

**NEWSLETTER WINTER 2007**

**STUD PRINCIPALS** CHARLES CURRAN AC, LL.B. FCPA., CHARLIE & JONO MERRIMAN

**STUD MANAGERS** CHARLIE & JONO MERRIMAN **STUD CLASSER** STUART HODGSON OAM.

Koonwarra Merino Stud is owned in a partnership between Charles Curran and his family's Capital Investments Rural Pty Ltd and Charlie & Jono Merriman and their family's Merrignee Pty Ltd. Koonwarra Merino Stud has now been at its new home, Little Range at Boorowa for eighteen months. All management and breeding decisions for its future development are in conjunction with the well respected Koonwarra Classer, Mr Stuart Hodgson. We thank all buyers and under bidders for their support during the 2006-2007 season and at the 2006 Annual on-property Ram Sale where 53 rams averaged \$909. We welcome long term and

new clients to Koonwarra Stud at Little Range, Boorowa to come, visit and inspect these well known sheep.

Charlie, Pip and Stuart will be present at Bendigo's Australian Sheep Show and Sale from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Koonwarra will be showing 2 rams, 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July, and offering 1 ram for sale at Bendigo on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. This Sale sire, Tag 614, is from the Gem family and is a top quality ram, which has a strong open face, good horn set and a square stance with a well sprung body. His fleece tests on full feed are 20.6 microns, 3.0 S.D., 14.6 C.V. and a comfort factor of 99.5%.

His low SD & CV and good Comfort Factor figures help tell the story of the magnificent fleece on this sire. This sire's long staple, rich handling, stylish crimp and plenty of bulk will attract the eye of buyers wishing to improve their merino flocks, and he is definitely a possible stud sire. He is a very typical Koonwarra Stud Sire, big frame, good bone, well set feet with a square meaty rear end. This ram has a heavy cutting fine/medium fleece with well locked tip which keeps the dust out.

At Bendigo & Dubbo Koonwarra will be showing an impressive sire, that we feel shows the Koonwarra type very well, he is from the Gem family, he is not for sale and we look forward to using him in the Koonwarra Stud.

Charlie, Jono, Pip and Stuart will be at Dubbo, where Koonwarra will be showing sheep.



Jono Merriman with the Show sire, KWA 5.614

## MESSAGE FROM CHARLIE & JONO

After working with the Koonwarra Stud for eighteen months, we are getting to know and understand their genetic ability. We are very taken with their doing ability through these tough drought years, and the way the young rams mature quickly. By these observations one would think that a run of Koonwarra wethers would be an easy grow, easy care group of commercial sheep.

We are using Riverina Wool Testers to collate micron/ fleece weight etc measurements, as Riverina Wool Testers were the company used previously when Koonwarra was based at Canowindra. We have maintained the continuity for the Koonwarra wool testing, through the Laserscan machinery, which gives us confidence in our genetic monitoring of the stud sheep.

Fleece weighing and wool tests are carried out at the November shearing for the hogget ewe portion at 18 months of age at this age we can be sure that the tests are reliable and all trends can be checked. The 2005 classed-in stud ewes averages were 18.5 microns, 3.2 SD, 20.3 CV and 98.9% Comfort Factor, with a fleece weight of 4.3kgs. While the fleece weight is on the low side, it is for 9 months wool we will get a much truer idea on the 06 drop which will have 12 months fleece when shorn in November 2007.

The same drop (05) rams sold in 2006 averages were 19.4 microns, 3.2 SD, 18.1 CV and Comfort Factor or 98.9%, with a fleece weight of 4.1kgs. This fleece weight was taken at weaner fleece type, with 6 months growth and had been on very improved pasture at Canowindra and then onto feeders at Little Range. From these figures and along with all previous information that Koonwarra Stud has collated, we believe the pressure for higher fleece weights with control of micron and handle of the fleece should now be able to see genetic improvement in these areas.

The Stud ewes were single mated for the 2006 and 2007 drops and the figures on these sheep will inform us of the genetic ability of the sires used to pass on their better qualities, as all sires are individually tested each year. We now need to quantify their progeny.

Due to Koonwarra's long and very well credentialed history of breeding, developed under John Williams's management, it makes both Stuart Hodgson and our inputs so much easier. When we see a family line throwing very good quality progeny, we can follow the genetic sire line, and generally there is a collection of semen still available to be used for a Koonwarra AI program, and for clients to use as well.

We have mentioned the Koonwarra sale ram for Bendigo previously in this Newsletter, and we are very pleased with the Koonwarra show only ram for Bendigo, and those who have seen him at Canberra, Boorowa and Sydney shows also speak highly of him, as a true Koonwarra type.

This sire (the show only ram for Bendigo & Dubbo) is destined to impact on the Koonwarra stud. He is a large framed ram with a clearly defined crimp, bright white wool testing 20.8 on full shed feed, very square behind in his stance, with big spring of rib. He has a tremendous outlook with a strong head and horn set that so epitomises the Koonwarra blood sires. He is from the Gem family, as is the sale ram for Bendigo. Special thanks to Stu Hodgson and Ben Lane for their efforts and knowledge, in breeding this ram, for we know the Koonwarra stud will definitely benefit from this ram's genetics.

The 2006 drop young rams have developed very well and as the photos show will be an even group of well grown young sires to help the merino industry and Koonwarra clients forge ahead.

## MESSAGE FROM KOONWARRA CLIENT - MAC AND SANDRA WILSON, GRABBEN GULLEN

In July 2006 we were approached through Australian Wool Network (AWN) at Goulburn with an offer from Lempriere for two of our lots of wool before they were catalogued for sale (Sydney S01). The test results were exactly what they needed for an order from Kent Industries in the USA for processing into high quality material for a prominent department store in America.

These qualities were:

- good length 85/90 mm
- soundness
- free stapled, traditional wool, 20-22 microns
- low vegetable matter
- and most important, colour – must be bright

Our tests were:

Micron	um	SDYield	SL	SS
20.1	0.8	74.00	86	35
20.5	0.9	75.3	90	41

These results were evidently considered very acceptable for 2005/06 season and a solid premium on estimated values was offered, and accepted.

This type and style of wool is, I believe, exactly what Koonwarra sheep are noted for producing and, from recent conversations (July 2007) with New England Wool, who told me they have similar orders from the same people for the same product, should remain in demand for sometime providing a sound, quality, market outside Europe and Asia for a wool we know we can produce.

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We at Koonwarra wish to thank Mac and Sandra Wilson for their information they gave us at the 2006 Ram Sale, and for the follow up information for their wool in July 2007, and congratulate them on obviously providing a good product that buyers are looking for.

Charlie spoke to Andrew Blanch of New England Wool today (10/07/07) and Andrew described the Koonwarra wool type as traditional crimp of 20-21 micron with

good collective tip and most importantly has the white, bright fleece. He said this is the exact type that Alberto Barberis, the Italian fabric maker requires for the mens jacket line, and if other companies such as Lempriere also require the Koonwarra type of wool, then perhaps the auction is the best place to develop any price competition.

Jono Merriman and Stuart Hodgson at the 2007 Condobolin Commercial Ewe Competition, where Jono was an Associate Judge



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF KOONWARRA MERINO STUD

Koonwarra Merino Stud was established in 1947, owned and managed by Mr John Williams and family, at Thalaba, Crookwell. John is a very highly regarded stud master, and Koonwarra amassed many prestigious awards under his guidance, and developed a much sought after and renowned Koonwarra sheep type. Under John's guidance Koonwarra won the prestigious Stonehaven Trophy at the RAS Sydney Show on 11 occasions

In 1998, Mr Charles Curran and his family purchased the Koonwarra Merino Stud and relocated it to Canowindra. Mr Curran has conducted rural operations at Canowindra since 1980. His family's operations on their property Noojee Lea, include Koonwarra merino flock, together with cropping, Lucerne hay, crossbred lambs, Nassau Estate vineyard, and Springdale thoroughbred stud. Mr Curran was the inaugural Chairman of the Australian Wool Exchange. Mr Curran employed Mr Stuart Hodgson as the stud classer, as Stuart has a proven track record and a high reputation for knowing merino breeding and developing it.

In January 2006 Koonwarra Merino Stud commenced a new partnership between Mr Charles Curran and his family and Mr Charlie Merriman and his family, with the Stud moving to Little Range Boorowa NSW. This management continues that partnership with Stuart, and appreciates his work, support and knowledge as the stud classer, now and in the years ahead.

The management team, Charlie, Stuart and Jono, objectives for the Koonwarra Stud are to continue to breed the Koonwarra type, which are large frame sheep, with nourished white bright wool that has good staple length, handles the higher rainfall areas and are big fleece cutting fine/medium to medium sheep. These traits have been genetically bred into the Koonwarra stud sheep since its foundation in 1947, and the new management intend to build on these attributes, which also include, their well sprung ribs, length of body, overall structure and their ability to be used in vastly different climate areas of Australia. Koonwarra is known for their ability to improve the profitability of merino flocks, with their heavy fleece weights, their high fertility, easy care, doing ability and lamb survival rate.



Charlie Merriman



# **30TH ANNUAL KONWARRA RAM SALE**

**FRIDAY, 12TH OCTOBER AT 1PM**  
INSPECTIONS FROM 10AM

**70 JUNE/JULY 2006 DROP**

**PREVIEW DAY - MONDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 10AM TO 3PM**

This will be Koonwarra Merino Stud's second sale at the new location, Little Range, 16kms from Boorowa (NSW) on the Cunnigar Road towards Harden.

These rams were shorn on 19<sup>th</sup> April, and their fleece tests will be taken about six weeks before the sale. These rams will be selected by Stuart Hodgson, the Stud Classer, and Charlie & Jono Merriman, the Stud Managers, so that Koonwarra clients can come to the new home of Koonwarra, and know that there will be a continuity of the Koonwarra type, style and direction that Stuart Hodgson has been enhancing and developing.

Also a Preview Day of these rams will be held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> September in conjunction with Merrignee and Tara Park Merino Studs, with Koonwarra and Merrignee, at Little Range, open from 10am to 3pm and Tara Park open from 12 noon to 5pm, at Tara Park.

Individual details on each of the 70 rams will be available, on the website [www.koonwarrastud.com.au](http://www.koonwarrastud.com.au) before the sale. However not until after the fleece tests are taken (about 6 weeks before the sale) and the rams catalogued.

June/July 2006 Drop Koonwarra Weaner Rams



## **FLOCK RAM SALES**

**COMMENCE  
MID-OCTOBER 2007**

Commence mid October 2007, by appointment at a time that 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 30<sup>th</sup> Annual on-property Ram Sale. There will be two grades \$800 and \$500 (excluding GST).

## **2008 STUD EWE SALE**

**THURSDAY 28TH  
FEBRUARY 2008**

This annual ewe sale is held in conjunction with Merrignee Merino Stud, on property at Little Range, commencing at 1pm.

Koonwarra Merino Stud is Accredited Brucellosis Free and OJD Approved Vaccinates.

## **MESSAGE FROM CHARLES CURRAN**

As partners with Charlie and Jono Merriman, we take this opportunity of congratulating them on the performance of Koonwarra Merino Stud, in such difficult drought conditions.

They presented a very good selection of rams at the On-Property Ram Sale in October, which demonstrated the ability of the Koonwarra sheep to do well in difficult circumstances. We have also found this to be the case at Canowindra where the Koonwarra bloodlines continue to do very well for us. There is no doubt that in climatic conditions when it is difficult to raise and nourish sheep, it is important to ensure that the bloodlines selected produce the best possible outcome.

## **MESSAGE FROM STUART HODGSON**

With the long awaited turnaround in the season and the hope that we finish the year with good spring rains, the wool market has shown us there is still a future in merino sheep. After hearing all the reasons why we should be looking at alternatives sheep pursuits, we are now finding a self replacing merino flock of about twenty microns is quite a profitable business, with many clients reporting returns of approximately \$1150 per bale total average.

Victoria has experienced good rains over most of its districts which should mean that the sale of surplus merino sheep, be it wethers, young ewes or CFA's could prove to be very profitable, forcing butchers to compete with restockers.

We at Koonwarra believe that we are ideally placed with our genetics and type of sheep, for our clients to realise on these benefits, our aims are to produce a sheep in tune with the direction we believe the merino industry is headed and that is an animal not over complicated in the skin but still having supple soft, productive surfaces, producing a long free growing staple of about 19-20 micron, much sought after by the trade.

The young rams we will offer at our on-property sale will exhibit all these traits and qualities.

After classing the hogget ewes at Lyndon and Mandy Gunn's property "Dalreada" Holbrook, I was most impressed with the quality of the wool on these sheep. Considering the tough time they had been through, the wools were very stylish, well nourished and exhibited great crimp definition. Lyndon and Mandy have purchased rams at both our on property sale and also Hamilton and Bendigo Ram Sales and it was very pleasing to see these genetics coming through.

## **KOONWARRA SEMEN SIRES**

ALL SEMEN \$40 PER DOSE

### **KWA 8.180 BLOCKER**

He has a soft, crimped wool with good outlook, presence and excellent bone structure. Blocker is a son of KWA 7.49 and won the Reserve Champion Medium wool August shorn ram at Canberra Royal in 2000.

Micron 19.32, S.D. 3.80, C.V. 18.5,

### **KWA 8.186 ANDRE**

Purchased at the 2000 Koonwarra ram sale by Paul Weeding, Okehampton Stud, Tasmania for \$16,000. The progeny of the Andre rams show exceptional growth and bone structure and stand structurally correct and even. The wool on his progeny is very bright and white, with a well-defined crimp.

Micron 18.5, S.D. 3.60, C.V. 19.5

### **KWA 7.49-52 MONTROSE**

Junior Champion Ram at 2002 Canberra Royal Show.

A beautiful tall sire, from the 3.21 family, and carrying a lustrous fleece.

Micron 18.8, S.D. 3.1, C.V. 16.50,  
Comfort Factor 99.6%

### **KWA 8.27 ARNOLD**

Overall Junior Champion Ram and Reserve Grand Champion Medium Wool Ram at Bendigo Australian Sheep and Wool Show 2000. Previously this ram was judged Reserve Champion Medium Wool August Shorn Ram at RAS Sydney Royal Show.

## **KOONWARRA MERINO STUD ANNUAL SHOW & SALE SCHEDULE**

### **JANUARY**

Great Southern Supreme Merino Show & Sale  
(Canberra Showground)

### **FEBRUARY**

Koonwarra and Merrignee Stud and  
Commercial Annual Ewe Sale

Last Thursday in February at Little  
Range, from 1pm

Canberra Show

### **MARCH**

Boorowa Show

### **EASTER**

Sydney Royal Easter Show

### **JULY**

Bendigo (VIC) Show and Sale

### **AUGUST**

Dubbo National Show & Sale

### **SEPTEMBER**

Preview Day for Annual Ram Sale  
In conjunction with Merrignee  
and Tara Park

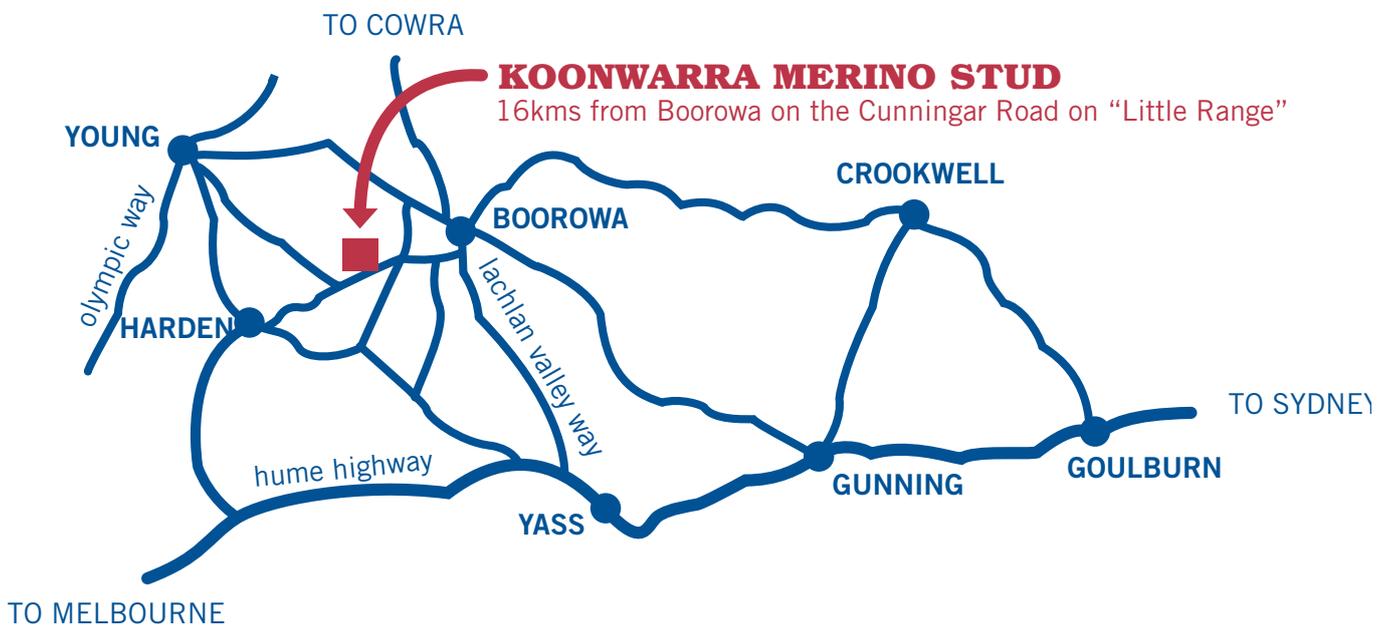
### **OCTOBER**

Koonwarra Annual on-property Ram Sale  
Second Friday in October at Little  
Range, from 1pm

Koonwarra Flock Ram Sales  
commence mid-October,  
by appointment



# SEE YOU AT THE 2007 KOONWARRA RAM SALE ON 12TH OCTOBER



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