

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2009

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

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

Charlie, Jono, Charles, Joe and Stuart sincerely thank our clients, bidders and under bidders for their support during 2009, our fourth year of having Koonwarra Merino Stud based at Boorowa.

We feel that the Koonwarra sheep are certainly developing in the direction we wish and showing us the potential that the Koonwarra sheep have. We enjoy our working relationship between the Curran family, Stuart Hodgson and the Merriman family and we are very positive about the direction of the Koonwarra stud and its qualities, and look forward to the future.

We feel Koonwarra sheep offer clients the potential of big roomy ewes with a strong constitution and good bone with bright white fine/medium wool that cuts plenty of kilograms.

BEST WISHES FROM ALL AT KOONWARRA FOR A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

Koonwarra held its 32nd Annual On-Property Ram Sale on Friday 9th October 2009 at Little Range. We thank all those who attended and your support was most appreciated with 51 of the 60 rams offered being sold for an average of \$956.

Thank you to Kevin and Helene Grabham from Bathurst who bought the top priced ram, Lot 12, for \$1400 and to the volume buyer at the sale, Angus and Gayle Oberg, from Bowning, who took home 13 rams for a top of \$1250 (twice) and an average of \$875.

We do encourage past and present Koonwarra clients to come to the combined Koonwarra/Merrignee Ram Sale Preview Day held in mid-September each year. In 2010 it will be held on Monday 20th September. This way merino breeders can inspect and assess the development of the Koonwarra Stud at their leisure and see all the young rams to be put up for auction in early October. The 33rd Annual Koonwarra Ram Sale will be held on Friday 8th October 2010 here at Little Range.

We do appreciate all feedback on our sheep. We have some good quality June/July 2008 drop flock rams available for autumn 2010 joining.

COMING EVENTS FOR KOONWARRA

FIELD DAY – FRIDAY 22TH JANUARY 2010

Koonwarra Stud will be open from 10.00am to 5.00pm, as part of the Great Southern Supreme Merino Field Day. On display will be the rams that will be for sale at Great Southern Supreme Merino Show and Sale (GSSM) at Canberra Showground, some Koonwarra sires and Stud ewes with their progeny.

Jono is holding one of the rams Angus and Gayle Oberg, "Leswell", Bowning, purchased at the 2009 Annual On-Property Ram Sale.

Left to Right: Jono and Charlie Merriman, Gayle Oberg, Peg Merriman (Charlie's Mum), Angus Oberg and the Oberg's friends, Margy and Ant Roberts, Sydney



**G.S.S.M. RAM SALE –
MONDAY 25TH JANUARY 2010, 11AM**

**In the air conditioned Fitzroy Pavilion
at the Canberra Showground (EPIC)**

Koonwarra will be offering the following 2 rams through Landmark.

NO. 1 RAM This sire is by the proven KWA sire Uniform 2.647 who has “consistently” produced quality sires. This sale ram is also top quality and has been used in the stud as a 2 tooth sire. He is a large framed ram for a fine/medium type with good bone, well sprung ribs and very good length of body. Also has a strong head with a soft clean muzzle, quality wool type with defined crimp and very good staple lock which will help keep the dust penetration out of the fleece. At 18.1 microns he is very suited to the merino flock which requires the frame size and wool quality to enhanced or a merino flock which incorporates a terminal sire program as well.

NO. 2 RAM This sire is a quality merino ram also used in the stud in 2009, mainly to try to replicate his wool qualities. While he has not the frame of the lead ram it is his fleece type which

singles this sire out above the others. He is from the KWA Black Tag family and has a well nourished wool with very good crimp definition and soft handle, he is well covered with a lot of fleece on his underline and down the legs with excellent staple length.

At 18.4 micron and a comfort factor of 99.9% along with his high quality and bulk of fleece he will be very useful to bulk up fine wool type flocks and add bodyweight also.

**KOONWARRA STUD & COMMERCIAL
EWE SALE**

There will be no Ewe Sale in 2010 due to lack of ewe numbers available for sale and the need for us to build up our own stud numbers after so many years of drought. However there are some CFA and Two tooth stud ewes available for private sale from mid January.

Enquiries are welcome now as the Koonwarra ewes have been classed before the December joining. If you are interested please give Charlie, Jono or Stuart a call and we can arrange an inspection.

KOONWARRA THOUGHTS FROM CHARLIE

Koonwarra Stud is progressing along the genetic path to maintain its objective of being a quality flock of medium to fine/medium merino sheep.

With the long history of the Koonwarra stud genetics both myself and Jono along with stud classer, Stuart Hodgson who has constant input, we believe the merino genetics purchased by our clients will definitely be passed on to their merino flocks.

We continually use our Koonwarra bred sires along with specially selected sires through AI programs to improve wool qualities, bulk of fleece and correct frames with improved bodyweights.

For the 2009 AI program for the Koonwarra ewes, Jono and Stuart went to New Zealand in April to review a ram from the Armidale stud of Allan Paterson. They selected this sire to use because of his very well nourished fleece, his large frame and plainer skin type. We also will be using Charinga 119 through AI, as he is a proven sire who also has quality fleece genetics and a large frame who should help in frame size and body weight.

The two GSSM sale rams have been selected for their special qualities for merino flocks and used in the Koonwarra stud with suitable ewes to enhance the overall merino type. This continues with three other 2 tooth stud sires used in the 2009 joining, all five rams were displayed at the South West Slopes Merino Field Day held at the Young Racecourse in early September 2009, and they received very favourable comment there from other breeders.

We appreciate the encouragement and support of Mr Charles Curran and his family to continue to improve and consolidate the Koonwarra merino stud, which in turn will help the profitability of our valued clients.

Koonwarra Stud will be exhibiting at GSSM in January, then Canberra and Sydney Royal Shows as well as Dubbo in August. Koonwarra will be offering rams for sale in 2010 at GSSM on 25th January, Dubbo in late August and at our Annual On-Property Sale on 8th October.

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