

CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 2013 AT 1.30pm

MERINO & POLL MERINO INVITATIONAL

Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

Classings Cullings '13

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2013 RAM SALES THAT COUNT!

July 8th Eyre Peninsula F/Day

July 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd Bendigo Sheep Show

July 22nd Bendigo Ram Sale

July 23rd S.E. Merino F/Day

July 26th Mallee Merino F/day

July 29th Borung Waikerie SA
0427 414 494 Brenton Kroehne

July 30th Roemahkita Cummins SA
428 295 706 Joe & Tracey Dahlitz

Aug 1st Pimbena Wirrulla SA
08 8626 8002 Les Hamence

Aug 1st Rice's Creek Tintinara SA
Mark Vandeleur 0417 871 054

Aug 2nd Kamora Park Karoonda SA
08 8578 3456 Colin & Julie Boughen

Aug 5th & 6th Hamilton Sheepvention
Flairdale SA, Glenlea Park SA, Gunallo SA,
Kamora Park SA, Ramsgate SA,
Ridgway Advance SA, Ridgway SA,
Roemahkita SA, Southrose SA,
Superior Wool Merino SA,
Wallaloo Park Vic, Sohnic Vic

Aug 8th Lucernbrae Callington SA
0415 701 493 Keith & Judy Paech

Aug 12th Ridgway Lameroo SA
08 8578 8039 Ric & Gail 0433 518 568

Aug 13th Ramsgate Tintinara SA
Jed Keller 0427 691 858
Craig Keller 0418 259 049

Aug 14th Ridgway Advance
Bordertown SA 0409 408 263
08 8754 2028 David & Karen Ridgway

Aug 15th Flairdale Cookes Plain SA
0408 896 877 Wayne & Lindy Lehmann

Aug 16th Glenlea Park Pinnaroo SA
0428 766 126 Peter & Marianne Wallis

Aug 27th Nantoura Wharminda SA
Chris Prime 0427 289 021

Aug 30st Karawatha Buckleboo SA
0427 274 030 Bert Woolford
08 8627 4047

Fibre up, meat up, dollar down, rain sweet rain!

Welcome! I write this first page of the Cullings toward the almost completed product after a month of nights in the office, motel rooms and any chance to add bits here or there. When I started in late April, this great state was in a bit of disrepair urgently requiring moisture in particular in the South East. When it did arrive that district still missed out with growers there continually hand feeding and quite nervous. The wool and meat market were flat and to rub salt into the wound, 'The Voice' was still plaguing the telly.

Alas! Very late May and into June brought state wide rains and although feed still needs to respond in a big way the setting is a whole lot different right now including rising wool and meat markets with new potential crops doing the same and that show has to be close to finishing surely!

The all important, and only judging worth it's salt, the dual purpose class anywhere, but this time at Burra, was nearly taken out by Southrose with two teams finishing in the top ten and the polls missing out the top gong by only two points. The rams had fibre figures that were impossible to breed not that long ago with both in the sixteen micron area at 102kg & 96kg respectively at eleven months of age. This not being dissimilar to the Roemahkita winning pair results last year.... and the year before that!

The grumpy journo lived up to his reputation around the ground this year and maybe this near win had something to do with it as it was another exhibition where fine micron and big plain early maturing frame nearly took out the honours. Yep that's them, those genuine dual purpose animals which, "don't represent the true South Australian Merino."

I took on the OJD intrigue as the main topic this year and lay the mulesing issue down for awhile until everyone realises there is only one way out of that dilemma and that's **breeding**. PETA will raise it's queer and ugly head again before any merino backends are botoxed!

South Australia in particular is well ahead of any other state in regard to OJD approach and deserves accolades for the persistence of many groups associated with it's very slow demise. Ironically extremely bad tactics by the bureaucrats concerning OJD on



Kangaroo Island in the 90's where hysteria driven de-stocking programs were instigated has led to a rock hard vigilance by most. The Kangaroo Island Vet Clinic and it's operators may one day be a shrine to the disease's low prevalence.

That Classings Classic sale held it's head up again in 2012 despite a threatening quick end to a season that was going well but then capitulating, along with a wool market that ran out of puff coinciding with a massively high Aussie dollar. Three polls at the \$10,000 mark and a rival horn ram nearly taking out the honours at \$9,000 as well as an average well over \$3,000 meant for all serious buyers walking away with realistically priced animals. Sponsors, T&R, Brecon Breeders, Virbac, Leader Products and Pfizer Animal Health deserve accolades for their support on that great day.

The following quote (thanks Aphid) has absolutely nothing to do with this year's newsletter but would have cracked it big time last year with genomics as the main topic but here it is....

"...the difficulty of getting some industry leaders to take up genomics is like trying to muster cats!"

George Carter - Walcha NSW

MORE SALES THAT COUNT!

Sep 2nd Lorelmo Keyneton SA
Keyneton SA Joe keynes 0428 648 235

Sep 4th Southrose Tintinara SA
Jono Ashby 0427 045 223

Sep 5th Gunallo Pinnaroo SA
0427 778 485 Ray 0400 335 660 Brad

Sep 6th Calcookara Cowell SA
Niel Smith 0886 292 384
Brenton 08 8628 5039

Sep 6th Bradfield Jamestown SA
Bradtkes 8665 7067 or 0409 693 567

Sep 9th Classings Classic 2012
Murray Bridge Racecourse S.A.
Bill Walker 0428 973 804
08 8532 3065
inc. only studs trying hard.....(Monday)

Sep 11th Derella Downs Cascade WA
0427 323 544 Scott Pickering

Sep 13th Adelaide R/S includes
Glenlea Park, Gunallo, Roemahkita,
Southrose, Ridgway Advance, Wallaloo
Park, Ridgway

Sep 16th Lone Gum Crystal Brook SA
0427 362 801 Stuart & Nancy Everett

Sep 18th SWM Tintinara SA
Richard Harkness 0428 758 028

Sep 19th Pepperwell Keyneton SA
0427 790 676 Hans Graetz

Sep 19th Marnoo Field Day VIC.

Sep 20st Mernowie Marrabel SA
Ian Rowett 0418 486 050

Oct 2nd Sohnic Merino Marnoo Vic
0438 086 403 Scott Nicholson
Sale - midday

Oct 2nd Glendemar MPM Marnoo Vic
Ben Duxson 0353 592 292 Sale 3pm

Oct 3rd Wallaloo Park Marnoo Vic
0427 501 431 John & Jenny Carter
0427 776 114 Trent & Kate Carter

Oct 11th Ella Matta Parndana K.I SA
0427 596 108 Andrew Heinrich

October 11th Brookdale Arthur River WA
Andrew Clarke 0419 988 871
John 0418 904 171



ATTEMPT THE NEAR IMPOSSIBLE : UNDERSTANDING THE CONTROL OF OJD!

With the mulesing issue taking a back seat this year (in the Cullings that is, that one is still gurgling away don't worry!) I have decided to take on the OJD discussion. My writings come from personal client experience with the disease as well as facts and discussions gathered over the last month.

I ran a draft copy past Professor Peter Windsor, Sydney University and it is some of his responses I have inserted in bold amongst the article. Peter has a Bachelor of Vet Science and is a Professor of Livestock Health & Production amongst other high profile academic accolades. He was the leading researcher of OJD vaccination at Elizabeth MacArthur Agricultural Institute in 2000 whilst with Department of Ag. NSW which led to the registration of Gudair vaccine in Australia. Initials of 'P.W.' will indicate his intrusions!

Despite some protest over my aspersions regarding the OJD debate I decided to keep my article intact but added Peter's expert commentary throughout.

Following this marathon I have included a Q & A style interrogation of Deb Lehmann from Kingscote, Kangaroo Island who was right there when the stuff hit the fan. Deb and husband, Greg Johnsson, run their very successful vet practice on the Island and are at the hub of knowledge gleaned from years of growing with the disease. Some of her responses are enlightening and extremely informative in particular the commentary regarding question 1.

"My purpose here today is to tell the truth and I am on public record as stating that the Johne's program is the greatest scientific fraud ever perpetuated on the livestock industry"

Don Lawson-Grower NSW

"This is a bold piece of rhetoric but is not a statement based on any evidence as there has been no scientific fraud." P.W.

Since the panic style tactics of the bureaucrats in the handling of Ovine Johne's Disease in this state back in 1997 what has unfolded nationally has been a treasure trove of angst, fear, learning, rule adjustments and frustration right down to the absolute depths including suicide.

A disease that was to seemingly wipe the sheep population of Australia off the map is now in various forms of control, state by state, district by district and property to property,

To grasp what has eventuated since those early detections has taken a lot of study and research for me in the last month.

Gathering old information and trying to keep it separate to the current happenings to give the reader some kind of insight into where we all sit has been challenging to say the least.

Discussing the issue with Kangaroo Island graziers was difficult with most choosing not to as it is now dead and buried or having a go but quickly choosing another subject due to the emotional build up that is still evident.

As is the case with the mulesing dilemma many are looking for the silver bullet to fix the problem seamlessly. As skin traction was to be the big fix for mulesing, a points based system or ABC - Assurance Based Credit Score system initially based on faeces/blood testing and random slaughter to identify the possibility OJD was the disease equivalent.



Try asking any one of authority on just how that skin traction 'bullet' as a means to replace mulesing is developing and you are met with an expression that suggests a sinking 'cannonball' that pathetically rolled from the barrel without detonation!

I think it pays to strip things back to basics in understanding the handling of the disease's evolvment in Australia. A brief description follows of what the disease is all about based loosely on DPI/PIRSA type referencing.

Ovine Johne's Disease is a chronic wasting disease caused by bacteria that leads to the thickening of the bowel wall thus reducing the absorption of nutrients from the intestine. Dung is exited from sheep carrying the bacteria contaminating pasture and water supplies spreading the infection.

That bacteria is named Mycobacterium Avium subspecies paratuberculosis. ('s' strain - sheep)

As you can expect, other sheep pick up the infected dung during grazing and the disease begins it's deadly cycle yet it was suddenly realised that other species were capable of the same. Throw possums, deer, pigs, birds, elephants into the act as well as that flowing creek cutting through the paddock and



CLASSIC '13 RIDGWAY 185

There's a good reason Ric Ridgway has a smirk on his dial as this monster should create a lot of excitement at Classic '13.

Tram like, with a big clean head the size of a buffalo, '185' will just squeeze into the sale pen. Bred from the outstanding GP004 who sold for \$10,000 at Classic '10 he's hard to fault.



CLASSIC '13 FLAIRDALE 779-003

Wallaloo Park purchased WP779 for \$7,500, continues to breed exceptionally well for this ever improving stud with a son Flairdale 003 no exception.

Wayne is very keen to retain this great animal as a sire for Flairdale while I feel the need for his sale to raise the stud profile even higher assuming he will be purchased by another progressive stud for a rewarding figure!

You will sell him won't you Wayne?!

the consequences raised huge alarm bells although Peter Windsor suggests possibly only the creeks are a threat.

"In a matter of weeks, the fear of God was put into the farming community."

This quote surfaced at the AWI hosted OJD review in Sydney in November last year. It was grazier, Don Lawson's recollection of the tumultuous events that followed detection on his and other properties with 10,000 sheep disappearing from his Yea district alone around 1997, the same year that the disease was exposed on Kangaroo Island S.A.

An ill fated eradication and destocking program was instigated at this time with many properties quarantined with many stock sent to slaughter as a means of instant eradication of the disease.

What was to be the real threat though was the stigma associated with having the disease compared by many as being infected with leprosy!

"..... in my opinion this article intro is clearly an attempt to be provocative and is somewhat dismissive of the enormous and important research work that was commenced and continues on OJD in Australia to understand and better manage a disease of which we had little knowledge of in sheep when it was first recognised." P.W.

It always fascinated me that at this time whilst many vets and scientists were learning and exploring the disease that many of our Kiwi counterparts were looking in from afar totally bewildered at why vaccination wasn't thought to be instigated immediately!

"It is true that there was initial resistance to vaccine by authorities because of lack of solid international evidence of efficacy and concerns of occupational risk of self injection." P.W.

More of that later but alarmingly (a common word in this article) the vaccine was 'evaluated' and 'red tape' held off immediate despatch!

Animal Health Australia (AHA) incorporating other sheep groups announced a 6 year, \$40 million package and introduced the National Ovine Johnes Disease Control and Evaluation Program (NOJDP) in the summer of 1998 which was to run until 2004.

"Certainly comparisons with NZ are inappropriate; the disease is endemic there with significant losses, rare in sheep flocks...." P.W.

Whilst the group were inventing long titles, learning, evaluating vaccine (!) studying how OJD spreads, investigating abattoir surveillance methods, researching if semen can transport the disease and possibly

setting up superannuation packages, the disease was seemingly spreading at a rapid rate.

If the first K.I. property owners to inherit OJD were starting to get a tad lonely, over a short time they suddenly had 106 other 'buddies' suffering the same issue with another 60 cases on mainland S.A.

"...concerns were largely dismissed by industry groups based on an assumption that eventually proved false being the organism wouldn't survive well in the Australian environment and spread easily in our extensive sheep flocks." P.W.

Now would be a good time to question just how the disease came to be on Kangaroo Island. Almost every breed of sheep has been blamed but unfortunately this list doesn't include Dorper or Darnara! Although maybe it was a hint of fortune as these exotics would have spread the disease over the whole Island in a day such is their nomadic prowess.

OJD was first diagnosed in the Central Tablelands of NSW in 1980. Now visualize the journeys and routes that certain infected stock endured over time including 'silent' progeny slowly spreading this wasting disease nationwide. I had a possum, a deer, a running creek and a contaminated stock truck in my 'movie'...how was yours!

By the year 2000, 823 flocks were identified to have OJD nationally.

The 'stigma' associated with OJD wasn't only reserved for growers. At about this time I had sent six rams to Esperance W.A. from my favourite Kangaroo Island stud, Lincoln Green, and within months, after an inspection and subsequent blood culture test for OJD, my purchases were under suspicion after a positive OJD result on two of the rams! Fortunately and as part of the procedure, subsequent testing proved that both rams were negative. During the gap between tests I found I couldn't discuss the issue with anyone, not even my father or Rose, as I was the guy who had possibly just introduced Johnes's to, the then, cheekily self entitled, 'iron clad' state of Western Australia!

"Nowhere is iron clad against OJD if infected sheep are introduced to a naive population." P.W.

Now I can safely suggest that I believe the test was a farce with the positive results acting as a warning shot at any rams coming from the 'infected' East being scrutinised to the maximum degree! The interval between tests was way too short and there wasn't enough emotion from the other end as to glorify my predicament!

5% was a typical figure at how much of the flock was lost to OJD through death and the disease was still on the march. Now



CLASSIC '13 GLENLEA PARK 395

Classic '13 sale will begin with this lot 1 thumper from Glenlea Park representing all that Classic sales were designed to achieve. Easy care, fibre & frame.

Sired by GP004 which could have topped the Classic'10 sale, 'GP395' was E.T. bred via the stud's top donor dam GP 010455 who was bred by a purchased WP ram that was WP Maximus bred.

'395' is part of an elite collection of the best rams ever to grace the Classic sales over twelve years.



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that all research was complete a new set of guidelines was introduced under a new banner. In 2004 the even longer title was announced and may not fit on this line : the National Approach to the Management of Ovine Johne's Disease in Australia (NAOJD) was inception.

This body was now more pro active with most research encompassed to forward a new plan. At last the introduction of the bloody vaccine, Gudair, was instigated and subsidized programs became available yet only in some states! Work that out?! This was intertwined with the introduction of abattoir surveillance and other monitoring measures.



But the biggy was the inception of a Sheep Health Statement (SHS) including a point rating system - ABC - Assurance Based Credit score - for flock status in relation to OJD under the guise of MAP-Market Assurance Program. Very Low Prevalence, Low Prevalence, medium prevalence and high prevalence zones were also drawn up which was almost the undoing of the apparent pro-activeness of the new body.

The point system was to become a boon for S.A. growers as the general health of the state as time wore on and OJD began to wear down, points were easy to accrue. This made it easy to trade into other states yet almost impossible for the reverse action due to prevalence zones a major hitch to Victoria, NSW and the once iron clad Western Australian traders.

The system began to crumble when even high scoring MAP flocks, with the elite boys passing all requirements by successfully completing PFC 350 (faecal culture tests measuring OJD bacteria activity), abattoir surveillance with more sheep inspected the more the credits plus vaccinating, were unsuccessful in warding off the big one, Ovine Johne's Disease!

I'm holding off from introducing more information on the Gudair vaccine as that's the intriguing part of the whole shibang so hold on 'cause AHA every five years come up with a new name for the OJD body. In 2007 the OJD Management Plan was created which was much of the same except for the OJD incidences in MAP flocks needed addressing. Prevalence areas

were hosed down from 4 to 3 converting to Low, Medium & High with the ABC point system still in existence.

Over time there had been a lot of criticism of the zonings where irrespective of your point ratings, if you are in a high prevalence district, your trade was restricted due to lack of enough points. Even sending animals to pastoral zones like Wilcannia NSW or White Cliffs NSW of extremely low prevalence was taboo. S.A. trade sheep, classed as low prevalence, could send stock anywhere much to the bane of some states. We even blocked all W.A. sheep from entering a few years back due to zoning requirements. That happened on a January 1st yet for the full year prior to that, over 1,000,000 sheep were traded to all eastern states!

Vaccination was heavily promoted now, with better pasture management pushed as a means to keep younger stock away from infected breeding ewes and pasture for as long as manageable. the ABC system was still heavily adhered to as to a means to health quality assure stock.

Now...to last year 2012! With larger cracks appearing due to zones or 'lines on the map' as well as more flocks copping OJD that were highly ranked on the MAP system, something had to give. The newly named **OJD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2012-2017** still convened by AHA but relying on heavy input from the majors, Sheepmeat Council Australia (SCA), WoolProducers Australia (WPA), Meat and Livestock Australia and others were to devise the ultimate plan.

Only the plan surfaced as it was howled down so fiercely that AWI, as lookers only, settled the dust and hosted a forum in Sydney after industry 'leaders' were asked on their points of view to aid the final release. Righteo try this...this mob certainly has a fascination with lines and zones and areas so you can only guess!

The prevalence areas were reduced to only two zones-Control and Protected. (insert crap hits fan here!) **Protected Areas** to trade had to submit a regional bio-security plan for consideration. There also had to be evidence that there was no OJD in the area or rare and actively controlled. **Control Areas** was where OJD is prevalent and continues to spread with no regional approach to preventing the disease! Narrow it down if you will to two neighbours, one with 'the bug' and one without...what's that area called?!

National criticism and confusion reigned. The powers-at-be suggested that their wasn't enough input from the nation's growers to devise the perfect plan. Everyone became jittery and rudderless and the two worded sit-on-the-fence term 'status quo' became a popular quote. It's interpretation became quickly apparent, "pharked if I know," covers most of it!



CLASSIC '13 SWM 123

WP Bartel (bought by Superior Wool Syndicate for \$28,000 at Wallaloo Park '10) makes his much anticipated debut with progeny at sales in 2013. Superior Wool Merino is a share in the semen which produced this wizzer SWM 123 which will be sold at Classic '13.

Proudly held here by Cale Harkness and Rob Harkness.
Pure muzzle, frame & fibre!



CLASSIC '13 KAMORA PARK 1005

Kamora Park produced some stunners last year including two that cracked the \$10,000 mark at Classic '11. The guy pictured may just exceed that when the public get a glimpse of him at Field Days in July.

KP1005 will sell at Classic '13 and is bred by a syndicate of ram lambs that were E.T. bred by L47. Big!

To leave the system as it was for a fricken year until something better came along was S.A. Stud Merino Breeders Association's response which equalled their last pathetic effort in remaining 'status quo' about AWI's funding for Genomics research only last year. If something good came out the forum it was the fact that the 'do nothing' motion was howled down and defeated 34 : 16. I thought status quo was a rock band anyway! No grunt SASMBA!!

Meanwhile S.A recorded it's first MAP accredited stud to break down in 14 years with one, positive to OJD, ewe identified. The stud had introduced only four rams from outside sources but were all MN3 studs!

The zones and lines on maps suggested, and a good summary to this piece, that a grower in Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania & parts of NSW despite having top points with MN3 8, could not trade sheep into S.A. even with Stat Dec. & Sheep Health Statement.

"...years of work and thousands spent on forming a national strategy has failed", quotes Laura Poole of the ABC which was the killer blow for an unorganized camp.

The January 1st 2013 rollout didn't eventuate with July 1st the new threatened date for something concrete that was to appease the masses....in a hurry!

Not game to have a new plan named similar to the last, the group flashed, NEW OJD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013-2018 with even the year span altered from the 2013-2017 original!

This bit is important so I will keep my commentry out of it!

Australia's OJD National Management Plan 2013-18 has two main objectives:

- To minimise the risk of infection by the bacteria spreading to properties and regions that currently appear to be disease free.
- To reduce the financial impact and adverse animal health and welfare effects of the disease on individual flocks, and on the sheep industry as a whole.

Key features of the 2013-2018 National OJD Management Plan are:

A management system that relies on a risk management approach and greater producer responsibility. It provides a National Framework for states to work from in setting their OJD policies, and does not interfere with trade.

The continuation of Sheep Health Statement (SHS) but the removal of the current ABC

point scheme. The ABC Scheme was built around the existence of recognised prevalence areas which will no longer exist.

Encouragement for producers to collectively develop their own Regional Biosecurity Plans (RBPs), due to the added effectiveness of a collective approach. Guidelines will be provided to assist groups of producers in preparing RBPs.

No control or protected areas – formal zoning is untenable due to the lack of a formal approval process for Regional Biosecurity Plans by State Governments.

Increased emphasis on extension and communication activities to assist producers and industry to understand the new system.

Abattoir monitoring as a means of providing individuals and regions with information on the prevalence of OJD. It remains the most cost-effective means of identifying a broad range of diseases affecting the sheep industry.

On-going funding of OJD research and development work, with a greater emphasis placed on communicating these activities to industry.

WPA and SCA are currently undertaking further consultation in the area of risk assessment and the Sheep Health Statement (SHS) a view to providing greater recognition for **VACCINATION**.

Hoorah! That word vaccination at last and the subsequent recognition of!

I presume this to be a draft for us all to observe as the rollout is on July 1st so recent history might suggest ver.2 or plan B to come into effect anytime soon! More grower responsibility as to take the onus away from National Management Plan bodies appears to be pushed. Protected and control zones as well as Prevalence areas, have disappeared off the radar thus eliminating the ABC points system which ran in tandem with these zones.

Abattoir monitoring is pushed quite hard despite negativity which I will touch further into this piece.

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CLASSIC '13 RAMSGATE 289

Craig, Jed & Harold Keller proudly show off Ramsgate '289' which took my eye at classing in mid June due to his skin, fibre and frame package.

Bred from semen A.I.'d from WP Casper, this guy has figures that typify any entry going into the Classic sales.

18.9u 2.8sd 14.8cv% 0.6pf.

The Keller's ram cataloging was a great moment this year with huge depth of breeding now making it very easy to fill all Classic, Hamilton and on property sale pens with oozing quality. Come and get 'em!



Another Flairdale moment of ingenious tactics. Toward the front end of the classing race is a latched 'relief' panel which can be opened for any reason but was used at classing when a few ewes attempted a mass suffocation attempt. Good to have you home between work Matt!



Ol' Muffy can't wait until July when the AWI calendar in the ram shed flips over to July showing one animal in the photo that just could be a cousin! Check it out!

Vaccination

"Field experience in NZ and Australia shows that Johne's losses become insignificant in vaccinated stock." NZ OJD Website



The history of OJD in New Zealand goes back further than our noted outbreaks in the 1980's so the quote above is a soother for the following discussion. There is a sentiment from older growers that suggests that had the authorities moved quickly in the 80's and began immediate subsidized Gudair vaccination programs that we wouldn't be amongst this apparent mess right now!

"However although vaccine is great for managing losses on infected farms, there is NO evidence that vaccination will prevent the introduction of OJD, with research on shedding rates that vaccinates in and from infected flocks will shed the bacteria at rates that are a bit alarming." P.W.

The dropping of the ABC points scheme had to happen not only as part of the disintegration of the 'lines on the map' but so many the of flocks associated with the program and came unstuck when positive animals were found. Many of these had been on the program for years and heralded maximum points! Many of these flocks had not undertaken any vaccination programs.

"...again, the Gudair vaccine is an excellent tool for reducing shedding it is not always a perfect one for eliminating shedding." P.W.

The cost of Gudair vaccine is a one off, for life, \$2.00 per head yet oddly there are variations to that price. If you have a neighbour who has suffered the wrath of the disease your vaccination process is 100% subsidized in S.A. but not sure of that figure in other states. Following vaccinations in the second year for young stock is 50% subsidized.

"Commercial growers need to vaccinate if they see OJD cases or have abattoir surveillance positives. There is also a case for them to vaccinate if they choose to buy rams from infected studs (even if the rams are vaccinated; and superior genetics may indicate this is a good move for their business). However it also means they will probably have to vaccinate their flock eventually & this may have to go on for decades, so there is a very strong economic case to keep OJD out." P.W.

The cost of PFC 350 faecal testing runs around the \$1,500 figure and appears to be legal and trade worthy if done every two years according to the latest reincarnation of the Sheep Health Statement.

The cost of abattoir surveillance I believe is subsidized and may cost zilch. The result of this comes in the form of Abattoir 500 or Abattoir 150 (animals) status but the meatworks needs to be advised of your request for this to take place. The animals have to be over 2 years of age and submitted within twenty four months of previous inspections.. They also have to be run on the property for two years.

"As a flock test, pooled faecal culture provides 95% confidence of detecting infection if the prevalence is 2% or greater." P.W.



The downside of abattoir testing is due to OJD taking it's time during the stalking process to rear it's ugly head, **the horse has already bolted once the disease has been identified.** A loose conclusion estimates that the average span of years from infection to detection could be in the range of 5 to 20 years! Thus if a perfectly healthy animal with it's guts exposed on surveillance day had his/her chance again four or five years later, even after living on uncontaminated pasture, their could be dire results!

Roger Fletcher-Fletchers Abattoirs-Dubbo NSW, at the AWI gig last November, suggested that there can be a delay in reporting abattoir surveillance by six months. He also found it difficult in notifying property owners of any positive sightings due to the subsequent anguish it bestowed.

In a list of priorities, **Vaccination is the only answer to the OJD issue**, with abattoir inspection too late if their is a problem, PFC dung testing not reliable with false negatives causing heartbreak and also the fact that not all animals are tested. Those that are suspect are often 'trenched' prior to any testing! This test also takes three months to culture before result although a one week version is about to hit the streets.

There is no cure for Johne's with destocked properties that were restocked with accredited sheep reinfected again. **Vaccination although not 100% effective is of the highest priority especially when trade is considered.**



CLASSIC '13 ROEMAHKITA 579-2001

Roemahkita Tag 2001 bred by Escalator will be a star attraction at Classic '13 exhibiting all of the fibre and frame credentials that makes that sale famous! Shown here in casual mode yet outstanding muzzle and perfect front abound while Gary West can't help but admire. Joe's look suggests that I must tell the world that he is the best ram in the sale...perhaps he is!



CLASSIC '13 RIDGWAY ADVANCE L013

Ridgway Advance 013 typifies the body and neck extension of so many of their top end animals. This guy was bred via a top E.T. mother that took my eye at E.T. ewe selection two years ago and will feature at Classic '13...wait until you see the fibre!

“The problem with ‘vaccinate and forget’ with OJD is that is based on the flawed notion that the vaccine will prevent the disease. It doesn’t, although it is a powerful tool to control losses. However many are trying to say that as vaccinated sheep have a lower risk of shedding, then trading of vaccinates to uninfected areas and flocks should be permitted, and so you ‘all better just vaccinate as infected sheep are coming’. Why not also say you had better dip off shears annually as lice are coming?” P.W.

“If your flock is at risk, vaccinate!” FACT SHEET

According to Peter Nosworthy - PIRSA, South Australia recommends a full vaccination program plus young sheep annually as well as bought sheep. The usual recommendation is for young sheep only as this mob are least likely to have picked up the bacteria but if there is no infestation with bought or older sheep vaccinate the lot and then only youngsters annually before 16 weeks.

Vaccination has diminished the disease significantly on Kangaroo Island thus the whole nation could learn from this and do the same. Explore these figures and suck them in as this is evidence. Vigilance and diligence has paid off at the ‘Stigma’ capital by vaccination and PFC monitoring in unison with pro-active Kangaroo Island vets who host grower groups in tackling these types of issues. Check this out...

Early 1980’s OJD infected flocks

Kangaroo Island: 107 Mainland: 60

Today 2013 OJD infected flocks

Kangaroo Island: 17 Mainland: 30

Compare the above success with Tasmania’s dismal stats at the minute:

2002 OJD infected flocks 0%

2012 OJD infected flocks 20%

I know that through the grief that many Islanders endured through the '80's that the state is now in the best shape of all from all that was learnt in those years. The typical K.I. spirit engulfed a community with now, positive outcomes. Apparently 700 flocks are now infected in Victoria with only 50 in all of S.A. which may reflect the activeness of the people associated with the huge outbreak on K.I. whipping the S.A. mainland into gear.

“Vaccination of sheep on uninfected properties will provide some protection against infection being introduced, but this is not absolute. If infected animals are introduced, or animals stray into an infected environment there is still a possibility that they will become infected. The greater the exposure the greater the risk. There needs to be a focus on bio security to prevent introduction of infection.” P.W.

Vaccination is an essential tool for infected flocks to get them past the infection stage and back into regular trading. Gudair will delay death of those infected but won't totally eliminate the disease.

Through the culling of wasty sheep, and the proper procedure in vaccinating and subsequent monitoring, the benefits are obvious as witnessed on Kangaroo Island.

As promoted by Pfizer who distribute Gudair, the vaccine will not totally eliminate the disease or totally prevent it's introduction yet it's success rate certainly out shines that of, at times, the dicey PFC testing.

The company's quote is that the vaccination will cause on average of 71% reduction in the number of sheep shedding the bacteria. In a mob of 100 sheep then if 20% or 20 sheep are shedding prior to vaccination, then with a 70% reduction in these 20 animals only 5/6 could still be offenders.

I wonder of these 5 or 6 offenders whether they are always vaccinated correctly. There are some horrible results coming from the trials run on injecting procedure and perhaps with so many 'cautious' operators around that some stock aren't correctly vaccinated. Maybe those 5 or 6 could be reduced to 2 or 3 or less with correct implementation. OR could there be disease transfer in the womb??

“I have been very annoyed that some have used the ‘poor vaccination technique’ as an argument to dismiss observations that vaccinates shed. It is well recognised and entirely predictable that some vaccinates are not protected by Gudair and will develop the disease and shed (the bacteria). So yes, I agree that it is very important that all animals in a vaccinating flock are properly vaccinated, but doing this will not mean that shedding the bacteria will not occur from some of those vaccinates.” P.W.

Fletchers Abattoir in Dubbo hire an extra person to trim off abscess lumps from incorrect vaccination. He suggests that if you can't vaccinate properly then don't vaccinate!

Another of Pfizer's pitches is that the drug prevents 90% of mortalities, delays the death of those who have OJD as well as delaying the shedding of bacteria by 12 months. I wish I thought of the drug before anyone. I'd have my own rural tabloid by now!

Such is the success of Gudair that S.A. and Queensland now accept the vaccine alone as a measure to stop the disease. The now dated system of ABC points as a stock health assurance due to outbreaks nationwide just don't cut it anymore.

“Vaccination has turned the district around from losses of 25% in some age groups to



The classing run throughout the year takes me to many different environs and temperatures. The difference in temperature at Glenlea Park's-Pinnaroo on property sale day on August the 17th and Pimbena's-Wirrulla first ram classing exactly five months later was forty degrees!

The GP sale was one of the coldest (yet very successful) ram sales I had experienced with Les Hamence's first stage young ram classing one of the hottest ever on January 17th. Les was also pregnancy scanning on the same day with John Lehmann looking to be in need of a swimming pool and a keg of beer.

Had the Pimbena job included ewe hogget classing which would have taken another half day, I would have cancelled and attempted the job on the weekend when the temp had dropped to only forty degrees!

The support from mates when the weather extremes are at it's most sinister was apparent on the 47 degree classing day with a text sent to me from Brenton Smith and Hansi Graetz with kids swimming at Port Gibbon who were well aware of my whereabouts that day!



virtually none and we have trouble finding any case of OJD." Jim MacDonald-Vet Yass NSW

With communication at an all time high between the grower and the groups who setup OJD management plans including AHA, MLA, SCA, WPA & Mamboobies there are some good tactical suggestions on pasture management to add to beating OJD.

These include the saving of low contaminated pastures for weaners and not lambing ewes, strict joining procedure of two cycles as to eliminate the delay of weaning due to late lamb tail in the mob. Ridding of wasty ewes and running lambing ewes at the lowest rate possible as well as an early weaning to get lambs away from possible infected mothers and pasture are wise tips although not always possible.

Feeding stock in feeders, crop/pasture rotations, fence creeks are added measures to consider.

With the new system the SHEEP HEALTH STATEMENT takes centre stage with no recognition of trading restrictions, zones, lines on maps, prevalence areas and no assurance based credit points! It is now up to the recipient of traded stock to request a SHS and the onus is up to he or she in the satisfaction and detail of what is presented. There are no credits as such for points gained by vaccinating or pooled culture testing but the fact that any procedure is ticked in a yes/no situation is suffice.

"High level biosecurity means multiple approaches to protecting the introduction of infection; securing borders and doing risk assessments on introductions. Not introducing rams from infected flocks makes a lot of sense. If the stud is infected, dipping rams with an acaricide on a lice population that is resistant and using Gudair if OJD is present, is not adequate protection in my opinion." P.W.

All flocks are at risk I say so vaccinating should be high on the agenda and will be compensated by possible premiums during sheep trading also in the knowledge that you are being pro-active (yuk!) toward the cause with little chance of infestation. 'Pro-active reminds me of the waiter who can't help but say 'enjoy' EVERY bloody time he put s a plate in front of you!

This piece was never to be so huge but as I researched more and more into this frustrating disease and the management thereof, the more intrigued yet frustrated I became! I will be personally encouraging all of my clients to vaccinate with Gudair as I think ALL flocks are at risk of OJD yet to a lesser extent in the Pastoral zone. OJD bacteria is known to last longer in the environ in higher rainfall zones where there is generally more cover and shade. This reduces dramatically in exposed treeless regions.

With the reduction of OJD incidence over time, as typical with the Kangaroo Island story, perhaps rural journalism can turn it's drama tinged reporting back to where it belongs. Exposing those who treat the lice issue with no respect and infest neighbouring properties due to their own selfish mismanagement. How many graziers find out their neighbour has lice when they themselves inherit it through the fence! Worm drench resistance is of equal concern.

"I have generally found that putting the data in front of producers usually cuts through the politics when they see that advice is based on evidence, rather than eminence or error of opinion." Prof. Peter Windsor



Compared to many other rural commodities wool has faired pretty well since the mini boom a couple of years ago. With that in mind many farming enterprises have concentrated more on sheep infrastructure to capitalise.

Brenton Kroehne-Borung S.A. shown here with his two youngsters and workman, Jake, have a break during construction of the new ram shed including flooring made from plastic panels, an idea picked from Roemahkita's new setup at Cummins SA.

The panels are supplied by Magnus and are 1200mm x 400mm and eliminate the need for standard grating.



Q & A with Deb Lehmann

Kangaroo Island Veterinary Clinic

1. A client of mine near Lake Bolac acquired OJD several years back, destocked for the recommended period, then restocked with fresh MAP stock yet within two years found out that the 'dreaded' had returned. His quote to me now is, "The zoning for OJD is easy, VACCINATED and NON VACCINATED and that's it!"

Your comment please? (read the response carefully here folks, great local research)

Destocking was trialled after many producers had already gone through the recommended process. 4 out of the 20 trials held nationally were on Kangaroo Island. All 4 properties did as your client near Lake Bolac did and re-stocked with sheep from MAP tested flocks. No other sheep sold from these MAP flocks developed OJD and the flocks themselves have not broken down. (BUT!)

All of the destock/restock flocks had OJD detected 2 years later (yr 2000/2001) by the PFC test. My belief is that the organism had not died out on the pasture/soil and the new sheep were infected on the property. One property had 2 ewes wasting prior to lambing and on autopsy I also sampled their unborn lambs for OJD culture. Tissues from the ewes and the unborn lambs grew the OJD bacteria. This method of spread is not talked about much but I think it is an important method of spread in dry areas with harsh environments. It is most likely the reason for vaccine failure in some infected sheep flocks as the lambs are already infected by the time they are vaccinated. (NB In cattle the organism only infects offspring via the colostrum.)

2. Can you remind me what the lag time was all about in getting Gudair onto the market and subsequently 'out there' in Australia.

Gudair was made available in 2002. Disease first diagnosed on KI 1998.

3. Is there a 'live' vaccine for OJD in NZ? What does this mean?

There was a live vaccine in NZ before Gudair but I don't think it is used anymore. With a live vaccine you are introducing the organism to the property so potentially infecting clean properties. In Aus there was confusion initially with Gudair use with some people wrongly promoting the idea that the vaccine was live.

4. MN3 8 points sounds very snug and safe but due to the farm neighbour's animal health issues (ie. Johne's), other species transfer (possum etc.), waterways, my work boots etc. surely to have all stock vaccinated over time is a

safer option than a fragile health test. Your comment please.

The only protection against this disease is vaccination. If your flock is tested negative to MN3 level and then you vaccinate the whole flock you have an Approved Vaccinated Flock even though the sheep were vaccinated older than 4 months of age. In the MAP program once you have an AVF you no longer need to have any testing done - just annual audits of introductions to maintain status of MN3-V.

The biggest risk to your business is detection of disease through testing. Vaccinate now and eliminate this risk. If you have a neighbour with OJD the organism has probably already contaminated your property. It is only a matter of time before it is detected by testing. Once you vaccinate, most sheep exposed to the organism will not get infected. Those that do get infected will have a delayed progression to shedding the bug in the faeces. Sell the sheep at 5yo and you are unlikely to get caught out. If there happens to be sheep already infected at the time of vaccination some may go on to become wasted and shed a lot of bugs in their faeces. The best thing here is to cut the throat of any sheep that is not maintaining good body condition. With OJD this usually occurs leading up to lambing. Vaccinate NOW, become MN3-V and don't risk diagnosis by testing. Most properties never find the source of introduction so doesn't matter how many negative PFC tests are done - this is no protection!

5. A percentage of Vaccinated stock can still shed the bacteria but over generations of vaccinating this percentage diminishes. Right of Wrong?

Right but qualified by saying "vaccinated stock 'in a flock already infected.'"

6. The 'snobbery' of S.A. and Queensland with their stock trade restrictions appears to make sense to me. Your comment?

Yes it does make sense. We do have a much lower prevalence of disease so should endeavour to keep it that way. We must also educate our seed stock producers about vaccination in the MAP especially as sale sheep may go to higher risk areas.

7. A merino stud in Victoria who is five generation vaccinated really wants to sell rams at Classic'13. Is this stud safer than a MN3 who only has randomly picked ewes for faeces or blood culture testing with no vaccinating?

This depends on whether the Vic stud had disease nearby when vaccination started. If so there could still be some older sheep

shedding bacteria although very unlikely. This flock will need to have a negative PFC 350 test to be able to bring sheep to your sale and the new PCR test gives results after 2-3 weeks (not 3 months any more). If the flock was in the MAP before they started vaccinating they are an extremely low risk flock and certainly less so than the MN3 SA flock. They could enter the MAP again as a MN1-V flock with the single negative PFC test and then not have to test again for entry to SA in future years. Another option for entry to SA is to have negative Abattoir 500 within the last 2 years.

The status of the MN3 flock really only reflects the actual situation 5 years ago. If disease was introduced back then it could be detected now or in the near future at the next PFC test.

8. Is abattoir surveillance really that effective when a young sheep could look 'clean' at slaughter yet still have the disease?

Abattoir surveillance is not sensitive as a once off for detection of disease in a flock especially if the sheep are less than 4 years old. Over time you get more assurance but once again this depends on the area around the being free and no introductions of risky sheep. It could take up to 10 years to detect OJD by this method. The on farm PFC test is much more sensitive.

9. I have suggested to traders that Kangaroo Island would be the first place to think of when buying replacement stock due to their vigilance with OJD containment rather than from other areas in snob mode (aka in denial) of any Johne's issues. Fair enough statement?

I would suggest that any replacement sheep purchased have some assurance through testing and or vaccination - the best being in MAP and vaccinating no matter where they are from (although all flocks in the MAP on Kangaroo Island have been vaccinating since 2002).

The next level of assurance from my point of view would be a closed flock that has been tested negative and has then vaccinated the whole flock and continued vaccinating lambs for many generations. Most vaccinating flocks on Kangaroo Island satisfy this criteria.

A flock MN3 in the MAP from an area where OJD has not been diagnosed has good assurance but could be diagnosed with OJD at the next test.

Flocks with an Abattoir 500 test have some assurance but not much. Tests over time will give added assurance. Untested flocks have the least assurance even if they

are from an area where OJD has not been diagnosed YET.

10. It seems that an individual who has endured the years and costs of MAP and Johne's accreditation is the first to knock the vaccination of stock. I think it is the fear in realising that vaccination may rule and MN3 may become meaningless despite the \$thousands he/she has spent. Your comment please.

You could play a role in helping people in the MAP go the next step to the highest assurance possible for their clients and the least business risk for themselves by vaccinating their whole flock. The vaccine is once for the life of the sheep and the cost is cheap insurance when it means that the chance of having disease diagnosed is virtually eliminated. They should be encouraged to take this step. An added bonus is that they no longer have to pay for regular testing, just the annual MAP audit.

Little bogies like the fear of self inoculation can be eliminated by using a Simcro Sekurus vaccinator gun especially designed to protect the user with a shroud that tents the skin and keeps the needle covered until it is pushed hard against the skin.

11. Had every lamb been vaccinated on every property in Australia right from the early 80's when the disease was detected, wouldn't we be in a better position now?

There is no way that vaccination would have been recommended or undertaken on such a broad scale. The best option would have been to vaccinate the infected flocks and those several properties out around them to contain the disease while undertaking a testing program to determine its extent. This is what happened on Kangaroo Island.

12. If yes, then there would have been no need for the MAP program but just a Stat Dec to suggest that you have or have not vaccinated correct?

The answer was no. In Iceland in the 1950's OJD and 2 other diseases broke out in some sheep introduced from Germany. The properties were destocked for some months then stock were reintroduced. The other 2 diseases were eradicated but OJD showed up again soon. They developed a vaccine and vaccinated all sheep in the surrounding area for control of disease. A natural mountain range divided the country in two and sheep trading did not occur between the 2 areas.

It was compulsory to vaccinate in the area of infection and compulsory not to vaccinate in the other area. Abattoir surveillance has continued ever since to ensure that the disease is under control and reducing in the infected area and not showing up in the free area. Sheep are randomly blood tested to make sure that they have been vaccinated in

the control area and tested to make sure they are not vaccinating in the free area. After many years of no longer seeing disease in the control area a trial on some properties was carried out to see what happened if vaccination stopped. The disease started to appear again so vaccination has remained compulsory in this control area.

Maybe we should have created 2 such areas in Australia and stopped trade between them to minimise the unnecessary use of vaccine in areas where disease is unlikely to occur.

13. What is the level of stigma associated with K.I. stock and how have the flocks recovered and how did they go about restocking?

Part 1 - I don't believe that there is any stigma associated with KI stock any more. The different zone for trade between KIs and the mainland meant that most producers selling cast for age sheep or prime lambs went straight to slaughter and store lambs went to feedlots then on to slaughter. Any that have gone to the market place have had equivalent or more points to mainland stock on the Sheep Health Statement in use for the last 5 years. Studs like Ella Matta have been MN3-V for 10 years and have had no problems selling rams on the mainland. Education is the key to their clients understanding that buying sheep from flocks in the Market Assurance Program that are also Approved Vaccinates are the safest sheep in Australia to introduce to their properties with respect to OJD.

14. I presume there is evidence of grower denial with any poor stock on properties quickly 'taken care of' to avoid detection. Yes?

Not on KI. Destroying sheep as they become thin is an excellent way of reducing pasture contamination with the OJD bacteria. There is enough bacteria in one pellet of faeces from a wasting sheep to give an infective dose to every sheep in Australia (infective dose is 1000 bacteria). I think it was Don Lawson who got up at an industry meeting in Canberra in 2000 that I was at and suggested that OJD really started to spread in the 1980's with the advent of Dog nuts. Before that he said that any thin sheep were fed to the dogs.

We must actively promote euthanasia of thin sheep (especially ewes before lambing). It may help avoid detection but will definitely aid in reducing spread of disease and along with vaccination in an infected flock will assist in the control of OJD.

15. Is worm infestation losses and lice treatment of higher priority than the much publicised often frenzy driven reporting of OJD?

Yes - especially in the commercial flock. Stud flocks have the most to lose with a diagnosis of OJD not because of production

losses but because of inability to sell high value quality sheep. As described before they can protect their enterprise by vaccinating now. Educate their clients that MAP Vaccinated sheep are the safest to buy.

16. Could there be immunity to Gudair vaccine?

No. Vaccines can be more effective though if sheep are healthy when vaccinated. The most important thing is good nutrition but especially trace element nutrition. Selenium and Vitamin B12 (Cobalt) are critical for a good immune system response to any vaccination and flocks in deficient areas should be providing these elements to ewes before lambing and to lambs at marking at 2 - 8 weeks of age. The sooner they are supplemented the healthier they will be. The upper and lower south east and Kangaroo Island are all deficient in these trace elements.

17. Give me your gut response to all of this Deb!! What should be happening in your eyes?

The most important sheep industry control strategy should be based on vaccination. Seed stock and restocker sheep should be sold as Approved Vaccinates for OJD. Even better the source flocks should be in the MAP and vaccinating with Gudair the lowest risk being MN3-V.

Producers trading sheep should purchase approved vaccinates and be vaccinating home bred sheep.

Use the Sheep Health Statement for biosecurity information pre-purchase.

Start vaccinating with Gudair as soon as OJD is detected in your area - this will protect your enterprise and allow free trade of sheep. It could be devastating to your business to be placed under Order particularly if stock sales are a big contributor to the bottom line.

Have visible placards on pens at sales indicating MAP participation and/or Approved Vaccination. It could be as simple as "MV" for MAP and Vaccinating, "M" for MAP only and "V" for Approved Vaccinates. (The SHS would contain more detailed description eg MN3-V, MN2-V, MN1-V, AV, MN3, MN2, MN1)

Abattoir surveillance needs to continue to detect new flocks or areas where OJD is arising to allow producers confidence that OJD is not in their flock.

Education on biosecurity for OJD but also all other diseases that can have a big impact on the farm business in the short term eg lice, foot-rot, brucellosis and longer term eg worm drench resistance and OJD.

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Megan Davies



CLASSINGS CLASSIC '12 MURRAY BRIDGE RACECOURSE

AVERAGE \$3,103 TOP \$10,500 103/113 BY AUCTION



It was always inevitable that after a cracking red hot \$4874 average sale in 2011 including a top of \$32,000, that the 2012 Classic could be the 'correction' sale that possibly had to happen. That's the way it turned out much to the joy of the buying public.

With a still healthy average of \$3103 the sale was a genetics investor's paradise for those 400 who attended with the state's best flock rams falling into the purchasers's hands often between \$1000 and \$3,000 with stud pickups in the range of \$3000-\$10,000 to a top of \$10,500.

As the Classic sales have always been recognised as hosting the nation's best Stud/Commercial rams, the day's splitup on who purchased what is an interesting figure.

Of the 103 rams sold on the day 72 were purchased by commercial growers either as potential breeders of self replacing rams or as top end flock rams in syndicate joinings. These 72 rams averaged \$2493 and topped at \$9,500 for a horn ram sold to the Helyar family locally and bred by the under rated Lucernbrae - Callington SA! The remaining 31 which sold to studs nationwide averaged \$4,493 to a top of \$10,500 produced by Ridgway Advance - Bordertown and sold to the O'Briens at Kyancutta SA.

For the eight horn rams in the sale there was a \$3225 average including the \$9,500 top.

Due to their 2011 success, **Mernowie Poll SA** started the ball rolling with Caranboon Station NSW securing lot 1 for \$3,000 and Donald Downs - Minlaton SA, topping Mernowie's catalogue at the lot 2 ram's reserve of \$5,000 after an initial final bid of \$4,000. Any ram sale that has a ram passed in so early due to a reserve price put on his head reeks of danger and a great discussion piece! He was a solid animal all the same and bred by '576' or **Escalator which sold at Classic'10 for \$30,000**. The following two polls made \$2,000 and \$1,000....

Wallaloo Park Vic, had another great day out selling two rams at \$6,000 to two progressive studs. Borung - Waikerie SA

a quick riser in the rookie stakes under the helm of Brenton Kroehne and old salt, Karawatha - Buckleboo SA with Bert and Barb Woolford eyeing off and securing a beauty. Both rams were bred by **Ridgway 1137 which sold for \$25,000 at Classic'10** to partners Wallaloo Park and Yarrowonga plus semen shares. McMahon Bros. - Lameroo SA began their purchasing for the day with the third lotted WP for \$3500, a superb fibred animal which I was given permission to drag from the Wallaloo Park on property sale to the Classic with no bribe attached! I bought the last two for clients Rick Munro-Tintinara SA and Dean Pearson - Murray Bridge for \$2000 and \$3500.

A top of \$9,000 and sold to David and Jo Gebhardt - Barton Hill was the highlight of the **Ridgway-Lameroo SA** lineup and with 18 rams rams up for sale the team didn't disgrace. One third of the team went to Studs with Minta-Streaky Bay SA procuring a beauty for \$5,000, Mernowie at \$3,000 for a L438 son, Pindari-Saddleworth SA one for \$2,000, Karawatha-Buckleboo SA one for \$1,800 and Yarrowonga securing a ripper for \$5,000. Not over the top pricing yet realistic enough as to allow studs to advance further with their enterprises without the pain of huge money for sire power or the risk of failed A.I. programs!

The so called flock pricing could have out done the stud version with Luke Saegenschmitter outlaying \$4,500 for a WP bred snorter, McMahon Brothers \$3500 and \$2,500, Chivers and Irwin Vic. one at \$4000 bred by R1137, the local Barrett family one at \$3000 with Netallie NSW, locals Wachtels and Pyms and Tom Freeth-Kimba SA picking up great flockies at \$1,500-\$2,000.

Three Ridgway rams were passed in with one of those not worthy of the sale of which I take 90% responsibility for. From selection to sale time this bloke had gone backwards enough and possibly should have been withdrawn. All this aside, another successful day for Ric and Gail.

Rice's Creek-Tintinara SA put up three sons of R1137 which looked terrific yet failed to attract the bidding competition this stud has been used to at the Classic



CLASSIC SALE CONTINUES.....

over the years. Two rams fetched \$2,000 and one at \$1500 to a happy Ian Carmichael. I collected one of the \$2,000 fellas and relayed him on to an elated Grant Wagenknecht post sale whose commercial flock now rates as one of the best in the Murraylands due to diligent purchasing over the years. The Loechels from Lucindale stole the other.

Ridgway Advance-Bordertown SA had one of their best Classic outings with a sale topping \$10,500 selling to the O'Brien boys at Kyancutta to influence their newly formed merino/dohne stud. Boasting figures of 18.3u & 2.7sd and bred by L47 this guy was all class and progeny should go gang busters. Coreena Stud in Queensland were great support securing two sires at \$6,500 and \$5,500 with top figures both bred from home sires. Davis Farr-Wunkar SA, threw in typical Mallee support by buying the first RA in the lineup at \$5,500 bred by RA 370. The Moore family-Jamestown SA picked up two bargains at \$1,600 and \$1,800, Gerald Woidt another RA 370 son for \$2,500, Russell Gordon a steal at \$1,600 and Mernowie a L556 son for \$1,600.

Kamora Park-Karoonda SA extended their Classic popularity by enetering the stud's best ever lineup visually and nearly topping the sale in the process! The Boughens aquired semen from Escalator, (that ram that topped the Classic in 2010 for \$30,000) and three sons in the sale notched up \$13,500 worth of sales. Heading that list was the second in Kamora Park's lineup that was equal second highest in the sale along with another from this same stud at \$10,000.

A frightening syndicate headed by Andrew and Anna Clarke's-Brookdale W.A. and shared with Pickering's Derella Downs W.A. and Will Lynch's Baroona Vic fought off the competition to claim a snifter at 19.6u 13.3cv 2.6sd with a muzzle like a horse! The first of the lineup went for a staggering \$2,000 which I snapped up for a thankful Grant Wagenknecht. This was the big unexplained bargain of the day which was consistent with the nature of the day. The third Escalator was picked up by NSW sheep classer, Ian Lilburne, for Dye Pastoral.

The other \$10,000 Kamora Park sale went to a Tintinara syndicate of Ramsgate Merino and stud-if-they-chose-to Boothby Downs for a L154 E.T. bred ripper at 17.2u 2.9sd and 0.6pf. Barton Hill bought well with a \$6,000 purchase of great scale and quality hunter Karawatha snapped up one of the best in the lineup at a paltry \$2,000 for a L187 son. Pepperwell Poll, Tooheys,

Nantoura Poll, Why Gee P/C and Netallie picked up the rest for under \$2,000.

Ridgway Advance-Bordertown SA second group was made up of three horned rams and seven 13/15 month old polls which made for great budget purchasing with a top of \$3,000 and averaging around \$2,000. McMahons at Lameroo bought the top with Netallie snapping up three at \$1000 each and Karawatha two backup cheapies for \$2,200 and \$1,800 and David Woodard and lameroo locals the Glynnns one at \$1,500 each.

Roemahkita-Cummins SA was due for a goodie at the Classic and went home chirpy after selling their first a Glenlea Park bred son for \$3,200 to evergreen client Neil Loffler-Truro SA and a very square Escalator son for \$4,750 selling to Murray Bridge locals the Pahl family.

I bought **Southrose-Tintinara SA** first poll on offer for a surprising \$2,000 and relayed him on to Trevor Gameau-Cummins. This fella backed up his productive yet free skin with the outstanding figures of 18.2u 14.6cv 2.7sd and 0.0pf/100% cf bred by L187. O'Briens-Kyancutta who also bought Advance's sale topper paid \$2,500 for a GP201 bred 'fibre' poll as did Pepperwell for the last of the three for \$1,200. The quality of the Southrose animals are on a steep ascent with the 2103 rams looking tremendous after a recent classing.

The lineup of the **Glenlea Park-Pinnaroo SA** team was staggering to say the least and the sale of the team and funds raised was a testament to this. L.E. Cameron and Co. NSW, through Ian Lilburne, bought the first for \$9,000 with a 13.4cv & 2.5sd bred from E.T. via a top mother. GP173 was my pick ram of the sale due to his outstanding outlook and pedigree. Sired by the mighty **GP004 which sold for \$10,000 at Classic'10** and bred by E.T. super dam. Arguably the squarest animal in the catalogue he went to a good home in Angus McLachlan's-Rosebank where I will be closely monitoring!

Brookdale-Arthur River WA went alone and nabbed a GP165, an R1137 son also E.T. bred and happened to be from the same flush as the privately sold GP380 for \$20,000 to a syndicate that coincidentally included Brookdale. Extreme white fibre is needed in the Williams district and Andrew Clarke selected well to suit. The Mosey's from Eudunda SA outlaid \$5,500 and Mernowie \$6,000 for another R1137 son with a 16.1u & 0.1pf..the finest in the catalogue.



CLASSIC SALE CONTINUES.....

Local Murray Bridge sharp, Dean Pearson, aggressively bid to \$3,000 for a ram that will have great impact on a flock that rates as well as Grant Wagenknechts in the local stakes due to careful selection. The Humphries family, long time GP supporters bought a great flocky for \$2,000.

Ramsgate-Tintinara SA sold all four with their top going to Ian Lilburne-Hay NSW for a GP004 son which deserved even more bucks than the \$2,500 outlay. After a rapid fire discussion with James McClure-Netallie NSW mid sale we both agreed to pickup any top rams that didn't reach a certain \$ threshold. Another GP004 son went their way for \$1,500 with a L438 bred beauty going to Rick Munro-Tintinara SA for the same money and the Tooheys did well to get hold of a WP749 bred son for \$1800. Once the Ramsgate name realises more attention they will be rewarded as their stock quality is right up there with the best.

Glendemar-Marnoo Vic, deserve the credit as being the only totally paddock reared rams in the whole sale and easily managed to sell their pair for \$2,100 & 2,000 to Chelwood Farms-Mintaro SA. The paddock vs. shed debate easily outlasts the time it would take to put down a bottle of Wild Turkey but that sort of money for no preparation makes good bottom line sense. ASBV's on both rams were above average and takes the guess work out of overly prepared animals. **I believe there is room for both though where a well prepared merino with great ASBV's has the dual effect of drawing a new customer in as well as having a fine pedigree of breeding potential.**

Superior Wool Merino-Tintinara SA had their best day yet at the Classic sales with a \$4,500 average for the pair which thrusts him into the front row for Classic 2013. The first, a WP115 bred ripper sold to Chad Burbidge-Bowhill SA for \$5,000 in shares with Gary Hansen-Coomandook S.A. The next, at \$4,000 was the best horny in the sale and sold to Scotty Pickering's-Derella Downs W.A. Great result for SWM and great rewards for years of A.I. and persistence.

Gunallo-Pinnaroo SA team of potential sires and top end flock rams didn't disappoint selling to a top of \$7,000 for an E.T. bred L438 son and sold to a dual stud purchase of Modbury Merinos-Donald Vic and Hynam Poll-Hopetoun Vic. Mark Hull's Minta Poll-Streaky Bay SA bought a GP 238 son again via E.T. This guy was foreman material and another pick ram of the sale which included outstanding figures of 17.6u 13.3cv 2.3sd and 0.2pf,

probably the best in the sale when you revisit the catalogue.

Graeme Maher-Ararat Vic bought the second on offer at \$3,500, another L438 son. The Foals also from Victoria purchased a bullocky GP238 son with great figures for \$5000 as well as a bargain \$1,500 flocky for \$1500. One for Bill Cameron and the other for Netallie Station completed another rewarding Gunallo outing.

After a very successful Classic in 2011 the bidding competition for the Nantoura-Wharminda SA polls was more subdued at Classic'12. \$1,000 and \$1,400 for two thumpers was way lopsided yet put a smile on the unsuspecting purchasers who will view with interest what's up for grabs from this ever rising West Coast in 2013.

Slowly, **Lucernbrae-Callington SA**, is losing the tag of the most underrated stud in the state with Classic'12 the perfect platform to dispel the rumours!

A \$9,500 horn ram sale to the Helyar family of Murray Bridge came very close to equalling the top priced ram of the day barre \$1,000! Derella Downs W.A. was the runner up bidder partly due to some classer insistence and also the fact that he was the deepest sided ram in the lineup and Scott Pickering needed a top horn ram to satisfy his own clientel. The ram was bred by LUC Y 306 which was selected via semen as part of Turretfield's CRC trial in identifying the nation's trait leaders.

Bill Cameron-Mt. Torrens SA bought the lead ram for \$2,750, a son of Glenlea Park 008 which sold to Derella Downs with semen shares to Lucernbrae and Lone gum for \$17,000 at Adelaide Ram Sale 2010. Another Y306 son sold to the Brophy boys at Tintinara SA for \$2,000 with a half brother selling to Bevan and Cindy Siviour-Cowell SA for \$1,500. The Pyms from Rockleigh bought a GP Olympic son for \$1,500 with Netallie adding three to their stash at \$1,000 and Rick Munro adding an Escalator son for a \$1,000.

Pepperwell-Keyneton SA entered just one ram this year as to bolster his own on property sale. PEP 1141 bred from Ridgway Advance 55 and near paddock raised, sold for \$1,800 to the French family near Horsham. This ram featured well at the Burra Field Day back in early March 2012 showing great potential. See Glendemar comments above for my thoughts on that one!



CLASSIC SALE CONTINUES.....



**YWT 5.2 YCFW 14.9 YFD -2.1 YSL
10.0 YWEC -20 MP Index 156 Actuals
16.9u 2.6sd 15.3cv 0.0pf.**

His full brother via E.T. flush via a hero of a Dam (090052) with L154 on her sire side, took the eye of the astute Martin Oppenheimer - Petali Poll - NSW with the following data as a draw....his tag 110074

**YWT 6.4 YCFW 17.8 YFD -1.2 YSL
10.6 YWEC -20 MP Index 156 Actuals
19.8u 2.7sd 13.8cv 0.8pf**

As classer to Ella Matta, the number one selection criteria to be picked for the Classic sale was the visual appearance of both rams for conformation and superb fibre backed up by good actual test figures. Coincidentally both ASBV figures were very good and similar due in part to the excellent pedigree and mostly due to the full brother relationship. I know many people new to the system or ignoring it could say that there is three micron difference so why does the stronger index the same as the finer animal on MP based index? I will leave the answer to that question with Andrew Heinrich in a separate piece later in the newsletter but the point now....the good figures were a bonus but those two rams were selected for the Classic on a visual basis only along with good test figures on hand.

An excellent start by Ella Matta and after a recent classing trip to the Island there is more great things to come!

Borong-Waikerie SA made their Classic debut in 2012 with two solid sellers at \$1,500 and \$1,200 both bred by a sire they purchased in 2010 from Wallaloo Park for not much! After a stellar on property sale where Brenton and Penny Kroehne reached their highest ever average and highest price, the sale of these two at the Classic was a great advertisement of what is still to come. 2013 will be even bigger for this clan! After recent classing at Borong things are advancing at a rapid rate with Brenton's enthusiasm infectious and instilled by the great master!



Flairdale-Cookes Plains SA put up two very good flock rams with satisfying sales at \$3,000 to the Buchanans and \$2,000 to the Cobiacs from Kingston SA. The one time Pollville looking stud has lost none of the bone and maturity it was renowned for but the skin now is capable of producing top end fibre with low SD's as to exhibit young polls to enthuse an ever critical younger clientel.

Ella Matta-Parndana, Kangaroo Island SA made their Classic debut with grand style with two rams that impressed most but in particular those who use ASBV's with emphasis. Both rams were bred by L563 with the first selling to Kym Hooper for \$3,500. This ram 110162, was silky skinned and white with great crimp. I haven't mentioned any ASBV figures throughout this report on purpose as to do so would mean an article twice as long and I would hate to lose your attention! 162's ASBV data as follows...

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CLASSINGS CLASSIC 2012	OFFERED	SOLD	TOP	AVERAGE
TOTAL OFFERED	113	104	\$10,500	\$3,103
GLENLEA PARK S.A.	7	7	\$9,000	\$5,643
SUPERIOR WOOL MERINO S.A.	2	2	\$5,000	\$4,500
WALLALOO PARK VIC.	5	5	\$6,000	\$4,200
ELLA MATTA S.A.	2	2	\$4,500	\$4,000
ROEMAHKITA S.A.	2	2	\$4,750	\$3,975
GUNALLO S.A.	7	7	\$7,000	\$3,514
RIDGWAY S.A.	18	15	\$9,000	\$3,573
KAMORA PARK S.A.	15	12	\$10,000	\$3,250
RIDGWAY ADVANCE POLL S.A.	16	15	\$10,500	\$3,073
MERNOWIE S.A.	4	4	\$5,000	\$2,750
FLAIRDALE S.A.	2	2	\$3,000	\$2,500
LUCERNBRAE S.A.	9	9	\$9,500	\$2,317
GLENDEMAR S.A.	2	2	\$2,500	\$2,250
RIDGWAY ADVANCED HORNS S.A.	3	3	\$3,000	\$2,000
SOUTHROSE S.A.	3	3	\$2,500	\$1,900
RICE'S CREEK S.A.	3	3	\$2,000	\$1,833
RAMSGATE S.A.	4	4	\$2,500	\$1,825
PEPPERWELL S.A.	1	1	\$1,800	\$1,800
BORUNG S.A.	2	2	\$1,500	\$1,350
NANTOURA S.A.	3	2	\$1,400	\$1,800
HYNAM POLL VIC.	3	1	\$1,000	\$1,000
2013 SALE ORDER				

Middle East Study Tour



Client, Scott Welke - Cascade W.A. runs a large concern 120km north-west of Esperance including 8,500 breeding ewes, 6,000 merino lambs and 2,500 crossbred lambs. Add to this 9000 ha of cropping and it makes for a solid year with support from two uncles, part timers and casual staff. Recently married to Odile and the creation of a brand new daughter, Sophie. Scott still found a moment to head to the Middle East for a study tour concerning live export and pasture legumes. Please see bottom of page for a brief explanation of ESCAS.



Early April this year I was lucky enough to be able to take part in a study tour to the Middle East and Sardinia. The trip was facilitated by ASHEEP, an Esperance sheep production improvement group with over 70 members, with the aim to see first hand where our sheep are sent to when they are exported live, and to talk to the customers of our sheep to try to gain an insight into what they require from us and primarily how they perceived the introduction of the ESCAS system. Our tour was led by Dr David Beatty, who is MLA's live export manager based in Dubai.

Our trip itinerary include Muscat in Oman, Doha in Qatar and Dubai in the UAE. In all destinations we visited slaughterhouses and feedlots. The feedlots we saw were all in excellent condition. In every country we saw animals under shade with cooled water supplies and a sophisticated ration system.

Since ESCAS, these feedlots can no longer sell Australian animals at the front gate. They have to be transported to sale yards where members of the public can buy and then have them slaughtered at an approved slaughterhouse. There was varying levels of integration of the supply chain. The ideal

situation we saw was Doha, where the feedlot, selling yards and slaughterhouse are all in the one location, all linked by a yard system. It was here that one of our participants saw one of his sheep in the selling pen. Having sold the green tag wether 6 weeks before, the chances of seeing it was quite remarkable!

Having bought a sheep at the public sale yards, people then watch from a gallery as their purchase is slaughtered and cut up and presented to them. Traceability in this process is a challenge, as during Eid, it is bedlam and often the police are called to restore the peace.

We saw varying levels of sophistication in the slaughterhouses, ranging from very rudimentary facilities in Oman to first class conditions in Dubai. The Dubai facility is in the middle of suburbia and it was spotless and odourless. It is about to move further out near the feedlot. This abattoir was state of the art and a pleasure to see in action. One positive of the ESCAS system we saw was that now local sheep are being slaughtered under this system not just Australian sheep. All of the markets in the middle east are regulated by government. In Oman, sheep are capped at 80 reals (A\$200), so if Australian sheep prices are high, there is no margin therefore they can't make money on our sheep. In all countries, they subsidise people to have their animals killed in approved facilities. It was clear to see that the governments are trying their utmost to ensure no sheep are killed outside the controlled system.



Oman is a relatively small market for Australian sheep, taking only 5,000 a month. Qatar is good for 65,000 a month, as buying your own sheep to feed your family is still the main way of buying meat. This was also the case in Oman, but a lot of Somali sheep are in this market.

Dubai feedlot sells 5-7000 live sheep a month but it was here that we saw what may become of the market in the Middle East as most people buy meat as we do, small packs from the supermarket. Imports of chilled meat from Australia have increased dramatically, and as the people get a taste for the younger lamb we send over as chilled, this market will continue to grow.



So I'm not sure what all the fuss is about with ESCAS, at least as far the markets we visited. Saudi Arabia are often mentioned as not taking sheep because of ESCAS, but they have decreased their importing of sheep from over 1 million sheep in 2007 to only 6500 in 2012, but that decline was happening long before ESCAS came along. And there is sheep from other destinations competing in the market place. Along with the local sheep, stock come from Somalia, Sudan and Iran, which are often more sought after as Australian sheep are considered to be too fatty.

I think there will always be a demand for live sheep in the Middle East. If they don't get them from us they will source them from somewhere else.

We then headed to Sardinia, the source for many of the pasture legumes that underpin our system of agriculture but that's a story for another day.

General information about ESCAS arrangements:

The handling of animals involved in Australia's livestock exports trade is of great concern to the community and the Australian Government.

Following evidence of animal cruelty, on 8 June 2011 the Australian Government temporarily suspended the export of all livestock for the purpose of slaughter to until new animal welfare safeguards were established for the trade.

Prior to the suspension, exporters of livestock to were only required to track exported animals from the property of origin in Australia to the port of export and report on the outcome of the voyage.

An Industry Government Working Group (IGWG) was established to develop a regulatory framework to address the areas of concern with the export of livestock. Under the regulatory framework implemented for livestock exports to Indonesia for the purpose of slaughter, the exporter must supply evidence of an acceptable Exporter Supply Chain Assurance system (ESCAS) before an exporter can be issued with an approval to export by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

GATE DESIGN PLEA...

Magnus Australia
Mt Pleasant SA

Dear Brendan,

I am writing to you in regard to a concern of mine involving classing race gates in particular, yet generally most gates and panels that have horizontal bars for strength.

Due to this setup which certainly is not isolated to your engineering firm alone, I witness many stock injuries over the whole year of sheep classing in all parts of the nation most of the time due to leg entanglement with the end gate in the race.

Because of the 'cross bar' or horizontal nature of the supporting bars within the gate, often stock attempt the ultimate escape leap without too much success and either snap bones with no effort or permanently pull tendons rendering them useless for sale and breeding.

Many clients have completed their own alterations by either making new gates with vertical cross bars, adding to the height of the gate or simple doing both by building a whole new structure.

Is there any chance at all of altering your design to address this matter in the future.

I think you have a great product with good designs and layouts barring this concern.

I have include a photo of gates that have been built or altered by clients who have in the past suffered the consequences of injured stock.

Hoping this email isn't taken as huge criticism as in all of my classing situations, where Magnus products have been implemented there has been a lot of satisfaction from all concerned except for this one issue.

Yours Sincerely,

Bill Walker - Director
Classings Merino Advisory & Wool Testing
Laboratory



From: "Brendan Loechel" <brendan@magnus.com.au>

Subject: RE: Yard design..

Date: 18 June 2013 2:40:49 PM ACST

To: "Classings Pty Ltd" <classing@internode.on.net>

Bill,

Sorry it has taken some time to get back to you. I have been out of contact range for 2 weeks. We understand this has been a design issue in the past and we are now making all race gates - either at each end or in the middle of the race - with vertical bars in between.

We certainly welcome any design comments/alterations you may wish to pass on and whilst we may not be able to implement all of them we will not take any as criticism from your part.

Thankyou for your letter and photos.

Regards, Brendan Loechel - Sales Manager
Magnus Australia

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SOHNIC - MARNOO VIC. AVERAGE \$1532 TOP \$4250 65/72 BY AUCTION

Sohnic Merinos' Scott Nicholson and Greg Hose held their annual ram sale last week, where 65 of 72 rams sold to \$4250, averaging \$1532.

Neil Robertson, Anervale, Rossbridge, went to \$4250 for his top pick and paid \$1800 for another. Mr Robertson has bought rams from Sohnic for five years and runs Merinos, breeds first-cross ewes and lambs them to terminal sires in partnership with his brother Ian, who has a property at

Skipton. Both properties are also cropped. The big plain-bodied rams with long stapled white wool suits their programs.

Regular clients Lloyd Austerberry & Son, St Arnaud, set the scene for a successful

sale, buying three of the first four lots at \$3800, \$3500 and \$2500.

Courtesy of Stock & Land

2013 SALE DATE
WED OCTOBER 2nd

SOHNIC

Ram Sale Wed 2nd Oct, 2013

Sale @12:00pm
Inspection from 9:00am



Forget Those Other Breeds, Get Sohnic'd &
Turn This → Into This → & Still Get This!!



Flock Number : 5058

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Come along and see for yourself.

Scott Nicholson
- 0438 086 403 -
Greg Hose
- 0427 507 151 -

www.sohnic.com.au
brettonestate@bigpond.com



Using your wool test results to assist selection

Article for SheepConnect SA

In utilising wool test results as an aid to selection it's important to understand the basics of what each measurement represents and how it is arrived at. This will aid to understand just why additional figures can be different even when micron remains constant on similar looking animals.

Classings Laboratory has been testing individual ram/ewe wool samples since 1972 and in particular using CSIRO Laserscan for the last seventeen years. This technology allowed us to add a new dimension to presented test results to clients incorporating Standard Deviation, Co-efficient of Variation %, Curvature and Spinning Fineness.

That was all very well and looked like we really new our stuff but it wasn't until these new additional measurements were explored & utilised in the classing yard over many 1000's of ewes and rams that things clicked and trends appeared.

Animals that exhibited high SD & CV% figures were too often 'yesteryear' exponents with skin folds, pin wrinkle and a threat to good management with no 'easy care' attributes. We have dissected these samples over the years when figures are extreme and identified huge micron variation between staples (not along staple), often ranging five microns within centimetres of each other at the sample site thus pushing SDu outside regular parameters. As a mirror of this, measurements taken from on top of the skin wrinkle compared to the neighbouring 'valley' exhibit the same effect due to the same reasoning.

The arrival of the micron figure itself using today's technology is amazing. 1000 cut snippets representing the sample are transported via a mix of fluid past a laser beam which measures the image of each. This then forms a histogram representing the summary of those snippets of which the average is expressed. Much can be picked up when looking at this bell curve particularly in relation to SD. Along fibre variation due to nutritional factors also have effect.

Picture two Merino rams at an on property sale. Both animals look similar from outside the pen yet the figures suggest otherwise :

**Lot 1 Tag 004 18.5u 2.6SD 14.1CV%
0.4PF Curv 80 deg**

**Lot 2 Tag 1137 18.5u 3.5SD 18.9CV%
0.4PF Curv 110 deg**

In our experience without even inspecting the ram, lot 2 will have skin issues and we would caution anyone in the selection of such an animal. With nutrition similar to both, something has to cause the variation between the two and it can only be skin related. I have witnessed rams and ewes that express SDu of 5.0 and they ain't pretty! Ram versions are often sent to the 'bush' en masse, another reason why dorpers became popular! The abattoirs the only deserved destination!

There is a balance with that SD figure. We have seen SD test results as low as 1.8-2.0 which is an outstanding looking result and certainly not associated with 'tight' skins. But the tradeoff is often fleece weight with many animals this low often culled due to a severe lack of it.

In retaining animals utilising wool test results, look for those that are ranging from well below average micron to slightly above. The actual micron figure is irrelevant yet the deviation to the average is important. Don't confuse yourself with CV% just keep the SD figure in range of 2.5- 3.2 as to maximise production without running in to skin problems or at the other end of the scale, low fleece weight.

Spinning Fineness is of no virtue at all in assisting selection. Low curvature is a signal suggesting bold crimp. When this is associated with low micron....go for it! These animals are a reason for my company's existence and if the curvature figure is not exhibited, the eyes suffice. Combine this with a good SD and you have a merino with super soft yet productive skin. Lot 1 in the table above expresses all the ingredients for this. But beware though as there are low curvature merinos everywhere with high micron on thick, studly hides!

Prickle Factor, Comfort Factor or %fibre > 30u is just that. How many fibres fall above the 30u threshold. No mystery here...reduce micron/reduce prickle. Actually this figure is not that critical as part of selection criteria providing micron combined with SD is of priority.

Don't be nervous to select stock that are above the average for micron especially if in tandem with low SD's. They will breed less waste than those of low micron with high SD's which reflect skin issues and produce progeny only associated with high cull rates.

This article talks mostly of real figures and its aid as a selection tool. All of these figures combined over generations of stock and pedigrees nation wide generate ASBV figures which help us to determine future breeding trait trends. The pros and cons of that would take an article twice as big as this!

Bill Walker - Director

Classings Merino Advisory and Fibre Testing Laboratory
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Murray Bridge S.A. 5253

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Email: classing@internode.on.net

CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 2013 AT 1.30pm

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You can't help but enjoy the current success of Les Hamence's Pimbena Poll at Wirrulla S.A. With every new generation of stock constantly an improvement on the year before's effort, this year's crop are outstanding.

Les's semen share with Calcookara's purchase of L858 for \$22,000 in 2010 has had exceptional rewards visually and they should sell like Beatles records!

The pictured ram belongs in the Classic sale! He is Pimbena 311 bred by Ramsgate F100 and loaded with crimp from silk like skin.

It's not easy breeding salable rams in this terrain with dust often the number one curse in an often desolate environ...not this year though as the wider Ceduna district with above average rainfall looks like the highlands of New Guinea at the moment!



To Syndicate or Not To Syndicate



The Superior Wool Syndicate was set up around twelve years ago involving ten Classings P/L clients who pooled financial resources as to access top genetic material to subsequently influence each flock via large A.I. programs. Their top initial purchase was a Charinga sire costing \$13,000 and by season's end, the group had around \$20,000 worth of semen power to use and trial on each and every property.

Without the purchasing power the group held, none of these sires would have ended up on any one client's properties due to the initial outlay. To syndicate was the only answer and now the SWS is a successful formed company with an AGM annually.

This syndicate trend still exists today with many smaller groups using the SWS model as the ideal tactic as to secure top rams.

There is a slight disgruntlement amongst a few studs, and they openly suggest that some rams don't reach their true worth due to the dollars amassed by three or four individual buyers syndicating who normally would have bid on their own behalf.

That situation arose at 'Classic'10 when Glenlea Park's first offering on the day was the much publicised GP004 which had the grunt to top the sale. I suggested to one potential buyer who idolised '004' that he should consider a financial partner as to make sure that by day's end the ram was in his trailer and not someone else's! This he did but the group swelled from not only one extra but two serious W.A. shares plus offers of semen shares to three others if successful thus totaling six with cash on hand!

Every one of the six were keen to buy the ram outright but assumed they would be 'blown out of the water' due to the ram's popularity. 1 minute later his sale was all over with only two bidders on the ram via auction and the SuperSire 'slumped' to a lowly \$10,000!

The runner up was Trout Willson-Penneshaw S.A. who, full of bidding adrenalin, couldn't believe his luck in that he might latch onto a ram at \$8,000 or so for the best poll in Australia! Not a bad figure by any stretch but with two rams at \$30,000 and \$25,000 topping the sale.... had there been three smaller syndicates as well as Trout going for it, '004's full

potential may have been realised at \$20,000 or so.

His worth has since been realised albeit by the new owners, via semen sales that I and others have ordered.

I think though that the GP004 scenario is a rare case where more often than not the situation is usually syndicate vs. syndicate with the accrued buying power and auction adrenalin of two or three groups pushes up the ram's value. This often pushes the dollars past a realistic figure yet into that great publicity zone where big bucks can be a huge bonus for promotion and subsequent semen sales.

SWS (ten full time members) were subject to this at Leahcim's 2012 sale where after a smattering of bids in the \$15,000 zone the field was quickly narrowed to two players. Unfortunately, for two reasons, I represented the 'other' group, a W.A. syndicate of four, who accepted my advice on the ram's stature and gave me sufficient funds to 'have a crack!' There I was bidding against 'my own' syndicate acting on behalf of another one made up of W.A. clients, pushing the ram all the way to \$38,000. Without either of the two final bidding syndicates, the ram would have made well under \$20,000!

WP 'Bartel', the ram SWS secured at the Wallaloo Park '11 for \$28,000 dueled with only one other buying group. That was another syndicate organised by someone else in the same position as me where he had a few clients who, unless a syndicate was formed, had no chance against the buying power of SWS or any other syndicate.

As a summary using these scenarios I think that generally, stud principals have nothing to worry about when syndicates are formed. Peter Wallis of Glenlea Park became positively philosophical about the '004' scenario suggesting that every member of the successful syndicate, the semen share partners as well as runner up Trout Willson have all since purchased his Glenlea Park genetics via live ram purchases or semen.

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Pedigree Matchmaker



Peter Wallis of Glenlea Park - Pinnaroo S.A. was one of the first clients to be seen walking around the yards with a heavy duty computer capturing as much information as possible even before E.I.D tags were thought of. It is no surprise also that he was one of the first to incorporate exciting new innovative methods of mothering for the ultimate in pedigree information. Please read ...

"Pedigree MatchMaker is a walk by system that uses RFID tags to estimate associations between ewes and their lambs, and provide the ability to trace individual animal pedigree. The value of pedigree knowledge within a sheep flock is significant, however it is generally restricted to the stud industry due to the cost involved in DNA testing, or mothering up at lambing. Pedigree Match Maker is a relatively inexpensive option for producers.

Ewes and lambs are both tagged with RFID tags, and enticed to walk single file past a reader panel. Each tag, together with the time and date, is recorded as the animals move past the panel. Software can then be used to establish the associations between a ewe and her lambs."

Pedigree Matchmaker Fact Sheet

"I began using Pedigree Matchmaker 5 years ago when it was still in a trial phase as a method of matching lambs to their birth mothers. It appealed to me as I had identified a need to know more than 50% of the genetic background of our stud animals (i.e more than the sire). Our best animals are determined by the progeny they breed, not by what they look like.

Classing our stud ewes on a yearly basis after lambing is fraught with danger without information about the progeny she has reared. The best looking stud ewes are those that didn't rear any lamb whilst the worst looking stud ewe has reared magnificent twins at the expense of her own condition. I know which ewe is more profitable. As an industry we have probably been culling those apparent "poor doers" and keeping those good looking ewes that lack fecundity. However, mothering ewes and lambs in the yards, or at birth in the paddock, is both tricky and time consuming and thus did not appeal to me.

Pedigree Matchmaker is ideal for AI joined mobs of ewes as all of the lambs are born roughly over a one week period as opposed to a natural joining where lambs could continue dropping over a 4 -6 week period. The AI lambing enables early mustering and RFID tagging of the lambs (usually at about 2 weeks of age - once the lambs have developed a good bond with the mother). I fence off my water point several weeks prior to lambing to train the ewes to walk through the raceway set up with a panel reader to get to the water.

My first attempt at using Pedigree Matchmaker was unsuccessful as I did not have the system set up before the ewes lambed. Getting the ewes used to walking through the race before lambing is the key to getting good results. I have found one system is ideal for a mob of up to 200 lambing ewes. The more data captured, the

better the results will be. If you have a split lambing you may get away with using the same Pedigree Matchmaker setup over two different mobs but I like to set it up and leave it for as long as possible (4 - 6 weeks ideal). My theory is that you are better to have a smaller number of ewes and lambs matched with 100% accuracy than twice as many ewes and lambs matched but with "wishy washy" results.

Once the data has been captured, the file is emailed to a service provider. It is then run through Pedigree Matrix software, returning results with a reliability score of 1,2 or 3. Reliability score 1 is an absolute, no doubt match, through to reliability score 3 which is a "wishy washy" match. If I were to get any with this score, I would not enter the result into my software as it does not have enough accuracy. Last year, on our property, every lamb that was in a mob with the Pedigree Matchmaker systems came back with a rating 1.

I have found the Pedigree Matchmaker system to be an excellent system of mothering up. I no longer lamb down in sire groups. Pedigree Matchmaker will match the lamb to the ewe and as I have recorded which sire was joined to that ewe, the complete pedigree of the lamb is known. This allows me to lamb down in management groups (eg those ewes scanned with twins in one mob, to get more feed).

I am, by no means, an expert on Pedigree Matchmaker but have learnt along the way. There are numerous retailers of these systems now that would give good advice to those thinking of purchasing a system. I believe that this technology is a major tool in the genetic advancement of the merino industry for those of us that are time poor - isn't everyone!!"

Peter Wallis - Glenlea Park Merino
Mob. 0428 766 126

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Sheep suitable for all markets



Dual purpose selection since 1963

◆ Again recognised in classes assessing both wool and meat attributes at Bendigo & Adelaide



- ▶ Winning all purpose ram Bendigo ASWA Show in July 2012
- ▶ 2nd & 3rd placegetters in the Fibre Meat Class Adelaide Royal Show September 2012 - both later sold for \$10,000 at the 2012 Classings Classic.

⇒ **Inspection Invited** ⇒

◆ See our sheep on display at -

* Bendigo, Karoonda & Keith (July); Adelaide (Sept)

⇒ **Your Chances to Purchase** ⇒

◆ Annual On-Property Auction - Sandalwood

Friday 2nd August 2013 11am

◆ approx 180 rams ◆

◆ Also Classings Classic - Monday 9th September

Enquiries always welcome: Colin, Julie, Wade & Katelyn Boughen,
Kamora Park: Ph (08) 8578 3456

WALLALOO PARK - MARNOO VIC

AVERAGE \$2,336 TOP \$16,000 164/199 BY AUCTION



Classings P/L stud and commercial clients were very active with their purchasing prowess at Wallaloo Park's twenty first On Property Sale. The lineup was nearly the stud's very best with the retention of more reserves than usual and the best ever team for the Classic'12 sale perhaps taking the top end look away from the top twenty pens or so. On today's perusal of the 2012 catalogue this seemingly had no effect whatsoever with the top 20 grossing \$94,250 averaging \$4712!

Quality merchants, Bella Lana-Wellington NSW bought the best in the first ten at lot 3 for a R1137 son for a, later realised, bargain figure of \$4,000 and a horny at that! They added another beauty at lot 78 for \$3,250. A WP938 bred poll at lot 5 took the eye of a Victorian stud syndicate selling for \$10,000 to Old Dundee, Hynam Poll & Kamarooka Studs.

At pen 10, Coolart Pastoral-Mooro W.A. outlaid the equal top price of \$16,000 for a big, square horned ram bred by Glenlea Park 323 (bought at Hamilton Ram Sale in 2010 for \$11,000.)

This price was equaled 21 pens later for an August drop, 717/700/938 syndicate bred poll with superb fibre to match the 17.5u 2.7SD 15.3CV% 0.4pf figures that typify the whole day. His fibre was as white as me at an Obama rally with his body length an added feature. Ric Ridgway-Ridgway Poll-Lameroo SA was the eventual bidding champion with semen shares to an illustrious crew made up of Classings clients. Clarkes-Brookdale W.A., Will Lynch's-Boorana Vic., Wallis's Glenlea Park-Pinnaroo S.A., SWM-Tintinara S.A. and Mark and Angus Richardson-Tintinara S.A.

Mark Barr-Newdegate W.A. could be boasting how nice the Wallaloo Park clan really are by hopefully raving about his Wallaloo Park sponsored trip to the Adriatic Coast with wife Kay for two weeks after purchasing thirteen rams to \$5,000! Due to a great quality eye this team looked fantastic by sale end with my pick of the group, lot 19, a horny with great body length and superb figures including 17.7u & 2.8SD.

The quality in pens 11 to 20 appeared the best for overall quality and our clients were quick to notice. Ridgway Advance-Bordertown SA picked up lot 13 at \$6,000 for a great allrounder and bred by that 717/700/938 syndicate. Lot 14 went to Roemahkita-Cummins S.A. for a WP717 son at \$13,000 with one of the freest skins in the lineup. Semen shares in this ram went to Ridgway S.A., Gunallo S.A. and Nantoura S.A.

I bid for the Kelly family-Parndana-Kangaroo Island S.A. and secured lot 17 for \$3,000 and lot 18 for Lone Gum-Crystal Brook S.A. at \$4,500 for another 717/700/938 son. Both rams hosting the goods in the fibre stakes and extreme long bodies for August drops.

Lot 29 was another great Wallaloo Park horned ram and with all the popularity stakes going the Poll Merino's way at the moment and probably forever, it's a treat to watch bidding frenzy apparent when a top one pops up. I picked up

many horn rams in 2012 for commercial clients who were keen to give me realistic budgets from either source (poll/horn). The best horns were easily better than the best polls yet at half the value. I suggest not to ignore the value of good horns as those bits of timber can easily be trimmed to a safe, manageable length.

This ram, Pink 165, stood like a rock with great off the head horn set with big, bold crimp full of shine and eeriness and length at 97Kg for August drop. Figures 18.9u 2.3SD 12.4CV% & 0.2pf ensure breeding success to the syndicate who bought him. Derella Downs and Brookdale both from W.A. and Classings clients paid \$15,000 for him with two semen shares palmed out to Will Lynch-Boorana Vic. and Mark and Angus Richardson-Tintinara S.A.

I bought the whitest fibred ram in the sale for Bruce and Jenny Cleland-Penneshaw K.I. at lot 51 for \$3,000 with the sensational test results of ...17.3u 2.4 SD 14.1CV% & 0.4pf. Whilst on the K.I. theme I also grabbed the Kellys at Parndana another one to keep lot 17 company at \$2,000. Kanmantoo Pastoral - Kanmantoo S.A. also asked me to keep an eye out for 4 flock rams which I picked up patiently 'til sale's end with the last at lot 123 for a WP4 bred corker for \$1,700. New client Geoff Keynes-Springton S.A. asked for the same and two polls were easy at \$1,200 & \$1,500.

My ram orders were taken care sale end but as per usual I had purchased the extra ram or two too many but have never been stuck with any ram taking up space in our back yard! Lot 110 at \$3,000 may have been one of these yet his quality was so obvious that a new buyer (after a ten minute ownership) came to the rescue! Thomas Pengilly-Penrose-Cascade W.A. noticed that I had purchased a fantastic poll but hadn't notified the auctioneers of his destination. In hope he raised one eyebrow mid sale and the deal was done. Penrose now own a ram bred by WP878 that may well breed as well as WP Maximus did to push that great upcoming stud to further success.

Stavely Park-Willaura Vic., bought a WP 878 son for \$12,000, a well made poll which could have slid in to any of 'our' studs. As with every WP sale report, it could mount to pages so I have generally centred the writeup on top end rams and client's purchases but a quick summary on volume buyers includes Condoulpie Pastoral-Balranald NSW with ten rams, Wingeil-Inverleigh five rams, NG & KM Hunter-Willaura Vic, four to \$4,000 including two in the first ten sold, Deepwater Station NSW three and the Ipsens with two at \$3,550 average.

Wallaloo Park continues to be a very worthy Parent Stud to most of our clients whether stud or commercial fibre/meat growers. They have stuck to their guns with their breeding directions only fine tuning things where absolutely necessary with the last being the introduction of poll genetics to appease a growing younger client.

2013 SALE DATE
OCTOBER 3rd





Wallaloo Park

MERINO & POLL MERINO STUDS



Lot 31: \$16,000 sold to 'Ridgway Poll Merinos', Lameroo S.A

2012 was a year of many achievements for Wallaloo Park. Holding its 21st on property sale, and for the first time offering 200 rams at auction.

A successful year with many stud and commercial buyers with large numbers, having a huge selection of rams to pick from and purchasing within their budget. For this year, another 200 rams will be offered at auction, starting from \$800.

This years sale team, looks exceptionally good. Exhibiting rich deeply crimped, well nourished wools, for which Wallaloo Park has been renowned for over the past 3 decades. Increased quality poll numbers and richness is evident.

For the first time select ASBV's figures on growth rates and wool cut will be available, to help assist with selection.

“The impact of Wallaloo Park genetics over most of my commercial and stud clients ranges from initially dramatic for new clients right through to maintaining for those who know what to expect from this influential parent stud. I cannot promote this stud enough for all round satisfaction for old and new clients.”

Bill Walker - Director - Classings P/L

2013 DATES

August 5th - 6th

September 9th

September 19th

October 3rd - 22nd

October 7th

Hamilton Sheepvention - Display of sale rams and sires

Classings Classic Sale SA – Offering 10 stud & selected rams

Marnoo Merino Field Day – Sale team display & semen sires

Annual On property sale – 200 Stud & Flock rams

Wallaloo Park Private Sales commence

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Stud Representative - Garry West 0428 112 511

wallalooark@gmail.com

www.wallalooark.com



PIMBENA - WIRRULLA S.A.

AVERAGE \$992 TOP \$2000 66/80 BY AUCTION



Les Hamence's Pimbena has seen some great moments of late with the 2012 sale no exception. Down and irrelevant \$42 on average from the excellent 2011 sale, the stud's reputation is on the build with crowd numbers lifting annually.

The top price of \$2,000 was no fluke as this figure was hit four times during the auction. Michael Baldock-Haslam S.A., Trevor Pittaway-Wirrulla, the Nichols family-Ceduna S.A. and someone else who I can't dig up (!) paid the dollars for the absolute top end of the catalogue.

As well as securing one of the tops, Andrew Nicholls was great support and bought another five and the Tomney Bros., buying six to \$1,600 with the Baker clan-Poochera S.A., five to \$1,600.

Les has pedigree data going back to the early wars so his subscription and transition to MerinoSelect and the world of ASBV's was smooth sailing due to a wealth of data. Purchases from Roemahkita, Ramsgate & Calcookara, including a semen share in a ram purchased (L858) by Calcookara at the Leahcim on property sale in 2011, ensures Pimbena's existence as a major player on the upper 'Coast.

Traveena Park-Minnipa S.A., Gebe Nominees-Ceduna S.A. the Vanloon family Warrambo S.A., Ooralin Pastoral - Ceduna and Kaldoonera - Poochera S.A. bought fifteen rams between them in the \$600-\$1,500 range which reeked of value.

Through Gordon Wood-Landmark Murray Bridge S.A., I purchased six rams for

Jeremy McClure's-Netallie Station N.S.W. which I had earmarked at classing the trip before.. At \$1,200, \$1,200, \$1,000, \$1,000, \$800 & \$600 this represents good value per quality.

At this money and at this stud there is a full blown guarantee that this team looked nothing like the typical 'station' order that has plagued the bush for decades. The "send 50 up Bob" ram selection was always fraught with danger and hard to comprehend on both sides of the discussion. Why do station owners order this way and how can studs let 'near culls' en masse head to the pastoral areas instead of T&R Pastoral. Ring me...I'll create a great looking team for you at near the same budget!

Pimbena polls really suit pastoral and lower rainfall areas where the fluid nourishment associated with super styled fibre on large earlier maturing frames really hit the mark. This year's drop are even more interesting on first classing and I really look forward to cataloguing/classing later in the year.

Keep an eye out for two SuperSires for the Pimbena sale this year : Tag 047 bred by L858 (The \$22,000 Leahcim purchase by Calcookara of which Les is a semen share) and Tag 311 bred by Ramsgate F100 which Les purchased at Classic'10 for not enough. Both rams represent a top 12 group that will be the talk of the E.P. expo in July.

2013 SALE DATE
AUGUST 1st



With Pimbena's genetics under control using this state's and Victoria's top families, I have the time to do what I enjoy doing the most! With Ramsgate, Calcookara, Leahcim and Toland bloodlines doing it for us out in the paddock, I can enjoy my mates and scour the ocean for the ultimate catch! Les H.

As a member of MerinoSelect, with all families ranked against national comparisons, you can be assured of repeatability when accessing our genetics. This year's team is a reflection of years of pedigree recording and top gene access.

See our unmulesed stock at our On Property auction. Our classer suggests that this year's sale team is a leap ahead in breeding depth due to all ewes in our nucleus flock now displaying top end wool attributes as well as the typical Pimbena frame.

PIMBENA
ON PROPERTY RAM SALE
August 1st 2013 at 1.30pm

Les Hamence -- Wirrulla SA
Ph. 08 8626 8002 Mob. 0428 268 002 Email. pimbena@bigpond.com

RIDGWAY ADVANCE

David / 08 8754 2028
14th August Ram Sale
Bordertown



Details back page

RIDGWAY ADVANCE - BORDERTOWN S.A.

AVERAGE \$2113 TOP \$4600

100/100 AUCTION 54/70 MINI AUCTION



family to an exotic health spa in Ubud-Bali for 7 days in appreciation of his year to year, volume support!

Lot 24 at a sale topping \$4,600, was a great poll with huge staple length and a big wide ass that deserved the price tag. Again bred from L491 he had figures of 20.2u 2.9sd 14.2 & 0.5pf. pretty good for a thug! Again the ram went to the commercial sector at Wentworth NSW to the McPherson family and was a chance for the Classic '12 sale.

Warrawee Pastoral, Kyalite NSW, bought 9 rams and would have averaged over \$2,000. A June drop L47 bred 'fibre' poll at lot 49 took the eye and sold to the Crouchs for \$3,200..figures again:

19.0u 2.1sd 11.1cv & 0.0pf

Objective test figures like these don't just happen but are all part of an integral long term plan to eliminate unnecessary skin issues which inhibit the skin from producing a long, elastic, silky white fibre. Under strict guidance and smart breeding this reduces cull rates, reduces micron, SDu & CV% which naturally drops prickle factor. Prickle Factor or the oddly preferred comfort factor, is a necessary measurement to exhibit but is over rated! Breed well and it's a natural progression. There are some who become concerned even obsessed that 99% CF or 1.0 fibres above 30u is a curse. Next test on the same sample could have a 99.5 or 0.5 result which puts those same concerned growers in a better place for some reason.

I bought lot 50 for Roger and Ben Frances-Maitland SA for \$2,200 as a serious acquisition to this ever improving flock and maybe one of this company's oldest. Rick Munro-Tintinara SA relied on me to pick him up a group of rams over the selling season, that were needed to bang some softness into his flock. Lot 54 was one of those at \$2,200 and bred from L33.

Many locals S.A. growers chimed in once the sale levelled out to commercial reality with familiar names, Nankvill, Thomas, Geoff Keynes, Pym, Woitdt, Pearson, White & Gregor securing top flockies between \$1,000 and \$2,000.

**2013 SALE DATE
AUGUST 14th**

The amount of familiar and more so unfamiliar faces at Ridgway Advance's on property sale was a fair indication that it was going to be a successful effort. Rodney Wilmott bought the first ram for \$3,200 and the sale didn't stumble for the next 100 rams. The first 20 rams grossed \$60,000 to average \$3,000. Most of these were sold to commercial growers!

Hansi Graetz-Pepperwell possibility secured the best poll in the first ten sold at \$3,800 with outstanding fibre and extreme whiteness and bred from L491 who had great influence throughout the catalogue. Nearly 25% of the top 100 were bred from this sire purchased from Leahcim in 2010.

Almost every ram in the top 20 went to a different buyer suggesting that these were rams that were going to be used as ram breeders in stud or in self replacing commercial flocks. Dart, Banes, Keith Mudford, Gibson, Lockhardt, Hallam, Warrawee Pastoral and Crouch threw huge support with most purchases heading to NSW. Keith Mudford knows his stuff and bought a great list throughout the sale.

David Farr-Wunkar SA bought a ripping thumper at lot 12 for \$3,800 followed by a goodie at lot 20 for \$2,400, Gerald Woitdt-Yumali pitched in with a \$3,000 purchase at lot 14. Goldalea Poll Vic., secured one of the best figured animals of the day which I will highlight as a testament to the excellent breeding strategies of this stud: **18.8u 2.2sd 11.7cv 0.0pf** ...now you don't see that at the Merino Capital!

Jim Rathjen-Mt. Torrens SA began to crank up at lot 19 and by day's end had 10 rams in his grasp at a near \$1,800 average. I'm hoping the Ridgways sent Jim and the



Innovative Andrew Smart-Wilkatana Station concocted this work of art for trimming horned rams that I mistakingly purchase for him from ram sales.

That sheet metal is bent at 90 degrees with the harness handle fixed at the top via hinged bracket. This is lowered once the muzzle slots into the ring and the chest of the ram pushed into the 'V'.

The upside down 'T' nearest to Smarty's hand fixes in behind the skull to restrict movement and then it's safe to blaze away with angle grinder, mafia wire, chain saw or de-horners.

GLENLEA PARK

MERINOS & POLL MERINOS



Glenlea Park 710 sold to Winyar & Stavely Park studs at Hamilton 2012.

On Property Ram Sale: August 16th

Inspection: 10 am Auction: 1pm ~ Private selection from August 19th

Specially selected teams to be offered at Hamilton Sheepvention, Adelaide and Classings Classic.

All rams offered with current wool tests, body weights, ASBVs and are OJD vaccinated.

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Producing big, productive, plain bodied & fertile sheep that carry long stapled, free growing, deeply crimped fine medium wools, while maintaining fibre density.

Annual Sale - Kulkami

Monday 12th August

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Also offering at Hamilton, Adelaide & Classings Classic
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GLENLEA PARK PINNAROO SA

AVERAGE \$1891 TOP \$12,200 94/100 BY AUCTION

I once reported in Cullings 2011 that Peter Wallis and I 'knocked heads' over a ram that he eventually purchased for \$22,000. Many took this as a bitter discussion over my perception of the ram and Pete's views but it was quite the contrary. The ram was semi productive and our discussion was only that if purchased his selective joining was imperative for success.

The ram was WP988, he topped the WP sale, he was well bred and left great great results at Glenlea Park. Now zoom straight ahead to the on-property sale in 2012, lot 10, WP988-226, sells for \$12,200! WP988's first hogget ram result puts thirty rams into the sale and grosses plenty!

Glendon Hancock-Elders St. Arnaud Vic., put together a formidable syndicate as to raise serious funds to make sure the ram was in their lair by day's end. This ram at one stage was destined for Classic'12 but due to an infected boil on his mid side he had lost condition and was pulled from the team. The boil was lanced and by on property sale time he had recovered enough to be quite salable! Sohnic-Marnoo Vic., Hynam Poll-Hopetoun Vic., & Bruce Dean-Forest Springs Vic. with semen share support from the eventual runner up bidder Ridgway Poll-Lameroo SA ensured purchasing prowess. And why so good? Super length of body and staple length, incredible silky, super crimped fibre on a wide back ended thug! An ASBV figure of +16.4 for YCFW made sure this super free grower was no light weight in the cutting department.

Lot 5 bred from Ridgway 1137 (Classic'10 near sale topper \$25,000) was sold to the Colwells-Pinnaroo and was one of the many overlooked rams of the day at \$2,200 with ASBV +10.7 YCFW & +5.2 YWT and a ripper at that. They offered great support all day and bought at least another four throughout the catalogue.

Another R1137 son sold to Peter Watson's Mill Park at lot 13 for \$2,900 with ASBV +16.1 CFW & +4.1 YWT and highly rated. They went on to buy another two at \$2,600 each.

Lot 27 was an extreme fibred GP 070 son who I was hoping one of clients would secure but it went to Janmar Props-xxxx instead! At ASBV +17.7 YCFW & 143 MP+ INDEX at 18.4u results are guaranteed! A GP004 (\$10,000 at Classic'10) son at ASBV 146 MP+ Index & +5.1 YWT coated with silk was purchased by me for client, Scott Welke-Cascade W.A. for \$3,600.



Rob Thiele-Callington SA, the host of our Classings Classic freeway/paddock banner, secured a great WP988 son for \$3,100.

Stuart and Gavin Brophy, classing clients from Tintinara SA, realised the GP quality and nabbed two in succession at lots 14 & 15 for \$2,300 & \$3,500, one WP988 son and the other a GP004 both are great rams with excellent real figures. Look at this in catalogue form... **Lot 14 Tag 179 17.7u 2.6SD 99.4CF Sire GP004 ASBV -1.2 YFDCV -1.6 YCFW +6.0 YWT +5.3 MP 144.**

Peter Wallis now includes ASBV's in the sale catalogue to meet all clients data requirements.

We have our critics out there who suggest that by freeing up clients flocks and heavily reducing unsightly skin ripple and folds, that we are most certain to lose productivity particularly with fleece weight. Lot 14 was a super free, long stapled poll with excellent actual objective figures yet had a YCFW of +6.0 and a growth rate of +5.3. These types of animals are created using the great breeding tools that now surround us and studs like Glenlea Park and countless other studs and commercial clients are experiencing the same joys. At some classings now we are looking for meagre excuses to cull an animal as some cull rates are down to 15% at hogget classing.

Another memorable purchase on the day was the sale of the best horned ram in the Mallee (with a poll sire R1137!) at lot 73 and sold to David-Woodard-Barossa Valley SA for \$4,800..the second highest price for the day! I was very keen to purchase the ram for Lone Gum-Crystal Brook SA. Will Lynch-Baroona Vic., was the same thus a fierce three way bidding contest ensued with David the eventual winner. Will and I are still subconsciously ruing the moment at the one that got away!! At +18.0 for yearling fleece weight/150 MP index with a fibre to live for and a hulk, I will be asking David for monthly updates on the ram himself plus progeny!

Nariel P/L Vic., were great support again buying four rams up to \$3,000 for a WP988 son. John Gilbertson-Parilla SA bought three to a top of \$2,100 with Peter Gilbertson holding of to grab one of the sale's best way down at lot 89 for a beauty at \$3,600 with a +19.7 YCFW & 151 MP Index at 17.4u & 2.4SD. Check out that actual micron/SD per Fleece Weight!

Client, Bill Cameron-Mt. Torrens bought three at a near \$2,000 average to add to a superior flock in the Hills. Jascalim P/L - Tara Downs - Wentworth NSW bought a very handy lot 6 for \$3,200 for a GP670 fella and another later in the sale for \$3,000.

Dilemma Pastoral, Humphries, McMahons, Toogoods, Heinicke, Dabinett, Schiller, Niejalke, Nadia Props, Wilson & Dean Pearson are all familiar GP clients who bid all day to get their purchases and are well respected for thier annual attendance.

The Rasheed family's Bullapucky-Kingston SA bought at least six and were great baseline support. I bought a big square WP988 son for \$1,700 for Rick Munro-Tintinara SA and a couple of good flockies for Aston Station-Pooncarie NSW.

2013 ON PROPERTY SALE FRIDAY 16th AUGUST



CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 2013 AT 1.30pm
MERINO & POLL MERINO INVITATIONAL
Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

www.classings.com.au

ROEMAHKITA - CUMMINS SA

AVERAGE \$1746 TOP \$4800 108/110 BY AUCTION



Joe & Tracey Dahlitz

Cummins SA 5631

Joe : 0428 295 706

e: roemahkita@bigpond.com www.roemahkita.com.au

Friday July 19th - Monday 22nd

Bendigo Sheep Show,
Display Team

Thursday July 25th

Inspection Day
Roemahkita 10.30am - 4 pm

Tuesday JULY 30th

23rd On Property Ram Sale
110 quality poll merino rams 110

Sale Rams Averages:

Micron 19.4 CV 15.2 SD 2.9 CF% 99.4
Figures as at June 18 2013

August 5th & 6th

Hamilton Sheepvention
Display team

Monday September 9th

Classings Classic Sale, Murray Bridge

TAG	MICRON	CV	SD	CF%
2001	19.0	15.7	3.0	99.5
2217	19.8	11.1	2.2	100
2257	19.1	14.7	2.8	99.7

Friday September 13th

Adelaide Show Ram Sale

TAG	MICRON	CV	SD	CF%
2003	19.4	11.9	2.3	99.9
2245	19.0	13.7	2.6	99.8
2357	17.8	14.6	2.6	99.7
2651	18.9	15.3	2.9	99.5

Private Selections available from August.

ALL PURPOSE GENETICS:

ROEMAHKITA

plain bodied and easy care poll merinos

MEAT, MUSCLE & FIBRE

Contact Joe at any time 0428 295 706

110 rail tethered rams in equal length rows, standing on fake turf, in a brand new selling complex was a sight to behold at Roemahkita's hugely successful 2012 on property sale. It would have been understandable if one would have missed a few bids due to marvelling at such a fine setup!

Maurice Collins-Mt. Torrens SA entrusted Gary West to bid on his behalf after making his selections at the prior inspection day. Four rams later at an outlay total of \$11,200 to a top of \$4,800 the bidding was complete! Lot 14 which I hadn't noticed, drew fierce competition and crashed his way to the sale topping position. He was bred by Nerstane 8053 a sire which took Joe's eye judging at the Sydney Royal. Figures of 17.7u 2.3sd 13.0cv & 0.1pf helped proceedings.

Neil Loffler-Truro S.A. crashed the opposition with a \$4,600 purchase of a GP184 (purchased in syndicate at Hamilton 2010 for big bucks) son with good figures including an eye muscle of 43mm. This guy was all meat with reasonable fibre with an issue yet filled the pen. Miles and Hilary White- Kapunda paid \$4,000 for one of the best figured polls in the sale at 17.2u 13.4cv 2.3sd & 0.3pf also bred by the Nerstane sire. John and Trent Carter-Wallaloo park Vic., made a surprise purchase securing lot 12 for \$4,000 bred by a sire they actually sold to Joe at Classic '08 for not too much! This sire has bred brilliantly for Roemahkita and I secured him in 2012 and transferred him (WP780) to new owners Ramsgate-Tintinara as a six year old!

Sam Trengrove-Spalding SA latched onto two early in the sale both WP780 bred polls for \$3,200 and \$2,600 and added three more later. Peter and



Bucky Mickan bought a big meaty bastard for \$3,400 at lot 3 and GP bred. They added another at lot 58 for \$3,800 for a WP780 son. Another WP780 son at lot 36 was in my view the top poll of the day by streaks and sold to Bert and Barb Woolford's - Karawatha-Buckleboo S.A. for \$3,800. Happy Bert! On memory I was runner up on behalf of Gunallo but filled that spot with the second best ram of the day at lot 40 for \$1,500! Happy Ray! He was yet again another WP780.

Keeping the happiness theme on the go, I managed to snag the third best ram of the day for Trevor and Craig Gameau yet again at a bargain \$1,500 but this time for a Mernowie-Escalator son. A true 'fibre' ram at 17.4u 2.5sd & 0.4pf., I can't wait for his results as that fibre on his back was almost under the eerie banner... elite plus!

The bulk purchasers are just as important as the high flying low volume efforts and Joe and Tracey have enormous support in this area. Baines Bros-Cummins bought seven to a top of \$2,600, 'Snapper' Miller-Ceduna secured nine, Calbroma Enterprises four to \$3,400, the Crosby family, four to \$1,200, Wilderness Trading-Cummins four to \$1,800 and TW Borthwick Estate, six to \$1,800. The Nelligans, Fairview Partnership and the Shiphards also picked up top flock rams.

I bought well for clients including seven for Aston Station-Pooncarie NSW, two for Rick Munro-Tintinara S.A. and one each for Andrew Polkinghorne, Rob Germein and Netallie Station. Half were sired by that master ram WP780.

The only negative for the day was having to leave the sale immediately at completion and fly back to Adelaide for Borung's sale the next day - something which has been rectified for 2013. That actually wasn't the real issue yet the amount of sheep dung and associated odour on the bottom of my RM'S on the plane did startle a few I noticed!

**2013 SALE DATE
TUESDAY AUGUST 30th**



RIDGWAY S.A.			CLASSIC 2010				MN3 8pts		
LOT	TAG	SIRE	DROP	SHORN	MIC	CV%	SD	%>30u	
81	1137	R 571	1/5/09	28/2/2010	20.3	15.3	3.1	0.3	

RIDGWAY 1137

You may have noticed that a fair portion of top end sale rams throughout the sale calendar were sired by R1137 who was sold at the Classic'10 sale for \$25,000 to Wallaloo Park, Yarrowonga and a list of semen shares.

The more sale reports I completed where the sire was used including the source, Ridgway, the more I was tempted to recall any early info that Ric and Gail Ridgway had on him. I had forgotten (52 now you know!) that I had given him two testimonials, one for the Ridgway website and the other their annual newsletter.

Website testimonial... *"We recommend that you keep an eye out for a standout skin/fibre/frame ram in tag number 1137."*

Newsletter testimonial in part....

"R-1137, another gem from the 571 stable, full of personality, exhibits all the facets to warrant a top sire. Four upright pasterns on each corner of a long bodied carcass which extends all the way to the top knot via great neck extension and a muzzle which is as pristine white as the fibre he exudes can only add to this bloke's attraction...."

"R-1137 ticks all the boxes in that he is impressing a league of breeders ranging from the traditionalists eager to confront current skin issues that plague the industry to the progressive mulesing-addressing breeder...."

"..... loaded with quality fibre (this ain't wool!) with a huge inquisitive personality makes R-1137 and easy inclusion as a future sire in this year's Cullings'10 Newsletter. His selection as a leader in this year's Classic'10 sale indicates his stature only as, top end. Feast on this!"

It's a relief now to witness his first year's results as so pleasing after such accolades!

RIDGWAY 1137		10.5.13		SIRE 571		ASBV's		
TAG	YWT	YFAT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YSL	YWEC	MP+
1137	4.1	-0.6	-0.9	17.6	-1.0	9.7	-14	144
AVG	2.70	0.0	0.3	7.9	-1.0	4.1	-3	133

Ridgway 1137 on the ASBV front is pretty well in the middle of the road as far as sires go with good performance nationally for YCFW & YSL and no disgrace in YWT either. YFAT & YEMD are on the negative so future generations could improve this figure.

All this said R1137 easily joins my SuperSire list as a ram that throws little waste with both ewe and ram hogget progeny and capable of throwing top end stock to maintain high tensile quality. Apologies for the tacky handbuilt ASBV chart!

FIBRE FRAME FERTILITY & FIGURES



SOUTHROSE ON PROPERTY WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

SHEEPVENTION ADELAIDE SHOW & CLASSINGS

www.southrose.com

RIDGWAY - LAMEROO S.A.

AVERAGE \$1494 TOP \$3600 119/128 BY AUCTION



Matt Lehmann-Flairdale S.A. proudly operates the new end race gate in the classing yards at their Cookes Plains property.

The Lehmanns were shocked into gate alterations after a disaster with their #1 ram in 2012.

I am still on a mini crusade to rectify this nation wide issue where most end and centre race gates are made with in-parallel, horizontal cross bars...the perfect trap for flighty animals.



CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 2013 AT 1.30pm
MERINO & POLL MERINO INVITATIONAL
Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

www.classings.com.au



Over fifty buyer registrations pre sale was a fair indication that things were looking good for another successful Ridgway sale. Lot 1 at \$2,500 to 'Blue' & Judith Loechel and the next two to the Bradys-Rhymney Vic. for \$3,100 & \$1,700 set up the sale and it never looked back.

I bought lot 4 for Nantoura-Wharminda S.A. for \$3,600, a robust R1137 sire that should have great influence to this fast rising stud on the 'Coast. Lot 43 was the second choice for the Primes-Nantoura which equalled the top price and went to Brian Martin and Wayne Sheriff S.A. in partnership for a Wallaloo Park 115 son with exquisite fibre and outstanding figures. Try these...16.4u 2.1SD 12.8CV% 0.0pf... not bad for a top ram with magnificent disposition. I added another to the Nantoura list with a long bodied lot 15 for \$1,900.

Senior Park-Bordertown S.A. supported early with a lot 5 pickup for \$3,500 & lot 12 for \$2,800 from the renowned Glenlea Park sire GP 004. Heathdale-Naracoorte S.A., next door to the now retired Roger and Sally Haynes, purchased four to \$2,600 including a very good lot 5 for \$2,600 bred by Kamora Park sire KP511.

Garry Murdoch-North Cowie-Warooka S.A. made a surprise visit and has possibly seen the light at just how good (and important) Ridgway genetics are in purchasing two R1137 (\$25,000 at Classic'10) sons at \$2,600 & \$2,900. The right rams? All eyes will be on the resultant progeny for their sale in 2014.

Is anyone getting sick of me yet suggesting that stud principles should consider rewarding significant purchasers with overseas jaunts including the grog tab?! Well, sorry but here's another....Lynton Barrett-Lameroo S.A. took home 11 rams averaging \$1,218 to a top of \$1,600 and probably bid on twice that many to fill his booty! I believe the Maldives is a great spot Ric!

While you're contemplating, send the Gregors-Parmdana K.I. over there as well as their support with a ten ram haul at a \$1,180 average puts them on the same pedestal!

Twenty five of the offered rams went to Victorians including the Philips, Allens & Kilcoolin Pastoral as well as the pre mentioned Brady family and were happy to bid to the mid \$3,000 and possibly average \$1,500 over the lot.

Maybe the Philips from Maroona Vic, bought the pickup of the day in reviewing my catalogue for a syndicate bred lot 46 for \$3,500 with 0.0pf 18.3u 2.5SD 13.7CV%. I ranked him highly and he was certainly stud potential.

Local Callington S.A. identity Steve Paech, lent typical support and snagged three at \$2,600, \$2,100 & \$1,400 including a Ram Lamb syndicate bred beauty at lot 16. On the ASBV charts he featured well with +17 YCFW & 6.1 YWT.

Mates, Jeff and Andrea Buick-Penneshaw K.I., fought hard all day and came away with two to a top of \$2,400 for a 17.9u 2.4SD 13.4CV% 0.1pf ripper that I could have bought for any of our clients.

The Hicks clan-Deniliquin, Mudfords-Gilgandra and Bluechip Livestock were all successful N.S.W. bidders with in all, ten rams crossing the border up to \$2,200 and averaging in the \$1,500 area.

Coomandook S.A. clients Booderoo Partners represented by good guy Tim Freak bought five to \$1,300. I bought four for Rob Chalk and by sale's end had a great looking bunch inside budget yet loaded with quality including lot 23 for \$1,600 bred by GP004. Also bought a big bold crimper for Rick Munro-Tintinara S.A. at lot 10 for \$1,200. Sired by R1137, this guy had huge body and staple length loaded with density.

Also purchased a cheapy for Lone Gum S.A. for a R1137 horn ram at \$800 to be used as a backup to any horn A.I. he may have anticipated at year's end. ASBV's of +21 YCFW & 4.1 YWT & 149 DP and 0.0pf, this bloke may surprise!

The Smith, Walkerville Pastoral, Hein, Hampel, Wormald, Mickan, Erehwon Pastoral, Paul, Eisen and Temby names were all familiar and all chipped in to make another Ridgway sale a complete success.

The success of R1137 not only here at Ridgway but over most of the enterprises that used semen has been outstanding. I will revisit my sale catalogue from the 2010 Classic and research his history and commentry to try and source reasons for his huge success.

2013 SALE DATE
MONDAY AUGUST 12th

HAMILTON SHEEPVENTION RAM SALE VIC.



Simple latch systems like this one that I found at Borung-Waikerie are quick and simple without the time wasting effort of having to wrap a chain around a post. Particularly good in the heavy traffic part of the yards where animals won't have time to think about unlatching!

Different situation when rams are involved especially 'housed' efforts where boredom sees these chains easily lifted by the curious.



Flairdale will impress a wider audience this year with the looking after of the top dozen or so polls for Classic, Hamilton and Adelaide more so than any other year.

As opposed to the four tooth preparation of yesteryear where rams were shedded for way too long, the 'glossing' of younger animals without the burnout associated with the old version makes economic sense.



The Hamilton Ram Sale needs a revamp with the pick of the pen of five auction system now looking a little archaic and taking way too long. I think teams of five rams from each stud is fine but consecutive selling by a band of, in rotation, slick auctioneers from all states is a major answer to end the drag. The sale is becoming a bit of hit and miss thus seeing a few studs pulling out with clients having the same sentiment and holding off their bids for on property auctions. It's warmer at most on property sales too!

The catalogue layout sees Spinning Fineness included as some kind of interest where realistically its use as a tool for ram selection compares with having an ashtray on a motorbike! No sire information and the metal tag I.D. is included as security yet so bloody hard to read on the ram's ear adds not much to the day. Dohne's and Comebacks to kick off the sale?.....ok ...just...bbbbut...SAMMS! Come on...how about leaving them all 'til last while we merino appreciators sip on a well earned port!

Ramsgate were first off the ranks within 'our' clan and I was happy to buy all five over a few bids for clients, Rick Munro-Tintinara S.A. 2 @ \$2,000 each, Netallie Station-Wilcannia, 2 @ \$1,500 & \$1,000 and Aston Station-Pooncarie N.S.W., 1 @ \$1,500. Most were Wallaloo Park influenced, looked bloody great and were possibly just below real value.

Superior Wool Merino (SWM) had an outstanding outing selling two to clients Brian Landseer-Milang for \$3,000 and two to Trevor Gameau-Cummins S.A. at \$3,000 and \$1,500. With the catalogue not showing any pedigree material I can't provide any sire info but there was a choice between Wallaloo Park and Leahcim genetics. One I do know that was bred by L696 at lot 149 and sold to Brian Landseer had the great figures of 18.5u 2.5SD 13.5CV% & 0.1pf.

Glenlea Park rarely miss at Hamilton with 2012 no exception and came close to topping the whole day! Pete and Marianne Wallis's first off the rank sold for \$14,000 to Len Mathews N.S.W. for a Nyowee L88 bred poll that filled the pen. 19.6u 2.7SD 13.8CV% & 0.1pf was attractive. Stavely Park-Vic. and Winyar Stud of 'Smoky' & Sue Dawson N.S.W. smoked the opposition and bought a WP988 bred ripper for \$7,000 whilst I bought Derella Downs W.A. a semi productive L665 bred poll for \$6,000 with a backend like a bus. The other two made

\$1,500 & \$2,000 and sold to Janmac-Goroke Vic. and the Newsome family Vic. These two prices alone would have made us all happy not that long ago!

Ridgway's gamble of two teams came off well with only one passing in from the ten offered. Hynam Poll-Hopetoun Vic., paid \$3,500 for a square R1137 son. Paul and Felicity Brady-Stavely Park Vic. secured another R1137 for \$2,750 with yet another selling to Ramsgate-Tintinara S.A. for \$3,000. The wealth this boy has created! Erehwon Pastoral-Penola S.A. picked up two for \$2,500 each, one a R1137 son with McMahon's McPiggery latching onto two at \$2,000 & \$2,500 with yes one a R1137 son! Altus Pastoral-Lameroo S.A. grabbed two for \$2,000.

Gunallo also risked two teams with success. Their top sold for \$3,500, bred by L438 and sold to AD & KM Jones-Stratford Vic. An 'Escalator' horned ram took my eye for Calcookara due to his presence and fibre but my bargain of the day turned ugly when I was outbid by McMahon's McPiggery-Lameroo S.A. for \$2,750. Wayne Schenke-Murray Bridge S.A. bought a well figured ram for \$2,000. 20.3u is up there a tad but try these for additional...2.5SD 12.3CV% & 0.0pf. Not exactly Adelaide rams sale figures! The Nuskes-Pinnaroo S.A. were great support with two at \$2,250 & \$1,000 and Erehwon-Penola S.A. active with two for \$2,250 & \$1,500.

Southrose had a reasonable selling day with their team of soft, white wools ideal for the climate and sold their top for \$2,500 for a 16.4u 2.5SD 15.2CV% & 0.0pf to Andrew and Angela Lyons-Vasey Vic. Two at \$1,500 went to Ian Merrett-Lillimur Vic., a return buyer for Southrose. I bought one for \$1,000 for Netallie Station-Wilcannia N.S.W.

Scouring the ram shed chocka block full of 385 rams of all types and descriptions there were rams that did please the eye that were of no business concern to us but tempting all the same. **Hannaton Poll** - Kaniva Vic., had an exciting poll sire in his pen of five which would have stood proud at any sale in particular, Classic' 12. If he had failed to meet some kind of reserve at Hamilton I suggested to Principal, Peter Hicks, of a sale where he would be appreciated and would do well. Anyway the ram blitzed those suggestions and lot 84 made \$4,000 and went to some lucky bugger! 17.4u 2.6SD 14.9CV% & 0.2 and bred by L438 helped!

**2013 SALE DATE
TUESDAY 6th AUGUST**



DERELLA DOWNS

CASCADE W.A.

AVERAGE \$1404 TOP \$4000 163/170 BY AUCTION

That's a smug face on a very proud Scott Pickering who's Derella Downs inaugural on property sale had just gone through the roof selling just short of 170 rams at a rewarding average of \$1,404.

Scott and Sue Pickering had been supporting the Esperance multi vendor sale for years with private selections done at a later date. They decided for ease of management to sell every ram at home on one selling day which paid off enormously.

The top priced ram, shown at right, (drop that head Scotty!) at \$4,000 went to Epasco Farms, a giant of an operation east of Esperance where they run over 20,000 sheep. Manager Rod Taylor suggested that the ram will be used in a ram breeding program along with others bought on the day.

Up there for fibre diameter yet 118 Kg and perfect for balance and proportions, 21.1u 2.9SD 13.7CV% and 151 on MP+ Index equates to sire material. Epasco also paid second highest price at \$3,800 as well as \$3,300, \$2,900 & \$1,400.

I think the Pickerings could think about entertaining Brad & Vanessa Whiting-

Munglinup for two weeks at Exmouth on a chartered yacht with Coronas thrown in on the deal due to their massive sale support. They accrued a total of 18 rams for the day! Almost annually the family buy the Pickering's surpass to requirement ewes to build their breeding numbers up to the 4,000 mark.

Young River Unit Trust hopped in and bought 16 rams and averaged \$1,644 with Myalarup Grazing-Lake King securing 10. Maybe these guys should be on that Exmouth trip as well.

Stuart and Basil Parker-Fang P/L-Cascades, averaged \$1,410 for their 10 pickups. The Parker name is heavily associated with the Derella genetics being the shearing contractors to the property for many years. If the contractor likes the sheep yet they remain productive for fleece weight, what else is left?!

Newleigh-Munglinup, topped the team averages at \$1,370 for their ten...Exmouth for you as well! Young Hill Farms-Beaumont, bought nine. Mallee Valley Farm-Lake King, the Harris family-Grass Patch, Kym Mason-Cascade, Bruchel Farming-Cascade & Dorglen P/L-Beaumont all bought six each.

'Jonesy' Ian Jones-Kojonup and a major helper at field days with setting up and cooking, could have been given his selection as gratitude but had to pay \$3,000 for the top poll at lot 32 with a MP+ figure of 151.

To add to the success of the day a suggestion of \$4,000 was offered for a young reserve in the display pen which was naturally accepted presumably with beer in hand!

This stud is in great shape with an adoring clientel returning annually due to good on property results. Although this report mostly suggests the top dollar animals, there were many rams over the 170 offered that fit into everyone's budget without falling down the quality ladder too much. Scotty is aiming for 200 by auction this year so the cataloguing in August will be intriguing to see if the quality holds up to reach that new benchmark...I think we'll get there!

2013 SALE DATE
WED SEPTEMBER 11th



DERELLA DOWNS HORN

PYRAMID POLL



MERINO & POLL

Scott & Sue Pickering

Ph 0890 792012 Mob. 0427 323544

s.s.pickering@bigpond.com

Classer : Bill Walker 0428 973804

ON PROPERTY FIELD DAY 30th AUGUST 2013

All welcome to Derella Downs on property ram sale with Andrew Winton and celebrity chef Vince Gareffa

Also displaying or selling...

WILLIAMS FIELD DAY 12th Aug

DERELLA DOWNS FIELD DAY 30th Aug

NEWDEGATE FIELD DAY 4th & 5th Sept

DERELLA DOWNS ON PROPERTY SALE 11th Sept



SELLING 100 TOP QUALITY RAMS ON PROPERTY SALE - SEPTEMBER 11th 2013

GUNALLO - PINNAROO S.A.

AVERAGE \$1035 TOP \$3000 86/90 BY AUCTION



The quality of Gunallo's sale team was top notch yet visually was slightly on the back burner due to the season cutting off and a dust plague causing havoc with overall presentation. I was obviously the only one concerned on the day as things all went to plan with a lift in average price from the excellent sale the year before.

Top price for the day came at pen 4 for a R1137 (Classic'10 sold for \$25,000) son at \$3,000 and sold to the McMahon family's McPiggery-Lameroo represented by Kim Thorpe (ex McMahon) with brother in law Duane Simon. He was worth the dough. The quality of that flock with Rob Russell at the helm and genetics that I have witnessed them purchase from all of 'our' studs lately, must be right up with the best. The duo also secured lot 3 for \$1,900 and another later in the sale.

An 'Escalator' (Mernowie \$30,000 Classic'10) son took the eye of the Murrayville Community College who had a grant to invest in top genetics and procured lot 5 for \$2,700. Good choice considering his great frame plus 17.3u 2.3SD 13.3CV% & 0.2pf with great fibre.

Altus Pastoral-Lameroo S.A. were active all day with the purchase of three rams including another Escalator son for \$2,300 at lot 2 weighing 110 Kgs, a Mernowie 854 son for \$1,600 and a R1137 son for the same money. LS Hand-Parilla S.A. latched onto seven, the Jenzens at Pinnaroo four with one at \$1,600 for an Escalator son and Erwehon Pastoral-Penola three to \$1,600.

Local Murray Bridge identity, Wayne Schenke bought one of the best of the day for \$1,600 at lot 25 for a L438 son with figures of 20.2u 2.8SD 13.7CV% & 0.0pf. Glen Richards chipped in with a couple including a lot 32 bargain for \$800.

The Hands were handy to have at the sale with six purchases including lot 46 for \$900, very much a bargain!

Victorian interests were another added bonus for the day with Blackwell Pastoral-Dunkeld taking four and the Wheeler family taking home six.

Rick and Ben Marra-Marra Farms-Netherby Vic., bid up to \$1,300 and took eleven rams guaranteeing the sale progressed all day without faltering. This also put them into contention for reward and presume there was plenty of after sale leg humping going on by the Schroeder boys including sending the Marra boys off to the AFL Grand final with luxury apartments and grog thrown in by Gunallo.

All the regular local and Gunallo supporting names were there making for a successful sale. Atze, Nuske, Smith, Dariel, MacArthur, Fromm, Sheldon and other single ram buyers were all an integral part in instilling the confidence of the Schroeder family to keep on accessing the top genetics available to provide good value animals for the future.

2013 SALE DATE
THURSDAY 5th SEPTEMBER

ANNUAL ON-PROPERTY AUCTION

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH 2013

80 Specially Selected Merino & Poll Merino Rams



Selling and Displaying

- KAROONDA FIELD DAY
- HAMILTON SHEEPVENTION
- ADELAIDE RAM SALE
- CLASSINGS CLASSIC

INSPECTION

from 11.00am (SA Time)

AUCTION

from 1.00pm (SA Time)
Ovine Brucellosis Accredited
& MN3



Ray Schroeder Ph: (08) 8577 8485, Brad Schroeder Ph: (03) 5095 2151

Email: ray@gunallo.com.au

GUNALLO GIVES GREATER GAINS
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LORELMO KEYNETON STATION POLL MERINO STUD



I am regularly asked how many sheep I class per year. This is a question I am a bit reticent to explore as that number may influence my energy levels and enthusiasm for the following year! What does keep you going though is the increasing of amounts specials, elites, screamers, HF's or top end animals in all of our client flocks through the purchase of new era genetics available to us now in great quantities.



Noticed this whilst classing at Calcookara. Simple yet super effective and only by accident. This chain was for another use yet doubled up as the ideal gate 'clinger' for easy and quick open and shut maneuvers. Sure beats wire or rope for time saving.

Under the new name of Lorelmo Keyneton Station, the South Australian Lorelmo stud, previously Lorelmo SA, has been transferred to the Keynes Family of Keyneton who will continue to work with parent stud, John and Jules Cordingley of Lorelmo Poll Merinos in Walcha NSW to breed high quality fine wool poll merino rams.

Keyneton Station is located in the Barossa Ranges, east of Angaston with an annual average rainfall of 450mm. It ranges from undulating clay loam soils with improved perennial pastures to steep, rocky hillsides consisting of annual grasses and perennial native grasses.

Fifth generation commercial merino producers, brothers Joe and Graham Keynes, who have been working with Bill Walker for the past 8 years to improve the quality of their medium wool flock, saw the potential in the plain bodied, fine micron, high producing Lorelmo sheep. They plan to build on these traits to continue to provide consistent, unique, recognizable rams into the future.

They plan to use their commercial experiences and couple them with rigorous

monitoring, integration with ASBV's and electronic data capturing to provide their clients with consistent, reliable and predictable rams which will adapt to an ever changing environment.

The flock also maintains its MN3+ status and Ovine Brucellosis Accreditation.

This year's sale team consist of progeny from previous long standing sire, Colt, who continues to produce large framed, plain bodied and bold crimped animals. This year also introduces the new sire, Chevy, who been a stand out sire with progeny displaying deep crimped, bright white wool with higher than flock average body weight and eye muscle.

Rams can be viewed and purchased at the on-property sale on Monday 2nd September and at the Classing Classic's Sale at Murray Bridge. Private appointment is welcome prior to these sales if required.

2013 SALE DATE
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 2nd



Consistent, Plain Bodied, Fine Wool Poll Merino Rams

On Property Sale

Monday 2nd September 2013- 1.00pm

50 Fine Wool Poll Merino Rams

Now based at Keyneton, Barossa Valley Ranges, SA

Enquiries Welcome- Joe Keynes 0428 648 235
Classer- Bill Walker 0428 973 804



www.lorelmokeynetonstation.com.au

ADELAIDE RAM SALE



Wow it's going to be a long July looking at that shocker of a photo in the AWI calendar for 31 days! The 'thing' on the left would have to have fantastic hearing and smell senses as to know of the mob's whereabouts with the mate on the right a fine example of yesterday's merino.

I'm hoping the photo was used only because it was one of the A.W.I. staffer's little one's first photo on the Kodak he/she received for her/his seventh birthday!

How? Why?



It gets harder to sneak off for a beer during the Adelaide sale these days as slowly more progressive studs are entering Adelaide with more numbers luring possible purchasers into hanging around for the whole sale! This was once regarded as the ultimate torture test very similar to being confined to a cell with Billy Joel's - 'It's still rock and roll to me' playing over and over and over.

The **Wallaloo Park** team sold well with their first, a WP938 bred poll, selling to Andrew Higham-Barooga Williams W.A. for \$11,000. I hope this purchase crosses extremely well with the resultant progeny helping to make the Williams Field Day a more enjoyable experience along with Brookdale, Derella Downs and Cranmore. Second in the lineup went to Pat Millard-Stud Park South-Willaura Vic. for a WP878 horny filling the pen and testing 19.0u 2.5SD 13.2CV% 0.1pf. The last sold went to Sutherland Grazing-Arra Dale W.A. for \$3,000 and was my pick of the three which equates to a bargain!

Roemahkita entered four and could have entered more, mmmm, anyway they were very chuffed after the posse made \$22,500 in five minutes! One of my favourite Wallaloo Park sires, WP780 sold at Classic'08 for \$6,000, bred the first of the lineup and sold for \$6,500 and went to Mudjee N.S.W. 16.9u for a thug! Couldn't breed stats like that once! Their second went to Leonie Mills'-Morley Poll-Cleve S.A. for another WP780 son at 18.1u 2.9SD 16.0CV% & 0.3pf.

Avid Roemahkita supporter, Maurice Collins-Mt. Torrens S.A. stole the third for \$3,000, another '780' and look closely at this test : 18.7u 2.3SD 12.3CV% & 0.0! Freedom!

The last and Ray Schroeder's and my pick sold to Gunallo for \$7,000 and bred by RO9352. What! Not WP780 you say? 9352 is a top son of WP780 who also featured well at the on property sale.

I can't remember why now but Peter Wallis-**Glenlea Park** withdrew his number one ram for Adelaide taking only one. WP988 bred the poll that Riverina concern,

Willandra Stud, liked and that was that for \$6,500 for a great poll.

Gunallo sold two with the first, a R1137 son at 19.4u 2.7SD 13.9CV% & 0.2pf to Donald Downs-Minlaton S.A. for \$3,000 and the second a L438 son, to the Hall family-Clare S.A. for \$4,500 at 19.2u 2.8SD 14.6CV% & 0.4pf.

Rice's Creek-Tintinara S.A. sold their one ram to H.P. Rural for \$4,000 and bred by SuperSire R1137.

Ridgway Advance had the sale of their life at the Adelaide sale grossing \$42,000 and averaging \$4,500 in 15 minutes with only five rams! Their first, bred by L438, sold to long time supporter Len Mathews for \$6,500. The second bred by homebred sire RA370 captured the eye of Coreena Stud Q., and sold for \$10,000 and was my pick of the group due to his fluid nourishment and whiteness. L47 produced the next with White Hill Props securing a great poll for \$6,500.

Ryan Kluska's Kiandra Poll-Bordertown S.A. wasn't going to let the fourth Ridgway Advance ram out of his grasp and outlaid \$15,000 for the pleasure! Bred by L438 his fibre was extreme for style and whiteness. The ram was destined for Classic'12 but his entry into the Adelaide sale let the masses see what Advance's breeding ideals are. Peter Gilbertson-Lameroo S.A. bought the last poll for a respectable \$4,000 and he was no slouch with a square backend at 18.5u 3.0SD 16.2CV% & 0.4pf.

Ridgway came back to the Adelaide sale in 2012 with two top R1137 bred sons which made a respectable \$6,000 and \$3,500 and sold to Peter Mosey and Philip Ruediger-White Hill Props and David Daniel, Donald Downs-Minlaton S.A. Southrose with their single entry sold a bold crimper to Greg Barrett-Lennard for \$3,000, a new client who's had great results from the ram and will be back looking again in 2013.

2013 SALE DATE
FRIDAY 13th SEPTEMBER

CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 2013 AT 1.30pm
MERINO & POLL MERINO INVITATIONAL
Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

www.classings.com.au

SUPERIOR WOOL MERINO TINTINARA S.A.

AVERAGE \$1357 TOP \$4300 61/70 BY AUCTION



If you are considering new yards or need to reinvent the oldies have a think about walk-thru efforts like this one that I noticed at Syd Nicholl's-North Marola S.A. classing last year.

Dimensions are hard to gauge looking at a photo but it was wide enough to walk through one leg at a time yet narrow enough that a lamb in a mob wouldn't contemplate the thought.

Great for owners, dogs and weary sheep classers.

CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 2013 AT 1.30pm
MERINO & POLL MERINO INVITATIONAL
Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

www.classings.com.au



It's ironic that semen from W282, from W.A.'s newest registered stud Westwood-Cascade W.A., should breed the highest priced favourite at one of the South East's newest studs, Superior Wool Merino or SWM.

Lot six at \$4,400 and bought by David and Tim Greatz-Bordertown S.A. was a lot of people's choice as the pick ram of the day. Great fibre on a well built carcass saw a bidding frenzy which pushed the ram \$1,000 ahead of his nearest rival. He had figures of 17.8u 2.5SD 14.1CV% & 0.1pf.

John Weinke-Wynarka S.A. bought five for the day including a great poll at lot 4 for \$3,300. Trevor Gameau-Wanilla S.A. bought the best horny for the day for \$2,900 at lot 3 and highly ranked by the classer with lot 2 another as good at \$2,700 off to Chad Burbidge-Bowhill S.A.

Mt. Boothby-Culburra S.A. lent massive support and put a huge floor in the sale by securing 13 rams for the day and averaging around \$1,200. Their pick purchases in my eyes were two WP115 bred sons at \$1,700 & \$1,500 for lots 12 & 20.

Gary Hansen-Coomandook S.A., a member of the Superior Wool Syndicate as is SWM's principal, Richard Harkness, has always been an avid supporter and chipped in to buy five carefully selected animals. The Hansen's hogget classing this year was one of the year's best with the Superior Wool Syndicate's, A.I sires used plus SWM rams doing it in the paddock creating a classer's paradise in reference to lack of cull rate and huge top end performers.

I bought four for Peter Kuhlmann-Wirrulla S.A. at \$900, \$1,000, \$800 and \$1,000 which reflects the amount of money you DON'T have to pay for great quality rams. Gavin and Stuart Brophy-Tintinara S.A. bought two top enders including a great horned ram for \$2,000 from the grand master sire WP5 which initially put SWM on the map with enviable breeding results.

Neil McKenzie-Tintinara S.A. held off for lot 22 with a tag of #1000 (presumably tagged that number for a reason in the cradle) and a price of \$1,900 he was one of the free-est in the book. The Reichsteins from Coonalpyn S.A. bought six including an GP Olympic bred lot 6 for \$2,200 with 0.0pf and 17.1u. The Mitten family were great with their support by securing four for the day.

I bought two for Rick Munro-Culburra S.A. at \$1,800 each as to improve the fibre quality of a great frame flock in need of a bit of fine tuning on the fibre side.

**2013 SALE DATE
WED 18th SEPTEMBER**

Superior
SWool
MMerinos

ANNUAL RAM SALE
Wednesday 18th September 2013
TINTINARA SA

70 Merino and Poll Merino Rams
Elite Wools on Plain Bodies

Richard Harkness
0428 758 028

Malcolm Macdonald
0427 573 025

Bill Walker
0428 973 804

richardharkness@internode.on.net

CALCOOKARA - COWELL S.A.

AVERAGE \$1365 TOP \$3800 82/100 BY AUCTION



The Calcookara lineup was at its best in 2012 in presentation and another year on for quality. The 2013 lineup I believe will jump to a new unheralded level due to the current infusions from outside sources as to attract new custom as well as the renewed enthusiasm showed by Brenton and Jane Smith for the future of the stud.

Foster and Waller-Port Lincoln S.A. were the buyers of the top ram, a long bodied lot 2 with figures of 17.5u 2.4SD 13.9CV% 0.1pf for a long bodied, white fibred, pick for \$3,800.

DL & PS Turner-Cleve were transfixed on lot 4A and no surprises when after a short battle with other appreciators won him for a healthy \$3,500, second highest price of the day. 16.9u 2.5SD 14.9CV% & 0.4 was no surprise for a fibre loaded with gloss. They added another for \$2,400 at lot 8a.

I bought lot 5a for \$1,700 for a startled Pimbena who had no idea he needed another ram! At this price and with true stud potential, he was hard to resist and I new that Les Hamence would trust my judgement...strange I haven't seen him since! Tom Freeth-Kimba S.A. secured the pick of the first page at lot 6a and paid for it at a realistic \$3,400. for a big square snorter.

Pepperwell-Keyneton S.A. had his sights on lot 2b and jagged it for \$1,700 with Hansi Graetz unable to stop grinning ever since, I really appreciated lot 10a and so did Grant Hanneman so that's the way he went for \$2,400. Nourishment and bold crimp was outstanding with this bloke with 17.2u 2.7 15.6 0.1 a feature.

By now the Byerlee family-Orroroo S.A. and the Puckridges-Port Lincoln S.A. began collecting prized rams for their respective hauls with 13 rams bought between them by day's completion.

J. Fuss & Sons - Cummins S.A. & FJ & YJ Puckridge-Port Lincoln S.A. bought ten rams between them with the enjoyable Ben Ranford-Arno Bay S.A. securing seven including a late

lot 37 for a measly \$800 for a ram that looked like a horse. Pete Story nabbed five including another late, great pickup at lot 38b for the same money, \$800. Both Ben's and Pete's bargains were great rams with a bit of stub protruding from the head hence the price steal but commercially....

Lots 21a & 21b (in the pen together) took the eye of most poll admirers and the Calcookara mob were rewarded with both fetching \$3,400 each with both going to Western Australian studs Prospect-Wyalkatchem and Faraway Hills-Ravensthorpe. Both sires exhibited figures that we have come to expect at Calcookara....

17.3u 2.6SD 15.1CV% 0.2pf and 16.5u 2.8SD 16.7CV% 0.3pf

Both rams were bred by 199-066 with RA199 the SuperSire bought by Calcookara/Pepperwell/Roemahkita at Classic'08 for a fair bit! In fact most of the top end rams mentioned in this report were bred by this bloke which makes you think just how many progeny will be in the 2013 sale. There will be none as the ram was put on the meat truck due to his visual appearance last year! That's enough, next...

Newbies, the Noble family from Darke Peak S.A., K Allen & Co., bought six between them. Bruce and Jodie Hunt-Mundulla S.A. bid to \$1,600 to secure their four. Jalebro Park, R & B Hanneman, Cathro, Elson, Starr, Schultz, were all locals who supported well.

This was the four generations of Smith Family's 100th year in the game and it was fitting that the sale average rose from the previous year as part of the recognition. 100 rams was a tad too many but this reflected a few clients who didn't attend due to season cutoffs in increasing pockets throughout the state.

The 2013 lineup will be bolstered by the first progeny from L858 the predicted

Supersire that Calcookara outlaid \$22,000 for with the help of semen share partners in 2011.

**2013 SALE DATE
FRIDAY SEPT 6th**

CALCOOKARA
MERINO  **POLL MERINO**

**Annual On Property Auction
Friday 6th September 2013**

**Inspection from 11.00am, Auction at 1.30pm
Private selection in Sept/Oct by appointment**

Auction team paddock run with current tests:
• OJD 8 Points • Brucellosis Free



**Calcookara paid \$22,000 to add
Leahcim 858 to their sire bank**



This exciting sire is big & correct with brilliant white crimply nourished free growing wool

**SEMEN Available
\$40/dose up to 100 Doses,
\$35/dose 100 or more doses**

Micron	S.D.	C.V.	C.F.
18.3	2.9	15.6	99.8

**Brenton - (08) 8628 5039 Mobile: 0427 285 039
Niel - (08) 8629 2348 Mobile: 0428 628 503
Classer - Bill Walker (08) 8532 3065
Mobile: 0428 973 804**

Email: info@calcookara.com.au - website: www.calcookara.com.au

KARAWATHA - BUCKLEBOO S.A.

AVERAGE \$1533 TOP \$6000 83/84 BY AUCTION



When a sale is topped at \$6,000 right down at pen 30, there is a fair indication that this stud has either a huge depth of quality or someone stuffed up at cataloguing! The former choice is fact whilst the lineup reference I'll take responsibility for!

The ram looked sensational on the day and deserved the title and went to Classing clients, Paul Schaeffer-Nalino-Kimba. Big and bred by a syndicate of Wallaloo Park sires, with figures of 18.6u 2.7SD 14.5CV% & 0.6pf, matching the elite fibre he carried. Nalino kept the theme flowing with a WP749 son with 17.2u 2.7SD 15.8CV% & 0.0pf silky fibre for \$3,100 and lot 31, another WP SYN bred ripper for \$2,500.

Excitable, Wayne Young and son Sam from Orroroo S.A., purchased their four in the first seven pens parting with \$13,000 in the process averaging \$3,250... now that's support! The first purchase, lot 1 was a long bodied son of Lucembrae 001 (purchased Classic'10) at \$4,400, lot 3 another LUC001 for \$4,000 at 18.2u 2.6SD 14.2CV% & 0.0pf, lot 4 at \$1,800 for an outstanding Ridgway 1137 (Classic'10 sold for \$25,000) son and followed by another for \$2,800.

While on the R1137 theme, lot 2 was bought by Chris Tucker for Andrew Polkinghorne-Lock S.A. for \$3,400 and excellent ASBV figures including +20 YCFW & +7.8 YWT. He was Embryo Transfer bred. Woolford Brothers-Buckleboo S.A. started buying at lot 5 with a Lucembrae bred biggy for \$2,000 and bought three more later.

Tim Larwood-Buckleboo closed in on the hero stakes by supporting the day with four purchases including another LUC001 for \$4,800 at 17.9u 2.9SD 16.2CV% & 0.1pf. The Girdham family were good for three including a ripper lot 19 bred by R1137 for \$1,600. DV Francils deserved a beer post sale with a red hot lot 23 at \$2,400 by LUC001 and lot 20 for \$3,000 which was the sale topping horned ram price and bred by Wallaloo Park 749. Shannon Larwood-Kimba bought three to \$2,600 which was LUC001 bred with 18.2u 2.8SD 15.4CV% & 0.1pf at lot 75.

Dean Wilmott-Koongawa S.A., supported his sister and brother in law well three rams he bought including lot 21, a highly prized R1137 E.T. bred poll with top fibre for \$2,000. Hickman Brothers were into it including a well liked lot 12 bred by LUC001 for \$1,900 which I had marked for any commercial client. Brook Seal bought three including a \$2,300 corker at lot 18 with all of the attributes.

Wilkatana Station-Port Augusta S.A. managed by Andrew Smart bought five great flock rams at \$600, \$600, \$900, \$800 & \$600 representing great value and definitely not representing the typical ugly station order look that some studs 'tip' into the pastoral zones! Smarty's mate, Robert Koch-Booleeroo Centre S.A. bought six to \$1,700 including a lot 57 for \$1,400 bred by a top ram syndicate who was the pick of the bunch.

I bought four for Netallie Station-Wilcannia N.S.W. including a young WP15 bred scorcher for \$1,400 which would have suited any of our stud clients! Also grabbed two beauties for clients, Bruce Heddle-Minnipa S.A. and Ian Rodda-Maitland S.A. for \$1,800 & \$2,000 with the Heddle ram coming in at 112Kg from the paddock and bred by R1137.

Oakden Hills through owners the Nutt family-Port Augusta S.A. win the most bought award with twelve secured via the auction plus whatever happened outside with selection rams maybe adding up to fifty for the day. I hope their Karawatha sponsored trip to Texas with all food and wine expenses covered for two months was a buzz.

The Zibells, Beinkes, Mark Baldock, Smiths, Grockes, Inglis Bros., and Lenny Newton's, Newton Pastoral bought well to secure the greatest Karawatha sale yet. Wait 'til you see what I have seen this year!



KARAWATHA PARK
MERINO AND POLL MERINO STUDS

ON PROPERTY RAM SALE FRIDAY 30TH AUGUST 2013

INSPECTION 12 NOON
AUCTION 2PM

100 RAMS AUCTION AND MINI AUCTION

BRUCELLOSIS FREE AND OJD VACCINATED

"Karawatha, after many years of large and successful AI and ET programmes now have a stable genetic base to give the buyer confidence in huge fleece weight gain and micron reducing capabilities. Classing ewe hoggets and cataloguing rams like the Karawatha's will keep me classing until I am 80!"
Bill Walker 0428 973 804 - Classer and Advisor to Karawatha Park



CONTACT:
BERT & BARB WOOLFORD 08 86274047
DION WOOLFORD 0427 323 583

**2013 SALE DATE
FRIDAY 30th AUGUST**

KAMORA PARK - KAROONDA S.A.

AVERAGE \$1201 TOP \$2900 130/134 BY AUCTION
AVERAGE \$562 42/53 MINI AUCTION



Quantities of sheep classed per day becomes insignificant on stud classing days. Many individual sire and ewe performance figures are now available to us which guide us into what the next breeding strategies may entail.

Here pictured with Ramsgate principals Jed & Craig Keller, each ewe classed is noted as to her breeding potential thus creating a next generation which regularly outdoes and out performs their predecessors.



The Kamora Park polls in my eyes have leapt huge degrees of quality and skin/fibre makeup by seriously attacking the breeding traditionalisms that once plagued the stud. Instead of appearing to be yet another Mid North type outfit, 'the Parks' have evolved into one that can appease a wide range of stud requirements including progressive enterprises as well as catering for huge commercial appeal.

Kamora Park's rise and rise at the Classic sales over the last few years compliments this as well as Dual Purpose class wins and placings nationally. (The only judging worth it's salt due to the objective measurement component.)

The fact that the stud is capable of fronting up on sale day with close to 200 polls is a clear sign of the depth of their genetics.

The local support was dominant throughout with higher priced rams heading that way. Check out these numbers! Tyson and Steen Paech-Callington S.A. are never backward in the financial support area when they see what they like and bought the equal top priced polls for \$2,900 each. As solid was Bruce and Shirley Willason-Modbury S.A. at \$2,900 & \$2,800 as well as Scott Dinham-Tailem Bend S.A. who was drinking the same water and paid \$2,900 for one and followed on and bought three to average \$2,100. You could assume that the \$3,000 figure was some sort of barrier for the day!

That was the top price end now here come the 'reward' efforts in the massive support stakes! Langidoon Station N.S.W. bought a total of 34 rams including 21 in the main auction. If that wasn't enough baseline support try Kelvin Westbrook-Loxton S.A. with 28 polls with 14 from the main auction. Both parties were happy to bid up to the \$1,000 mark thus putting an enviable floor in the sale. I wonder if these two fellas bumped into each other on a beach in Mexico sipping Coronas with all tabs covered by Kamora Park Enterprises?!

At the resort later that night they may have stumbled over Paul and John Wegener-Karooonda who secured 20 rams at an \$1,430 average to a top of \$2,300! Many young or established studs nationally would drool at such solid support in the 'bulk buy' stakes. These three alone could make the Classic Ram Sale an easy task!

An interesting statistic noted by Ian Turner in his SJ report was the recognition that between the Wegeners, Langidoon Station and Kelvin Westbrook that they had purchased almost 50% of the catalogue!

The Faltings from Loxton .S.A took five rams to average \$1,800 with Neville White-Cooke Plains S.A. claiming six whilst the Griffiths family-Loxton S.A. bid to \$1,200 for thier six. Locals Why Gee Pastoral nabbed five to \$2,300.

Through Gordon Wood-Landmark Murray Bridge, I bought three for three different clients after a pre sale inspection and missed out on many due to a red hot price for top end rams. Still picked up outstanding polls though once the pace leveled out mid sale with a \$1,000 ripper for Netallie Station N.S.W. , a thumper for Trevor Gameau-Cummins S.A. at \$1,700 and a great pickup for Rick Munro-Tintinara for a KP1079 beauty for \$1,600.

Plain bodied genetics over a once traditional stud through large A.I. & E.T. programs has certainly paid dividends for Kamora Park with the Classic'13 team as exciting as 2012.

2013 SALE DATE
FRIDAY AUGUST 2nd



Rain or shine a market styled gazebo can make inclement weather conditions easier to handle.

This getup was erected in ten minutes and kept us all dry during a wet classing at Derella Downs W.A. in July.

CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 2013 AT 1.30pm
MERINO & POLL MERINO INVITATIONAL
Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

www.classings.com.au

BROOKDALE - ARTHUR RIVER W.A.

AVERAGE \$1100 TOP \$1900 115/120 BY AUCTION



I was able to get to Brookdale's on property sale in 2012 amongst classing at that end of the state and what a day it was with 115 rams sold quicker than you would believe. Elders' Dennis Roberts conducted a reverse auction where every ram, irrespective of position or quality, has a first bid of \$600 immediately put on his head. This brings on a flurry of bids without the auctioneer rave and before you know it the next lot comes up!

The Brookdale sponsored family holiday to Turkey, Croatia & Greece for two weeks including vino, has to go to new client Kieran Poweri-KD Power and Co.-Trigwell Bridge W.A. who not only secured the top priced animal weighing in at 117 kg and a poll but bought another 29 throughout the sale. Wayne Peake-Elders Darkin bid on the enterprise's behalf and averaged \$1115 over the lot. The family are making a major shift back to merino breeding. Wayne's homework needs to be commended which would allow him to visit the family while in Greece for one week with Ouzo on tap sponsored by the Clarkes!

Paul Goss-GH & CP Goss-Darkan lent their typical support and bought twenty to average

\$1,240. Their \$1,600 top was a great horny exhibiting great fluid nourishment and a great square arse! 'Gossy' actually helped me out when a bit of adrenalin took over my bidding hand and I secured a bloody ripper for \$1,600! He was in lot 70 and bred by one of Brookdale's top sires BD997 and took my eye due to his great skin and fibre. Due to OJD rules tightening and zoning, I was unable to take the ram anywhere unless I could find a new owner! Thanks Paul. Here's hoping he's the best ram you've ever had!

The Rutherfords-Duranillan bought two at \$1,500 including lot 1 to kick the sale off in the right direction and a very handy lot 14 that was tempting to this classer. They ended up with six or so by sale end. Bob Treasure-Darkan didn't make the WT sale report yet deserves the mention after his usual supporting act in securing ten.

Another new client was Westdale Rural Enterprise-Westdale who understands the quality thing and stole lot 8 for \$1,700 who I had highly ranked, and another at \$1,600 for lot 12 who would never have left Brookdale if it weren't for the odd blemish on the nose bugger!

Kym Bunce bought around ten for the day and was great support. Brad Paulie-Wickepin and a newy for Brookdale, secured three and as added support also bought ewes on the day. Michael Holst-Darkan along with the previous mentioned Kym Munce and Bob Treasure didn't make the commentary in the Farm Weekly's sale review.

These three multi purchasers deserve the accolades in putting a fantastic floor in the sale and competing on a lot of rams, probably bidding on double the amount they secured to get what they wanted. I don't know the Long Gully clan but here is another great supporter who again bought around ten for the day.

The fact that I was at the Brookdale sale and only now reviewing the Farm Weekly's report for cross reference, the more I can see that their reporter only skimmed over the edges as far as a fantastic supporting client. Well over half of the writeup was all about averages from 2011 to 2012 with the rest only mentioning four clients purchases for the day! No reference to sires or pedigree makes for dull reading really. Thank the lord for the great crowd shot surrounding the top seller..... I want the job this year!

For those of you who have never witnessed a Brookdale sale, it's now time as this rapidly-becoming-popular stud is really hitting it's straps with wisely sourced genetics really having impact and needs to be seen and trialled.

2013 SALE DATE
FRIDAY OCTOBER 11th



BROOKDALE

MERINO & POLL MERINO

Flock No. 3351 & 1293

Arthur River

Plain, Productive and Profitable

**ON-PROPERTY
SALE**

**140 Merino
& Poll Merino
Rams**

**Friday, October 11
Commencing at 2pm**

*All rams sold with current ASBVs
Over 300 rams for private
selection after the sale*



Contact John, Lyn & Andrew Clarke Telephone: 08 9862 6151 :: Mobile 0419 988 871
Email: brookdale1@activ8.net.au :: anna.robson@bigpond.com www.brookdalemerinos.com.au



RAMSGATE - TINTINARA S.A.

AVERAGE \$1026 TOP \$2600 52/60 BY AUCTION



The lineup for Ramsgate's third on property sale was as good as anyone's and with an ever increasing clientel will finally appreciate competition that will forge their average to even greater heights. Sure the average came back a bit from the previous \$1,342 but the 2012 sale was still up there for competition on all but eight rams. The Kellers had put alot more effort into the poll and horned ram's preparation and they looked terrific!

GR Foster & Co. got the ball rolling and bought a thumper (116Kg) in lot 1 for \$1,600 bred by the never say die 'Buster' who must be up to his fifth year of breeding by now. They also bough another three over the sale's duration.

The name 'Buster' came about due to a serious and successful effort in jumping out of the back of the Keller's ute on his way to the semen suction centre at Brecon Breeders after purchase!

Top price for the afternoon was for lot 5 at \$2,600 and sold to James and Josh Keller-Coonalpyn S.A. who didn't just buy for friendly namesake. The ram bred by GP004 was a snifter at 103Kg and filled the pen. I bought lot 2 for Karawatha-Buckleboo S.A. at \$2,400. Highly ranked by most I had a vision of a successful adjunct to the Woolford's stud on the 'Coast due to his appearance and pedigree including being bred by the now famous L438.

Keilira Station-Kingston S.A. were in action early nabbing lots 9 & 10 for \$900 and \$1,300 and accrued another five by day's end.

Always good to see station guys in there early purchasing top end animals and in this case for realistic money. That lot 10 purchase was another L438 son and was right up there with the best and will breed animals without the huge cull rate associated with most 'station order' type purchases. The agent component here is important and worth every bit of

the commission they slug! Steph Brooker-Jones-Elders S.E. knows her shtuff and is a great adjunct to the Keilira enterprise in her recommendations and support for manager Shane Rooke. My commission commentary in Cullings' 12 certainly stirred the pot which was design accomplished! Many are now looking at the agent's worth and in this case, even if Stef was a Green Shirt, her 5% outside agent fee would be an insult! Bribery is an offence in some quarters but rurally it's open slather so maybe 5% plus cash, holiday, movies, whisky and a ticket to see the Mamboobies could be part of the plan!

Rick Munro's collection/order he gave me at the start of the season grew in quality at the Ramsgate sale with the acquisition of lot 17 missed by everyone and bred by L438 for an enjoyable \$1,000. He was a feisty bugger, out staring all humans during the day and some experiencing near misses to flesh and bone, so I will be keen to assess his personality at 2013 classing.

Stuart and Gavin Brophy-Tintinara S.A who bought quality in 2011 helped out again in 2012 with the GP004 bred purchase of lot 3 at 19.9u 2.9SD 14.9CV% & 0.4pf. for \$1,600. They added another with I think the last ram sold in the selection pens but maybe the best for a L438 for \$950. Gary Ferguson-Culburra S.A. did well down that end as well securing a WP749 bred bargain for \$500!

The Norman family-Karoonda S.A. picked up four and Rodney Lush-Coombe S.A bought two screamers in a row with lots 17 & 18 going his way at \$1,400 & \$1,000. Mark and Angus Richardson-Culburra S.A. chase only quality with a GP004 son heading to this quality flock for \$1,800 at 107Kg.

Greg Kennett-Tintinara S.A. didn't go unnoticed as he secured ay least half a dozen over the auction and selection pens.

I bought for Aston-Station-Pooncarie N.S.W. ending up with four. Lots 11 & 12 were bloody great polls so \$800 & \$1,200 was easy to bear and fitted in well with the budget. Lots 27 & 28 at \$800 added to the enjoyment as well as customer confidence!

Brockoff, Marson, Emery, Stewart, Moranda, and David

Head picked up their ones and twos to see the sale finish with only eight rams ignored.

The Ramsgate quality is exceptional and needs to be explored by those who maybe paying too much for flock rams from other sources. Their top ten rams that headline the on property and fill the Classic pens are seriously of stud calibre. Stud sires at this stage are not kept at Ramsgate so the advertised top sire-like reserves are truly genuine.

**2013 SALE DATE
TUESDAY 13th AUGUST**

RAMSGATE

**MERINO STUD
TINTINARA SA**

Displaying and selling at:

SE Merino Field Day Keith
Hamilton Sheepvention
Classings Classic

**ON PROPERTY AUCTION
TUES 13th AUGUST 2013**

Progeny on offer by Wallaloo Park, Leahcim,
& Glenlea Park sires

Sale team
90% Poll

Keller Partners

Jed - 0427 691 858

Craig - 0418 259 049

ramsgate@activ8.net.au



View Ramsgate video at www.youtube.com
and search for Ramsgate DVD



Fibre & Fertility on Frame

ELLA MATTA PARNDANA K.I. S.A.

AVERAGE \$941 TOP \$2000 32/40 BY AUCTION



*Ella Matta sale review and photo
by Ian Turner*

“Relatively new on the Merino breeding scene and to fill a void in Merino ram breeding on Kangaroo Island, Ella Matta offered 40 Poll Merino and Merino rams in the 2012 sale. They were coming off a very successful Classings Classic debut a fortnight before where they sold two select rams for the fourth highest average.

Last year's sale was a breakout offering for Ella Matta when their 35 rams averaged \$1400. This year numbers were increased slightly and the quality was more even, but demand was back marginally, a natural response as the Ella Matta Merino stud establishes itself with KI breeders.

Elders auctioneer Damian Webb still refereed active bidding, with 32 of the

40 offered clearing to the \$2000 top and averaging a very affordable \$941.

An important bidder was Mitch Willson, Penneshaw. He selected four of the Merino offering in his day's buying and these included the \$2000 top priced Poll Merino ram.

Simon Kelly, Mine Creek Partners was again the biggest volume buyer, purchasing eight rams from \$600 to \$1500.

GR Nutt purchased six from \$600 to \$1150 to add to the seven he purchased last year. Also purchasing six rams were Mervyn and Marilyn Tremaine, paying from \$600 to \$900.”

Due to W.A. classing commitments in October I am always going to miss the Ella Matta on property sale yet I am well aware of the rapid growth of this stud. With the genetics used via large A.I. and E.T. programs presenting animals with great 'real' figures as well as anticipated breeding values through Merino Select, Ella Matta polls are especially suited to medium to high rainfall zones due to its ability to breed true white wools and worm resistance as found in the New England N.S.W.

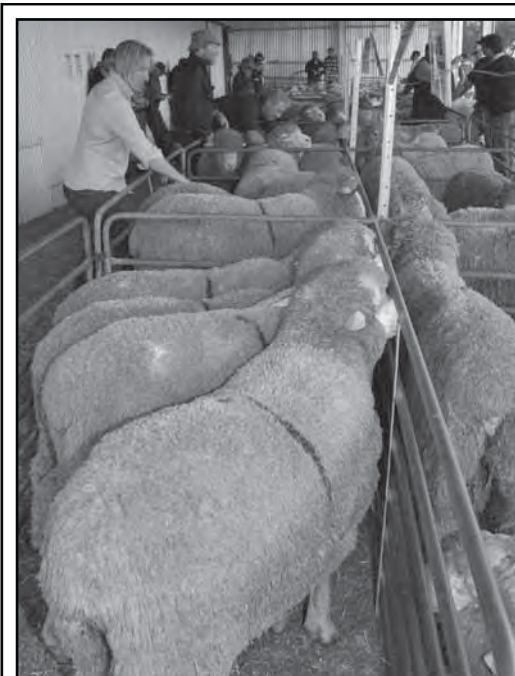
Andrew Heinrich's relentless use of ASBV'S yet receptive to my own subjective ideals on which way the stud could head make classing a very productive exercise yet friendship remains!

**2013 SALE DATE
FRIDAY OCTOBER 11th**



CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 2013 AT 1.30pm
MERINO & POLL MERINO INVITATIONAL
Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

www.classings.com.au



ELLA MATTA

Parndana Kangaroo Island, SA
Poll Merinos & White Suffolks

- ✦ Producing Modern Merinos suitable for high rainfall areas with emphasis on worm resistance
- ✦ Using the most suitable genetics Australia wide through AI programs
- ✦ Offering 2 rams at 2013 Classings Classic (2 rams offered in 2012 sold to \$4500 & averaged \$4000)
- ✦ **Annual on-property ram sale Friday 11th October 2013 Offering 40 Merino & Poll Merino rams plus White Suffolks**

Enquiries Welcome - Andrew & Tracie Heinrich

Ph/Fax: 08 8559 6107 ✦ Mob: 0427 596 108

Email: ellamatta@bigpond.com

Check the website for details: www.ellamatta.com



FLAIRDALE - COOKE PLAINS S.A.

AVERAGE \$1228 TOP \$3400 62/70 BY AUCTION



Some amazing things occur at some of the sales I witness throughout the Merino calendar and the Flairdale sale was no exception. Just as the last pen was being auctioned and we were all considering a beer or preferably a port due to the wet weather conditions (remember those?!) and good sale, things got serious! Spirited competition on pen 70 saw the big bastard reach an equal high of \$3,400! At well over 100 Kg's out of the paddock this big slug nearly didn't make the sale as the wool was a tad on the plain side yet his conformation and stature took the eye of two eager bidders finally knocked down to Dale Paxton-Parndana Kangaroo Island. Trevor Laske-Orroroo SA paved the way toward making the day a success by purchasing eight rams and averaging over \$1,600 including some high quality purchases. I had lot 12 earmarked as a possible steal but the Laskes had other ideas. At \$1,900 with great figures of 19.9u 2.4sd 12.2cv% & 0.3pf and great carcass he still seemed budget bound.

Equal top at \$3,400 was lot 26 which went to Jeff Burgess-Gulnare.

Graeme and Judy Buchanan-Karoonda secured two for the day including a lot 3 burster for \$2,900 with a 2.3SD 11.3CV% & 0.2pf. I attempted to keep my excitement at

bay with the purchase of lot 19 for a paltry \$1,500 buying the true dual purpose poll for Lucernbrae Poll-Callington SA who didn't know he was coming! Square with an eye muscle of 40.3mm and 94Kg from the paddock with an SD of 2.6, 12.7CV% made him perfect for building friendships!

Always good to see either shearing contractors or stock agents acquiring your rams for their own use which was the case with Elder's S.E. backbone, Steph Brooker-Jones, who picked up at least three for her Lucindale flock.

Dale Paxton ended up with at least six including that thumping lot 70 and continued the family's support that stretches back longer than the mulesing debate! Wayne Schenke-Murray Bridge SA held off for his pick and a goody for \$1,800.

New client, Mike Cobiak-Kingston SA, secured two for the day, City Meat's Pitlochery-Kingston SA bought six or so with their ex manager, Pete Battersby-Orroroo purchasing a couple to head north. Ian Crouch-Moorlands with two rams, Kitalpa-Kingston SA, and the Heinrichs chipped in to buy good flockies to complete a fair sale.

Wayne Lehmann has, for 2013, his best crop of young polls for sale and display with extra emphasis put on preparation for the selling season as to attract a potential client who needs earlier maturity and plainness to iron out any skin related problems.

**2013 SALE DATE
THURSDAY 15th AUGUST**



CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 2013 AT 1.30pm
MERINO & POLL MERINO INVITATIONAL
Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

www.classings.com.au



FLAIRDALE
POLL MERINOS

Wayne & Lindy Lehmann
Cooke Plains SA

Ph. 08 8756 2749
Mob. 0408 896 877



"Flairdale has been mules free for four years. It has helped us to better identify rams and ewes that are breeding toward plain breech for the future existence of our stud the demands of clients and future fickle global markets."

HAMILTON SHEEPVENTION: AUGUST 5th & 6th DISPLAY
ON PROPERTY SALE: AUGUST 15th 1.30pm
CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13: SEPTEMBER 9th

Email: flairdale@internode.on.net

Classer: Bill Walker 0428 973 804

LONE GUM - CRYSTAL BROOK S.A.

AVERAGE \$1027 TOP \$2600 40/50 BY AUCTION



In a recent heavy duty discussion with an ex, should be retired, rural journalist on my connection and promotion of this high calibre stud I was questioned on the quantity of rams available for sale compared to some of the so called 'majors' in the Mid North. When I suggested that quality not quantity was the key the fuse was lit and the conversation meandered into useless territory.

The actual quality of animals at Lone Gum due to diligent breeding and careful genetic selection is first rate and ranks with the best. The numbers bred suit the small yet passionate clientel where forty to fifty rams is enough to satisfy. The success of Lone Gum at the Classic sales was enough to suggest what could be if they wanted it to be! All rams are now sold on property for management ease.

Recent infusions of Lucernbrae-Callington S.A. have really made an impression at Lone Gum with alot of the fifty rams on offer bred from one of three sires purchased from this stud.

Top price though was bred by L185, the ram that Stuart Everett purchased at the Leahcim on property sale back in 2004 for not much due to a full set of horns!

Classings clients, Butch & Jody Dunn-Penong S.A., were always going to buy lot 15 and endured a bidding stoush that pushed his final bid to \$3,500. I think Anthony Pfitzner-Point Pass S.A. was the runner up bidder with others dropping out once things became intense! The Dunns went on to total six purchases by sale end were generally the best on offer.

Craig Rule-Wirrula S.A. bought three including the first two penned and caught the whole crowd napping as they were picked up for a paltry \$1,000 & \$800. I bid for Craig early in the sale in his absence and when he arrived couldn't believe the quality for so little spent! Both rams were Lucernbrae bred by top Lone Gum dams naturally with close to identical figures as follows....

Lot 1 Tag 335 18,6u 2.8SD 15.3CV% 0.2pf

Lot 2 Tag 355 18.5u 2.9SD 15.4cv% 0.6pf

Don't have to mention things too often but these figures again typify and connect with the breeding strategies put in place. These bold crimping rams were in perfect order yet exhibit fibre test figures that belong to those cruddy little fine crimpers that are 'architecturally built' near the Grampians somewhere.

Lone Gum rams suit a wide range of environs proven by their existence and excellent results on Kangaroo Island in mid 20" rainfall for Graeme Wheaton-MacGillivray S.A. I bought three for the Wheatons at \$700, \$800 & \$500. Graeme only needed one and gave me a handy budget but executive decision prevailed and he was happy to take the three under budget!

The Baker family-Mambray Creek S.A. bought the top priced poll for \$2,100 bred by Glenlea Park 008 which sold for \$17,000 to Derella Downs W.A. with Lone Gum as a semen share. This bloke was square and loaded with top carcass attributes.

Long Valley-Wilmington S.A. bought eight rams throughout the sale including another GP008 son for \$1,350 at lot 8 with figures of 19.6u 2.9SD 14.7CV% & 0.3pf. Richard Venning-Crystal Brook, and a new client, bought six including the bargain of the day lot 30 for ...\$600! 18.5u 2.9SD 15.4CV% & 0.6pf on a great frame.....

Anthony Pfitzner-Point Pass S.A. bought his usual top ender at lot 25 for \$1,700 for a Lucernbrae son.

Lone Gum now takes the title of the most underrated stud in the state for quality per price paid taking that title away from Lucernbrae who are really hitting their straps of late. More growers need to witness these genetics. The on property sale is the only chance as the stud is not part of any exhibition days throughout the year.

2013 SALE DATE
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16th

CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 2013 AT 1.30pm
MERINO & POLL MERINO INVITATIONAL
Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

www.classings.com.au

LONE GUM MERINOS

"Where Quality Comes First!"



"Fibre like this produced from Lone Gum stock backs up my quote that this place is the best horn stud in the Mid North!" - BW



Ram Sale On Property

Monday, September 16th at 1pm

Leahcim and Wallaloo Park sires
lonegumfarm@bigpond.com



Stuart and Nancy Everett - Crystal Brook | PH: (08) 8636 2801 Mobile: 0427 362 801

LUCERNBRAE - CALLINGTON S.A.

AVERAGE \$808 TOP \$2200 40/46 BY AUCTION



Lucernbrae continue to breed some of the best in the state due to extensive A.I. programs and now have a wider buying base due to the Judy and Keith Paech's input. Their Classic sale teams are a testament to this and now that they are part of both the Mallee and South East Field Days will impress even more with their polls.

Tony Martin-Wynarka S.A. rocked up unannounced and topped the sale in purchasing lot 4 for \$2,200. The sire was Y306 of which Ramsgate purchased at Classic '10 from Lucernbrae for \$3,800. He was also used in a CRC trial at Turretfield.

Lot 11 was my pick for the day though and I fluked his purchase for \$1,400 for 'Critter' Freeman-Penong S.A. for

a Wallaloo Park bred son. 18.9u 3.0SD 15.7CV% & 0.6pf with great fibre will keep my classing relationship with the Freemans in good stead for awhile yet! Two other picks went my way as well to the same destination for lots 14 & 15 at \$800 & \$500, both Escalator sons and way too cheap!

Kym Frahn-Mannum S.A. was good value for the day in purchasing four up to \$1,000. Dean Pearson snatched lot 3 from everyone for \$900 for a Lucernbrae sired ram and Tinline Park-Mt. Torrens S.A. the first for the day at \$1,000 for a big square rogue bred by Wallaloo Park. Kym and Michelle Thiele-Bowhill S.A. were active with two wise purchases at \$1,000 each .

I bought four for Aston Station-Pooncarie N.S.W., four for Netallie-Wilcannia N.S.W. and three for Wilkatana-Port Augusta S.A. All of these rams looked like way above average flock rams.

An average of around \$800 sees great realistic pricing as to not only send up good numbers to our station country clients but the rams are flushed with quality as well. Shop like this over seven or eight sales and you get exactly what you want to fill each order as it should

be. No way could I purchase Netallie's order of thirty rams from one stud and be happy with the quality of each individual ram. The number is set, the budget is set and after 'collecting' rams of similar genetics by November we have a trailer (or two!) full of quality.

The Harvey family picked up four for not much and I snuck in an Escalator son for \$500 at sale's end to a S.E. stud to experiment with. This could be the end of a great business relationship or the start of a whole new concept in merino breeding...will keep you posted!

**2013 SALE DATE
THURSDAY AUGUST 8th**



LUCERNBRAE MERINOS

Are you a sheep producer with a passion for quality fibre?

Lucernbrae Merino & Poll Merino has concentrated on developing an elite wool merino with plain bodies that require no mulesing.

Annual sale day: Thursday 8th August at 11.00am

**SPECIALY SELECTED TEAM FOR
CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13**

**Judy and Keith Paech – Callington S.A.
Ph. 0885 385092 mob 0415 701 493**

lucernbrae@internode.on.net www.lucernbrae.com

SOUTHROSE - TINTINARA SA

AVERAGE \$959 TOP \$3000 58/68 BY AUCTION



If you relied totally on the Stock Journal's ram sale summary of the Southrose '12 sale, you could be mistaken for thinking that only twenty one rams sold for the day! A long mention of the top price and the new owner plus three more she purchased and Trevallyn Station N.S.W. purchasing nine and Mount Beevor-Nairne S.A. (not Beaver!) another eight and that was it!

It was a better sale than that for this ever improving Tintinara stud of Jono and Hazel Ashby. Top price honours went to new client, Jo Williams-Field S.A. for \$3,000 for lot 14, a busting L187 son with real figures of 18.9u 3.2sd 16.8cv% & 0.6pf backed up with ASBV's of 138 MP+ including +4.6YWT -1.2YFD & +8.3YCFW.

Peter Brookman-Coombe S.A. who didn't rate a mention in that rural tabloid yet rocks up

annually and outlays great bucks for the best rams of the day picked up three including a lot 7 for \$2,200. This fella, bred from L438, had a +21.3 YCFW ASBV which put him in the trait leader class. He also secured two others at \$2,400 & \$1,200.

The Makin family-Makin Farms from Keith S.A. were huge support right from the start with their six purchases including lot 6 at \$2,400 a Glenlea Park 670 (owned by Derella Downs and bought at the Classic way back!) son. Another '670' son went to Rick Munro-Tintinara S.A. for \$2,000 that had a +24 YCFW.

As mentioned, Trevallyn-Wilcannia N.S.W. were great for the base bidding which was no curse to quality with their nine pickups with Pamatta-Carrieton S.A. doing the same and picking up more great quality at realistic pricing.

T.W. Pfeiffer was great with six including a top end horny at lot 10 for a mere \$800. Bred by L187 this bloke had the catalogue best figures of 17.1u 2.3sd 13.6cv% & 0.0pf.

The ever present Mt. Beevor-Mt. Torrens S.A. obviously needed eight and didn't have to outlay huge bucks to get them with a top of \$1,800 for lot 2, a L438 son with a +12.5YCFW.

Bruce and Jenny Cleland-Penneshaw S.A. went to Southrose to add a sire to their high quality arsenal and possibly picked up the bargain of the day. Lot 9 selling for \$800 doesn't sound right but that was the nature of the sale a bit where screamers fell into the buyer's market. \$3,000 was the top for the day yet with more competition many others would have approached this realistic figure as well. At that money the Clelands might possibly have thought they had bought the wrong one!

I have classed the Southrose young rams coming up for the 2013 sales and they are tremendous. I believe the teams for Classings, Hamilton and....Adelaide are as good as anyones and worth an inspection. The rapid quality increase in this flock due to large A.I. and E.T. programs is stupendous. Come and have a look!

Keep an eye out for Tag 120-144 for Classic '13, a Wallaloo Park 'Casper' bred son that has all the traits to become a SuperSire. Real figures of 17.3u 2.4sd 13.8cv & 0.3pf exhibited by an exotic fibre on a top end frame will be one to watch on Monday September 9th....got that date Bruce!

2013 SALE DATE
FRIDAY AUGUST 9th

CLASSIC QUOTES '13...

"...the difficulty of getting some industry leaders to take up genomics is like trying to muster cats!" George Carter - Border Leicester and Poll Dorset breeder - Walcha NSW

"My purpose here today is to tell the truth and I am on public record as stating that the Johne's program is the greatest scientific fraud ever perpetuated on the livestock industry" Don Lawson - Producer

"The MAP program is nothing but a restraint of trade." Don Lawson - Producer

"I hear many people say they can't make money out of wool, but some haven't changed their genetics for 30 years. If you haven't changed your wheat genetics in 30 years, you wouldn't be making any money either." Craig Wilson - Wagga Wagga NSW

"The national OJD zones should look like this...vaccinates or non vaccinates...and that's it!" WL Vic.

"Get on with it. Learn to live with it. If we keep procrastinating about it the disease will get out of hand" W.A. Farmers Federation's Ed Register

"The mentality of those behind the MAP program in my view is bordering on criminal,

this is a fraud perpetuated on us farmers." Don Lawson - Producer

"Today is about finding an exit strategy from the current flawed programs that rely on flawed science and lines on a map." Don Lawson - Producer

"..we have eradicated TB, we have eradicated Brucellosis, this is a great job...we will keep all the boys busy and eradicate Johne's." Dr. Bill Gee - The Land

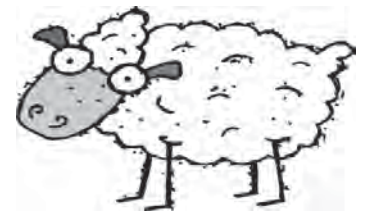
"The farming community has been conned by those vets who saw this as a money making opportunity and put the fear of God into an untrained and largely uneducated farming sector." Don Lawson - Grower

"If you start looking hard enough you will find OJD." Andrew Veitch - Vet

"Move on and vaccinate." Roger Mieschke - Vet

"The test are dodgy at best, they will come up positive eventually!" Roger Mieschke - Vet

"We stopped abattoir surveillance because of the heartache for producers and it is not accurate." Roger Fletcher - Fletcher's Abattoir - Dubbo NSW



"The position of the South Australian Stud Merino Breeders is that the status quo remains until revision of the OJD MAP program at the end of 2013." SASMBA (Bless them)

"I have seen sheep with half their faces shorn off ..." PETA (Bless them too)

"In Australia, the most commonly raised sheep are merinos, specifically bred to have wrinkly skin..." PETA

"...to inform the crowd that mulesing is a fiercely cruel practice in which farmers cut flesh from lambs' hindquarters with a pair of gardening shears...." PETA

"One infected sheep can shed enough bacteria to infect every sheep in Australia." Peter Windsor

"People have not been listening to the message we've sent for years. The vaccine is a great tool for controlling the mortalities in infected flocks but it's not a great tool of decreasing the risk of spreading the disease from vaccinated sheep from infected properties." Peter Windsor - Prof. Sydney University

NANTOURA WHARMINDA S.A.

AVERAGE \$944 TOP \$3,000 59/64 BY AUCTION



Nantoura's sale falls right in the middle of my W.A. August classing which will never change and while the sale keeps going the way it is there is no need for the Prime family to alter things either! Following is the Stock Journal's version of the day's events.

"Buyers blew in and bid up on a windy day at Nantoura Poll Merino stud at Wharminda on Eyre Peninsula on Tuesday last week, 59 of 64 rams sold to a top of \$3000, averaging \$944.

Repeat client Graeme Christian, Cleve, bought the top two priced rams.

The sale topper had ASBVs for yearling body weight of 10.1 kilograms, yearling eye muscle depth of 0.1, yearling clean fleece weight of 22.6, yearling fibre diameter of -0.7, early breech wrinkle

of -0.4 and 170 on the 7 % dual purpose index.

It carried a 19.6 micron fleece with a standard deviation of 3.2, Coefficient variation of 16.4 and a comfort factor of 99.5%.

It was Mr Christian's third year buying Nantoura genetics. He said that in the past year he had noted his commercial flock was "on the right track with body size and the wool job".

Volume buyer was Bengor Props, Melrose with 7 to \$1300.

Other buyers included JL & LM Sampson, Kimba, 4 to \$ 1900 adding another one for \$ 1400 from CC12; EC & CG Hunt, Port Neill, 4 to \$ 1800 also adding One for \$1200 from CC 12; BJ, MA & S Pfitzner, Butler Tanks, 4 to \$800; Berryman Enterprises, Lipson Cove, 3 to \$ 2500;Kaloonera Pty Ltd, Poochera, 3 to \$ 1800; and Kroemer Bros, Tumby Bay 3 to \$ 600.

Spence Dix & Co's Mark Bellenger said it was a "good, solid sale".

"The paddock run rams were extremely well presented and showed excellent wool, growth for age and big, plain bodies" he said.

Nantoura stud master Chris Prime said that he was really happy with the sale result, with the top price on par with last year.

"The rams sold well and represented good value for our clients."

The stud has not mulesed for four years and would continue along the non-mulesing path for the "benefit of our clients and our flock".

**2013 SALE DATE
TUESDAY 27th AUGUST**

**CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 2013 AT 1.30pm
MERINO & POLL MERINO INVITATIONAL
Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.**

www.classings.com.au

Take A closer Look at our Rams

Nantoura Poll Merino Stud



Offering

**60 Poll Merino Rams 60
Tuesday 27th August**

2:00 pm

**All rams with
ASBVs and current wool tests**

Contact - Chris Prime Ph (08)8688 0015 or 0427 289 021

MERNOWIE - MARRABEL S.A.

AVERAGE \$2013 54/54 BY AUCTION



Twin race setups like Lone Gum's at Crystal Brook S.A. make classing a dream particularly with ewe hoggets where the flow on effect from one race full departing as the next lot fill cuts down on time and maintains concentration.

The centre race is ideal at 500mm while the classing races are perfect at 400mm-450mm. Note end race gates here with vertical bars with good height as to avoid leg and tendon trauma when the ol' gal flies over the top!



If I could, I would, but Mernowie's on property sale falls the day after the important Marnoo Field Days making it impossible to attend. I have to rely on Ian sending me the info which I presume was from another lack lustre Stock Journal report. That sale average puts the Rowetts into the very top bracket of on property sales in the state yet receives a summary no longer than the information on a matchbox!

"Mernowie bucked the 2012 trend of declining on property auction averages with an increase to \$2,013 for the 54 sold in the main auction.

A slightly embarrassed studmaster Ian Rowett said he was caught completely by surprise as old and new clients chased the low micron lots and the wool types that have been developed over generations to handle higher rainfall.

Wayne and Brendon Groves Booleroo Centre paid top price of \$5,000 for an outstanding spring drop ram at lot 21. They bought three other rams to add to their top commercial flock.

Local buyers LR & JB Hampel bought five paying to \$4,600. I & M Kelly Lock bought seven. Andriske Farms Galga and Barossa clients Burge Estates bought six each.

A mini auction that followed cleared a further 32 rams at really good value selling down to \$500 to station clients.

The stud has a much bigger selection this year due to outstanding 2012 lambing. This will bring prices in line with today's commercial market.

The stud has ongoing programs for Worm Resistance, Fertility and Growth Rate.

Remember Mernowie Escalator which sold at 2010 Classings Classic for \$30,000? He is now ranked in the top 20 All Time Merino Select All Purpose Sires with an index of 184.

**2013 SALE DATE
FRIDAY 20th SEPTEMBER**



CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 2013 AT 1.30pm
MERINO & POLL MERINO INVITATIONAL
Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

www.classings.com.au

MERNOWIE POLL MERINOS

Poll Merino Ram Sale

Friday September 20th 2013 - Sale 1.30pm

Exceptional growth and outstanding fibre on great square carcass.

Also selling at Classings Classic

Monday September 9th 2013 Murray Bridge Racecourse SA

I, R & D ROWETT - MARRABEL S.A.

Ian Mobile 0418 486 050 David 0419 839 280
Office Phone: 08 8847 2274

www.mernowiepollmerinos.com

BORUNG - WAIKERIE S.A.

AVERAGE \$791 TOP \$2400 47/50 BY AUCTION



That great Borung sale felt like a lot better average than the suggested \$785 so I got the trusty calculator out and added things up to squeeze out another massive....\$6.00! \$791 then sounds alot closer to \$800 and that sounds even better!

Brenton and Penny Kroehne have taken over the reigns of the stud from Brenton's parents, Peter and Kerry and a red hot sale was a handy start. The average was a jump of \$171 on 2011 with a record top price of \$2,400 established. The top ten polls averaged \$1090 with the \$1,000 threshold one to strive for in years to come if not 2013!

Despite the much improved quality and subsequent presentation the tone of the auction was not exactly frenzy material despite the reasonable numbers in attendance. This made my purchasing efforts fairly simple with the first eight rams going to Classings clients at around the \$1,000 mark except for the sale topper at \$2,400 going to Rick Munro-Tintinara SA. Four went to Netallie Station NSW, two to 'Critter' Freeman-Penong SA and one to Aston Station-Pooncarie NSW.

From this point the locals became noisier and the sale kicked into a more competitive gear and didn't really stop 'til sale end. Kelvin Westbrook-Loxton SA, of whom every stud wants to see arrive at their on property sale, bought twelve of the biggest on display. Mick Evans-Mantung SA secured four with Lyndon and Brian Hampel three and averaging \$1,200.

All up Classings station clients, Netallie, Aston and Wilkatana-Port Augusta SA netted twelve polls over the whole sale possibly averaging around \$800. Bargain, real prices for bloody good flock rams.

More locals did the job on making for a successful sale including Hoffmans, Halls, Fisher Bros. and Cromptons.

With any station order which typically amounts to 20-30 rams each, I don't believe we can access the numbers required from just one stud...even for one of those clients. Over about fifteen sales I can handpick the animals required at the discussed budget yet still keep the quality at an acceptable standard. We've all witnessed at some stage in our careers the 'good ol' station order' loading on or off transports of 'near cull' rams that deserve slaughter only! Thick skins, dry wools, harsh wools, hocky yet big and full of so called constitution rams are a major contributor to many station woolgrowers exploring the awful exotics!

Wallaloo Park in tandem with the already in place Kelvale genetics are having a real impact at Borung with the fibre on the improve with every generation.

WP843 was purchased at Wallaloo Park on property sale for not much and produced great rams at this sale as well as the pair that went to Classic'13.

Borong is going full bore with genetics, effort and preparation as to strive to be a major player particularly in the Mallee and if the 2012 sale is something to go by this stud may never have to receive the tag of 'underrated!'

**2013 SALE DATE
MONDAY 29th JULY**

**CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 2013 AT 1.30pm
MERINO & POLL MERINO INVITATIONAL
Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.**

www.classings.com.au

BORUNG POLL MERINO STUD

**36TH ANNUAL ON PROPERTY
AUCTION**

9 KM South of Waikerie on Maggea Road

MONDAY 29th JULY 2013 at 1pm

Inspection from 11am.
Light Lunch 12.00 Noon.

50 QUALITY RAMS 50

Rams April/ May Drop 2011

Brucellosis Accredited Free
June 2012 test figures displayed

On behalf of Brenton and Penny
Kroehn

Brenton Mobile 0427 414494
Peter Mobile 0427 412742
Phone/Fax 0885 414494

PENROSE - CASCADE WA

AVERAGE \$1000 TOP \$1600 10/10 ESPERANCE RAM SALE



Identifying and witnessing the great fibre that is produced from our top end animals is the most rewarding thing for me only surpassed by capturing it on photo which is rarely successful. Sunlight would seemingly be a great tool for the ultimate 'take' yet shadow seems to bring out the best with those ultra fibred animals.



The Pengilly's Penrose stud is 120km North West of Esperance and situated in prime merino and grazing country. The family have really put-in since my engagement as classer and the results via rigorous classing and successful A.I. programs and good management has seen the stud blossom in no time at all.

The stud has been involved in the stud industry for many years yet I put them in the rookie class with today's animal looking nothing like the old. Also the 'home coming' of Thomas after a stint with Leahcim-Snowtown S.A. adds to the youthful status of Penrose.

The stud entered ten rams into the Esperance Ram Sale with great success flowing on from their 2011 debut. Roger and Joanne Nankivell-Condinup had a look on my behalf for another client as I was unable to attend the sale. They ended up being that impressed by what they saw they secured two polls to add to their Derella Downs order later in the month. **See photo at above.** (That's a bloody great ram shot!)

The two rams both bred by L312 and costing \$1,600 & \$1,200 had good DP Index values of 157 & 146. The pick with figures of 21.1u 3.0SD 14.1CV% & 0.2pf at the 157 DP.

The 'darling' sire of the stud at the moment is Glenlea Park 004 who pumped out great sale rams and even more high quality ewe hoggets via purchased semen. Trudy and Thomas Pengilly were very impressed with '004' at Classic'10 and were possibly bidding early on with

the ram making \$10,000 selling to a Vic/W.A. syndicate. They organised semen post sale.

Of the ten rams entered into the Esperance sale, six were from GP004. Alistair and Robin McIntyre bought three at \$800 each with Michael and Mary Rollond-Cascade also securing three.

Along the '004' theme of the 850 odd hoggets that we classed in 2012, **28** were from him with **18 making a strict special class**, 4 'wools' with one 'tight' and 5 culls or only 17%.

Penrose have purchased Sapien Technologies Pedigree Matchmaker system to take the guess work out of mothering as to improve ASBV accuracies and pedigree precision.

2013 progeny have hit the deck with lambs from L33, L312 and Calcookara's purchased L858 looking tremendous as well as lambs from WP303 (purchased WP sale for \$3,000) and there own GP004 bred sire, Penrose 50, results looking promising.

Thomas recently was runner up to getting hold of the Peter Westblade Scholarship in N.S.W. which despite narrowly missing out is one hell of an accolade.

The stud is now brucellosis accredited and close to MN2 for OJD

**2013 SALE DATE
FRIDAY 6th SEPTEMBER**



Computers, wands and electronic tags are increasingly a part of stud classing where new information is collected on the classer's grading and commentary as well as stored data can be retrieved relating to a given animal's pedigree and performance.

In the past Scott Pickering and I had a great sense of achievement in handing Sue the day's worth of data collected and written on the back of a Carlton Draught box that she could then transfer to the PC. Naturally Sue was the main instigator of the new technology under the Sapien banner.

A circular logo for Penrose featuring a sheep's head in the center, with the text 'PENROSE' at the top and 'FOLL MERINO' at the bottom.

Displaying progeny from:
Leahcim 312 and 438
Glenlea Park 004

At
On Farm Field Day 30th Aug
Newdegate 4th & 5th Sept.

Esperance Ram Sale Friday 6th of Sept.

For further information or for a pre-sale on farm inspection feel free to contact:
Bruce or Trudy on 90786062
Thomas on 0438657739
Or email us at: penrose@activ8.net.au

A logo for Merino Select ASBV featuring a stylized sheep's head and the text 'MERINOSELECT ASBV'.A logo for Merino featuring the word 'merino' in a stylized font and the text 'Stud Pedigree Breeder's Association of WA Flock No 763'.A logo for the National Johne's Program MN 1 featuring a stylized sheep's head and the text 'National Johne's Program MN 1'.



There's nothing like a bit of interstate rivalry – and with the news that LambEx is coming to South Australia in July 2014 – I have it on good account that the committee is dedicated to outstripping the Vics and putting on a show of 600 plus delegates. Of course this doesn't happen without a lot of really good things in place and in particular a program that has real relevance and valuable content for sheep producers nationally.

In talking to event manager Esther Price, who has convened the 2010 event in Perth and the 2012 event in Bendigo, the challenge she poses to the programming committee, is to design a program of speakers and topics that are otherwise 'inaccessible'. With today's super highway of access to information, creating a conference program that has content that people 'haven't been game to talk about' or better still, gives them access to people that wouldn't ordinarily have access to, is what designing a great conference program is all about.

Esther quotes, "The LambEx phenomenon is, I reckon, just good for the soul. As a person who is passionate about the sheep industry, there is nothing better than turning up to an event that is packed to the rafters and where everywhere you look, the message of total professionalism is conveyed. Being at LambEx makes you proud to be in the sheep industry."

CLASSINGS CLASSIC '13
 MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 2013 AT 1.30pm
 MERINO & POLL MERINO INVITATIONAL
 Murray Bridge Race Course S.A.

www.classings.com.au

RICE'S CREEK - TINTINARA S.A.

AVERAGE \$1514 TOP \$3300 44/50 BY AUCTION



Due to Pimbena's on property auction on the same date I can't ever make the Rice's Creek sale unfortunately. I concocted this report from point from information relayed on by Mark Vandeleur and Stock Journal report. Sue them for any discrepancies you may encounter!

Rices Creek annual ram sale was another solid day in August 2012. Good weather and great crowd saw 44 of the 50 rams on offer sold to a top of \$3300, with an average of \$1514.

Long term client Peter Fiegert of Mannum S.A. took home the top priced ram at \$3,300, along with another to \$2400. Both rams were bred by Glenlea Park 902 bought for \$5,000 Classic'10.

The Stark clan-Naracoorte took 6 rams at an average of \$2317, including the 2nd top priced at \$3100 He had figures of 19.3u 2.8SD 14.5CV% & 0.4pf.

Karwin Nominees-Meningie S.A., bought well at \$3000 and Josh and James Keller-Coonalpyn S.A. one at \$2600 for a 'Buster' son.

Tony and Adam Zacker-Tintinara, took four to a top of \$1400 with Mid North clients;

Glynnard P/L-Rhynie S.A., John and Phil Bowden-Rhynie S.A., Dennis and Matt Plueckhahn-Saddleworth S.A., David White-Spalding S.A., Kimric P/L-Riverton S.A. and Mick Connell-Riverton S.A. all taking great rams sired by Rice's Creek, Ridgway 1137 and L47 grandsons averaging around \$700 but up to \$2,800.

Mallee clients, Lee Slape-Coomandook S.A. and Trevor Pfeiffer-Parrakie S.A., were successful bidders at the sale.

Rices Creek is excited to be holding its first sale on its own in 2013 after four years selling in a conjunction sale.

The top end of Rice's Creek poll offering yearly are tremendous and most of us get to witness this first hand at the Classic sales where they have been a popular item. These types of progressive breeders again breed more tops with less waste thus easily filling their own on property pens with quality as well as being able to afford to enter 'off shore' events like the Classic sales for promotion and grower awareness.

2013 SALE DATE THURSDAY 1st AUGUST



RICES CREEK POLL MERINOS

**On property Auction at Tintinara
 Thursday 1st of August**

Jim Vandeleur - Saddleworth (08) 8849 2062 or 0429 492 062
Mark Vandeleur - Tintinara 0417 871 054

re Catherine Miller:
SA MERINO DIRECTORY

Q&A article with Catherine Miller in reference to Classic sales for inclusion in 2013 Merino Directory

How long has sale been going and main reason for establishing the sale?

Sale established in 2002 making 2013 its 12th sale at the Murray Bridge Racecourse.

The sale was established as for general public awareness of those progressive studs that were addressing issues that were affecting the industry globally mainly in the area of mulesing, flystrike and skin/pin wrinkle and subsequently developing breeding tactics to conquer any associated evils!

Due to these strategies the end result has been an animal rich in productivity exhibiting highly aligned fibre and huge staple length on an early maturing carcass - a genuine dual purpose animal often over quoted in this state.

Most studs involved are Classing's P/L clients with all animals handpicked by Bill as to ensure a form of quality control. 'Outside' studs are invited when they exhibit traits that satisfy that same strict control without being 'one-off' rams proven to hinder breeding predictability.

Happy with the evolution of the sale over the years? My reflection of 2012

If the sale were to be a commodity and you were to invest back in 2002 you would have to be happy with the progress. Every year without fail has had a better year than the previous when average price is concerned barring 2012. Now in hind sight the 2011 sale was explosive reaching just under a \$5,000 average with only one ram passed from 96. With 2012 dropping down to a more realistic \$3,150 this was much appreciated by the buying public! Many great commercial animals were sold between \$1,500 and \$2,000.

There were no \$30,000 efforts in 2012 with three rams making around the \$10,000 figure which again satisfied the masses.

With every stud involved with the Classic sales now producing more easy care animals as to attract more new era, discerning breeders, the sale owes a lot to its progressive stud breeders.

It's important to mention that the design of the sale is to attract progressive commercial growers as well as studs needing to maintain top end breeding techniques or more so, traditional studs needing some oomph to ensure their future existence!

Quality of merinos in S.A. and what traits set them apart...

Quality lies in the eyes of the beholder... some of the biggest merinos ever are created in this state yet they are too often covered by a 'rug' of gear that is way shy of that word quality! I like to use the word 'fibre' when describing our top end animals. 'Wool' is a better word to describe a wide variety of traditional breeding results of which that jumper grandma knitted was made of and now survives in the dog's basket!

I guess the eventual size and most times growth rates of our merinos are what sets us apart from other states and some studs exhibit this in turn with a quality fibre on their backs to ensure an appreciative public. All Classic entries exhibit these tendencies!

Are S.A. merinos meeting the needs of the wool and meat market?

Probably answered most previously yet the 'S.A. Merino' as a type is so broad in context yet generally we are meeting all criteria especially when most 'wool' categories are doing well at the minute. There's still over a dollar difference clean between 18u and 20u which has every chance to typically stretch out even further minus global unrest in the future.

We know too often with progressive breeding that a lot of 18u are cutting as well

as the stronger versions and matching them for growth of animal as well. Roemahkita's success in the dual purpose class (the only judging worth its salt!) at the Burra Merino Field Day two years running is a testament to this and no fluke. This result truly represents what our company aspires to do with all clients, commercial or stud.

The S.A. Merino is meeting the met market requirements with ease yet that market is gloomy currently so we can only be satisfied that on our end we're doing the best possible.



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On a finishing note...



So ends another Cullings after three months or so of stop/start efforts starting in the quiet months of late April and May and finishing in the hectic part of July where I have had the busiest start to the 'new season' on record or maybe I'm just that bit older...

The wool market is holding it's own reasonably well amongst global turmoil particularly and obviously in Europe with China the great saviour to the industry as the Kiwi's are to our shearing job. Rain in most parts of the country except for the wheat belt of W.A. is forging meat prices.

The OJD discussion of this newsletter took some effort and I again thank Deb Lehmann for her great input and response to my endless quizzing. The general public is now slowly responding to understanding the protocol required in purchasing stock from interstate with most quizzing on just why one would contemplate the task when risk is involved. I encourage all clients who sell annual drafts of five year old ewes in off shear sales and the like to vaccinate as a confidence boost to purchasers and owners alike. Similarly all merino studs in my eyes should be vaccinating all stock and PFC testing as to build up the same confidence levels. The more boxes ticked to the affirmative on the new SHS the better the bottom line with sales.

Rose suggests that the wool testing laboratory is in full swing with last years turnover and throughput way up on the previous year's effort. This hints that people's confidence in the great fibre has returned to where it should be and working hard in producing quality is paramount. Thankyou Megan Davies for your assistance in support of the tenacious, gorgeous, hardest working person I know, Rose, in the laboratory where things are hotting up due to renewed confidence in the game.

Our own clientel have been instrumental in producing the best fibre seen anywhere without losing production. Although all the micron indicators appear to be tightening up in the market place there is still huge virtue in producing low micron, super fibre that cuts as well as lesser quality higher micron fuzz!

The quality of stock classed this year has been sensational with huge staple length a feature even

where feed has been light on particularly in the mid to lower S.E. of S.A. where things were tough for a long time. Unusually the further north and west you go in our great state the better things are with marginal farming areas like Penong, Ceduna and Buckleboo appearing to be similar to what may be found in the highlands of New Guinea!

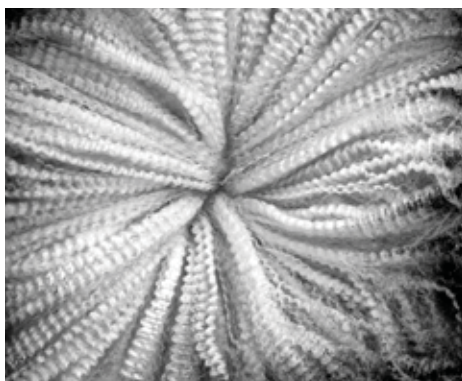
Rams selected for this year's Classic'13 sale are as good as any other year with the top two or three the best we have ever seen grace the pens of the Murray Bridge Racecourse. Naturally it would be unfair to suggest which ones they are yet they will be glaringly obvious at up and coming Field Days soon.

With the new **Classic sale date at Monday September 9th** and never been so early I am confident the sale time is in a good part of the year. Number one reason for the shift...so clients have time to source top rams from on property sales or even Adelaide sale if they miss out at the Classic. With the date set in late September in the past there was only one option left if you missed out and that was at the mighty Marnoo sales the following week.

Terrick West Vic. and Minta S.A. studs are likely late inclusions in the sale this year providing inspection of their entries make the cut!

I've been on the road for the last six weeks and am witnessing the most amazing results from the paddock and up the classing race that I have ever seen ranging from peas-in-the-pod mobs of elite ewe hoggets to one shed ram punching out 170mm of fibre at eight months!!

Many of the results that studs and more



importantly, commercial flocks are presenting now represent gear that was impossible to breed ten years ago. Genuine large frames with 16-18u fibre attached similar to that of which Southrose bred to nearly take out the Burra dual purpose class in March just ain't that unusual these days! All this only made possible by new era tactical breeding - a far cry from traditional efforts.

I have had the joy in classing long term clients, Gary Ferguson, Brian Landseer, Lucernbrae, Ramsgate, Derella Downs, Keyneton Station, Calcookara, Bevan & Cindy Siviour, Karawatha, Glenlea Park, Willalooka, Ridgway Advance and Ridgway, David Eckert, Pimbena, John and Paul

Schaeffer, Gunallo and Richard Harkness in the last few weeks with fibre results that are inspiring me to keep going 'til death!

Newish flocks including Kamora Park, Nantoura, O'Briens, Tom Freeth and the Brophy boys at Tintinara are also intriguing to watch as different classing techniques and new genetics are having immediate impact to push them into a new zone within their individual enterprises.

Lorelmo is in good hands with the Keynes family at Keyneton taking on the stud and having immediate impact with their aspirations to be the best fine wool stud in the state and eventually, nation!

There are new yards and shearing sheds popping up across the nation built by those who have an ever increasing confidence in this great industry. Karawatha's new setup is a masterpiece and would be worthy of inspection if you desire to do the same.

Thanks again Rob Thiele for your generous hosting of the Classic banner on your freeway paddock and the panels used to coax rams into their pens on Classic sale day... your choice of beverage looms.

A new record for you Glendon...Bernard Fanning's newy, Departures, is very Powerfingery and commercial but easily passes the km's away on those long driving stints.

Classings now has it's own website - www.classings.com.au - so please peruse and give us some commentary via the BLOG which currently survives on the OJD debate. Feel free to comment on anything at all that you think warrants discussion.

The 'Thinly Veiled' EP from Sammy's band the Bakers Digest is a beauty and available on I-Tunes.

The Mamboobies have a cover of 'Brass in Pocket' if you google the obvious.

See you all at the Classic on the much publicised new date of...

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 1pm



CLASSINGS CLASSIC RAM SALE 2013

MURRAY BRIDGE RACECOURSE S.A.

Monday 9th September

*Note: new sale date

100 POLL MERINOS 100



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Enquiries to: Bill & Rose Walker – Classings – Merino Advisory and Fibre Testing Laboratory

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Ridgway Advance clients achieving some of the nations best returns for commercial young ewes in the past two seasons. *below:* Topping the Blue ribbon Lameroo off-shear sale Nov '12



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