

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2006



Charlie, Jono, Charles, Joe and Stuart sincerely thank our clients, bidders and under bidders for their support during 2006, during our first year having Koonwarra Merino Stud based at Boorowa. Although it has been a very trying year, we have enjoyed working with the Koonwarra stud sheep, and we are impressed with what we have seen, and their potential, and we look forward to the future. We are now looking forward to hopefully the end of the drought, after probably six years of drought conditions, and some wetter years ahead.

ALL AT KOONWARRA WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

Koonwarra held its 29th Annual on-property Ram Sale, on Friday 13th October, 2006, and it's first at Little Range. We thank all those who attend and your support was most appreciated, with fifty three of the seventy rams offered being sold, the average was \$909. Thank you to all those who came to the sale and the preview at Koonwarra's' new home, we really appreciated your interest and support, and it was great to see old Koonwarra clients here and some new clients, it is very encouraging. We are looking forward

to getting to know Koonwarra clients better and what they are looking for in the Koonwarra sheep. We presume it is good confirmation and doing ability with bright white wool, and good fleece weights.

Thank you to Tony Flanery for again purchasing the top priced ram at the sale.

We do have some good quality flock rams available for autumn 2007 joining, when the rain comes and the season breaks!!

KOONWARRA THOUGHTS FROM CHARLIE & JONO

We have been in contact with at least six wool buyers and Dr Kerry Hansford, about wool contamination, we are extremely concerned about landowners not showing due diligence, and respect for their neighbours and their established merino enterprises. There seems to be a lack of understanding of this very real problem being caused by the so-called "exotic sheep", which shed both medullated and pigmented fibre.

Medullated fibres do not take up dye and can appear as a white contaminant in a dark coloured fabric while dark fibres cause problems for white/pastel shade fabrics. The increased incidence of medullated fibre contamination has largely resulted from the introduction of these exotic breeds, they can either deliberately or accidentally transfer these fibres to the Merino. This problem did not previously exist with the use of the more traditional meat breeds that do not shed fibre.

These shedding breeds contaminate genuine wool enterprises, therefore we commend Gordon Litchfield Wool at Cooma, Yass and Gundagai and Mark Bazeley of Riverina Wool at Echuca for taking a stand and not accepting Exotic breeds product. They have signs at their wool stores

saying they do not take the following breeds product: Awassi, Damara, Dorper (including White Dorper) or Karakul. Gordon and Mark are also adding the Wiltshire Horn to this list.

The problems you must consider if you run these shedding animals and Merino sheep together is the down grading of your merino wool clip and the risk of contaminating neighbours via boundary fences or straying stock. According to the 2004 AWEX Code of Practice, your Merino wool should be marked P (medullated fibres) and/or Y (dark fibres) to indicate the potential for contamination. Similarly, if your Merinos have been mated, reared, run with these shedding breeds or their crosses, under the Merino Dark and Medullated Risk Scheme (DMFR), the wool would be allocated a DMFR Rating of 6. Use of the DMFR Rating Scheme is essential if the reputation of the Australian Merino clip is to be maintained; that is, buyers are notified of the potential risk of contamination and can make informed choices about their wool purchases.

COMING EVENTS FOR KOONWARRA

FIELD DAY - Friday, 19th January 2007

Koonwarra Stud will open from 9.00am to 5.00pm, as part of the Great Southern Supreme Merino Field Day. On display will be the rams for sale at Great Southern Supreme Merino Show and Sale (GSSM) at Canberra Showground, and our Sires and some Stud ewes with their progeny. Plus a selection of those ewes that will be offered at the Merrignee/Koonwarra 17th Annual on-property Stud and Commercial Ewe Sale, on Thurs. 22nd Feb '07.

G.S.S.M. RAM SALE - Monday, 22nd January 2007, Commencing 11am.

Inaugural year at Fitzroy Pavilion, Canberra Showground, instead of Goulburn. Koonwarra will be attending the Show (12 noon Saturday 20th to 4pm Sun 21st January 2007) and offering the following 6 rams at the Sale on Monday 22nd January:

LANDMARK GROUP

NO. 1 RAM Tag 713, Micron 16.6, S.D. 2.9, C.V.17.5, C.F. 99.7, SIRE SPM Synd.

At 18 months of age this Koonwarra young sire shows features that the stud enhances its reputation on. He has a large frame, with good spring of rib and very good body length, plus a soft muzzle with width in his horn setting. A true medium type fleece and is very well covered over the underline and points, very good staple length and overall fleece weight. His set of low figures along with the very good comfort factor, portray this sire as one which can lift production and lower micron.

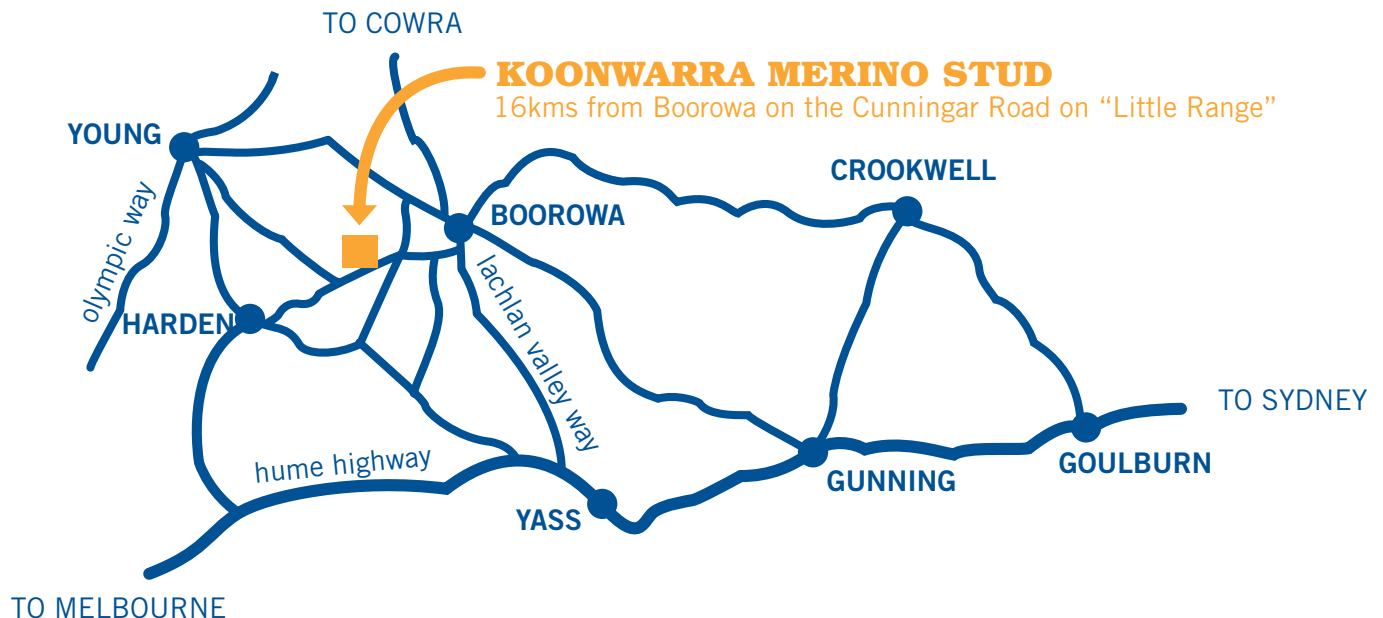
NO. 2 RAM Tag 043, Micron 20.0, S.D. 3.6, C.V.18.0, C.F. 99.2, SIRE SPM Synd

A solid well built sire, with width between his legs, good spring of rib and well covered fleece of true fine/medium wool.

KOONWARRA STUD & COMMERCIAL EWE SALE - Thursday, 22nd February, 2007

Koonwarra will be offering approximately 100 Stud C.F.A. and Two-tooth Ewes in lots of about 20, and they are November shorn, and not station mated. Plus approximately 100 C.F.A. & Two-tooth commercial medium wool ewes, November shorn. This Sale will be held in conjunction with Merrignee Merino Stud, same as last year.

Koonwarra then heads to Canberra and Sydney Royal Shows.



STUD MANAGER CHARLIE MERRIMAN STUD CLASSER STUART HODGSON

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