

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015**STUD OWNER C.T. MERRIMAN & SON ABN 79 841 445 104****STUD PRINCIPAL JONO MERRIMAN**

*Merry Christmas
and a happy, healthy and
rewarding 2016!*

*from Jono, Anna, Digby,
Charlie and Pip*

It has been a good year for the Koonwarra Merino Stud here at the Little Range property in the Boorowa area, with a season that keeps coming thanks to timely rain during the spring break and into the start of the summer months. This season's break has really let the 2015 Koonwarra weaners get a great start to their future growth and they are impressing us as they grow out in their constitution and wool quality.

Beside the normal sire families here at Koonwarra, in the 2016 ram sale you will see two new sires. One is the Poll Koonwarra sire from the Pemcaw Poll Stud (tag number P122024) whose genetics go back to a Moorundie Park Stud sire in South Australia. The other sire, Red 56, is once again from the One Oak Stud. This sire has been getting really good results in recent trails and shows a real potency in his genetic ability to carry his traits forward in his progeny.

2015 RAM SALE RESULTS

The 2015 Annual Ram Sale, held on the Wednesday 23 September, saw another increase of 10 rams offered for sale, taking the total head offered to 80 rams. Clearing 78 of 80 rams on sale day, the sale reached a top of \$3000 five times and averaged \$1820. While the top price was just \$100 less than 2014, the sale average was up from \$1394, with 11 more rams sold on the day in 2015 than on the 2014 sale day. There was plenty of demand for the extra 10 rams offered this year with 22 registered buyers and 21 of those purchasing at the sale. All these rams were un-shedded and paddock reared and will continue to thrive in the conditions that the environment throws at these rams over their first year of life here at Little Range.



From L to R – Koonwarra stud principal, Jono Merriman with Emma Oberg, “Leswell”, Yass and Charlie Merriman with one of the \$3,000 top priced rams at the 2015 Koonwarra Annual Ram Sale.

Angus and Gayle Oberg, with daughter Emma, "Leswell", Yass, were one of the top priced bidders as well as being volume buyers on the day. Returning to Koonwarra for their eighth year, they picked up 12 new sires. The ram in the photograph (on the previous page) weighed 77.5 kilograms and grew a fleece of 18.39 microns with a 3.67 micron standard deviation (SD), 16.85% coefficient of variation (CV) and 99% comfort factor (CF).

39th ANNUAL KOONWARRA ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE

The 39th Annual Koonwarra Ram Sale will be held on Wednesday 21 September 2016, at 1pm. A **preview inspection day** will be held on Friday 16th September from 10am to 4pm.

Due to the increase in the competition for these on property rams over the last few years we have decided to again increase the number of rams offered at the on-property ram sale by another 10, resulting in 90 rams being offered at the 2016 sale.

FLOCK RAM SALES

Flock ram sales commenced mid-October 2015 there are still some rams available if required, for your upcoming joining's in 2016.

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 client's sheep at any time in their production cycle of the year, 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 and the Koonwarra genetics are always open for a tour and a look at these sheep in their environment here at the Little Range property.

2016 FIELD DAYS

On Friday 22 January 2016, 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 on this day.

Koonwarra will again have some sheep on display at the annual **South West Slopes Merino Field Day** which is to be held in the grounds of Galong's St Clements Retreat on Thursday 1 September.



2015 CLIENT FEEDBACK

Mr Oberg said "the Koonwarra rams bred sheep with nice bright white wool and consistent high lambing percentage".

Mr Martin said "they selected rams with a good size frame, a fine medium fleece and good wool cut. The Koonwarra style of sheep fit into our mixed farming operation and stand up to the wet weather really well. In 2010 we had a very wet year and almost no colour in our wool".

Mrs Braid said that in her rams "some of which she has purchased here at the Koonwarra Stud over the years, a Koonwarra ram was the top fleece weight cutter at 14.1kg in a 12 month period including joining time, in the full environmental conditions of that 12 months".

Mr Davidson said that he "had good result in the Forbes sale yards with his 12 months bare shorn wethers and culled ewe weaners. Reaching a top prices of \$155.00 for the top 380/hd and second draft reaching the \$145.00 for 300/hd while the third line making \$125.00 for a 100/hd. The buyers there on the day said how well these wethers were presented and put a dressed out weight average across all three drafts of about the 25kg mark on the dressed out carcase".

Mr Gooden "had another very good scanning rate with just over 145% mark at scanning in 2015 year. That is up from an average scanning of around the 120% mark year on year in his flock".

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