

# AUTUMN/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2005



## KOONWARRA DIRECTORY

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### THE TEAM

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## KOONWARRA RAM SALE

A good line of young rams sold to a top of \$3,000 and averaged \$1,113 at Koonwarra Stud's annual on property sale in October, 2004.

The sale, held at Noojee Lea, Canowindra attracted strong competition with 62 rams selling for a gross of \$69,006.

The top priced ram of the sale was a 19.44 micron sire with a 99.3CF. There was plenty of confidence from bulk and return buyers, with two loading up eight rams apiece to put a solid floor in the market.

Tony Flanery, RD Flanery Family Partnership, "Goonawarra", Galong started the sale strongly, purchasing the first three pens of rams, including the second top priced ram for \$2,600 before finishing the sale with eight rams for an average of \$1,513.

The Gooden family, "Berembee", Galore, followed suit purchasing eight to a top of \$1,600, averaging \$1,125, ranging from 18.54 to 20.63 micron.

Not to be outdone, Michael Flannery, "Cucum South", Cowra bought seven rams for an average of \$971 to put over his Merino flock.

Sinclair Stratton, Ulah Station, Four Mile Creek via Orange secured six of his pick to a top of \$1,800 twice, averaging \$1,300.

Rounding out the multiple buyers list was Trevor Toole, "Killoola", Bathurst with six rams to a top of \$1,300 and average of \$940.

The Koonwarra ram sale for 2005 will be held on Friday 14th October 2005



Joe Curran, Koonwarra Merino Stud, Tony Flanery, "Goonawarra", Galong, Stud Classer, Stuart Hodgson and Stud Manager, Ben Lane are pictured with the second top priced ram at the 2004 Koonwarra ram sale.

ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE - FRIDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2005

## A MESSAGE FROM STUD PRINCIPAL CHARLES CURRAN

In a situation of high input costs and continuing strong competition in fibre markets, it is necessary for the Merino industry to continually improve efficiency. It can do this through improved animal husbandry practices, improved pasture management and improved marketing and handling of wool. However, the most fundamental improvement is in the efficiency of the basic production unit, namely, the sheep.

Koonwarra remains committed to playing its part in improving the genetics of the rams that it produces in order to assist clients to improve the efficiency of their basic production unit. Not only is the improvement in production effectiveness important in general terms, it is vitally important in difficult times.

Koonwarra bloodlines have done very well during the recent drought conditions.

A number of Koonwarra clients have indicated that their sheep have maintained good growth weights and good wool cutting, despite these conditions.

In addition, the large framed Koonwarra ewes have produced lambs that have achieved attractive prices in the premium lamb market.

Ben Lane continues to progress the affairs of the stud and he is pleased to have been able to visit or talk to many of our clients to ensure that we are continuing to meet their needs.

Stud classer Stuart Hodgson continues to provide his valuable advice in classing the stud breeding flock and liaising on our stud joining program. We congratulate Stuart on having been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his outstanding contributions to the Merino industry and to rugby union, over very many years.

Finally, I thank our many clients for their continuing support.

## KOONWARRA BABY

Stud Manager, Ben Lane and his wife Ali are excited to be parents for the first time, with the birth of a baby girl.

Camilla Alice Lane was born on March 23, 2005 and weighed 8 pounds 14 ozs.

The baby is the first grandchild for David and Jan Wagstaff, "Wyvern", Carrathool and 12th grandchild for Gerry and Jan Lane, Erin Vale", Milbrulong.



## NEW ZEALAND UPDATE

During a recent classing run in New Zealand our stud classer, Stuart Hodgson, took the opportunity to follow up on some of the Koonwarra genetics that have been purchased in recent times.

At Graham Black's Awapiri Merino Stud, Blenheim, Stuart inspected the ram weaners sired by Koonwarra .749 and reports that they are a very impressive group of young sheep that will grow into exceptionally well balanced stud sires.

Stuart viewed Koonwarra progeny at Mount Hay Merino Stud in the Mackenzie country where Koonwarra genetics are continuing to be successfully used.

Koonwarra genetics are also being used effectively on the Hamilton family's Glenlee Merino Stud at Blenheim.

Stuart said it was evident during his visit that Koonwarra sheep, with their



good, free growing nicely waxed wools are very much suited to the New Zealand climate.

He said this highlights the need for the modern Merino to not only adapt, but to also perform in diverse climatic conditions.

Koonwarra bloodlines have proven to do this very well, giving producers optimum body size, high fertility and exceptional wool weights.

**VISITORS AND CLIENTS ALWAYS WELCOME**

## STUD MANAGER BEN LANE



Koonwarra is pleased to be back in the show ring having successfully shown full wool March shorn ewes at the Great Southern Supreme Merino Show at

Goulburn in January and Canberra Royal Show in February, culminating in the stud bringing home several broad ribbons.

The success at Goulburn continued with the sale of a 16.9 micron ram for \$5,500 to Wal and George Merriman's Castellon Stud, Tasmania.

We are also planning to display our genetics on a more commercial level at field days such as Henty, Orange, Yass, Young and Hamilton. These field days will allow sheep producers a chance to look at new industry practices and tools.

Koonwarra welcomed several new clients last year who were attracted to our superior genetics. They included Graeme Bragg of Grenfell, Maurice Payne of Caragabal, Mark Doolman of Canberra, and John Lynch of Bathurst.

Koonwarra blood ewes have displayed excellent results in the prime lamb market. 240 ten and a half month old first cross lambs were sold in early May to dress an average of 29 kilograms over the hook and return \$3.20 per kg.

Also in May, 223 Koonwarra 2-tooth wethers averaged \$76 off-shears, and in addition cut an average of \$38 worth of wool.

Koonwarra is committed to upholding the exacting health requirements of our stud sheep so that we deliver to clients a product that has a clean health status. In this endeavor we have continually vaccinated with the Gudair vaccine since 2002. Koonwarra is Brucellosis accredited free and Footrot free.

## KOONWARRA SHOW SUCCESS

2005 Goulburn Great Southern Supreme Merino Show

- Reserve Champion March Shorn Medium Wool Ewe - KWA 3-136 x KWA 8-7

2005 Canberra Royal Show

- Reserve Champion March Shorn Medium Wool Ewe - KWA 3-75 x KWA 7-49
- Reserve Champion Junior Ewe

(Both these ewes' fleeces will be shown in the National Fleece Competition at Bendigo Australian Sheep and Wool Show in July)

Eugowra Show

- Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Ram and Ewe
- Champion Fine Wool Ewe
- Reserve Champion Fine Wool Ram
- Champion Medium Wool Ram and Ewe
- Best Group of Three Merino Rams
- Most Successful Exhibitor Cowra show
- 1st Fine Wool 2 tooth and under Ewe
- 1st Medium Wool 2 tooth and under Ewe
- 1st Fine Wool 2 tooth and under Ram

- 1st Medium Wool 2 tooth and under Ram
- 1st Medium Wool 6 tooth and over Ram
- Grand Champion Merino Ewe of Show
- Champion Medium Wool Ewe
- Champion Merino Medium Wool Ram
- Reserve Grand Champion Medium Wool Ewe
- Reserve Grand Champion Ram of Show



Stud Manager, Ben Lane is pictured with Koonwarra's Reserve Champion March Shorn Medium Wool Ewe at the 2005 Goulburn Great Southern Supreme Merino Show.

## KOONWARRA CLIENT PROFILE

Michael Gooden, (pictured) "Berembee", Galore has been purchasing Koonwarra rams for the past five years, firstly through private sales. Since realising the value of choosing the top of the drop offering. He now buys at our annual ram auction enabling him to select some of the best genetics we have to offer.

Mr Gooden is extremely pleased with the performance of the Koonwarra sires and with assistance from stud classer Stuart Hodgson; he has seen some impressive results.

He said the recent shearing of his maiden ewes (second shearing) recorded an average cut of 7-8kg and overall average micron of 19.5 - 20.

Stuart has been classing at "Berembee" for the past four years, and the Gooden family has gone from classing only maiden ewes



to classing the entire flock under Stuart's guidance.

Michael observes that the outcome has made their wool growing enterprise "easier", with the quality and quantity of the flock increased.

The Gooden family's business plan is to increase their flock numbers, which currently consists of 4200 mature age ewes and 1100 maiden ewes.

With the increase in quality of the younger ewes coming through, influenced by the use of Koonwarra genetics, they have been

able to retain their entire flock of maiden ewes.

The Goodens pregnancy tested their ewes this year and went on to record more than 100 per cent lambing, with 3000 lambs recorded from 2700 ewes.

Weaners bred on the property are grown out on feed lots and sold as fat lambs, with Michael impressed with the frame size of the lambs and the speed in bringing the lambs to sale weight.

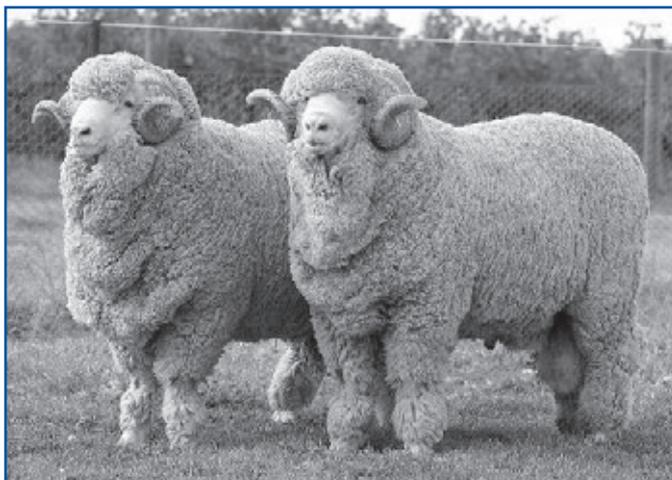
"Berembee" has an average flock micron of around 20.5 micron, with mid side sampling of the Koonwarra rams last year before joining recording an average of between 19.2 and 20.5 micron.

Classer Stuart Hodgson said it was quite incredible that consistent users of Koonwarra bloodlines sit at a micron of around 20.5, with the Koonwarra flock average of 20.3 again proving its consistency.

ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE - FRIDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2005

## KOONWARRA SALE RAMS

# 2005 DIARY OF KEY DATES



### Bendigo (August Shorn)

3.604 x 0.52	3.21 x BG	3.232 x 8.7 Syn
Micron 21.6	Micron 20.7	Micron 21.7
SD 3.6	SD 3.0	SD 3.8
CV 16.7	CV 14.5	CV 17.5
CF 99.1	CF 99.4	CF 98.8
(pictured left)	(pictured right)	



### Hamilton (March Shorn)

4.188 x 8.7	4.612 x 7.49 Syn	4.12 x 0.14
Micron 18.7	Micron 18.3	Micron 17.2
SD 3.3	SD 3.1	SD 2.5
CV 17.6	CV 16.9	CV 15.0
CF 99.2	CF 99.7	CF 99.5
(pictured left)	(pictured middle)	(pictured right)
4.24 x 0.14	4.820 x BBG	
Micron 19.2	Micron 17.5	
SD 3.2	SD 2.8	
CV 16.7	CV 16.0	
CF 99.0	CF 99.6	

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July 15-17	Bendigo Australian Sheep & Wool Show
July 18	Bendigo Merino Ram Sale
August 1 - 2	Hamilton Sheepvention Show & Sale
August 23-24	Dubbo National Merino Show
August 25	Dubbo National Merino Sale
September 1	Young South West Slopes Merino Field Day & Sale
September 3	Yass Ram Sale
October 14	Koonwarra On Property Ram Sale

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## 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 enquiries for our bloodline, so if you have pure bred stock for sale please contact the stud

**VISITORS AND CLIENTS ARE WELCOME TO INSPECT THE STUD SHEEP & NARRUC INVESTMENT PROPERTIES.**

**Contact Ben Lane on (02) 6344 2788 or Mobile: 0427 206 239**