

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2016



STUD OWNER C.T. MERRIMAN & SON STUD PRINCIPAL JONO MERRIMAN
STUD MANAGERS & CLASSERS JONO & CHARLIE MERRIMAN

Jono, Anna, Digby, Charlie and Pip 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 our 38th Annual Unhoused Ram Sale on 23rd September 2015, with a pleasing result of 78 rams sold from 80 offered, with the average price of \$1,820 and the top price of \$3,000 for five lots.

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 39th Annual Ram Sale** on Wednesday 21st September we will be offering 90 May/June 2015 drop rams, an increase of 10 rams from 2015 due to the strong support shown at the 2015 ram sale. All

rams are paddock reared and will have current fleece samples taken on 10th August 2016.

The auction commences at 1pm and the Koonwarra rams can be seen at the Koonwarra **preview inspection day** on Friday 16th 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 again be held at St Clements Galong on Thursday 1st September.



Jono, Anna and Digby with a couple of the Koonwarra 2015 drop rams that are going to the 2016 Dubbo show and others in early 2017

39th ANNUAL KOONWARRA RAM SALE

WEDNESDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2016 at 1pm

Little Range, Cunningar Rd, Boorowa | Inspections from 10am

90 MAY/JUNE 2015 DROP RAMS

PREVIEW DAY FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 10am to 4pm, Little Range



One year old paddock reared rams for sale in 2016

KOONWARRA 39th ANNUAL RAM SALE

This will be Koonwarra Merino Stud's 11th sale at Little Range, 16kms from Boorowa (NSW) on the Cunningham Road towards Harden, and third sale under the full ownership of CT Merriman & Son.

These rams were shorn on 12th April 2016 and fleece samples were taken 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 be displayed above each ram.

A preview inspection day of all 90 sale rams will be held at Little Range on Friday 16th 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 – before the sale once the fleece tests are taken and returned from Riverina Wool Testers and the rams catalogued. Individual body weights will be available on the sale day only.

SOUTH WEST SLOPES MERINO FIELD DAY

St Clements Retreat, Galong – Thursday 1st September 2016 from 10am

Koonwarra will be participating as usual in the South West Slopes Merino Field Day, which is only about 10kms from Little Range at St Clements Galong for the fourth year.

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 39th Annual On-Property Ram Sale.

FLOCK RAM SALES

Commence mid October 2016, 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 39th Annual On Property Ram Sale.

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

MESSAGE FROM JONO

SECOND FULL YEAR UNDER CT MERRIMAN & SON OWNERSHIP

This is the second year under full CT Merriman & Son ownership, which we are really enjoying. We are determined to work hard to develop both the merino and now the poll merino genetics into the future.

Our focus continues to be on producing large, bulky and robust sheep with nourished fine/medium wools that are bright, white and soft that stand up to their environments.

Providing rams and ewes that have wool style that fits their micron and have good size frames and conformation to carry their good carcass weights benefits both our clients flocks and our own.

We do not house our young sale rams, but leave them in the paddock to grow and toughen up so they are a true reflection of their performance in this environment and are ready for clients and their joining programs.

MAY/JUNE 2015 SALE RAMS

This year's sale rams (May/June 2015 drop) have had a good first 12 months of life, which is a reflection on how they look here today at Little Range.

They were able to be marked and vaccinated into grazing oats crop which held them until mid-August 2015. From there they were weaned in early September 2015 onto an improved pasture paddock and they have kept growing every since.

These rams are given access to supplementary oats and hay when seasonal conditions required us to do so enabling the growth of these rams going ahead.

THIS YEAR SO FAR FOR 2015 DROP

There was a good start to summer here at Little Range but, like most of the state, summer set in for the long run and we soon found ourselves feeding most stock and looking up to the sky for some much needed rain.

When the rain started on 1st May we thought there would be some early pasture and crop growth, but it was not to be as rain kept coming and the temperatures fell away into a cold and very wet winter.

Between 1st May and 7th August 2016 these rams have had a total of 406mms of rain to withstand and they passed the test with ease. We believe this is a credit to their genetics and the Koonwarra rams ability to thrive in varying environmental conditions as these rams are unhoused and paddock reared each and every year here at Little Range.

AI PROGRAM FOR THE 2015 DROP

The 2015 ram drop saw the continuation of the One Oak 104 sire through the AI program as well as the first drop of single joining sires coming through, which will help cement this One Oak genetic line/family through the Koonwarra flock.

We also saw the first of the One Oak Red 56 AI progeny in these 2015 drop rams through a select group of Koonwarra ewes we specifically selected for this sire. One Oak red 56 was a very thick fleeced ram with a good robust frame to match and we are very pleased to see the way he has stamped his genetics through his progeny in his first drop.

We have once again got a good lot of W-450 genetics through this AI program and are starting to get a number of his sons performing well in the single joinings here on the farm. This genetic line/family has given Koonwarra Stud sheep some bigger and plainer bodied types while maintaining that great Koonwarra wool quality and coverage.

The second year of Koonwarra's Poll AI program saw genetics introduced from a Pemcaw Stud Poll sire purchased at Hamilton Sheepvention 2014 as part of a syndicate of eight merino studs. His progeny underline the major attributes and merino qualities we all saw in him – outstanding wool style of a fine/medium crimp, micron 18.5, CV 15.1 and a comfort factor of 99.5%. He has a terrific outlook with square stance and well set feet. The sire of Pemcaw Poll ram was a

Moorundie Stud sire from South Australia.

Paddock Mating Single Joining Sires FOR 2015

The paddock single joining saw the introduction of two sons of One Oak 104 into the main group of stud sires here at Koonwarra.

There will be rams available this selling season from the following families – Red tag BG family, Brown tag ES, Blue tag CHN, White tag W-450, Orange tag TP, Yellow RP and the sons of One Oak 104 are in Grey as their family tag colour.

TWO YEAR OLD STUD EWES – ANNUAL MARCH SHEARING RESULTS

Below are the Koonwarra wool test results done with all the 2 year old ewes, which we commenced doing annually six 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.

- 2014 drop ewes: Micron 19.3; SD 3.8; CV 19.7; 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
- 2009 drop ewes: Micron 18.8, SD 3.4, CV 18.4, CF 99.0%, GFW 6.9kgs

The whole flock micron average is 19.3.



Koonwarra mixed sex weaners in September 2015 –
come and see them a year on at our open day and sale



JONO'S TRIP TO CHINA

In February 2016 I was able to attend an AWI led Young Woolgrowers Tour to Shanghai and surrounding areas in China as well as Hong Kong. We spent time looking at the wool industry from the ports right through the process to where the

fabrics and garments that we see on the shelves are made. We gained first hand experiences of what happens in this part of the world that influences our markets in Australia.

It is a great opportunity to see the operations up close and personal with around 15 other like-minded people from all parts of Australia who were invited for this first time tour. The tour was led by Stuart Hodgson and Wendie Ridgley along with other AWI staff based in that part of the world.

I had been lucky enough to visit China 10 years ago through the agricultural college I attended when we did a study tour of all things agriculture related in 2006. The improvements in Shanghai as a city and the massive increases in standards of living, personal wealth, the development of the Chinese infrastructure and the improvements in their industry production systems was great to see.

The change in the woollen mills from processing right through the chain was incredible from 10 years ago. Then the number of workers needed to keep these

big plants operating was huge; now with state of the art machines there is minimal but well skilled staff. These big companies have reinvested millions back into their wool industry in China.

While over there, the talks we had with Chinese management revealed they are already thinking and looking forward to future improvements in their wool processing and cloth making.

The AWI offices in Shanghai and Hong Kong are in close contact with these companies on a weekly basis assisting them to come up with solutions to their company goals using Australian wool.

The tour was well worthwhile and I would highly recommend it to anyone selected to go in the future. If you do get the opportunity, take it!

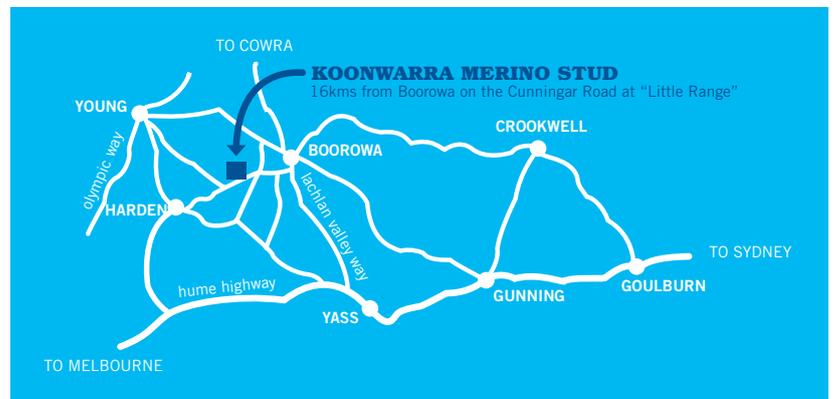
It is very interesting to see the whole processing system and to do it with woolgrowers from across Australia who are as passionate about the wool industry as I am. I really appreciated the whole tour and it was an added bonus of getting to know and discuss ideas and thoughts with a great group on the tour.

HEALTH STATUS

Koonwarra Merino Stud is Accredited Brucellosis Free No. CW98/23, is Vendor's Declaration Ovine Footrot Free and OJD Approved Vaccinates.

Koonwarra Merino Stud has been vaccinating with Gudair since 2002, the 2016 drop lambs have been vaccinated and are from ewes that were themselves vaccinated as lambs.

Koonwarra has been vaccinating its lambs for 15 years and therefore every sheep offered is at least third generation Approved Vaccinates.



KOONWARRA.COM.AU

The Koonwarra Merino Stud website has the 2016-17 show/sale schedule and will have links to the ram sale catalogue when it becomes available.

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