

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2011

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

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

We would like to thank all buyers and under bidders for their support since Koonwarra Merino Stud moved to Boorowa.

Koonwarra Merino Stud is owned in a partnership between Charles Curran and his family's Capital Investments Rural Pty Ltd and Charlie and Jono Merriman and their family's Merrignee Pty Ltd.

Koonwarra Merino Stud has now been at Little Range, Boorowa for five and a half years. All management and breeding decisions for future development are done in conjunction with the Stud's well respected Stud Classer, Mr Stuart Hodgson.

At the 2011 34th Annual On-Property Koonwarra Unhoused Ram Sale all 60 rams to be auctioned are from the 2010 drop rams. The Sale date is Wednesday 28th September, commencing at 1pm, with inspection from 10am.

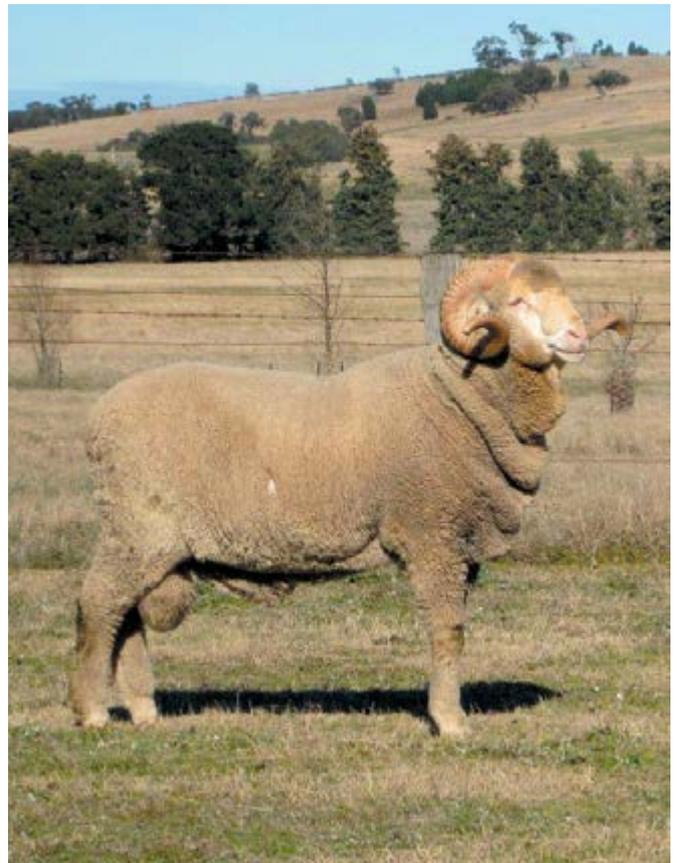
Koonwarra will be taking two show sheep to Dubbo, in late August.

On Thursday 1st September Koonwarra will be taking a display team to the SWS Merino Field Day at landra Castle, Greenethorpe via Young, from 11am.

In January 2012 Koonwarra will be taking a show and sale team to the GSSM held at the Canberra Showground (EPIC).

Photo to right: Koonwarra sire KWA 9.022 – to be shown at Dubbo 2011 as a March shorn 2 year old ram and at the GSSM in 2012.

KWA 9.022 is a young Koonwarra sire and show ram. He has already been used in the stud and has lambs on the ground in May/June 2011. His current fleece test figures are 20.4 microns, 3.0 SD, 14.7 CV, 99.6% CF and 18.9 SpinF.



34th ANNUAL KOONWARRA RAM SALE

WEDNESDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2011 at 1pm

INSPECTIONS FROM 10am

60 MAY/JUNE 2010 DROP RAMS

PREVIEW DAY – WEDNESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER – 12 noon to 5 pm



2011 Koonwarra Weaner Sale Rams

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

These rams were shorn on 12th April 2011, and their fleece tests will be taken about six weeks before the sale. **Each ram will have individual fleece figures for micron, S.D., C.V., Spinning Fineness, Bodyweight and Greasy Fleece Weight percentage.** These rams were Gudair vaccinated as lambs out of approved vaccinated ewes.

These rams will be selected by Stuart Hodgson, the Stud Classer, and Charlie and Jono Merriman, the Stud Managers. Koonwarra clients can come to Koonwarra and know that there will be a continuity of the Koonwarra type and direction that Stuart Hodgson has been developing over the years.

We will be holding an **preview afternoon of the sale rams on Wednesday 14th September, at Little Range, from 12noon to 5pm.** We welcome all clients, and non clients, who may like to come along that afternoon and see what we are doing at Koonwarra and inspect these rams at their leisure.

Alternatively, prior to the On-Property Sale a private inspection of the sale rams can be arranged by appointment with Charlie, Jono or Stuart.

Individual details on each of the 60 rams will be available on the website, www.koonwarrastud.com.au, before the sale; however, not until after the fleece tests are taken and the rams catalogued. Individual body weights will be available on the day of the sale.

At the 2010 33rd Annual On-Property Ram Sale 52 of the 60 rams sold with an average of \$1,139 (GST exclusive), with the top price being \$2,100.



KWA 9.022

SOUTH WEST SLOPES MERINO FIELD DAY at Iandra Castle, Greenethorpe via YOUNG, Thursday 1st September, from 11am

Koonwarra will be participating in the South West Slopes Merino Field Day.

Koonwarra will have on display some young sires and a selection of the rams to be offered at the 34th Annual On-Property Ram Sale on Wednesday 28th September. Also some sheep Koonwarra intends to take to the Great Southern Supreme Merino (GSSM) show and sale at Canberra Showground (EPIC) at the end of January 2012.

FLOCK RAM SALES

Commence mid-October 2011, 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 34th Annual On-Property Ram Sale.

There will be two grades \$700 and \$500 (excluding GST).

STUD EWES could be offered for Private Sale each February after Charlie, Jono and Stuart have classed up the stud ewes for joining. We will not be holding an annual Merrignee/Koonwarra on property ewe sale again until we have built up enough numbers to make it worthwhile for clients and agents to travel here on a set date.

Enquiries about available ewes and numbers can be made through Charlie or Jono.

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 2011 drop lambs have been vaccinated and are from ewes that were themselves vaccinated as lambs. Koonwarra has been vaccinating its lambs for 10 years with 4 credit points. Therefore every sheep offered is at least a second or third generation Approved Vaccinate.

MESSAGE FROM CHARLIE & JONO

Koonwarra Merino Stud throughout its long history (established in 1947 and registered as Koonwarra in 1952) has always concentrated on the profitable components of the merino sheep. Under the ownership of the Curran and Merriman families nothing has changed.

Merino sheep are now one of the most profitable enterprises for rural land use and Koonwarra with its large framed merino with a white bright fleece is in a very good position to take advantage of the tremendous wool and meat prices.

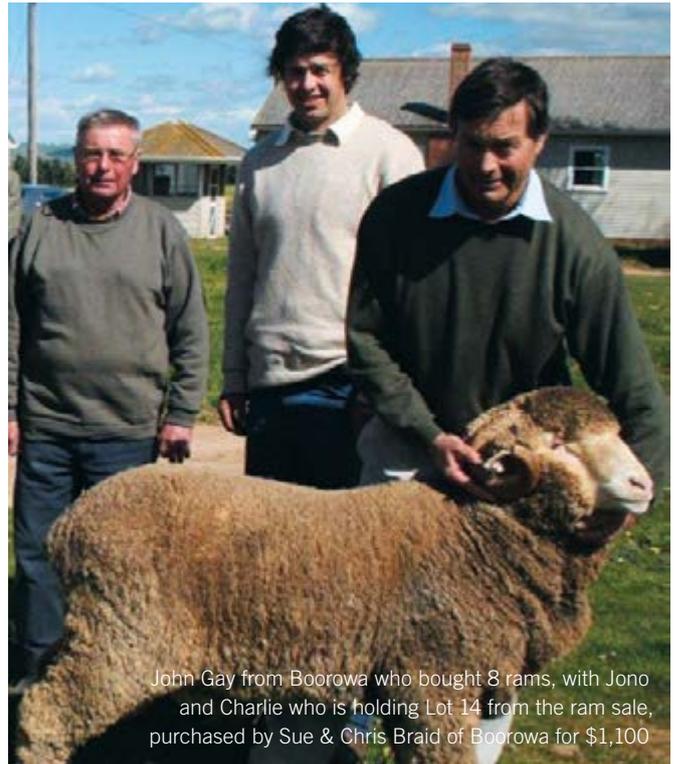
With the support of Charles Curran and his family, Jono, Stuart and I are always seeking genetic pathways to improve the Koonwarra sheep, through the use of artificial insemination or the purchase of new sires.

Pip, Jono and I would especially like to thank the Curran family for their constant support throughout the very tough previous years where it would have been easy to not push the development of the Stud during those harsh climatic and financial times.

After having the Koonwarra stud sheep here at Little Range for over five years we have observed the genetic improvement, especially in the ewe portion becoming very even in their wool and body type. Each year we fleece test all the classed in 2 year old stud ewes. The 2009 drop average fleece results were 18.8 micron; 3.4 SD; 18.4 CV; 99.0% CF; and the greasy fleece weight of 6.9kgs, while the 2008 drop average was 19.4 microns and fleece weight of 7.4kgs. This allows Stuart, Jono and I to make confident selection of our sires to continue the wool style and the ability to hold white bright fleece type. Even during the very high rainfall patterns of the past 12 months or so the incidence of fleece damage in our Koonwarra sheep was very minimal.

With this confidence in the Koonwarra merino type we purchased a new sire (in partnership) from the Winyar Stud – this new sire's dam side is from a Koonwarra blood family. This sire will be used in an AI program and also in physical use in the 2011–2012 joining. He will definitely give the Stud more early maturing growth, larger frame with higher body weights along with his soft white bright fleece and he has wool all the way down his legs and underline. We are looking forward to his progeny as we believe they will enhance the Stud's quality.

We will as usual be using outside sires through the on going AI programs as well as our own Koonwarra sires, such as Ruby 6.224 from the KWA Gem family and the new sire and show ram, KWA 9.022. This ram is from our AI program using a Roseville Park sire and will be shown at Dubbo in August 2011 and at the GSSM in January 2012 at the Canberra Showground.



John Gay from Boorowa who bought 8 rams, with Jono and Charlie who is holding Lot 14 from the ram sale, purchased by Sue & Chris Braid of Boorowa for \$1,100

In 2011 woolgrowers will again be asked to vote for A.W.I. Directors at the AGM in November. I implore everyone to not only vote, but to select a candidate who has industry knowledge and high grade business/marketing skills to take our wool business forward. Therefore giving woolgrowers high end value for the levies we all pay.

We hope everyone is having a very good season to take advantage of the high prices for wool, restockers both ewes and wethers and for the carcass. If any grower requires assistance with their sheep/flock please give us a call, as both Stuart Hodgson and Jono are only too willing to help. Also I am always available to discuss ideas/thoughts concerning all wool growing requirements.

MESSAGE FROM CHARLES CURRAN

My message last year commented on global economic conditions and suggested that government stimulatory action had stabilised the world banking system and that economic activity was continuing to show signs of recovery. The message also referred to the considerable difficulties being encountered by a number of governments in Europe having to redress budget imbalances by significantly reducing public spending.

This year one can observe that the situation remains much the same, but with the recapitalised banking sector being under some pressure from sovereign debt issues in countries such as Greece and Ireland. Budget difficulties have intensified in several European countries which are subjected to conditions imposed by the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In the United States, whilst quantitative easing has led to some improvement in economic conditions, structural imbalances remain to be addressed.

The message last year also referred to the strong performance of the economies of India and China. Again, one can observe that growth in these markets is continuing, although there is some concern regarding the medium term outlook for the banking sector in China, in the aftermath of the strong stimulatory action taken two years ago.

Growing international demand has been a factor in the strong increase in the price of wool over the last year. Producers have also benefitted from buoyant prices for lambs, with wool and sheep meat

prices undoubtedly being influenced by the significantly reduced size of the national merino flock.

The 9 June 2011 issue of the Financial Times of London contained an article dealing with the Australian wool industry and observed "it is a longer-term erosion in supply, coupled with increased demand from China and India, that has caused prices for the benchmark twenty one micron wool contract to double so far this year". The article observed that "since 1990, sheep numbers in Australia have fallen about 60% ... assuming demand stays constant, high prices look set to last a number of years". The article concluded that "today's supply-driven rally is based on long term fundamentals".

The improved returns achieved over the last twelve months validates the position taken by those producers who have maintained confidence in the merino industry. We are pleased that our Koonwarra clients have participated in the improved market conditions, which the Financial Times forecasts will continue. We are also pleased that we and our clients are benefiting from improved climatic conditions.

We look forward to continuing to work with Charlie, Pip and Jono Merriman, supported by Stuart Hodgson, in supplying the Koonwarra genetics that have been developed over the last sixty years. Koonwarra rams produce versatile heavy cutting ewes which provide a very valuable wool clip and additional value through their lambs, which can provide good market returns or suitable replacement ewes.

MESSAGE FROM STUART HODGSON

KOONWARRA STUD CLASSER

As I write this message for the Koonwarra Newsletter I can hear the pleasant sound of rain on the roof and it is most welcome. After having spent the last two to three weeks classing in Victoria and South Australia, I could see that the rain is badly needed, areas that were badly flood affected have measured little rain since and crops and pastures are suffering.

It would be disappointing to see a period in the rural industry when commodity prices have all improved to viable levels to have it ruined by another dry stretch.

The merino industry is enjoying a stellar patch and all indications are that we could see these prices for wool maintained – coupled with record breaking sheep prices it makes for a very positive outlook.

Many clients in Victoria and NSW running a 19 to 20 micron flock have averaged \$2,000 a bale for their wool whilst selling wethers in excess of \$150 and many surplus ewes making \$200. With the shortage of merino ewes in Australia coupled with a high kill rate means the supply and demand factor will come into play keeping these prices at these levels.

We at Koonwarra are committed to breeding a sheep that enables our clients to enjoy these rewards on offer. If either Charlie, Jono or myself can be of assistance in this direction please don't hesitate to contact us.

KOONWARRA SEMEN SIRES

ALL SEMEN \$40 PER DOSE (+ GST)

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%**



2011/2012 SCHEDULE

2011

- **August 23–25:** Dubbo National Show and Sale
- **September 1:** South West Slopes Merino Field Day at Greenethorpe via Young on Thursday 1st September
- **September 14:** Preview of the Koonwarra Sale Rams to be offered on 28th September in the afternoon, from noon to 5pm at Little Range – all interested sheep breeders are welcome
- **September 28:** Koonwarra 34th Annual on-property Ram Sale, on Wednesday 28th September at Little Range from 1pm
- **October 2:** Annual Boorowa Woolfest – Koonwarra will have a display along with other local studs in the Landmark Woolstore
- **October 10:** Koonwarra Flock Ram Sales commence mid-October, by appointment

2012

- **January:** Great Southern Supreme Merino Field Day (on property) on Friday 20th January, with the Show and Sale (at EPIC – Canberra Showground) from 21st–23rd January
- **February:** Canberra Show
- **March:** Boorowa Show
- **Easter/April:** Sydney Show

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