

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2013

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 STRONG SUPPORT IN 2013.

KOONWARRA MERINO STUD HAS NOW BEEN BASED AT BOOROWA FOR EIGHT YEARS AND WE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE CURRAN FAMILY DURING THE EIGHT YEARS.

Photo from left – Aaron Seaman, Elders Young, and Charlie Merriman, Koonwarra Stud, with the \$3,000 second top price ram (Lot 6) and Jono Merriman, Koonwarra Stud, and Rick Power, Landmark Stud Stock, Boorowa, with the \$3,300 top price ram (Lot 12)



Koonwarra's 36th Annual on property merino ram sale was held on 25th September, with 57 rams sold from 60 offered, top price was \$3,300 and an overall average of \$1,555, which an increase of more than \$400 on last year.

Lot 12 was the top priced ram, sold to Kevin and Helene Grabham and son Michael and his wife Emma, Peronne Partnership, Wiagdon, near Bathurst, an 18.3-micron son of Nerstane 9/10, weighing 83kg and GWF% of 125.1. The second top price was Lot 6 for \$3,000 to John and Diana Janetzki, Rainbow, Henty, an 18.6 micron ram from the KWA Charinga family F3, weighing 82kgs and GWF% of 117.5. They also bought another ram Lot 15 a 19.6 micron ram weighing 91kg and a GFW% of 125.1.

This was the strongest Koonwarra sale we have had since Koonwarra moved to Little Range under the partnership of the Curran and Merriman families, with Jono and Charlie Merriman as managers and Stuart Hodgson as the stud classer.

Jono and Charlie were very happy with the result and that fact that return clients were prepared to jump in at good prices, plus it was pleasing to have new clients as well as a few coming to have a look at the Koonwarra sheep for the first time at the preview day or on sale day.

The 2013 ram sale included the first drop of Koonwarra rams by the new sire, Winyar 450, and they were very well received, with comments made about their very good frame size, bodyweight and bulk of fleece.

Clients also commented on the evenness of the entire 60 rams, which are from the constant genetic families of the Uniform group, KWA Charinga family which now has three sire groups from an AI program using Nerstane 9-10, whose rams sold very well, providing the top sale price ram. Nerstane 9-10 also breed a great line of ewes for Koonwarra's breeding into the future.

Charlie and Jono believe the Koonwarra sheep are going in the right direction, and were happy with the way the rams presented and the influence of the sires used both for the 2012 drop sheep and on the 2013 drop lambs.

As Jono said after the sale, "It is good to see the clients backing the direction we are taking and willing to push a big rise in the average price." Also client feedback was very positive about the Koonwarra rams presented including good length of body and size, structure, strong heads, robust with a good spring of rib, a good meat and wool sheep, productive and has the ability to handle a variety of weather conditions.

Jono also said, "We are pleased with the growth of the rams as they are all paddock reared and were only in the shed for two nights, before the preview day and before the sale".

We do have some May/June 2012 drop flock rams still available for Autumn 2014 joining.

In the 2012 AI program Koonwarra used 2 One Oak Merino Stud sires aimed to further improve early maturity and fleece weight. The appeal already of these May/June 2013 drop progeny encouraged us to go into a partnership to buy a new merino sire, One Oak 104, for Koonwarra. We have used semen from this sire recently, so we are really looking forward to seeing his progeny in May/June 2014.

One Oak 104 is by Roseville Park 014 which we have already used in Koonwarra Stud and have kept a Sire KWA R.P.014 – green tag 015. Roseville Park 014 has very high EBV fleece weight indexes and we fully expect the Koonwarra progeny to benefit from these matings.

Also in our 2013 November AI program we continued the Winyar family to develop the positive genetics he is capable of providing because of our stud ewe base which compliments this sire's genetics admirably. Another sire we have used through AI is a Poll Merino ram from Grassy Creek Stud, he is by Coromandel 002, who has been very successfully used through the merino industry.

We have completed the Koonwarra AI program for the 2014 lambing and have the rams out for paddock joining, using a number of Koonwarra bred 2 tooth sires, from previous AI programs which include sires from East Strathglen 7-26, Roseville Park 014 and KWA Uniform family by KWA 2.647.

In 2014, on Friday 17th January we will have Koonwarra sheep on display at Little Range from 10am to 4pm as part of the GSSM Field Day. Koonwarra will have rams and 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. Numerous other studs in the Boorowa district and beyond will also have on-property field day displays.

Koonwarra will again have some sheep on display at the annual South West Slopes Merino Field Day on Thursday 4th September, which is held close by in the grounds of Galong's St Clements Retreat.

The 37th Annual Koonwarra Ram sale will be on Wednesday 24th September 2014 (the last Wednesday in September).

A preview inspection day will be held on Friday 19th September from 10am to 4pm.

Flock ram sales commence mid-October 2014 by appointment

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

- 2008 drop – average micron was 19.4 with average fleece weight 7.4kgs
- 2009 drop – Micron 18.8, SD 3.4, CV 18.4, CF 99.0%, GFW 6.9kgs
- 2010 drop – Micron 19.6, SD 3.3, CV 16.8, CF 99.0%, GFW 7.0kgs
- 2011 drop – Micron 18.8, SD 3.3, CV 17.4, CF 99.2%, GFW 7.1kgs

In November the Koonwarra the stud ewes were classed by Stuart Hodgson, Jono and Charlie, and Stuart commented that 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 and quality wool type.



Four generations of the Martin family at 2013 Koonwarra ram sale, (left to right) Graeme, Daniel with his daughter Maddison and Clive

The Martin family have been wonderful supporters of Koonwarra and have been to all eight sales at Little Range and we have really enjoyed getting to know them as clients and now friends. Charlie enjoys his once a year trip to class the young sheep at Bonnie View, Grenfell.

Congratulations to John and Diana Janetzki, Rainbow, Henty, who have won the first year in their section of Peter Westbale Memorial Merino Wether Trial Competition. There were a total of 60 teams in the Competition, with about 20 teams in each of the 3 drop categories, with the Janetzki sheep in the Spring drop category. John and Di having been buying Koonwarra rams for many years, and they purchased the second top priced ram at this year's Koonwarra on-property sale.

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 the better seasons, with their good bodyweights, as well as Koonwarra fleeces having the ability to cope with the heavy summer rain patterns.

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