

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2013



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

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

We sincerely thank all buyers and under bidders who have supported Koonwarra Merino Stud since it's move to Boorowa in January 2006.

At last year's 35th Annual on-property Ram Sale held on Wednesday 26th September 54 of the 60 rams offered were sold for an average of \$1,127, and the top price was \$2,400 three times, Lots 10, 11 and 29, all rams were May/June 2011 drop and paddock reared. (Prices are GST exclusive)



One year old paddock reared rams for sale at the 36th Annual On-Property September Ram Sale or for flock sales in mid-October

36th ANNUAL KOONWARRA RAM SALE

WEDNESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2013 at 1pm

Inspections from 10am

60 MAY/JUNE 2012 DROP RAMS

PREVIEW DAY FRIDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 10am to 4pm, Little Range

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

These rams were shorn on 18th April 2013, and the fleece samples were taken on Friday 16th August 2013, therefore within the 6 weeks before the sale, recommended by NSW Stud Merino Breeders Association.

Above each ram will be their individual fleece figures for micron, S.D., C.V., Spinning Fineness and Greasy Fleece Weight percentage. Also each ram will be weighed the week before the Sale and its Bodyweight will also be on display above each ram.

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.

We welcome all clients, and non clients who may like to come along too and see the Koonwarra sheep and how they are developing and inspect these 60 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.

Koonwarra Merino Stud moved to Little Range in January 2006 and Charlie, Pip and Jono Merriman have enjoyed working with co-owners Charles, Eva, Joe and Michelle Curran and with the Stud Classifier Stuart Hodgson, and we certainly appreciate their support and help. We have observed with satisfaction the development and progress of the Koonwarra sheep, and we feel that the 2012 drop rams to be offered

at this year's on property ram sale are the best group of one year old rams since Koonwarra Stud moved to Little Range.

Individual details on each of the 60 rams will be available, on the website, www.koonwarrastud.com.au before the sale; however, not until the fleece tests taken are returned from Riverina Wool Testers and the rams catalogued.

SOUTH WEST SLOPES MERINO FIELD DAY

at St Clements Retreat, Galong on Thursday 5th September 2013 from 11am

Koonwarra will be participating as usual in the South West Slopes Merino Field Day, which is only about 10kms from Little Range this year, as it is being held at Galong for the first time.

Jono will be taking a group of Koonwarra sheep which will include some young sires and a selection of the rams to be offered at the 36th Annual on Property Ram Sale on Wednesday 25th September.

Also Jono will take some sheep Koonwarra intends to take to the Great Southern Supreme Merino (GSSM) show and sale at Canberra Showground (EPIC) from 18th to 20th January 2014.



Koonwarra's 1 year old Sale Rams in the paddock, as they are paddock reared not shedded

MESSAGE FROM CHARLES CURRAN AC

As in the last several years, this message commences with a short commentary on global economic conditions; due to editorial constraints, the commentary will be very short.

The recovery in the United States continues, as the world economic powerhouse again shows its ability to reinvent itself. Europe continues to confront difficult economic circumstances, with a number of countries facing the challenge of reducing government spending and increasing productivity; however, recessionary conditions are abating and the sense of crisis in the financial sector is easing. In Asia, strong stimulatory action has been taken in Japan, whilst in China the construction boom appears to be tapering off as the domestic economy grows.

In the market for wool, it has been encouraging that the demand for men's suiting has been improving in mature markets such as Italy, the UK, France and Germany. China takes over 75% of Australian wool and it is anticipated that as the country develops and its people become more affluent, there will be a greater recognition of the qualities of fine wool, particularly for men's suiting; there will also be increased use of wool in casual wear as new processing techniques enable the processing of off-cuts for such products.

With the Australian flock now being some 75 million sheep, compared to 175 million in earlier years, there does appear to be an opportunity for improvement in conditions for the Merino industry. Weakness in the wool price has been somewhat countered by the lower value of the Australian dollar and there may be more such relief, with some forecasters suggesting that it could reach a level of US 80 – 85c.

Koonwarra continues to work with its valued clients by enhancing its proven genetics, with our large framed ewes producing good wool clips and lambs which are valuable for the lamb market or as replacement ewes.

Finally, let me make some comments regarding our partners the Merriman family. I am sure that we were all concerned when they experienced a bush fire on Little Range in January. However, with their resilience and commitment, they have ensured that this did not interfere with the stud operations. After a difficult start to the year, on 30 March they celebrated the wedding of their daughter Karina at Little Range and on 10 August the wedding of Jono and Anna. The Curran family is delighted to be in partnership with the Merriman family who are so committed to their stud clients and who make such a valuable contribution to the Merino industry and to the wider community.

MESSAGE FROM CHARLIE & JONO

The first six months of 2013 has been interesting, with a bushfire on Little Range in January and then 3 inches of rain but no further worthwhile rain until 1st June. The burnt paddocks remain low grazing value and the stocking rates elevated rapidly, therefore stock feeding continues. The true doing ability of the Koonwarra genetics shows in the way the ewes and rams not only survived the tough summer and autumn, they have flourished.

Pregnancy rates and lamb survival remained high, the one year old sale rams are very well grown and the 2011 drop (2 year old) ewes had an average fleece weight of 7.1kgs and an average micron of 18.8, which is in line with the previous drop of ewes on a very good season.

This year's On Property Ram Sale group of rams are very well developed and we are impressed by the ability of the Koonwarra merino to survive and do well under trying conditions.

Progeny of our new sire Winyar 450 will figure prominently in the sale group of rams, the purpose of this sire is to enhance frame size and has definitely achieved this through the bulk of his progeny, which will be visible at the on property sale.

We also used a Charinga 119 x Nerstane sire selected by Stuart Hodgson and there are two of this progeny in the ram shed reserves for next year, they have well nourished, stylish fleeces with correct body stances.

The wool market is holding steady over the last year with the broader micron types achieving the best results. As Stuart has commented in his section, fleece income linked with mutton value puts the larger framed merino type in a profitable position. This is exactly where the Koonwarra Merino Stud is positioned with quality wool style to handle the southern Australian rainfall patterns and climate, coupled with an early maturing frame to enable clients to sell off young sheep at good body weights, so whatever

the direction of future fluctuations in the merino markets the Koonwarra merino sheep have attributes to take advantage and therefore contribute to farm profits.

Mr Charles Curran in his comments discusses the world financial overview, and while recovery is a slow process it is encouraging to see the improvement in sales of men's suits throughout Italy and Europe. Meanwhile with China's growing affluence showing some signs of slowing down, AWI reports that an increasing number of Chinese middle income population is purchasing men's and ladies woollen suits instead of just a pair of socks.

AWI reports also state the success of their developing partnerships in different countries and have recently announced a Vietnamese company has received orders for their woollen underwear garments. With the developing merino markets slowly becoming a reality and the very low numbers of merino sheep in Australia there seems to be viable reasons to maintain or increase the merino component on most farms.

Below are our wool tests which Koonwarra does annually on the 2 year old ewes.

- 2008 drop ewe: 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
- 2011 drop ewes: Micron 18.8, SD 3.3, CV 17.4, CF 99.2%, GFW 7.1kgs

While the whole flock micron average is 19.0.

We are certain our clients will be able to see the improving profitable traits occurring within the Koonwarra genetics when inspecting our rams to be offered in 2013–2014.

FLOCK RAM SALES

Commence mid-October 2013, by appointment at a time which 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 36th Annual On-Property Ram Sale.

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

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 2013 drop lambs have been vaccinated, and are from ewes that were themselves vaccinated as lambs.

Koonwarra has been vaccinating its lambs for 12 years.

MESSAGE FROM STUART HODGSON OAM

KOONWARRA STUD CLASSER

I am halfway through my sheep classing run and I have seen much of Victoria, Southern NSW and South Australia. The season, whilst having been a very tough autumn (some are saying one of the toughest they have experienced) has broken, and it now seems to rain out of the smallest cloud bank. Young sheep seem to have been affected badly, and I have probably classed some of the lightest condition sheep for a long while. Most of my clients have fed very heavily from summer all the way through, and the cost has been daunting, no doubt reviving memories of a not too long ago period, when feed runs took up most of the working day.

Many merino breeders no doubt not wishing to enter a feeding regime with no end, decided to sell off surplus sheep. The worrying result has been the diminishing numbers of sheep in paddocks everywhere, whilst cropping is obviously the preferred choice of agricultural pursuits once again.

I would urge people to look at the rewards of a self-re-placing merino flock. The sheep meat market has recovered after going through a leaner period than what we had been experiencing. Merino lambs dressing out at about 18kgs are making between \$4 to \$4.60, coming back at about \$82, mutton

prices have recovered to about \$3, meaning a 45kgs – 50kgs older ewe dressing out at 20kgs would come in at \$60, not a bad price for a merino that has finished her economic life!!

The price of young classed out 2 tooth merino ewes has been very high at the beginning of the joining season earlier in the year, and the next requirement for young merino ewes may prove to just as financially rewarding. When you consider 2 or 3 young merino ewe hoggets return the same gross value as a tonne of wheat, and with lower input costs, I feel there is tremendous value in the merino industry.

2013/2014 SCHEDULE

2013

- **Thurs 5 September:** South West Slopes Merino Field Day at St Clements Retreat, Galong from 11am
- **Fri 20 September:** Preview of the Koonwarra Sale Rams to be offered from 10am to 4pm at Little Range – all interested sheep breeders welcome

- **Wed 25 September:** Koonwarra 36th Annual On-Property Ram Sale, at Little Range from 1pm undercover
- **Sun 6 October:** Annual Boorowa Woolfest, Koonwarra display some sheep, along with other local studs, at the Landmark Woolstore

at the southern end of the main street opposite the old Court House building

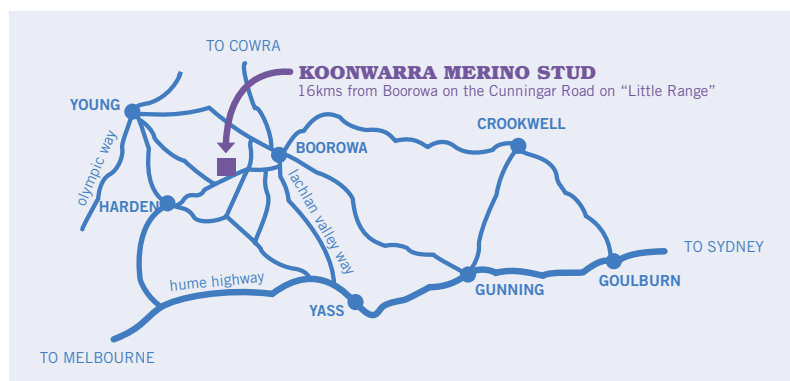
- **From Mid-October:** Koonwarra Flock Ram Sales commence by appointment

January, with the Show and Sale (at EPIC – Canberra Showground) from 19 to 20 January

- **February:** Canberra Show
- **March:** Boorowa Show
- **Easter (April):** Sydney Show

2014

- **January:** Great Southern Supreme Merino Field Day (on-property) on Fri 18



SEMEN SIREs

Koonwarra Stud has collected semen from its top sires that are still being used within the Koonwarra stud. If clients would like to purchase semen from a particular Koonwarra family we can email a list of Koonwarra Semen Sires available.

ALL SEMEN \$40 PER DOSE (+ GST)

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