

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2011



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

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

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

CHARLIE, JONO, CHARLES, JOE AND STUART SINCERELY THANK OUR CLIENTS FOR THEIR SUPPORT DURING 2011.

Koonwarra Merino Stud has now been based at Boorowa for six years. We are pleased with the continual development of the Koonwarra sheep and the overall improvement of the standard of the rams being offered at our annual ram sale.

We are seeing the results of our careful and considered planning and the Koonwarra sheep are certainly developing and showing us their potential.

We definitely appreciate receiving feedback from clients.

Koonwarra sheep offer clients big roomy ewes with a strong constitution, good bone with bright white fine/medium to medium wool that cuts plenty of kilograms. We have witnessed their doing ability both in the drought years and in the better seasons we are currently experiencing, with their good bodyweights and their ability to cope with the heavy summer rain patterns.

Koonwarra held its 34th Annual on-property Ram Sale on Wednesday 28th September 2011 at Little Range. We thank all those who attended and buyers and under bidders who supported the auction with 53 of the 60 rams offered being sold for an average of \$1,340, up \$201 on the 2010 average. The top price was \$3,600 for Lot 3 and equal second top price at \$2,600 were Lots 1 and 9.

We would like to thank Tony and Sam Flanery for their purchases of Lots 3 and 9 and Kevin and Helene Grabham for their continued strong support at our on-property ram sales with their purchases of Lots 1, 10 and 14. Thank you also to the volume buyers at the Koonwarra 2011 Ram Sale – the families of Clive and Graham Martin from Grenfell, Angus and Gayle Oberg from Bowning and Will Gooden from Galore – we certainly appreciate your on going strong support at the Koonwarra auctions.

We are very encouraged and appreciative that clients have continued their support of Koonwarra since it moved from Canowindra to Boorowa, and that others have come to look at Koonwarra since coming to Little Range, and have shown support and confidence in the Koonwarra sheep and our management and development of them.

The 2012 Koonwarra on-property Ram Sale will be on Wednesday 26th September (the last Wednesday in September) with an Open Preview inspection day on Friday 21st September from 10am to 4pm.

For the 35th Annual on-property Ram Sale we are considering increasing the number of rams to be offered to 70, as 53 were sold at the sale this year, and a couple of clients who missed getting rams at the 2011 sale bought 17 rams afterwards.

At the Open Preview inspection day on the Friday before the sale, we will have on display all the sale rams with their individual information and current fleece figures. Also there will be stud ewes and their progeny,



Stuart and Jono with the top priced ram, Koonwarra 006, Lot 3 at the 34th Annual Koonwarra on property Ram Sale. This May/June 2010 drop ram, weighed 80kg grass fed, was sired by Charinga 119 who was used in the stud's AI program.

Koonwarra 006's fleece test was 18.5 micron, 2.6 SD, 14.0 CV and 99.8 CF.

as we did this year, so clients can get a better appreciation of the Koonwarra stud and its future direction.

We encourage and welcome past and present Koonwarra clients, and anyone interested in merino sheep breeding to come to the two Open days held at Little Range annually. It is an opportunity for merino breeders to come and inspect and assess the Koonwarra sheep at their leisure.

The first Open Day is on Friday 20th January 2012 as part of the district's on-properties Field Day before the Great Southern Supreme Merino (G.S.S.M.) Show and Sale at the Canberra Showground. The Show days are 21st and 22nd January and the Sale day is Monday 23rd January from 11am with all three days held in the air-conditioned Fitzroy Pavilion at the Canberra Showground (EPIC).

The second Open Day is as previously mentioned on the Friday before the annual ram sale in September – 21st September 2012.

We do have some May/June 2010 drop flock rams still available for autumn 2012 joining.

Koonwarra Stud ewes were March shorn in 2011 and the adult ewe, average fleece micron was 19.3. Each year we weigh and test the two year old ewe fleeces. In 2011, the two year old ewes had an average micron and weight of 18.8 and 6.9kgs, while at the 2010 shearing the two year old ewes had an average micron and weight of 19.4 and 7.4kgs (the extra weight could be attributed to shearing being three weeks earlier in 2009).

The 60 May/June 2010 drop rams that were offered at our 2011 annual ram sale had a micron average of 19.3.

COMING EVENTS FOR KOONWARRA

FIELD DAY – FRIDAY 20th JANUARY 2012

Koonwarra Stud will be open from 10.00am to 5.00pm, as part of the Great Southern Supreme Merino (G.S.S.M.) Field Day. On display will be the rams for sale at Great Southern Supreme Merino Show and Sale (G.S.S.M.) at Canberra Showground, plus the Koonwarra show sheep for 2012. Also some Koonwarra sires and stud ewes with their progeny.

G.S.S.M. RAM SALE – MONDAY 23rd JANUARY 2012

In an air conditioned Fitzroy Pavilion at the Canberra Showground (EPIC) at 11am, Koonwarra will be offering the following 2 rams through Landmark.

NO. 1 RAM: Sired by Roseville Park 002 through our AI program, this ram has been used in the stud as a two tooth. His progeny will be available in 2012. A very good type of ram, with

a low micron of 15.5 and square through the legs with good nourishment and defined fine/medium wool crimp. A ram which would lower micron, keep up with fleece weight requirements and handle high rainfall patterns.

NO. 2 RAM: Also sired by Roseville Park 002, this sale ram has a bright fleece with extra staple length and stylish crimp definition. This ram has a long body, clean head, well covered and with an 18.0 micron fleece test, he will help improve merino flocks.

KOONWARRA THOUGHTS FROM CHARLIE

I hope 2011 has been a productive year and that the merino industry continues to offer us all a positive long term future.

The Koonwarra stud ewe classing involves Stuart, Jono and myself, and has been completed in November. Stuart commented that he is impressed with the two year old ewes for their growth, body weights, good structure and quality wool type.

Jono and I were very pleased to hear his encouraging comments as we felt these young ewes are certainly heading in the direction we envisage for the Koonwarra stud. Fleece weight and micron assessment after shearing in February/March 2012 will inform us further. We are considering undertaking a shorn bodyweight assessment at this time also.

After classing, the sires went out in December. The new sire, Winyar 450, is being used as a backup ram to his own AI program and to 50 maiden ewes. He is assessed as a highly fertile ram with a very good work rate by the other partners in this ram and by the semen collection centre, which should add to the fertility of the Koonwarra merino sheep.

Also used as two tooth sires are rams from the Charinga 119 AI program and our main Koonwarra family sire "Ruby" from the Gem family. The top priced ram at this year's sale, Lot 3, was by Charinga 119 and Ruby is developing a line of big framed sheep with soft handling fleeces and very good fleece weights. His ewe progeny will be highly beneficial to the Koonwarra breeding program.

Clients and visitors who attended the 2011 Open Day in September saw the Koonwarra stud weaner progeny from the AI program using the sires Roseville Park 014 and East Strathglen WA. The progeny from this program are very pleasing and the top selected group is showing tremendous quality to further enhance the Koonwarra merino type. I am very certain these progeny, along with our established sires, will definitely enhance the financial bottom line for Koonwarra clients.

Jono and I are available to class client's flocks or to just come and see client's sheep so as to understand what ram requirements clients are looking for.

We will not be having a combined Koonwarra/Merrignee on-property Ewe Sale in February 2012. However there will be some CFA and two tooth stud ewes available for private sale from mid-January.

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

Koonwarra Stud will be exhibiting at the following events in 2012:

- G.S.S.M. – 21st and 22nd January;
- Canberra Show – 25th and 26th February;
- Sydney Royal Easter Show – 4th to 6th April;
- Dubbo Show – late August.

Koonwarra will be offering rams for sale at the following events in 2012:

- G.S.S.M. – Monday 23rd January;
- Dubbo – late August;
- Annual on-property Ram Sale – Wednesday 26th September;
- Flock ram sale – commence mid-October by appointment.



Charlie with Sire KWA RP022 (photo taken in August 2011).

He is a March shorn ram for 2012 showing and a sire Koonwarra Stud is retaining and has already used, with lambs on the ground.

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