

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2014

STUD OWNER C.T. MERRIMAN & SON **ABN** 79 841 445 104

STUD PRINCIPAL JONO MERRIMAN

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR 2015 FROM JONO, ANNA, DIGBY, CHARLIE AND PIP

JONO, CHARLIE AND ALL AT KOONWARRA SINCERELY THANK ALL CLIENTS FOR THEIR STRONG SUPPORT DURING 2014 AND THE NINE YEARS KOONWARRA MERINO STUD HAS BEEN BASED AT LITTLE RANGE, BOOROWA.



Jono and Anna with their 3 month old son Digby and their labrador Oscar

2014 has been a year of changes for Koonwarra Stud, with the final purchase on the 22nd May by C.T. Merriman & Son of the Curran family's 50% share of Koonwarra Merino Stud. We are very pleased to now own 100% of Koonwarra Stud, with Jono as Stud Principal and Classer, and Charlie working along side.

As stated in our Winter Newsletter, Stuart Hodgson has ceased being a sheep classer as he is now working for AWI. We have therefore made a decision not to seek another stud classer as Jono has been making decisions on the Koonwarra joining programs with Stuart and Charlie for some years now.

We also sincerely thank and are grateful to Charles Curran and his family for giving us the opportunity to be in partnership with them and then allowing us the time to eventually be able to buy their 50% share of Koonwarra Merino Stud.

We look forward to a productive and positive future for Koonwarra and its continual development.

Koonwarra had a very successful 37th Annual On-property ram sale on 24th September 2014, with an extra 10 rams included in the 2014 sale. The average price was \$1,394 and 67 of the 70 May/June 2013 drop rams sold, with the top price being \$3,100 for Lot 70.

The average micron of the 70 rams offered at the 37th Annual ram sale was 20.2 and the average bodyweight was 81.7 kgs. All rams offered were May/June 2013 born, all paddock reared not shedded and all have current fleece tests, taken on 14th August 2014 from rams shorn on 17th April 2014. Some of the sires used for the 2013 drop rams were by semen from One Oak 52 and 76, part of the annual Koonwarra AI programs, other sires used were sons bred from Koonwarra ewes by our Koonwarra sires or AI programs. These sires are from the Koonwarra established families of Uniform, Winyar 450, Nerstane 9-10, Charinga, Roseville Park 014 and East Strathglen WA.

These sires have again recently gone out with the Koonwarra stud ewes for the 2015 lambing, so we are confident of the continuity of



From L to R – Manager of Yanterilla, Young, Nick Rowhan; Jamie Davidson Yanterilla, Young; and Koonwarra stud principal, Jono Merriman with the \$3,100 top priced ram.

the Koonwarra breed type. Also a young sire by One Oak 76 has been kept to use with the stud ewes for the current mating.

We have recently shorn the 2014 May/June drop ram lambs and are very pleased with their body and wool type. The Winyar family are still large framed sheep with improving wool style and as the Koonwarra stud ewes become more even in type, the home bred sires' progeny are lifting in fleece and body weights.

The group with very good wool type are from One Oak 11-104 AI program (a sire from the One Oak No 2 Stud, which Koonwarra Stud is a semen part owner) these progeny have well defined fine to medium crimp style and nourishment. We have also introduced some Poll genetics into Koonwarra, with the purchase of semen from the Poll Grassy Creek sire, 110060 by Coromandel 002. This group of progeny are a very good group of young rams with large bodies, good fleece type and most are true Polls.

We will continue the Poll breeding with our part share purchase at the 2014 Hamilton Sheepvention of Pemcaw Poll P122024 by a Moorundie Stud WA sire. This ram has a tremendous wool style and we are looking forward to the progeny arriving in 2015.

We have admired the One Oak Merino Stud type for a number of years, that is why over the last couple of years we have purchased semen from a couple of One Oak sires. So recently at the dispersal of the One Oak Stud we purchased for Koonwarra Stud, 29 two-tooth stud ewes from One Oak's No 2 stud. These are very good type of stud ewes, strongly built and square in their stance. When we shored them with 12 months of wool their average cut was 7.4kgs at 18 microns. We are definitely looking forward to seeing their progeny in 2015 and continuing to develop the One Oak family within Koonwarra Stud.

We do have some May/June 2013 drop flock rams still available for Autumn 2015 joining.

In 2015, on Friday 16th 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 3rd September, which is held close by in the grounds of Galong's St Clements Retreat.

The 38th Annual Koonwarra Ram sale will be on Wednesday 23 September 2015, at 1pm.

A preview inspection day will be held on Friday 18th September from 10am to 4pm.

Flock ram sales commence mid-October 2015 by appointment

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.

Jono is available to class client's flocks, or would welcome the opportunity to see clients sheep and to maybe see them being shorn, as it all helps to understand what type of ram requirements clients are looking for and to see how the Koonwarra progeny are going.

We definitely appreciate receiving feedback from clients.

LITTLE RANGE, PO BOX 29, BOOROWA NSW 2586
merino@koonwarrastud.com.au www.koonwarrastud.com.au

JONO MERRIMAN – 0427 272 238 / jono@koonwarrastud.com.au

CHARLIE MERRIMAN – 02 6385 3396 / 0467 853 396

