forward to seeing and assessing his 2017 drop progeny.

Semen is available from Claypans Poll Merino Sire 232. Please contact:

STEVEN BOLT – 0427 652043  
steven\_bolt@hotmail.com

JONO MERRIMAN – 0427 272238  
jonomerriman@hotmail.com.

Top photo: Claypans Poll Merino Sire 232 at the 2017 Sydney Royal Easter Show where it was awarded Grand Champion Fine wool Poll Merino Ram and Champion March Fine wool Poll Merino Ram. Held by Steven Bolt, Claypans Merino and Poll Merino Stud (Western Australia).

Bottom photo: Claypans Poll Merino Sire 232 shorn at the 2017 Sydney Royal Easter Show and held by Jono Merriman on its return to Little Range.

# MERRIGNEE POLL HEREFORD STUD

We have recently purchased two stud cows from Kidman Poll Hereford Stud at their female reduction sale in November 2016, to add to our Merrignee Poll Herefords.

Both these cows have the very successful South Australian Allendale Stud genetics in their sire line and the highly regarded sire Bowen Vincent in the dam breeding.

These Kidman cows had heifer calves at foot when purchased, and in calf to high quality bulls, Minlacowie Jubilant and Kidman Advancer. All these bloodlines are a total outcross to our Merrignee herd which will advance profit traits in our stud cattle and into the commercial herd.

The rest of the Merrignee Stud cows are in calf by an AI program to Doonbiddee

Hustler and his sire Bond 36N. We have used these bulls before and they have produced excellent progeny with plenty of meat, milk and muscle that really develop a great carcass on grass.

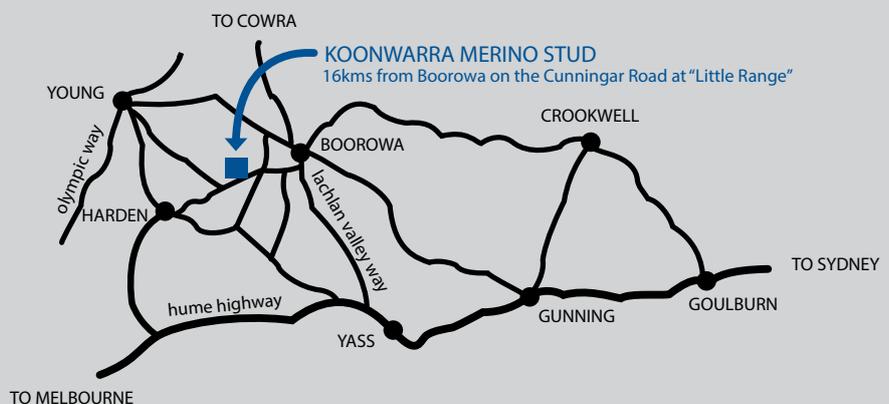
Two year old Merrignee Bulls are available for sale.

The two Kidman Poll Hereford Stud cows with their heifer calves, by Minlacowie Jubilant and Kidman Advancer.



## HEALTH STATUS

Koonwarra Merino Stud is Accredited Brucellosis Free No. CW 90/33 under C.T. Merriman & Son and is Vendor's Declaration Footrot Free and OJD Approved Vaccinates. Koonwarra Merino Stud has been vaccinating its lambs each year with Gudair since 2002.



## KOONWARRA.COM.AU

The Koonwarra Merino Stud website has the 2017-18 show and sale schedule and will have links to the ram sale catalogue when it becomes available.

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