

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2014



STUD OWNER C.T. MERRIMAN & SON STUD PRINCIPAL JONO MERRIMAN
STUD MANAGERS & CLASSERS JONO & CHARLIE MERRIMAN

Jono, Anna, Charlie & Pip Merriman have great pleasure and excitement in announcing they have concluded the purchase of Koonwarra Merino Stud. On 21st May 2014, C.T. Merriman & Son purchased from Capital Investment Rural Pty Limited the Curran Family's 50% share in Koonwarra Merino Stud Partnership.

Koonwarra Merino Stud has from 22nd May 2014 traded under the partnership of C.T. Merriman & Son (ABN 79 841 445 104).

We sincerely thank Mr Charles Curran AC and his family for the opportunity to become involved with the Koonwarra Stud and to work in such a happy and productive partnership for the past eight and a half years. We really appreciated their continual support, interest, patience and enthusiasm for the Koonwarra Merino Stud and allowing us to develop the Koonwarra sheep in a direction we saw fit for the future of the stud.

Also we would like to sincerely thank Mr Stuart Hodgson OAM, who has been the Koonwarra stud classer for about 16 years, for his expertise, guidance and friendship. Stuart has decided to retire as a sheep classer after decades of service to many merino studs, commercial merino breeders and Landmark. We wish Stu well in the years ahead and in his new roll with AWI. We are sure it is AWI's gain to have someone on the ground who has such widespread knowledge of what is happening on so many commercial and stud properties.

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

Last year's 36th Annual On-Property Ram Sale was held on Wednesday 25th September. 57 of the 60 rams offered sold for an average of \$1,555, with a top price of \$3,300 (ex. gst) for Lot 12.

At this year's 37th Annual On-Property Ram Sale on Wednesday 24th September, we have decided to increase the offering to 70 due to good support shown last year.

These May/June 2013 drop rams are paddock reared as usual. The auction commences at 1pm.

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

The Koonwarra rams can be seen at the [Preview](#) inspection day on [Friday 19th September](#) from 10am to 4pm. We welcome all clients and interested visitors who would like to come and see the Koonwarra sheep, inspect how they are developing and assess this year's sale rams.

37th ANNUAL KOONWARRA RAM SALE

WEDNESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2014 at 1pm

Little Range, Cunningar Rd, Boorowa | Inspections from 10am

70 MAY/JUNE 2013 DROP RAMS

PREVIEW DAY FRIDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 10am to 4pm, Little Range



One year paddock reared rams for sale at 37th Annual On-Property Ram Sale in September and via flock sales commencing mid-October

Alternatively, prior to the on-property sale a private inspection of the sale rams can be arranged by appointment with Jono or Charlie.

These sale rams were shorn on 17th April 2014 and the fleece samples were taken on 14th August 2014 (within the six weeks before the sale recommended by NSW Stud Merino Breeders Association).

Above each ram will be their individual fleece figures for micron, SD, CV, spinning fineness, greasy fleece weight

percentage and bodyweight. Each ram will be weighed the week before the sale.

Individual details on each of the 70 rams will be available on the website – www.koonwarrastud.com.au – before the sale once the fleece tests are taken and returned from Riverina Wool Testers and the rams catalogued. Individual body weights will be available on the day only.

SOUTH WEST SLOPES MERINO FIELD DAY

St Clements Retreat, Galong – Thursday 4th September 2014 from 10am

Koonwarra will be participating as usual in the South West Slopes Merino Field Day, which is only about 10kms from Little Range at St Clements Galong for the second year.

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 37th Annual On-Property Ram Sale.

MESSAGE FROM JONO

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL RAM SALE

This year's sale rams are May/June 2013 drop. They had a good start to life – onto grazing crops after lamb marking and then onto grain at weaning time into their paddock. There was a tough period through the summer months in which we kept the oats feeder going until late March when the grass started to grow after the break. Since then the rams have been grazing their paddock with some mineral licks being give out.

We do not house our young sale rams, but leave them in the paddock to grow and toughen up so they are a true reflection of their performance in this environment and are ready for clients and their joining programs.

The 2014 group of rams for sale have grown out well and are starting to mature into a good drop of rams that are impressing us each time we see them.

We are sure clients and visitors will see the improving profitable traits occurring within the Koonwarra genetics when inspecting our young rams to be offered in 2014.

OUR CLIENTS SUCCESS

In 2013 we were very pleased with the good level of support for the our on-property ram sale and we appreciated the feedback at the sale on how the rams and there genetics are working for individual clients.

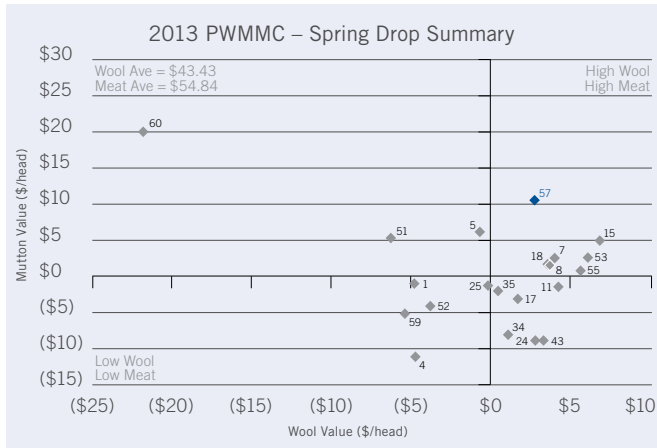
John and Di Janetzki (Henty, NSW) came first in the 2013 spring drop section of the Peter Westbale Memorial Merino Competition. In the graph on the next page they are team 57.

Danny and Donna Barker (Ando, NSW) topped a wether Monaro circuit sale with Koonwarra blood sheep in 2013. Danny said "Koonwarra produce good solid rams".

While Angus Oberg (Bowning, NSW) said "They returned for Koonwarra rams as they have good micron, high greasy fleece weights and are big sheep."

THIS YEAR'S SEASON

It was a very good Autumn break, one of the best we have seen here at Little Range. The winter months started off mild with grasses still growing and the stock doing well.



Lately we have seen winter settle in with some useful rain and some big frosts more recently.

The stock are still looking good and with stock prices holding up we sold Koonwarra wether lambs in June at \$98 (ex. gst) plus their 10 months wool clip was sold in June for a clean price of 1064 cents a kg.

At Koonwarra our focus is to have big, bulky and robust sheep that have nourished fine/medium wools that are bright, white and soft, so they stand up to their environments and have style that fits their micron plus have good carcass weight, which is always important for clients bottom line.

THIS YEAR'S SIRES

There are a couple of new sire groups this year. There are two different sires used from the One Oak Stud through an AI program. One of the rams Stu Hodgson had seen in his travels and was impressed by the ram's frame and wool

quality. The other ram is One Oak 11-104 from One Oak No2 family, who we all inspected at different shows and were all impressed by his frame and presence. I saw this ram again in Adelaide show and was still impressed by him so we thought he was worth using in the Koonwarra AI program.

We also went to the One Oak Ram Sale in 2013 and bought a share in another AI sire whose progeny will be in next year's sale which sees us developing a One Oak family line within Koonwarra.

Also we have introduced the first Poll Merino into the Koonwarra Stud – Grassy Creek Poll 110060 – and have lambs on the ground this year.

It will be interesting to watch all the 2014 drop lambs develop.

KOONWARRA WOOL TESTS

We believe in measured and controlled development of our sheep so we can lock in genetically the improvements, so they are reliable.

Below are our wool tests results which Koonwarra does annually from all the 2 year old ewes, which we commenced doing 4 years ago.

- 2012 drop ewes: Micron 18.6; SD 3.5; CV 18.9; CF 99.1%; GFW 6.7kgs
- 2011 drop ewes: Micron 18.8, SD 3.3, CV 17.4, CF 99.2%, GFW 7.1kgs
- 2010 drop ewes: Micron 19.6, SD 3.3, CV 16.8, CF 99.0%, GFW 7.0kgs
- 2009 drop ewes: Micron 18.8, SD 3.4, CV 18.4, CF 99.0% GFW 6.9kgs

While the whole flock micron average is 19.3.

MESSAGE FROM CHARLES CURRAN AC, LL.B, FCPA.

On the sale of the Curran family's 50% interest in Koonwarra Merino Stud, Charles Curran said that this brought to an appropriate conclusion a very happy and successful eight year association with the Merriman family.

He said, "We invited the Merriman family to join us in the ownership of Koonwarra, in light of their reputation for integrity, professionalism and commitment to the merino industry. Those qualities have been amply displayed during our joint ownership of the stud. From recent discussions, we recognised their wish to further increase their

involvement in the stud and we were pleased that we were able to agree suitable terms to enable the Merriman family to take complete ownership of Koonwarra Merino Stud.

My wife Eva, together with my son Joseph and his wife Michelle, have very much enjoyed the association with the Merriman family – an association that we look forward to maintaining on a personal level. We wish Charlie and Pip, together with Jono and Anna, every best wish for the future of Koonwarra Merino Stud and for Merrignee Merino and Poll Merino Studs."

FLOCK RAM SALES

Commence mid October 2014, by individual appointment to ensure each client has plenty of time to inspect and discuss their requirements. These rams are from the same drop as those to be offered at 37th Annual On-Property Ram Sale. **There will be two grades \$700 and \$500 (ex. gst).**

MESSAGE FROM CHARLIE

WORLD MERINO CONFERENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Pip and I had a very good look at the meat breeding principles of merino sheep when we attended the World Merino Conference in South Africa in March/April this year. The tour involved both Merino and Dohne studs throughout South Africa and it was very interesting to hear and study their breeding attitudes as we travelled around. They are very meat oriented in their industry programs, as we know, with some rams weighing 140 to 170kgs. Some studs were lighter in body weight as their sheep graze in the Karoo country where the herbage did not nourish such advantaged weights.

The merino studs shorn their sheep every eight months to have a 60/70mm length and aspired to cut 5kgs of fleece per year, as they proclaimed that any heavier fleece cut would affect body weight. Fertility has a very high level of prominence in their merino breeding with some studs on high quality irrigated pastures striving for three lambs every two years with correct management the ewes are cycling 80 days after lambing.

PARATUBERCULOSIS COLLOQUIUM IN ITALY

In June I was also invited to attend a Paratuberculosis Colloquium in Parma, Italy, as a representative of WoolProducers Australia and due to my involvement

concerning OJD with Animal Health Australia. The majority attending were scientists from around the world, so I was glad there were some primary producers present and not all scientist and bureaucrats.

I also took the opportunity to visit two wool mills at Biella and talk to owners of these mills and to others in the textile side of the wool industry, which was very interesting especially as it was my first time in Italy and seeing it first hand.

KOONWARRA REFLECTIONS

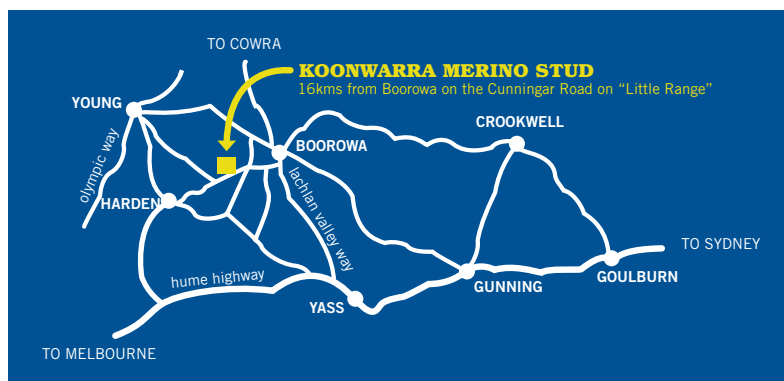
South Africa and Italy were very good trips to observe the merino industry at a closer level. While there are areas to work upon and develop, we do not believe Koonwarra needs to change its breeding direction.

We see Koonwarra as a stud providing sheep with fine to medium wool that can survive in a wide range of topography and climate and cut good fleece weights. Plus a structurally correct and sound sheep, be it ram or ewe, that is strong, robust and continues to be productive for more than six years of age.

Koonwarra genetics have a long history that we feel we are building on, with continuing improvement of fleece weight and frame size. Thus along with its good wool type, fertility and carcass, and all the previously mentioned basics, result in profitable merino sheep.

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 2014 drop lambs have been vaccinated, and are from ewes that were themselves vaccinated as lambs. Koonwarra has been vaccinating its lambs for 12 years and therefore every sheep offered is at least third generation Approved Vaccinates.



NEW WEBSITE NOW LIVE!

Koonwarra Merino Stud now has a new website which includes Koonwarra's schedule for 2014/15 and will have links to the ram sale catalogue when it is ready.

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