

## NEWSLETTER WINTER 2015



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

**Jono, Anna, Digby, Charlie and Pip Merriman have great pleasure welcoming clients, friends and interested merino breeders to Little Range, Boorowa to inspect our Koonwarra sheep in our second year of full ownership of the Koonwarra Merino Stud.**

We sincerely thank all buyers and under bidders who supported Koonwarra Merino Stud at it's 37th Annual Unhoused Ram Sale on 24th September 2014. It was a pleasing result with 67 rams sold from 70 offered, achieving an average price of \$1,394 and a top price of \$3,100 for Lot 70.

We would also like to sincerely thank everyone – clients, the Curran family, Stu Hodgson, family and friends – for their support shown to us and the Koonwarra Merino Stud since Koonwarra's move to Boorowa in January 2006.



One year paddock reared rams for sale at 38th Annual ram September sale or for paddock sales in mid-October

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**38th ANNUAL KOONWARRA RAM SALE**

**WEDNESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2015 at 1pm**

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

**80 MAY/JUNE 2014 DROP RAMS**

**PREVIEW DAY FRIDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 10am to 4pm, Little Range**

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## KOONWARRA ANNUAL RAM SALE

This will be Koonwarra Merino Stud's 10th sale at Little Range, 16kms from Boorowa (NSW) on the Cunningham Road towards Harden and second sale under the full ownership of CT Merriman & Son.

**At this year's Koonwarra Merino Stud 38th Annual Ram Sale on Wednesday 23rd September we will be offering 80 May/June 2014 drop, paddock reared rams.**

We have increased the number of rams on offer to 80, an increase of 10 rams, due to the strong support shown at the 2014 sale. This follows on from an increase of 10 rams at the 2014 after strong support at the sale in 2013.

The rams were shorn on 16th April 2015 and the fleece samples will be taken in mid August 2015, within the six weeks before the sale as recommended by NSW Stud Merino Breeders Association.

Above each ram will be their individual fleece figures for micron, SD, CV, spinning fineness, comfort factor and greasy fleece weight percentage. Also each ram will be weighed the week before the sale and its bodyweight will be displayed above each ram.

**A preview inspection day of all 80 sale rams will be held at Little Range, with all rams individually penned, on Friday 18th September from 10am to 4pm. All visitors welcome.**

Individual details on each of the 80 rams will be available on the website – [www.koonwarrastud.com.au](http://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 sale day only.

## SOUTH WEST SLOPES MERINO FIELD DAY

St Clements Retreat, Galong – Thursday 3rd September 2015 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 third 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 38th Annual On-Property Ram Sale.



## FLOCK RAM SALES

**Commence mid October 2015, 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 38th Annual On-Property Ram Sale. **There will be two grades \$700 and \$500 (ex. gst).**

# MESSAGE FROM JONO

## FIRST FULL YEAR UNDER CT MERRIMAN & SON OWNERSHIP

At Koonwarra our focus is to have large, bulky and robust sheep with nourished fine/medium wools that are bright, white and soft, so they stand up to their environments. Plus have wool style that fits their micron and have good size frames to carry their carcass weights, which is always important for our clients bottom line.

We do not house our young sale rams, but rather 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.

## THIS YEAR SO FAR FOR THIS 2014 DROP

This May/June 2014 drop lambs have had another good start to their lives with a very mild winter, which lead to a very good lambing here at Little Range.

Once again they were able to be marked and vaccinated onto grazing wheat crop till early August. They were weaned onto pasture paddock with supplement feeders.

There was a tight finish to summer and a lack of pasture feed. There was some pasture growth in early winter and the supplement feeding was cut out during that period. Supplements started back in late July as the cold of winter set in and getting these rams ready for your usage.

## INTRODUCTION OF POLL MERINO GENETICS

This 2014 drop of rams will show the first of the Koonwarra Poll progeny by outside studs poll sires over a select group of handpicked Koonwarra Stud ewes through our annual AI program, which we can use as the starting base of new poll genetics within Koonwarra sheep and into the future.

We are still breeding to the same objectives as the main horned stud group, just giving people choice. We still believe that whether they be polled or horned, the ram must suit the clients objective and picking the right ram for the clients requirements is the main aim.

## ONE OAK'S 29 STUD EWES AND ONE OAK'S SIRES TAGS – RED 56 AND 104 PROGENY

We have invested in the One Oak Stud bloodlines over the years, with the first group of the One Oak Sire tag 104 progeny to be offered for sale in 2015. He was a syndicate purchase at their on-property ram sale. This One Oak sire – tag 104 – has been used again in the Koonwarra 2015 lambing.

We were also able to purchase some semen from one of the top One Oak sires – tag Red 56. He produces a very thick heaving cutting wool with a very good constitution. We saw a lot of his progeny at the One Oak Stud's dispersal in 2014.



Anna, Jono and Digby with a young Koonwarra Sire that will be on display at SWS Merino Field Day

This sire's ability to stamp his progeny with his traits is something that really impressed us on the day of the sale.

We also purchased 29 stud ewe hoggets at the One Oak dispersal sale, which we placed straight into the Koonwarra breeding system. Some of these ewes were joined back to One Oak sires or sons from previous Koonwarra AI programs using One Oak semen.

We are certainly looking forward to seeing the development of this One Oak family bloodline within the Koonwarra Merino Stud.

## TWO YEAR OLD KOONWARRA STUD EWES – ANNUAL MARCH SHEARING RESULTS

Below are Koonwarra wool tests results done annually with all the 2 year old ewes, which we commenced doing five years ago.

This years 2 year old ewes were shorn in mid March and the previous 12 months were very good, one of the best seasons, and showed that Koonwarra genetics have good control on micron, low CV and large wool cut, reinforcing what can be achieved in a very good season.

- 2013 drop ewes:  
Micron 19.8; SD 3.7; CV 18.8; CF 98.5%; GFW 8.6kgs
- 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

# MESSAGE FROM CHARLIE

## TRIP TO CHINA

In May 2015, I attended the 84th International Wool Textile Organisation (I.W.T.O.) Congress in Zhangjiagang, China, with around 330 delegates attending from all areas of the wool pipeline from processors, buyers, the mills and apparel sales groups. I went as a representative of WoolProducers Australia.

There was a small woolgrower/breeder group from around the world who gave a quick around the world discussion of varying problems in growing wool, but the main emphasis was on the low numbers of merino sheep producing wool.

During the four days at this congress there were discussions centred on sustainability and traceability of merino wool. This discussion proved difficult to develop an acceptable outcome with most groups feeling this would happen as long as the

financial benefits were there for all concerned, growers included.

At the Growing Demand for Wool Forum a guest speaker was Craig Vanderoef from the Adidas Company, a huge world wide player in the sports and fashion wear industry. He announced Adidas is about to launch woollen products ranging from next to skin to outer layer clothing, including a waterproof pure wool wind jacket, worldwide. Also their best product, running shoes, will have woven woollen uppers. All this should help wool's profile and show wool's benefits throughout the world.

There was no rejection of the recent price rises for wool in Australia. In fact most of the buyer/mill people I spoke to thought if the price leveled out it would be acceptable to all involved. I arrived back to our farm to see the \$1.40 rise in one week and then the bubble had burst.

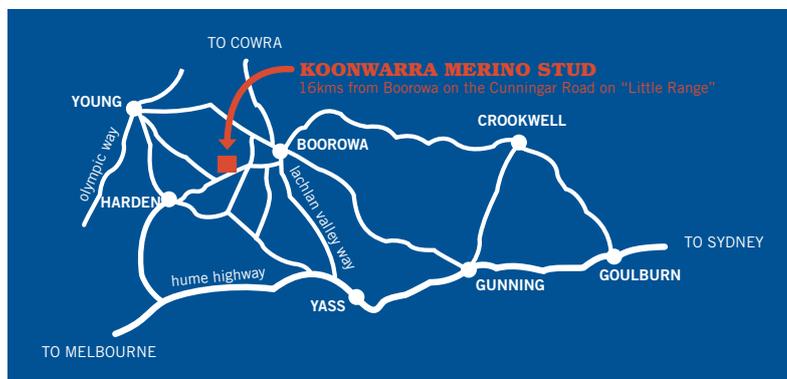
## MEDIUM WOOL MARKET

The first week of the wool sales after the mid year break have shown price rises for all wool types with an upwards movement of 30 cents to 40 cents for 20 to 22 micron fleeces and also up 10 cents to 15 cents for skirtings.

These rises back up the forward sales which occurred during the recess of the auction sales, so with the large volume of wool sold through the last three months woolgrowers could be discerning in their timing of sales, as it looks very much like an improving market in three to six months.

## 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 2015 drop lambs have been vaccinated, and are from ewes that were themselves vaccinated as lambs. Koonwarra has been vaccinating its lambs for 14 years and therefore every sheep offered is at least third generation Approved Vaccinates.



## KOONWARRA.COM.AU

The Koonwarra Merino Stud website has the 2015-16 schedule and will have links to the ram sale catalogue when it becomes available.

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