

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2012

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.



Jono, Stuart, Charles, Charlie, Pip, Joe, Ana & Charles Jr.

CHARLIE, JONO, CHARLES, JOE AND STUART SINCERELY THANK OUR CLIENTS FOR THEIR POSITIVE SUPPORT DURING 2012.

Koonwarra Merino Stud has now been based at Boorowa for seven years and we appreciate the support we have received from the Curran family over these seven years.

Koonwarra sheep offer clients the potential of 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 these better seasons at present, with their good bodyweights as well as Koonwarra fleeces having the ability to cope with the heavy summer rain patterns.

We are pleased with the development of the Koonwarra sheep and the overall improvement of the standard of the rams being offered at the annual ram sale.

Koonwarra held its 35th Annual on-property Ram Sale on Wednesday 26th September 2012 at Little Range. We thank all those who attended our annual sale and those who supported the auction, by being present at the sale, or having come to the open day the previous Friday and then placing

orders and others trusting their classer or Charlie, Stuart or Jono to select their ram requirements. Sale resulted in 54 of the 60 rams offered being sold for an average of \$1,127, and the top price was \$2,400 three times, Lots 10, 11 and 29.

We do have some May/June 2011 drop flock rams are still available for autumn 2013 joining.

In 2013, on Friday 18th January we will have Koonwarra sheep on display at Little Range from 10am to 4pm as part of the GSSM Field Day, which includes numerous other studs in the Boorowa district and beyond. Koonwarra will have rams & sires, ewes and progeny for people to inspect, all visitors are welcome as it is a good opportunity for merino breeders to see a broader cross section of the Koonwarra stud.

Also during 2013 Koonwarra will be exhibiting Koonwarra sheep at the GSSM at the Showground in Canberra on 19th & 20th January, at the Dubbo National Sheep Show in August and the South West Slopes Merino Field day in early September.



Duncan Oberg with Jono holding one of their two equal top priced rams purchased by the Oberg family from Bowring; and Donna & Danny Barker from Ando with Charlie holding their equal top priced ram.

Angus and Gayle Oberg and their family have been purchasing Koonwarra rams since 2008 and this year purchased 5 rams at the sale. While Danny and Donna Barker have been purchasing rams from Koonwarra since 2005.

Their comments to The Land reporter Carla Wiese-Smith are the following:

Angus Oberg said "They returned for Koonwarra rams as they had good micron, high greasy fleece weights and were big sheep"

Danny Barker said "Koonwarra produced good solid rams and they had returned for some more sires on the back of the recent wether circuit sale, which they had topped with Koonwarra-sired sheep".

We definitely appreciate receiving feedback from clients and we are very pleased and appreciative that clients have continued their support of Koonwarra since it moved to Little Range. Plus it is very encouraging when people come to look/inspect the Koonwarra sheep since they have moved to Boorowa and then decide to purchase and become Koonwarra clients.

The 36th Annual Koonwarra Ram sale will be on Wednesday 25th September 2013 (the last Wednesday in September) with an Open Preview inspection day on Friday 20th September from 10am to 4pm.

We do encourage and welcome past and present Koonwarra clients, and anyone interested to see what we are doing at Koonwarra, to come to the two Open Preview days held at Little Range. It is an opportunity for merino breeders to come and inspect and assess our sheep at their leisure.

Flock ram sales for 2013 will commence in mid-October by appointment.

Jono & Charlie 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.

Koonwarra side samples annually all two year old stud ewes at shearing:

- 2008 drop ewes – average micron was 19.4 with average fleece weight 7.4kgs
- 2009 drop ewes – micron 18.8, SD 3.4, CV 18.4, CF 99.0% GFW 6.9kgs
- 2010 drop ewes – Micron 19.6, SD 3.3, CV 16.8, CF 99.0%, GFW 7.0kgs

In November the Koonwarra the stud ewe were classed by Stuart Hodgson, Jono and myself and Stuart commented he was very impressed with the overall quality we now have at Koonwarra from the 2 year old ewes upwards, for their growth, body weights, good structure & quality wool type.

We have completed the Koonwarra AI program for the 2013 lambing and have the rams out for paddock joining. This year we have used the Winyar 450 sire and a number of Koonwarra bred 2 tooth sires, from previous AI programs when we used semen from East Strathglen 7-26, Roseville Park 014 and KWA Uniform family by KWA 2.647.

We apologise for the lateness of this newsletter however things have been extremely hectic lately for a number of reasons, more than usual.

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