



# THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

VOLUME 50 / NUMBER 3

DECEMBER 2020



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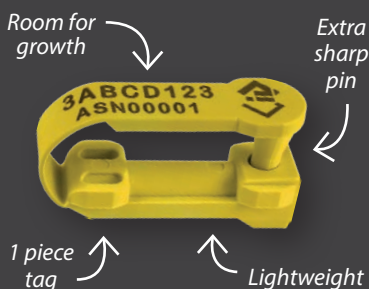
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



***What an amazing ram selling season! I've never seen demand so high for rams, and record prices to go with it.***

Demand from within our breed has seen stud ram sales at a level not seen for quite a while. Auctions resulted in many stud rams selling between \$10,000 and \$24,000, with Tattykeel achieving a record stud sale average of \$8,700. Privately, Gooramma 79/19 was sold to Barwon Stud for \$30,000. It is wonderful to see the strong drive forward in our stud sales, and the confidence we have in our breed.

Flock ram auctions have smashed the records too. Armdale Park set a new record flock ram average of \$2,218, and plenty of other studs over \$2,000. Congratulations to all Poll Dorset breeders on the results achieved and quality of the rams on offer.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with the Chief Executive Officer of Gundagai Meat Processors (GMP) regarding the development of a value-based price grid. GMP have introduced technology into their plant that will enable chain-speed measurement of LMY and IMF. Currently it is still in the validation phase, with the vision that premium lamb carcasses can be quickly identified. GMP have recognised the importance of providing lamb producers with feedback on the lambs they have delivered – feedback that is individual to each carcass and based on the quality and quantity. It is encouraging to see that lamb producers are one step closer to being rewarded for premium quality lamb.

From a stud breeder's perspective, the conclusions on the value-based price grid I came away from the meeting are:

1. Carcase weight (with correct fat coverage) will always be the best profit driver
  - HSCW (kg) will contribute at least 90% of the total value of the carcass
  - Growth and carcass shape are crucial to increased value back to the lamb producer
2. Lean Meat Yield (DEXA scan of muscle/fat/bone) and Intramuscular Fat are important for maintaining and increasing value.
  - Flocks with weight, LMY and high IMF will be preferred by meat processors

The level of emphasis on production traits in our breeding programs should be reflective of the highest value to the lamb producer and what the meat processors are targeting.

The research results from the Bowan Park lambs continue to show how our breed is doing its job. The 17-19 week old lambs that were delivered for carcass testing averaged 30.1kg (HCWT), and dressed an average 55.5% (highest 62.5%). This high growth, high yield is exactly what Poll Dorsets are known for.

It might sound like I am overly emphasising the performance traits, but it is so important that we understand the final outcome of the genetics we produce. However, they should not be focussed on so heavily to the detriment of structural conformation, carcass shape and breed type. Balancing out all these traits is the most difficult part of a successful breeding program, and I encourage you all to include visual and performance traits appropriately.

Congratulations to Julian Iles who was awarded Life Membership of the APDA in September. Julian's contribution and outstanding service to the APDA, Poll Dorset breed and Tasmanian Region make him a well deserving Life Member.

**Isabele Roberts**

PRESIDENT



## THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

The Australian Poll Dorset Journal is the official journal of the Australian Poll Dorset Association Inc.

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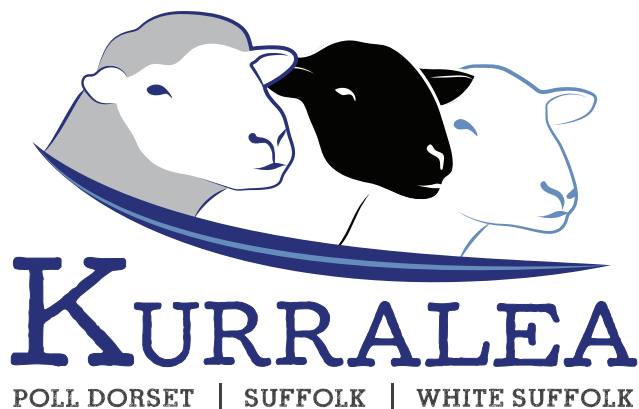
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# SEPTEMBER BOARD MINUTES

This year, board meetings and the AGM have been held via Zoom with the AGM being a combination of both Zoom and in person at the Cowra Show.

As this year is a voting year, all seats were declared vacant. Victoria was the only state that required an election with Tania King joining the board. Tasmania had only the one nomination so Will Milroy duly elected.

## Election of Office Bearers 2020/21

**President** – Isabelle Roberts

**Vice President** – Geoff Davey

**Finance** – Treasurer Sascha Squiers, Isabelle Roberts, Geoff Davey, Garry Armstrong, Alistair Sutherland, Damon Coats

**Administration & Planning** – Chair Garry Armstrong, Andrea Rowett, James Frost, Rod Davies, Laurie Fairclough, Tania King.

**Promotions** – Chair Alistair Sutherland, Geoff Davey, Damon Coats, Andrew Scott, James Corcoran, Will Milroy, Sascha Squiers, Isabelle Roberts.

**Flock Registration Committee** – Chair James Frost, Will Milroy, Tania King

**Research & Development** – Chair Andrew Scott, Andrea Rowett, Sascha Squiers, Damon Coats

## Finance Report

From a profit and loss viewpoint, 2019/20 came out quite well with Covid and not a lot going on event wise. Membership remained at a similar level as the previous year as did the flock ram levy. Shares were down quite a lot due to markets being significantly down. Administration costs were down since the changeover and some expenses were up including a one off \$24,000 for the new database and \$8500 for website development. Discussion took place on where the funding from flock ram levy is placed in the accounts and the finance committee will come back to the next meeting with a solution.

The following motion was carried

**“That the Finance report be accepted”**

Carried

## Promotions Report

James Corcoran was unable to attend in person due to Covid but presented a verbal report to the meeting and spoke of the promotions that would be held in the future. He also asked that the office stay in touch with regions to streamline regional rebate process.

The following motion was carried

**“That the Promotions report be accepted”**

Carried

## Flock Registration Report

The below motion was carried;

That flocks 4641 -4650 be accepted.

Transfer of Longdale to Ray Hathaway

New stud allocation of Follies to Stephen Honner.

New stud allocation of Maryvale to Martin Honner.

New stud allocation of Blue Ridge Stud to Matt & Anna Craig.

Reinstatement of Elsted stud name to Ewan Price.

## Deregistered flocks

The meeting noted that there were approximately 24 flocks de-registering in the 2020 flock book.

## Ram registrations

The following motion was passed;

**“As of 1st November 2020, a registered ram with the APDA must have a consecutive traceable pedigree for a minimum of four generations of its parentage registered with the APDA. Any that have trouble meeting these requirements may be registered following approval of the flock book committee. Applications for ram registrations that do not meet Regulation 19B may be registered with board approval. These rams are only to be used in breeders flock with ram and progeny not transferable.”**

The following motion was passed;

**“The APDA will waive all fees on the transfer of Semen and Stock to Schools.”**

Carried.

## Life Membership

The following motion was passed;

**“That Julian Iles, a true advocate for the breed in Tasmania and member of the Federal Council be awarded life membership.”**

Carried

## ACROSS THE PENS

### ON FARM SALES

Congratulations to everyone on the excellent results achieved with on farm sales this year. From all accounts this has been a record time and we hope your success continues.



### FLOCK RAM NUMBERS SOLD

We recently wrote to many members with a query on flock rams sold entered in this year's flock returns. I would like to thank those members who have responded to the office with their numbers and assure you all that we are only interested in keeping accurate records and with all members treated equally.

### OVINE BRUCELLOSIS ACCREDITATION

Just a reminder that all flocks must be part of the relevant Ovine Brucellosis scheme with the appropriate state authorities as of next years flock return. If any member needs assistance with this, information is now on the website under news and information or we can assist in the office.

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Finally, a very merry Christmas to you and your families – the office will be closed from December 24 – January 4 but emails will be monitored during this time.





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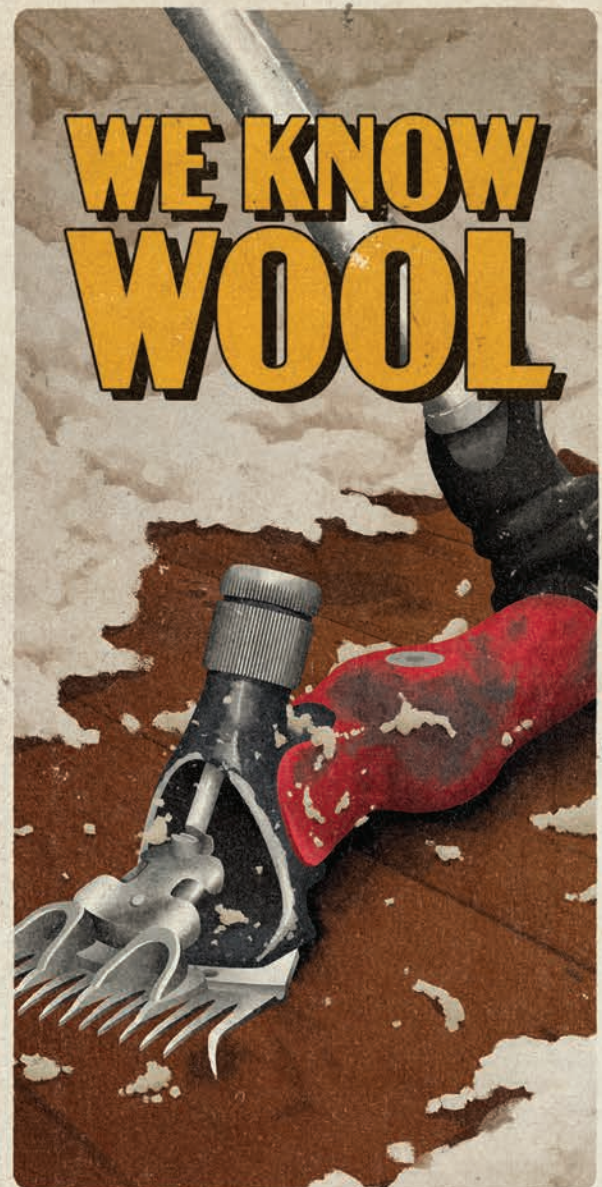
## FRONT COVER

James Frost (middle), Hildren stud, Bannister, NSW, exhibited the NSW Dorset Championships Supreme Exhibit for the third year in a row at the event in September. He is pictured with judge Brayden Gilmore (left), Baringa stud, Oberon, NSW, and sponsor Mark Liebich, Bromar, Grenfell.



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>FEB 26-28</b>	Royal Canberra Show
<b>MAR 5-6</b>	Wagin Woolorama
<b>APRIL 1-12</b>	Sydney Royal Show
<b>MAY 14-16</b>	NSW Sheep Show & Young Judges Comp
<b>JUNE</b>	NSW Dorset Championships
<b>JULY 16-18</b>	Australian Sheep and Wool Show
<b>AUG 1-3</b>	Hamilton Sheepvention
<b>AUG 6-15</b>	Ekka Royal Queensland Show
<b>AUG 27-29</b>	Australasian Dorset Championships
<b>AUG 29</b>	APDA Annual General Meeting
<b>AUG 29</b>	APDA Board Meeting
<b>SEP</b>	Royal Adelaide Show
<b>SEP 23-OCT 3</b>	Royal Melbourne Show
<b>SEP 25-OCT 10</b>	Royal Perth Show
<b>OCT 7</b>	Royal Launceston Show
<b>OCT 20-23</b>	Royal Hobart Show

## PROMOTIONS OFFICER REPORT

The last few weeks since the board elections has seen the Promotions committee settling into their new roles. The committee is made up of representatives from most states to make sure a cross section of our members and regions are represented. As Chair of the committee, I see my role as co-ordinating and streamlining the process of promoting our breed.



We have employed experts to produce our promotions in Patrick Falconer, Jamie-Lee Oldfield who are also supported by Margot and Sam. I believe it is up to all committee members to contribute to making our promotions as effective as possible, not just leave it up to a few.

### Regional Funding Grants

This money is allocated to Regions to promote Poll Dorsets in their region, in any way they deem fit. The amount of funding allocated depends on the number of rams your region sells. So this is your money, for you to spend. Approval must be obtained prior to the funds being allocated and will only be paid on the accounts being presented. Not all regions take up this offer. Naracoorte Hamilton Region spent their \$2000 in the following way.

- \$500 Region ad and editorial in The Ram and Lamb Magazine. The Ram and Lamb Magazine is an annual publication that is produced in Mt Gambier and has free distribution through the Lower SE of SA., Greater Green Triangle Region and the South Coast of Victoria.
- Region Ads were also placed on the Sheepcentral website and email newsfeed pages. This is an electronic farming website and information service that is available to anyone who wants to register.

### Victorian State Committee

The State Committee has continued with the initiative first started by the Wimmera Mallee Region and subsidised the cost of Poll Dorset vests. The vests are navy blue in colour and of a very high quality. The PD emblem is sewn onto the front and studs can choose to have their name embroidered onto the back.

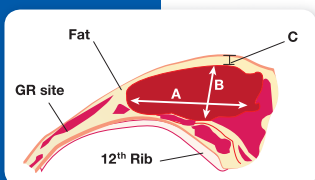
The State take up was quite good.

### Future Promotions

I would really like to encourage our members to submit ideas for promotion to the committee. We want to get the "best bang for our promotional buck". Members know what suits their region and where to place our advertising. A smart person once said that it is impossible to sell a secret. And that is true, so if you have any ideas or areas that we should be looking at, then please approach any member of the committee. Our members are the greatest source of ideas and know best where to target our promotions in their regions.

### Alistair Sutherland

Chair Promotions Committee



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### Ensuring animals are Fit to Load

Peak representative bodies WoolProducers Australia (WPA), Sheep Producers Australia (SPA) and Australian Livestock & Property Agents Association (ALPA) are reminding those in the sheep industry about ensuring that the sheep they are selling are ready for sale by meeting the requirements of the Fit to Load guide. The guide is designed to help producers, livestock agents, buyers and transporters meet their legal obligations under the Australian Animal Welfare Standards for the Land Transport of Livestock and help to ensure high animal welfare standards are maintained throughout the livestock industries. Topics in the guide include preparation of livestock for transport, feed and water, examples of animals that are unfit to load and what to do if an animal is unfit to load. It is the responsibility of the person in charge to ensure that animals are prepared correctly, will cope well with the entire journey and are not suffering any illness or injuries. To further enhance industry's ability to meet these requirements, ALPA are currently undertaking a number of Industry Awareness Days with a strong united focus on implementing practical and appropriate measures to achieve this aim. Transporting unfit animals not only reflects poorly on the person in charge of the animals but on the wool and sheepmeat industries. It is a reminder that there is a joint responsibility for animal welfare, and it is imperative that all animal welfare obligations are being met. Sheep in transit are highly visible – it only takes a few moments for someone to upload what they see to the rest of the world – if all livestock are Fit to Load, the reputational risk to the Australian industry is reduced. SPA CEO, Mr Stephen Crisp said "It is vital that the guide is used as the accepted standard at all points in the supply chain, and that feedback is provided to any producer that requires clarification of what is expected." A copy of the guide can be downloaded from the MLA website, by searching 'Fit to Load'.

### November to January wetter than average

November to January is likely to be wetter than average for nearly all of Australia (greater than 65 per cent chance in most areas), but drier than average for parts of western Tasmania. Daytime temperatures across November to January are likely to be warmer than average across parts of south-east, central, and western Australia, as well as along the northern coastline. Night-time temperatures across November to January are very likely to be warmer than average across much of Australia. La Niña is underway in the tropical Pacific. La Niña typically increases the likelihood of above average rainfall across much of Australia during spring and early summer. While the outlooks indicate wetter than average conditions, southern parts of Australia are entering into their drier season, so rainfall is not likely to be sufficient to relieve long-term rainfall deficits. This rainfall will also not necessarily lower the risk of days with elevated fire danger.

### Record-breaking year for MSA program

In 2019-20, 4.3 million sheep followed Meat Standards Australia pathways, representing 22 per cent of the national lamb slaughter and a 2.5 per cent point increase from 2018-19. A total of 64 per cent of these lambs went into MSA trademarked brands. By volume, South Australia processed the greatest number of MSA lambs at 1.7 million head and had the greatest proportion of the state lamb slaughter following MSA pathways at 78 per cent. MSA Program Manager David Packer said the latest MSA Annual Outcomes Report demonstrated the value MSA continued to deliver to producers and Australia's red meat industry. "The benefits of the MSA program continued to attract producers, with 2,900 beef and sheepmeat producers becoming MSA registered in 2019-20. There are now 197 MSA licensed beef and sheepmeat brands exclusively committed to underpinning their stories with consistent eating quality using the world's leading grading system.

### Lambex 2021 cancelled

The organisers of Australia's premier sheep and lamb conference, LambEx, have announced the event that was rescheduled for 2021 in Victoria, has been cancelled. Conference Chair Georgina Gubbins said the uncertainty and risk associated with COVID-19 meant it was just not possible to progress plans further at this stage. Ms Gubbins said, rather than postpone again, LambEx organisers had made the difficult decision to cancel, but plan to re-commence discussions with sponsors and exhibitors as soon as practicable to ensure LambEx continues as a significant sheep industry event. "We know this news will be disappointing for many people right across the sheep industry and beyond. It is not a decision that has been taken lightly but we feel it is in the best interests of all involved at the moment to wait and resume planning at a later date," she said. "We are hugely appreciative of the ongoing support of all our sponsors, exhibitors and delegates and look forward to working with them to continue the LambEx tradition. LambEx has been running now since 2010 and has become a major focus for the industry both here and internationally. "Organisers are committed to the event's future and are keen to put in place plans for when and where a future event might be held and what it might look like in a post-COVID environment," Ms Gubbins said. LambEx major sponsors are Agriculture Victoria, Coles, JBS Australia and Meat & Livestock Australia together with event partners Gallagher, Rabobank, rma network and Melbourne Showgrounds. For future updates, monitor the LambEx event website [www.lambex.com.au](http://www.lambex.com.au)







# GLENORE

## POLL DORSET

### STUD

From us at Glenore we'd like to thank all our clients for their support throughout 2020 and wish everyone a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year



#### Glenore's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Ram Sale

11 Stud rams sold to an  
average of \$3654, 81  
Flock rams sold to an  
average of \$1640

Glenore 310-19  
(Pictured)  
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# New Tas & Vic Directors

### Will Milroy - Tasmania

New Australian Poll Dorset Association Director Will Milroy started his now well-known Rangeview stud when he was just 10 years old, and despite leaving the industry for a period of time, his passion for the breed hasn't waned. Dispersing Rangeview in 1999, Will spent over a decade gaining leadership and management experience in the oil and gas industry, before returning to farming. Having purchased a property at Pipers River with wife (and Tasmanian local) Libby, the Rangeview stud was reborn with stud ewes from the Rannoch and Gloroy dispersals. Now daughters Bridie and Paige also lend a helping hand.

"Poll Dorsets have always been in my blood, I like genetics and do a lot of pedigree research, I have a large collection of flock books and journals - it's just something I've always loved and been involved in," Will said. The highlights of his time in the breed have been judging at the Sydney Royal and NSW Sheep Show Poll Dorset features, and recently topping the Adelaide Elite Stud Sale, he said. "From a personal satisfaction perspective, I enjoy watching clients' names in the paper topping the local markets here in Tasmania, as well as focussing on genetic progression and following certain traits - some of the rams I've used this year go back 15 years. Will has been president of the Tasmanian Region for the past four years, and the opening for a Tasmanian representative on the federal board seemed like a "good opportunity to help progress the breed into the future".

"I want to focus on the integrity of the breed as a whole and the push into the future with eating quality - I can see it becoming a big part of ram production as lamb is becoming more and more expensive," Will said. "The Poll Dorsets have three main advantages over other terminals, growth rate, lean meat yield and a consistent product - if we can combine those three with eating quality traits I can see the breed being a force into the future. But we also need to keep the Poll Dorset market relevant, producing the right product that the consumers want."

Challenges for the industry will be the Covid pandemic, animal welfare and growing market share, Will said, as well as encouraging more new breeders to join the association. "As the average age of the farmer is getting older and older, we need to encourage new members to join and participate to move the Poll Dorset breed forward," he said.



### Tania King - Victoria

Tania King has "breathed" Poll Dorsets "since day dot", and looks forward to increasing her involvement with the breed further as an Australian Poll Dorset Association director. Her family founded the Shellal stud based at Hawkesdale, Victoria, in 1966, and Tania has been involved with the operation since 1999, raising her family and working in the stud before taking on further responsibility in 2012. She strongly believes Poll Dorsets are the leading terminal sire.

"As long as breeders think like that they will continue to be, we can't lose sight of why we are breeding them and why they are so needed in the prime lamb industry," she said. On becoming a director of the APDA, Tania said it was her "time to step up and work for the breed and members, to do some more". "Having been the secretary of the Central Victoria region, I enjoyed that very much, especially meeting people, and wanted to take that a step forward. In the past the board may not have listened to the members, and I hope that although I am only one of two new people going on that I can make a difference and make our breed better."

Tania is keen to be a spokesperson for all members. "I don't think it is an achievement of one person, I want to do it for the breed - it is not a one man show. And I want to be guided by what they (members) want and that's how we move forward," she said. "Since I have taken on the secretary of Central region I've been active on social media, and I've designed our own stud's website so I am pretty savvy - you've got to be a jack of all trades raising a family and running a farm. And I can talk to people and listen to people and hope to learn a lot while being on the board."

Tania hopes to share some of the successes of her local region with the wider member base. "We try to involve members in a social environment, we have an annual family day that is hosted on one member's property - it's a social aspect that isn't reliant on the show ring. And we want to try to get the youth involved, everyone says it, but you can only get them involved if you get the parents involved. It is not an easy thing to crack into Poll Dorsets. A lot of hard work goes in behind the scenes."

Tania predicts that this lamb selling season, much of which is still to come in Victoria, lamb prices will get as high if not higher than the same time last year. "That is evident with how first-cross ewes are performing, that tells you how confident the commercial bloke is in our industry."





# School Focus: Good Shepherd College

### About the School

Good Shepherd College is located at Hamilton Victoria. It has a junior and senior campus. The senior campus is located out of town and has a 180 acre farm with a Poll Dorset stud, Murray Grey stud and a prime lamb enterprise. There are approximately 200 students.

### Ag Program

All students study Agriculture for a semester in Year 7 and Year 8, and there is also a Year 9/10 Ag elective class that runs for the year. Ag Club (sheep, cattle and poultry) is run twice a week during lunch times as well as after school and during holidays, to prepare animals for shows.

Good Shepherd College Ag Club students show sheep at Sheepvention and Coleraine Show.

### The stud

The school has 20 stud Poll Dorset ewes and 7 stud hogget ewes. The stud was established in 2016 with some ewes and lambs from Shellal Poll Dorset stud.

### Shellal Award program

The Shellal Award goes to a student in Year 7 to 9 who shows commitment, enthusiasm and wants to learn about sheep farming, each year. The winner is awarded a trophy and \$100, and a medal is awarded to the runner-up. An annual AI program is conducted, with semen and a back-up ram kindly donated by Mallee Park Poll Dorsets this year. We are very grateful for the support we have received from Poll Dorset Association members Tim Ferguson, Tania King and Jess Sutherland.





# Member Focus: Josh Poulton

2020 has been such an incredibly unusual year for everyone, particularly sheep breeders, and we have all had to find new ways to advertise our stock, genetics, and breeding potential of our rams. Through multiple 'virtual shows' that have been operating across Australia, I've had the privilege of having the trifecta; being an exhibitor, sponsor and judge. Through Silk Southdown's "Rona Sheep Show" in July, I was able to get my show fix through exhibiting a couple Poll Dorset rams and a ewe and received some really promising comments from young judge Lexi Thomas (9, Silk Southdowns). After I offered to sponsor the "2020 Rona Youth Sheep Expo" I was then invited to judge the Junior Section for the Judging and Handling classes, it was great to see such young people getting involved despite being stuck at home.

I'm 18 years old and recently graduated from Salesian College Sunbury. I registered my Poll Dorset stud "Dianella" early this year and was donated five foundation ewes from the Ferguson family at Mallee Park who have been incredible mentors to me and are always eager to offer advice and assistance. At Salesian I was lucky enough to take part in their stud sheep program where they run a Corriedale and Poll Dorset stud which is what mainly led me into founding a stud of my own. After showing with them for a couple years I had the opportunity to mentor a number of younger students and it was awesome to show them the ropes and get them as enthusiastic about the show ring as I was. Their founding Poll Dorset ewes were donated by Patrick Flanagan from "Blauvelt"

who has also been an amazing mentor of mine and has taught me lots. In 2019, a few students, including myself, were lucky enough to take part in the Central Victorian Region's annual bus tour where we had the opportunity to visit a number of larger scale studs in SA. The trip introduced me to a number of the breeders in the region who taught me plenty which really contributed to my eagerness to get more involved with the breed. I'm really excited to get back into the show ring in 2021 and to get to know more of the stud owners and enthusiasts of our fantastic breed.



**Amanda Watkins is the coordinator of YOUTH YARNS**

If you have any ideas or contributions to make relating to youth involved with Poll Dorsets please contact her on 0417 581 059 or email [youth@polldorset.org.au](mailto:youth@polldorset.org.au)

## "Pepperton" Poll Dorsets



### THE 2020 ANNUAL PEPPERTON POLL DORSET RAM SALE SALES RESULTS!

**Poll Dorset Rams**

**Sold: 52/52 Rams Sold**

**Average: \$1563.46**

**Top Price: \$2100**

**Top Price Poll Dorset Ram was  
Lot 1 – 190126 – bought by David  
Hobson from Thorpdale for \$2100**



Enquiries always welcome:  
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# Valley Vista

***Happy Holidays from Team Valley Vista***



***166/166 rams sold to a \$8500 top and \$1723 average  
Thankyou to our valued clients for supporting us in 2020***

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***Breeding sheep with high growth rate, length and muscle***



# TFI launches prime lamb liveweight grid

*Courtesy of Sheep Central*

A PRIME lamb liveweight on-farm grid has been launched by exporter Thomas Foods International across eastern Australia.

TFI national small stock manager Paul Leonard said the grid offer is for 325c/kg liveweight on farm for second cross lambs 47kg-plus with 5c/kg less for first cross lambs for delivery on 15 November. "We are happy to take lambs from south-east South Australia, Victoria and southern New South Wales."

He said the benefits to producers include no freight or penalties as for normal abattoir deliveries, and payment is within seven days. The lambs are being delivered to its Tamworth plant in New South Wales.

"This allows for more transparency and you get paid for what you produce, which is no different to how a lot of people are selling store lambs or feeder cattle now. "The producers also have no risks with deaths or condemnns."

The grid price for loads averaging over 65kg average lamb liveweight is 10c/kg less than the base second cross and first cross lamb price. Second cross lambs at this time of the year could be expected to yield from 43-48 percent. Under the liveweight grid, a second cross lamb weighing 50kg lwt would gross \$162.50 on farm.

All lambs must be curfewed for 24 hours prior to loading and trucks are to be weighed at the nearest registered B-double weigh bridge.

# SPA Board Appointments

Mr Chris Mirams Sheep Producers Australia (SPA) Chair has welcomed Robert Herrmann to the SPA Board and congratulated Bindi Murray on her re-appointment to the Board.

"I am pleased to announce that at the SPA Annual General Meeting this week the state farming organisation members have voted to accept the recommendation of the board selection committee. Bindi Murray has been re-appointed, and I would like to welcome Robert Herrmann to the SPA Board. Bindi and Robert bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to the Board." says Chris Mirams SPA Chair.

"The board has a clear sense of purpose, to provide strategic leadership to the sheep industry, enabling a productive, profitable, and sustainable future. This purpose is enabled by three pillars – a sustainable organisation, providing trusted leadership and creating effective policy and advocacy."

"Board members not only address board issues but are also very active participants in many of SPA's activities and represent SPA on many industry organisations. I look forward to continuing to progress our goals with a capable and passionate Board that embraces contemporary governance and has a culture of continual improvement."

## ARMDALE PARK POLL DORSET STUDS

**2020 SALE RESULTS : TOTAL CLEARANCE of 180 Flock Rams  
REACHING A NEW AUSTRALIAN FLOCK RAM RECORD AVERAGING \$2,216**



Armdale Park 201-19  
Top priced ram at our annual sale, sold for \$10,000 & Armdale Park 497-19 sold for \$8,750.  
Both rams purchased by Karl Sinclair – Kinsdale Poll Dorsets – Orange



Armdale Park 129-19(T)  
Purchased for \$9,500 by Pyle Bros. Western Australia.  
Photo: Garry & Sam Armstrong with Jenni O'Sullivan – Elders Stud Stock

**We would like to sincerely thank all those who have supported us throughout 2020.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from The Armdale Park Team.**

**Garry and Catherine Armstrong**

Mobile: 0427 275 134 Email: gcarmstrong@activ8.net.au

**Sam Armstrong**

Mobile: 0427 560 185



# Flock rebuild gets underway

Sheep and lamb prices remain strong as producers across much of the country experience improved seasonal conditions. All but one of the national price indicators were trading above year-ago levels as of the first week of November, with restocker lambs up nearly 100c/kg to 901c/kg. Light lambs were up 44c/kg to 795c/kg, while mutton has had the next largest increase of 39c/kg, to 603c/kg. Trade lambs are selling at similar levels year-on-year, up just 3c/kg to 755c/kg, while heavy lambs are down 2c/kg, trading at 750c/kg.

Meat & Livestock Australia Market Information Analyst Penny Graham said in MLA's latest sheep industry projections that Global market implications of COVID-19 continue to impact Australia's lamb and key export markets, causing a general decline in foodservice demand, particularly for lamb. "Lamb exports in 2020 have been revised lower to reach 269,000 tonnes shipped weight (swt), down 5 per cent on 2019 volumes, while mutton exports are expected to decline 32 per cent to 126,000 tonnes swt," Ms Graham said. Global market conditions remain rather unpredictable, particularly due to the impact of COVID-19 and its influence upon foodservice industries around the world. As such, the flow of Australian sheepmeat exports through the remainder of the year is expected to continue to fluctuate as markets move through different stages of their COVID-19 recovery."

Ms Graham said with lamb supplies looking at a recovery and subdued demand likely to continue in the short-term, sheep and lamb prices are not expected to return to early 2020 figures. "Mutton prices however have held up well relative to lamb this year, due to the significant decline in supply as producers withhold ewes to rebuild. Looking ahead, sheep and lamb prices could remain historically high, underpinned by positive drivers of demand in key markets. This includes an eventual recovery in foodservice demand locally and overseas, population growth, expanding Chinese imports, the ongoing protein deficiency as a result of African Swine Fever (ASF), stable demand for lamb from the US and limited competition in import markets. This could be offset in the short-term by weaker local and global economies, and a stronger Australian dollar, especially relative to the US dollar."

Lamb export volumes continue to build, and in October totalled 24,100 tonnes shipped weight, the largest total since March earlier in the year. For the year-to-October, lamb export volumes remain unchanged from the difference for the year-to-September, down 7 per cent. These export volumes align with numbers seen in previous years, as lamb slaughter picks up with a spring flush of lambs coming to market. The US remains the pivotal market for lamb, having surpassed China as the top destination in August. In October, the US took 5,500 tonnes swt, matching last year's volumes. Chilled lamb remains a key category for the US, and last month exports were 3,800 tonnes swt, up 24 per cent on the same month last year and a remarkable 34 per cent higher than the five-year average. US consumers have good familiarity with lamb and it appears demand is holding up amid the complications of COVID-19, particularly through retail channels.



# Warburn

Semen Available

190024

BWT	0.2	Top 20%
WWT	9.5	
PWT	14.3	
PFAT	-1.0	
PEMD	3.3	Top 5%
IMF	-0.22	Top 20%
EQ	148.2	Top 5%
TCP	152.9	Top 5%

Used as a ram lamb with 58 progeny in Sheep Genetics.

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## MARKET UPDATE

Lamb exports to China in October were 4,600 tonnes swt, a slight improvement on August and September volumes, but total exports remain 9 per cent back for the year-to-October on 2019 levels. For the Middle East, lamb exports were 4,600 tonnes swt in October. As seen in markets around the world, the economic impacts of COVID-19 are taking a toll on the Middle East, with exports for the year-to-October now back 30 per cent on 2019.

The industry's ability and keenness to return sheep to the paddock has seen breeding ewe prices excelling so far this season. This year has seen prices track at historically high levels, compounded by significantly low supply and steady demand. This reflects the national flock rebuild gaining momentum, with producers retaining a greater portion of breeding ewes and subsequently reducing the pool of available sheep. For the year-to-date, national sheep yardings averaged 2.5 million head, down 60 per cent on the same time last year at 4.1 million head. For the year-to-date the National Mutton Indicator has averaged 606¢/kg carcase weight (cwt), up 96¢/kg, or 19 per cent, on the same time last year. This has largely been driven by price movements in the eastern states, which saw the Eastern States Mutton Indicator

Ms Graham said while 2020 sheep and lamb slaughter are both expected to drop from 2019 levels, down 33 per cent to 6.3 million head and 6 per cent to 20.3 million head respectively, carcase weights will increase. "We anticipate a slight increase in lamb carcase weights for 2020, up

0.7kg/head on 2019 levels to average 24kg/head, and sheep carcase weights to increase to 24.89kg/head up 0.7kg/head from 2019," Ms Graham said. "However, increasing weights will not be sufficient to offset the decline in slaughter, with lamb production in 2020 expected to decline 3 per cent to 487,000 tonnes carcase weight (cwt) and sheep production to contract 31% to 157,000 cwt. "Though the impact of consecutive drought years has contracted the overall sheep and lamb supply, we do anticipate improved seasonal conditions in early 2020 will filter through the spring flush and establish a rebuilding period from 2021. Reports of increased lamb survival and marking rates through winter have increased confidence for a larger spring lamb crop this year, reflected by the numbers of new season lambs entering the market mid-August."



## WITH THANKS TO ALL BUYERS AND UNDERBIDDERS

**76TH ANNUAL ON-PROPERTY SALE**  
 STUD RAMS TO \$20,000, AVG \$6,020  
 STUD EWES TO \$800, AVG \$530  
 OVERALL RAM AVERAGE \$1,965

N27-19 purchased by Mulgundawa Poll  
 Dorset Stud, Robe SA for the Newbold  
 on-property sale record price of \$20,000.  
 Impressive, trait leading sire - TCP 154.7.

**Enquiries always welcome**  
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 bill@newboldstuds.com

Craig McLachlan 0418 838 751  
 craig@newboldstuds.com

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# The Season That Was

*Courtesy of Michael McManus, AuctionsPlus*

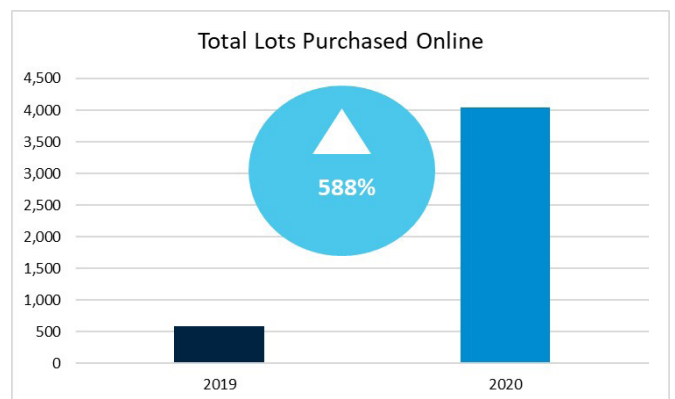
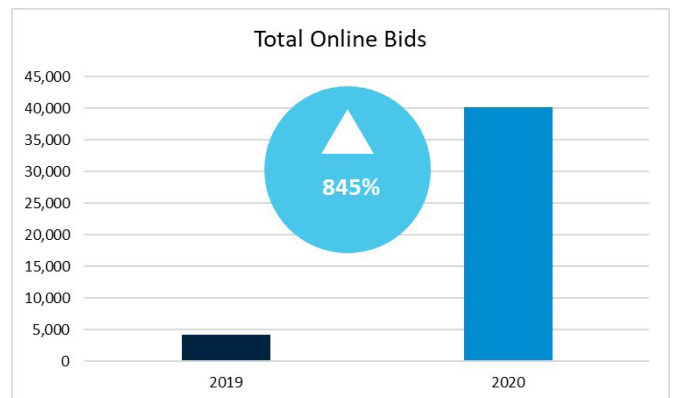
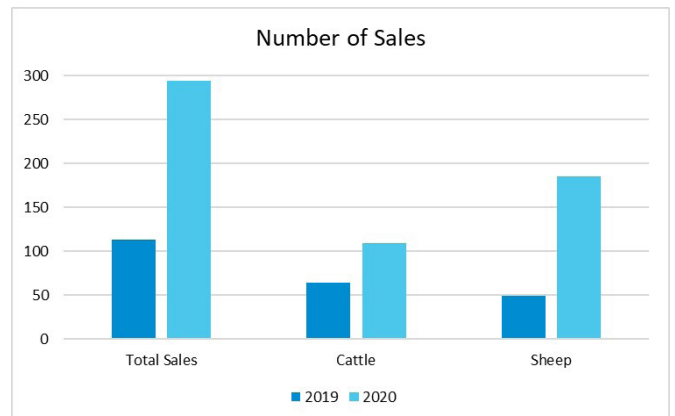
The spring stud season has always been a busy period at AuctionsPlus with online connectivity featured at many stud sales across Australia. 2020 has seen very different circumstances at play forcing studs to adapt to new rules and restrictions in order to have their on-property sales. This meant that online selling was adopted by many to combat restrictions, so that all buyers could have the opportunity to purchase regardless of their location. The result has been the busiest spring selling season AuctionsPlus has had to date, with an influx of new studs onboarding and existing customers returning. The stud team worked tirelessly to get sales up online with photos and videos, whilst running auctions during the day. Our biggest day for the 2020 season saw 25 auctions running on one day.

The AuctionsPlus Market Insights team have reviewed stud data from the current season and compared it to the previous to showcase the growth the platform has undergone. Obviously, there are stud sales all year round, but for the case of this report we have defined the period as the 1st August to the 16th October for 2019 and 2020, including any interfaced sheep and cattle stud sales.

Total sales for the period more than doubled, growing 160 per cent to total 294 sales for 2020. That included 109 cattle sales and 185 sheep sales with sheep sales seeing the largest growth, up 278 per cent from 2019. This increased volume of sales was at a time when travel restrictions were implemented between states and internally included travel restrictions for employees at AuctionsPlus. In order for us to deliver our service, we relied heavily on agents and AuctionsPlus contractors to carry out the heavy lifting on the ground in terms of setting up streaming and bidding on behalf of AuctionsPlus.

Online buyer numbers increased by 80 per cent to average nine bidders per sale, up from five in 2019. Total number of connections increased from 60 in 2019 to 120 connections in 2020, growing by 100 per cent. Total bids increased 845 per cent from 4,253 to 40,175 in 2020 and total lots purchased by online buyers increased 588 per cent from 588 to 4048.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created so much uncertainty and burden on many people throughout the world and despite agriculture being deemed an essential service, many were still forced to rethink their operations and traditional selling options. For the first time ever, we saw some studs go completely online for their sale which was a huge change for not only themselves but all their buyers who usually attend their farms and view their prospective animals. The social aspect of attending stud sales and catching up with other farmers/agents in the area is also an important part to these sales. This was all turned on its head with the imposed social distancing and gathering restrictions, therefore many people opted to use the online only format, a new experience breaking many years of tradition.





# Poll Dorsets in popular demand

SPRING ram sales results were stronger than ever for the Poll Dorset breed this year, with many studs achieving increased clearances and averages on 2019.

Despite concerns of low ewe numbers, and many areas still finding their way out of the recent drought, ram buyers purchased with confidence.

Covid-19 travel restrictions had breeders concerned earlier in the season, with many looking to include an online bidding option into their usual set-up.

It didn't dampen buyer enthusiasm however, with both online and on-farm bidding being strong.

Plenty of Poll Dorset studs cleared all their rams and then some, with averages above \$1500 common, and a handful even breaking the \$2000 mark.

Stud rams reached a high of \$24,000 at auction, sold by Tattykeel, Black Springs, NSW, which also achieved a record stud average of \$8700. Gooramma stud, Galong, NSW, sold a stud ram privately to \$30,00.

A new record average was also set for flock rams, with Armdale Park, Marrar, NSW, achieving \$2218.

Nutrien Ag Solutions stud stock agent Peter Godbolt, Albury, said results were exceptional for a number of reasons.

"There was added demand off the back of producers retaining

an increased number of older ewes, to rebuild flocks after destocking in the drought, alongside the wool price being lower than it has been in the past three years, meaning there were more to be joined to Poll Dorset rams," he said.

"Also the mutton and lamb job has been so strong, so producers are getting rewards back out the other end."

Mr Godbolt said high muscled and high figured (Australian Sheep Breeding Values) rams were very sought after this year.

Ross Milne from Elders stud stock also pointed to positive carcass traits, as well as optimum growth being the traits of choice for buyers this year.

"Generally speaking there were very good clearances as a whole, most sales achieved close to 100 per cent clearance and averaged a couple of hundred dollars more than last year, so it was similar to last year's results but maybe slightly dearer," he said.

"The lamb job has been very good over a sustained period of time, it's been consistent and even, and a good season in most areas across NSW, Victoria and south east South Australia has put confidence in the industry and encouraged people to hang onto and breed more sheep."

Australian Poll Dorset Association president Isabele Roberts said it was great to see lots of studs achieving record prices for their rams, with everyone being rewarded for the quality of their stock this year.

"As the industry recovers from the drought people are keen to invest in areas that they are confident they are going to get value, and areas that they think are going to drive profitability in their business," she said.



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# More lambs from short-term nutritional flush on green feed

*Courtesy of Gervaise Gaunt, Agriculture Victoria*

Producer on-farm demonstrations have found that flushing (providing nutritional supplementation before joining) with green feed for one week before and one week after joining delivers impressive reproductive benefits, including more lambs and, to a lesser extent, more ewes pregnant.

Agriculture Victoria, with Meat & Livestock Australia co-funding, conducted on-farm demonstrations over five years on 32 commercial farms in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. Producers joined more than 22,000 crossbred, composite or Merino ewes (n = 600–900 per demonstration site) between late December and March for an autumn and winter lambing.

The demonstrations have shown that flushing ewes short term with any available green feed, such as lucerne, rape, millet or green pasture, increased lamb production compared with joining ewes on dry feed. The ewes only needed to be on green feed (minimum of 350 kgDM/ha) for a week before joining and seven days into joining for the flushing benefits to show. The flushing effect was displayed in maiden as well as adult ewes, and ranged from 10 to 33 more lambs scanned per 100 ewes joined, compared with joining ewes on typical dry pasture.

The demonstration also included additional treatments of flushing ewes on lupins one week before and one week after

joining, and joining on lucerne for six weeks (one week before joining and through five weeks joining). The reproductive response in ewes fed lupins during a short flush was not as responsive as ewes on a short green-feed flush (two weeks total).

Although a short flush on green feed was found to be adequate to increase reproductive rates, conception and reproductive rates were not negatively affected when ewes grazed lucerne for the entire joining period (long flush).

The demonstration findings provide the opportunity for producers to make strategic decisions, based on the feedbase, that can be used to maximise the reproductive performance of their ewe flocks. Where green feed is limited, short-term flushing on as little as 350 kgDM/ha can generate a reproductive response. However, consideration would need to be given to the value of any potential reproductive benefits compared with use of the feed source for other purposes, such as finishing lambs, growing out weaners or increasing the number of ewes flushed.

If limited green feed is available, as a result of seasonal conditions or other factors, it may be more cost-effective to use green feed for flushing ewes instead of lupins, provided that management strategies can be put in place to manage any extra lambs born. Where the green feed quantity is limiting, another option is to draft ewes with lower condition scores into a mob to be short-term flushed.

Implementing a simple but effective grazing management strategy can provide a short-term flushing effect, which can generate increased lamb production and income by reducing the proportion of dry ewes and increasing the rate of multiple births.

## WRATTENBULLIE

ANNUAL POLL DORSET RAM SALE

**SALE**

Stud rams sold 6 to \$3600 ave \$2866

**RESULTS:**

Flock rams sold 119 to \$2400 ave \$1632

### NEW SIRES

**Derrynock  
190156**

**Rene  
190183**

**Ulandi Park  
190017**



Tag No: 190206. Sire Kentish Downs 170472  
Sold to Glenn and Kylie Davis  
Sutherland Hills for \$3600



Tag No: 190456. Sire Wrattenbullie 180117.  
Dam 170596  
Pwt 11.6 Pfat -0.3 Pemd 1.4 TCP 130.4  
Retained in Stud



**Rod Davies 08 8764 6050**

**Brad Davies 0438 266 732**





# Best-practice first summer drenching strategies

*Courtesy of Dr David Rendell, Agriculture Victoria*

How do sheep producers progress from the somewhat blunt 'No Christmas dinner until all mobs are drenched' to the more nuanced and, in my experience, clearly achievable mob-by-mob first summer drenching (SD1) strategy?

This involves worm egg count (WEC) testing every mature-age mob at hay cutting time. Why then? This is when sheep faeces start to harden. Worm larvae survival over summer in faecal pellets is around 20 times higher in harder pellets than in soft, unformed faeces.

If the WEC is high, you should promptly drench every sheep in the mob. If the mob will not be moved to a low-worm-risk paddock after drenching, consider scheduling a second drench in six weeks. For high-worm-risk mobs, no Christmas dinner until a second drench is given!

If the WEC is moderate, you can safely delay the SD1 drench until December. The later the SD1 is given, the less likely the mob will require a second summer drench, which reduces the risk of selection of worms with drench resistance. In mobs with a low WEC, it is advisable to repeat the WEC in December. If two WECs a month apart are both low, you can with some confidence, safely forgo SD1 in that mob and enjoy your Christmas dinner with sanctimonious satisfaction. I hear the screams 'All this monitoring would cost a fortune'. Well, what are the costs? Table 1 provides a breakdown.

Mob size	WEC cost (cents/head) 1 WEC	WEC cost (cents/head) 2 WECs	Savings/mob for 2 WECs and no SD1 (\$) Drench A	Savings/mob for 2 WECs and no SD1 (\$) Drench B
50	0.80	1.60	-45.00	-10.00
100	0.40	0.40	-10.00	60.00
200	0.20	0.40	60.00	200.00
300	0.13	0.27	130.00	340.00
400	0.10	0.20	200.00	480.00
500	0.08	0.16	270.00	820.00
600	0.07	0.13	340.00	760.00

Notes:

- WEC laboratory cost: \$30.60; labour cost of collection — \$9.40 per mob
- Drench A: \$90/L; drench B: \$200/L; both at a dose of one mL/10 kg and ewes 65 kg maximum weight; labour cost: 10 cents/head

This 1 shows the costs of doing one or two WECs (first two columns). The cost per head decreases as mob size increases. The last two columns show the savings per mob that would be made if two WECs were conducted and no drench is required. The savings are higher if you would have had to drench with an expensive option (drench B). Drench A is valued at \$90

per litre and drench B at \$200 per litre. For small mobs (120 or less), the cost of doing two WECs to determine if it's safe to forgo SD1 is higher than the cost to drench. However, if drench resistance is an issue (as it is for many farms) and you need to use a more expensive drench type (drench B), there are cost savings from not having to drench even for small mobs (60 or more). Importantly, reducing unnecessary drenching is critical for managing drench resistance.

Even in mobs of 100 that are still given an SD1, the maximum extra cost of this nuanced SD1 strategy is relatively low, at 80c per head, which diminishes to less than 20c in mobs of more than 400.

A typical property may end up WEC testing two-thirds of mobs twice and forgoing SD1 on at least one-third of mobs. In this scenario, you'll save money if using the dearest drench where mobs are larger than 130 ewes, and if using the cheapest drench where mobs are larger than 300 ewes. Quite apart from the modest cost and potential substantial savings of a mob-by-mob strategy is the satisfaction of managing your sheep well, while having a real impact on reducing your property's level of drench resistance.

When drenching mature-age mobs with moderate WECs, consider leaving five to ten per cent of the fattest individuals in the mob undrenched. In my experience, on numerous farms over many seasons, this did not cause any discernible worm control problems, and research indicates that it can have a big impact on reducing drench resistance.

Although there are sound reasons for conducting a WEC before any drench between now and Christmas, there are some exceptions. For example, it may well be prudent to just promptly drench mobs of 2020 drop lambs grazing paddocks where ewes have lambed down that have not been drenched for six weeks. Similarly, if the two or three lowest-worm-risk mobs on a property are WEC tested and the results are all very high, you might consider promptly drenching all mobs. On the other hand, if the two or three highest-worm-risk mobs are WEC tested and the results are all very low, consider delaying WEC of all mobs until December.

I have quite deliberately avoided specifying WEC levels that would trigger drenching, because they vary enormously throughout Victoria. These levels are best developed for each farm by an experienced vet who is familiar with your farm results over a few seasons and has knowledge of the likely worm species present on your farm.

Guidelines for collecting samples for worm egg counts:

1. Submit samples only if, when first picked up, they are warm when squeezed; all those that are not should be discarded.
2. Collect at least 20 and preferably 30 samples per mob, regardless of mob size.
3. Where samples are mixed before submission, collect similar volumes of each sample.
4. Ensure that lamb and ewe samples are placed in separate labelled containers because, even if they are running together, they are likely to have quite different WEC results.
5. Immediately on collection, either refrigerate samples or place them in an air-tight container.
6. Before leaving the paddock, label the sample legibly.
7. Submit the samples to a laboratory that participates in regular interlaboratory quality assurance.

# Aussie expertise and Poll Dorsets in China

*Courtesy of Russ Davis, Ceva Animal Health*

Life often gives us the most unexpected opportunities when we least expect them. One of my current projects is a large-scale breeding operation in China, 50,000 breeding ewes (under cover) in a vertically integrated operation. The farm features a breeding system (both natural and assisted), a lamb finishing feedlot for those lambs not required for breeding improvement/replacement, composting systems to manage the manure produced as well as greenhouses to feed all the workers. All the feed for silage is grown locally by contributing villages as a part of the poverty reduction scheme of China and an onsite abattoir is being constructed.

I became involved in this project in the most obscure way, I was invited to speak at an industry conference, then I was approached after my presentation to see if I would be available to travel to China to provide training on a new program. It was very short notice, due to leave in 10 days, but coincided with the cancellation of a week in my calendar. There were some hectic visa applications, flights booked, approvals gained and I was off to China.

For the next 10 days we would give two to three presentations a day, through interpreters, with audiences from universities through to peasant farmers with the requirement to rapidly adapt our presentations to suit the audience, all the while planning for this new project of 50,000 breeding ewes undercover, providing facility design, systems and a genetic improvement plans, new genetics, cross breeding programs and plans to increase the production capabilities of the indigenous breed the Hu.

## Beginning the planning process

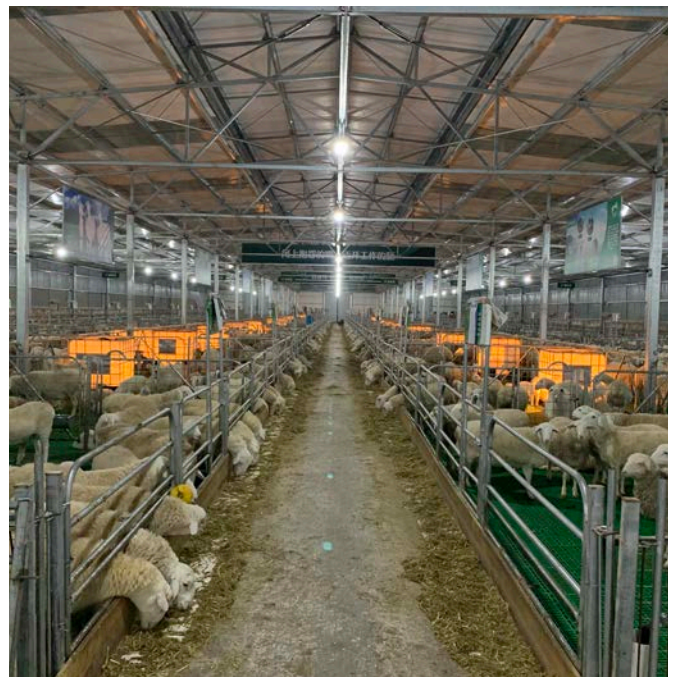
We started this plan by inspecting all the current facilities and all the current sheep and then starting the process of classing the sheep. This was somewhat difficult as there are no facilities in China as we have them in Australia, no real yards, no drafting races, nothing that we would expect on a farm as far as infrastructure goes. So us Australians got busy and went to the scrapheap and built a set of yards, a makeshift drafting race and began the process not only of drafting the sheep but actually teaching the sheep to move - some had never left a pen - and how to run through a race. Using Chinese farmhands that stood in all the wrong spots, and made all the wrong noises, we got through it, 8000 ewes through makeshift draft, (multiple times) working long into the night at minus 20 degrees to even up the lines of the sheep .

At this stage we had the different small farm's flocks (to be consolidated into the new purpose-built facility) organised into age, conformation and selected the core genetic group ready for the next phase. One thing that stands out in China is the speed at which things move and of which buildings and facilities can be built. We visited the Greenfield site with earth moving equipment moving everywhere and four months later moved sheep into the completed site - quite unbelievable.

The next task was to increase the holdings of sheep so we packed up an entourage and off we went on a sheep buying tour of southern China, naively thinking this would be conducted similar to how I would buy sheep in Australia. I was in for a very quick education . The first time we visited a farm I expected the sheep to be sorted into what we were looking for, however this was not the case, I was simply given access to the entire farm and told to select what I wanted one by one pen by pen by walking through the pens and marking an animal and then a worker would come along and pick it up out of the pen this was to be repeated on every farm that we visited until I had purchased the required amount - 16,000 ewes.



*While very cold outside, overnight shed temperatures rarely fell below zero*



*Illuminated lamb incubators in the breeding shed*



## INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

One of the highlights was visiting the Hu stud that had won champion Hu ram of China that year. Upon inspecting the Rams that they had selected for us I had rejected all but one this caused some consternation with the group, however after much discussion they relented and allowed me to walk through the rest of the farm where I selected 5 more rams including the Chinese champion, this caused a bit of a laugh amongst the group they all agreed I had a good eye but alas we didn't get the champion ram.

With the sheep now selected, sorted and transported to the new facility the real work started, and over the next year we worked out the challenges that we would truly face in China. This is where we started to see similarities between China and Australia and where the challenges lie in the interface between the theoretical knowledge and the practical application for systems and process in an agricultural enterprise

It was not unusual to be working with professorial level local experts who knew the ins and outs of silage making at a theoretical level but couldn't actually get it in the pit, and we would see perfectly formulated rations not fit for purpose. One of the most common challenges we faced was all the rations seemed to be designed by a swine nutritionist, and therefore the feed was constantly over cut and over chopped. The grain content, mostly corn, was ground to polenta and the sheep suffered clinical or subclinical acidosis constantly. It took almost two years to convince our own team to not grind the grain and to leave roughage 50 to 80 millimetres long to get the best feeding results.

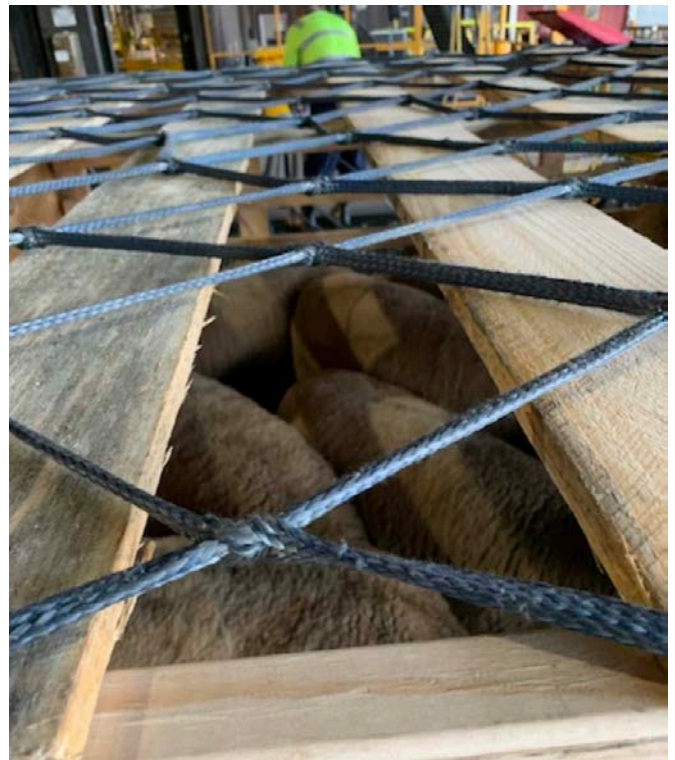
The next major hurdle we faced was lambing down, we lambed down 21,000 ewes all within three weeks in minus 23 degrees temperatures. The shed design worked well, air flow was excellent and air quality was very good, the overnight temperatures in the sheds hovered around zero. I was however concerned about small lambs, for these we designed lamb incubators at an industrial level using thousand litres shuttles. I calculated the required temperature based on the volume of the shuttle and the size of the lamb and their thermal regulation. We needed 2 x 50 Watt lamps to maintain constant temperature, so if 2 x 50 watts did the job, but our Chinese colleagues having never seen this system decided that surely 2x 150 Watt lamps would be better, the lambs would be even warmer!! Once we sorted that out, we stopped the overheating problem and went back to the original design specs.



*Nearing completion, from greenfield site to what you see in nine months*

We have been heavily involved in training staff, ensuring that we introduce better animal welfare programs into the program, ensuring quarantine protocols are observed with introduced stock and ensuring animal health treatments are being recorded. Reproduction programming has been a key measurable in this project and we have introduced a three lambings in two years program, progressing to five lambings in three years. This is not without challenges even with good facilities. It is not uncommon to have ewes moved into new pens without recording movement, sometimes by the cleaner to make it easier to clean the pens! We have pioneered the use of Regulin, light programs and key time feeding to drive conception and lamb survivability and in a short period of operation are seen as the leaders in establishing effective animal welfare management.

While we have been selecting ewes and rams in Australia and collecting semen and embryos for export, we have also selected and freighted (by air) live sheep for our genetic improvement program. There are many examples of genetics being exported to China that have not proven fit for purpose, this is not, in my opinion because they are poor genetics but rather a disconnect from buyer to seller in what they are trying to achieve. With controlled and measured cross breeding we have already achieved, in a short time, significant improvement on meat yields. With the live imports we have seen growth in Hu crossbreeds that has never before been achieved. With the ability to measure results, consistently and on a large scale we have been able to determine which cross breed will be the most successful. We are comparing five different breeds in this crossbreeding program, at this stage two breeds are showing a significant advantage on lamb survival and in early weight gain. Poll Dorset is in the top two breeds, while there is still much work to do, developing indexes and using data to determine the next steps I can say that the combination of Hu and Poll Dorset genetics promises a bright future for future exports.



*Sheep imports to the project*





# SPRINGWATERS

POLL DORSET STUD EST. 1979

## 2020 Annual Sale

- 199/199 Sold
- Top \$16,000,
- Average \$2,408

- Lot 2 \$16,000, Kooradale Pastoral
- Lot 11 \$6,000 Blauvelt Stud
- Lot 5 \$5,500 Redline Stud
- Lot 10 \$5,500 Athlone Stud



Lot 2 - SW 48-19

STUDSTOCKSALES.COM



Lot 11 - SW 234-19

STUDSTOCKSALES.COM



Lot 5 - SW 462-19

STUDSTOCKSALES.COM



Lot 10 - SW 631-19

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*Thank you to all purchasers.*

A great result for our leading sires, first progeny of "Guinness 22-18" were well received averaging \$5,020. "Pocock" had 69 sons sold through the sale ring, displaying terrific carcass shape and commercial qualities.

Semen, stud rams and ewes available for private sale.

rowleys@springwatersstud.com | www.springwatersstud.com.au | Dane 0422 560 361



# Lamb finishing: is it worth it?

*Courtesy of Meat & Livestock Australia*

High-performance forage crop and perennial pasture systems were put to the test in NSW's Monaro region in an MLA-funded Producer Demonstration Site (PDS) to see how finishing lambs stacked up compared to the traditional store lamb system. The result was a tick for farm profitability, with average net profits from establishing and finishing lambs on the pasture/crops ranging from \$305/ha to \$1,492/ha over the two years of the PDS, despite poor seasonal conditions in the second year. In comparison, the region's traditional system of turning lambs off as stores by the end of December, at an average sale weight of 29kg had an average total enterprise gross margin of \$161/ha. This PDS was run by Monaro Farming Systems producer group, with technical support from consultant Doug Alcock. It followed an earlier project by Doug and the group, where they used GrassGro modelling software to quantify the benefits of finishing lambs. It reflects changing enterprises in the region, which is traditionally a Merino grazing area. "In the last decade, as wool prices waned in relation to sheepmeat prices, there's been a lot of opportunistic joining to terminal sires or Border Leicesters," Doug said. "The vast majority of those animals end up in the store market, unfinished." Monaro Farming Systems chairman John Murdoch said the group invested in GrassGro modelling to quantify the relative profitability of retaining these store lambs and finishing them on specialised, high quality pastures. "The modelling showed that in nine out of 10 years you're going to be significantly better off, economically, by finishing lambs on specialised pastures," John said.

### Takeaway messages for producers:

- The highest levels of production per hectare were achieved on systems where the crop was used solely for grazing lambs.
- Significant supplementary feeding resulted in good lamb growth rates, as well as very high rates of pasture utilisation. (The performance of lambs on finishing crops with and without supplementary feeding will be the subject of another MFS PDS this summer.)
- Allocating land to specialised lamb finishing can double or even triple its profitability, more than compensating any minor reduction in carrying capacity for breeding stock.

"As the PDS wasn't conducted under strict pasture trial conditions, the systems cannot be directly compared to each other," Doug said.

### Five tips for finishing lambs on pastures

- Before selecting a forage pasture, consider the site, soil type, soil fertility status and long-term plan for the paddock.
- Good agronomic advice and good paddock preparation is critical.
- Aim for high dry matter production at high digestibility at the critical time of year – summer.
- Use the specialised pasture for finishing, don't be tempted to use it for other purposes in the meantime.
- Using eID tags allows lamb weight to be easily measured more frequently to monitor growth and address problems quickly.



## RAM SALE

116 rams offered and 116 rams sold, topping at \$3800 - (photo) to average \$2030

Held by James Weir, Pinewalla.

Purchased by Brad Dawson, Charja Stud.  
Daniel Tarlinton, Elders Crookwell.

## PINEWALLA 138-19 (145kg)

Son of Valma 57-15

Bwt	Wwt	Pwwt	Pemd	Pfat	Tcp
0.45	8.56	12.68	1.64	-0.45	130.19



**For any further enquiries contact Kim or James (02) 4832 1823**

**Kim:** 0417 789 017 **James:** 0423 700 315 **Email:** pinewalla@bigpond.com



# EID a management necessity: Shearwell

You can't manage what you don't measure. It's an old adage used often in agriculture, but never has it been more relevant than today. Data collection in any livestock operation has become the key element to driving genetic gain, efficiency and profitability. And there are few tools more crucial to accurate and timely data collection than electronic identification.

"It is impossible to improve your operation if you do not know the areas that improvement is needed," said Oliver Burgun of Shearwell Australia. "Electronic tags make it much easier to capture data in your own operation, instead of writing down your tag numbers, they can be instantly stored on a stick reader/tablet/weigh head or software management program."

Shearwell has been operating since 2011 in Australia, currently based out of Bendigo, Victoria, and produce visual and electronic ear tags for sheep, as well as a range of data collection and utilisation tools to be used alongside them. These include stick, panel and mobile race tag readers, weigh crates, auto drafters and apps. All these products are compatible with many management software systems, which can assist producers in getting the most from these products.

"Types of data captured from EID can include, weight gain, treatments, movements, joins, traits, progeny, pregnancy status (working in conjunction with pregnancy scanning equipment), fleece characteristics and estimated breeding values, all of which can be recorded and utilized in your enterprise," Mr Burgun said. "In the event of a poor season the sheep that consistently perform the worst can be sold rather than the best sheep on the property meaning that in more favourable times it will be easier to build back up the flock."

While all this recording is possible with just visual tags and a good pen, Mr Burgun says having electronic tags removes the capacity for error. "By scanning in your tags it is impossible to record the wrong tag while if handwritten it is incredibly easy to read a tag number incorrectly or misplace sheets of paper - and by doing this you have a consistent record of an animal's history that will allow you to make informed management decisions to achieve your breeding objectives."



*Use the Shearwell Stick Reader to collect the accurate identification of your individual animal.*

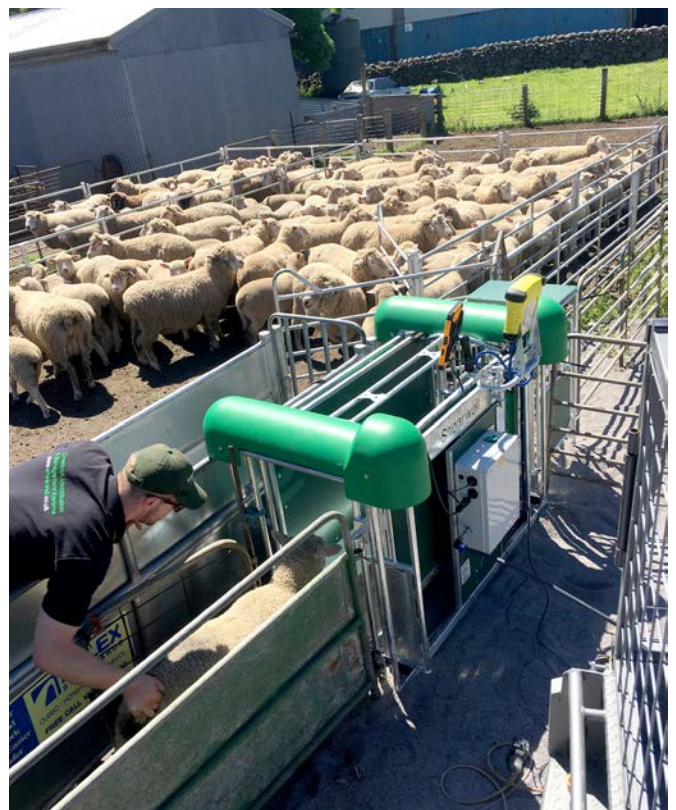
And it's not just on-farm that electronic identification can advance your operation, and the sheep industry generally, according to Mr Burgun. Lifetime traceability throughout the supply chain is the other obvious benefit of electronic identification, and the primary reason the practice is now mandatory in Victoria. Mr Burgun says that 2020 has definitely been a lesson for us all in the importance of tracking disease. "If a disease outbreak were to occur it would be able to be tracked down and potentially halted as a detailed record of every property that those animals had been on would be available, similar to the contact tracing that's occurring now when a positive case of covid is detected," he said. "A large scale disease outbreak has the potential to cause losses in the billions of dollars within the agricultural sector. As was seen in the UK during the 2001 foot and mouth disease outbreak which lead to the destruction of six million sheep, cattle and pigs and costing the industry approximately 3.1 billion pounds leading to complete standstill. As red meat makes up around 1.5 per cent of the Australian GDP it is essential that everything possible is done to protect the industry's future."

Mr Burgun said Shearwell, a proud sponsor of the Australian Poll Dorset Association, believes eID is the foundation of the future of livestock farming. "Without EID it is so much more difficult to record effective data and in a more consumer focused world traceability is vital as it allows buyers to feel more connected to their purchases as well as assist in the event of a disease outbreak which could have the potential to massively disrupt the industry."

Oliver Burgun

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*The Shearwell auto-drafter can be operated using a remote control or can be set to run automatically using the provided tablet and app.*



# Poll Dorset rams to \$6750 in ADC online sale

*Courtesy of Alastair Dowie, Stock & Land & Claire Harris, Stock Journal*

Poll Dorset rams sold to a top of of \$6750 and averaged \$3500 in the 2020 Australasian Dorset Championships sale. For the first time the event was held online via the AuctionsPlus platform. ADC committee chair Robert Grieves said that due to the coronavirus restrictions it was decided to conduct the sale online, while cancelling the show part of the annual event.

He said that the organisation decided to open up the sale to all registered Poll Dorset breeders in Australia. "We got entries from studs who had never been involved at the Australasian before," he said. "It's put their studs out there and what sheep they have - we're glad we got up to that level of entries."

Top lot at \$6750 was Rangeview 190007 offered by the Milroy family, Rangeview stud, Pipers Rivers, Tasmania, and was purchased by Janmac Pastoral Co, Goroke, Vic. The June 2019-drop ram was described by the vendor as a "powerful ram with a fantastic Dorset head, depth of body and dense wool".

Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) figures for the top priced ram included weaning weight of +10 kilograms, post-weaning eye muscle depth (PEMD) of +0.6, post weaning weight (PWT) of +15kg, post-weaning fat depth (PFAT) of -0.7 and a terminal carcase production (TCP) of 128.4.

The same buyer paid \$6000 for a ram from Paul Day, Faraday Park, Penguin, Tasmania. The ram was described as having "a great depth of body and hindquarters". It had figures for WWT of 9.8, PWT of 14.6, PEMD of 0.5 and TCP of 126.2.

Faraday also sold lot 17 that made \$5250 and was bought by RA & JC Batters, Sutherland, Vic. The ram had been used in the stud as a ram lamb. It had figures of 11 for WWT, 16.6 PWT, 0.6 PEMD and a TCP of 129.7. The Faraday stud also sold two late May 2019 drop ewes for \$800 each.

The Douglas family, Abelene Park, Woolomin, NSW, offered and sold three rams to a top of \$6000 and averaged \$4416. The \$6000 ram was lot two which was purchased account Ryan, Yeoval, NSW. Lot two was a late August-drop ram with a WWT of 6.4, PWT of 9, PEMD of 0.7 and TCP of 124.6. They also sold lot one for \$4250. The August-drop ram was born and reared as a twin. and had a WWT of 7.2 PWT of 10.6 and PEMD of 0.8. The ram was purchased for a Holman Tolmie, Cootamundra, NSW, account.

Rangeview also sold the equal top-priced sire in the Elite Stud Sheep Sale at the Adelaide Showgrounds in September.

In the Poll Dorset offering, three sires were offered, of which two sold, one at \$19,000, and one at \$17,000.

Rangeview principal Will Milroy said he was "on cloud nine" after the result.

"I knew they were special rams from day dot, I've been selective breeding for a long time, but they went way above my expectations, I thought if they sold mid-range I'd be happy," he said.

The \$19,000 ram, Rangeview 190147, sold via AuctionsPlus to Wunnamurra Poll Dorsets, Jerilderie, NSW.

It was AI-sired by Hillcroft Farms 051699, with genetics from that particular sire having been used by the stud for 15 years. The sale-topper had Lambplan figures of 0.59 bodyweight, 11.43 weaning weight, 17.33 postWWT, -0.76Pfat, 2.99PEMD, with a Terminal Carcase Production index of 159.69 and a Lamb Eating Quality index of 160.99.

The \$17,000 ram, Rangeview 190045, was bought by Bundara Downs, Western Flat, with stud principal Steve Funke admiring the sire for its correctness and muscling.



*Top of the 2020 Australasian Dorset Championships sale was \$6750 offered by the Milroy family, Rangeview stud, Pipers Rivers, Tasmania.*



*Rangeview 190147 made the equal top price of \$19,000 at the Adelaide Elite Stud Sheep Sale, sold online by Will Milroy, Rangeview, Pipers River, Tas. It sold to Wunnamurra Poll Dorsets, Jerilderie, NSW.*

# Hildden ram wins again

*Courtesy of Hannah Powe, The Land*

Hildden Poll Dorsets at Bannister has clocked up a third consecutive win of the supreme exhibit title of the NSW Dorset Championships at Cowra. The cherry on top of their 50 year stud celebrations, Brian, Lorraine and James Frost of Hildden showed 15 sheep and won a number of ribbons, including most successful exhibitor.

But it was their Hildden 652-19 ram that created excitement, winning the junior and grand champion ram sash before going all the way to be selected as the Bromar NSW supreme exhibit. Sired by the reserve junior champion Australasian ram in Hildden 860-17, he was an August 2019-drop ram out of Hildden 151-17, and weighed 135 kilograms.

Judged by Brayden Gilmore of Baringa Sheep Studs, Oberon, the ram section had around 70 head from across the state vying for the top title. The Frost family's supreme exhibit was described as the most complete Poll Dorset ram judge Mr Gilmore has been able to oversee.

"For a young sire he has the shape in the hind leg, and the overall balance and type I was chasing," Mr Gilmore said. "I see a big future ahead of him."

This supreme win marks the third consecutive year of receiving the top-title, with the previous two times being awarded to Hildden ewes. Hildden also won senior champion ram with Hildden 110-19, who was the supreme short wool exhibit of the

2020 Royal Canberra Show. He was by Hildden 860-17 and out of Hildden 224-17 who boasts a supreme exhibit win at Cowra, and supreme prime lamb exhibit at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo. Retaining the ram for stud use, the Frosts will collect semen that will be for sale in the future.

Champion intermediate ram went to the Rowley family, Springwaters Poll Dorset stud, Boroowa, with their exhibit Springwaters 434-19 who the won the ram born after June 1, performance ram, class. A son of Springwaters Pocock 66-16, who won the supreme exhibit title of the 2017 NSW Dorset Championships, Springwaters 434-19 was also the intermediate performance class winner and Stockscan champion on 68 points. Springwaters also took home reserve senior champion ram with Springwaters 23-19, who is a son of Springwaters 310-14.

Reserve champion intermediate ram went to Hildden 484-19, another son of Hildden 860-17. Max and Coral Douglas and family of Abelene Park Poll Dorsets, Woolomin, received reserve junior champion ram. Junior performance ram went to Hildden 230-19, while senior performance ram went to Springwaters 462-19. The Hildden stud won the group of three rams class and the sire's progeny group with a team of rams by the Hildden 860-17 ram. Springwaters was second in the sire's progeny with their team of Pocock 66-16 progeny. Thurlstone won the group of one ram, two ewes and were second in the group of three rams. Mt Bathurst was second in the group of one ram, two ewes.

The Close family of Closeup Poll Dorsets, Finley, took top honours in the ewe section of the NSW Dorset Championships, with stand-out ewe Closeup 7/19. Described as an extremely



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1. Overall efficacy - GM, species efficacy - AM, Data on file, Zoetis. \* Refer to the Startect Label for further information.  
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## NSW DORSET CHAMPIONSHIPS

well-balanced, smooth structured ewe by judge Brayden Gilmore of Baringa Sheep Studs, Oberon, the ewe was commended for how she paraded herself. She was the class winner of the ewe under 1.5 years shorn, not more than 2cm of wool class, and was one of the two ewes shown by the stud at the Cowra event. By a Graythorn ram out of a Closeup homebred ewe, the lovely soft ewe is no stranger to success previously winning grand champion Poll Dorset ewe at the Royal Canberra Show earlier in the year.

Reserve champion ewe went to Valley Vista 223/20, exhibited by the Scott family of Valley Vista Poll Dorset stud, Coolac. Sired by Valley Vista 59/18 and out of the Valley Vista 206/16 ewe, she was the winner of the ewe lamb dropped after April 1 class. Judge Brayden Gilmore said it was a big call to give a ewe lamb a champion sash, but he found it hard to fault the reserve winner. "Not often do you see a ewe lamb come out and compete but she had the balance, type and femininity I was looking for," Mr Gilmore said.



Reserve junior champion ram exhibited by Marshall Douglas was Abelen Park 188-19, with Hillden 652-19 grand and junior champion ram, exhibited by James Frost.



Reserve intermediate champion ram Hillden 484-19, held by James Frost, with champion Springwaters 434-19 exhibited by Dane Rowley.



Senior champion ram Hillden 110-19, exhibited by James Frost, with judge Brayden Gilmore, Baringa, and with Springwaters in reserve



Champion ewe at the NSW Dorset Championships won by Closeup Poll Dorsets with Closeup 7-19, held by Gordon Close.



Junior and reserve champion ewe at the NSW Dorset Championships was Valley Vista 223-20, exhibited by Sally Scott

## SALE RESULTS

STUD	STUD RAMS: Sold	STUD RAMS: Top	STUD RAMS: Average	FLOCK RAMS: Sold	FLOCK RAMS: Top	FLOCK RAMS: Average
Abel-Rene (Abelene Park)	3/6	\$4500	\$3500			
Abel-Rene (Rene)	8/13	\$5000	\$3400			
Abelene Park				51/51	\$3000	\$2079
Aberdeen	21/21	\$8000	\$3595	94/94		\$1865
Allendale	14/14	\$11,000	\$4785	110/110	\$3000	\$1562
Armdale Park	18/18	\$10,000	\$5116	131/131	\$3000	\$2218
Ashbank				93/93	\$3100	\$1710
Ashburnia				45/45	\$2000	\$1513
Ashcharmoo				33/33	\$2050	\$762
Australasian Dorset Championships	19/47	\$6750	\$3500			
Badgery						\$1110
Bundara Downs				76/115	\$8200	\$1313
Chrome (Icon)				76/76	\$1800	\$1255
Coledale				100/101		\$1748
Curlew Creek				61/80	\$2200	\$915
Deepdene				126/126	\$3000	\$2077
Deloraine Downs				219/219	\$2800	\$1550
Dursley				50/50	\$2300	\$1560
Elite Stud Sheep, Adelaide	2/3	\$19,000	\$18,000			
Fairbank				64/64	\$2400	\$1773
Glen Devon				100/100	\$8000	\$1491
Gooramma	22/22	\$15,500	\$5968	114/114	\$2200	\$1647
Hermes				103/110	\$3000	\$1500
Hildden	19/25	\$18,000	\$5237	150/150	\$4200	\$1882
Hovell				124/124		\$1607
Ilfracombe				92/99	\$2500	\$1150
Jackson				44/44	\$2100	\$1792
Janmac				182/191	\$11,250	\$1860
Jews Harp				120/120	\$5100	\$1810
Kanoona Park				13/13	\$3100	\$2064
Kentish Downs				171/171	\$3800	\$1576
Kurralea				144/144	\$12,000	\$2147
Lambpro				183/183	\$2500	\$1376
Marocara	8/8	5200	3025	132/132	\$3000	\$2004
Moora Hills				72/72	\$1900	\$1237
Morton				122/132	\$3200	\$1465
Mt Bathurst				50/70	\$1750	\$1080
Mulgundawa				158/160	\$4400	\$1790
Mullinger Park				196/199	\$3200	\$1354
Narranmore				100/100	\$3300	\$1608
Netley Park				71/71	\$2400	\$166
Newbold	12/12	\$20,000	\$5367	85/88	\$2600	\$1390
Paxton				88/88	\$2200	\$1620
Pembroke				60/60	\$4100	\$1580
Pepperton				52/52	\$2100	\$1563
Pinora				69/69	\$2100	\$1488
Rene				67/67	\$2800	\$1476
Ridgehaven				138/139	\$3600	\$1646
Rowallan				163/163	\$2800	\$1678
Shirlee Downs / Dongadilling		\$19,200	\$4711	154/180	\$2500	\$1099
Springwaters	13/13	\$16,000	\$5538	186/186	\$3200	\$2189
Tattykeel	20/24	\$24,000	\$8700	110/110	\$2600	\$1811
Ulandi Park	15/15	\$14,000	\$5266	136/136	\$2700	\$1750
Valley Vista				166/166	\$8500	\$1723
Valma	11/11	\$17,200	\$5273	33/33	\$2600	\$1672
Vanita				42/64	\$1900	\$1130
Warburn				56/56	\$3750	\$2005
Warrawindi				159/211	\$3500	\$1329
Windy Hill				61/68	\$1600	\$969
Woolumbool				91/91	\$4800	\$1905
Wrattenbullie	6/6	\$3600	\$2866	116/119	\$2400	\$1612
Wunnamurra	3/3		\$2233	171/171	\$3100	\$1545
Yentrac				36/41	\$2600	\$1162



# Zoetis supports mental health in rural communities

Zoetis has once again hit its yearly target, raising \$100,000 to support the mental health challenges faced by people living in rural Australia. Through its close partnership with Beyond Blue, the grand total has now reached \$500,000 since the joint campaign started in 2016 as Zoetis continues to commit its unwavering support for the charity.

For the fifth year in a row, Zoetis has achieved its \$100,000 goal by donating \$5 from each sale of the company's cattle, sheep, pig, poultry and goat vaccines and drenches. The funds raised have gone directly to the Beyond Blue Support Service to continue supporting people, including those living in remote areas, by providing free advice, counselling and referrals 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To date, thanks to Zoetis's donation, over 10,400 people have been able to get the support they need through the Beyond Blue service.

Zoetis Senior Vice President ANZ, Lance Williams said they understand the devastating effect suicide can have on rural communities. "We see first-hand the farming communities where record breaking droughts, devastating bushfires, serious flooding and now, the global pandemic COVID-19 causes upset and stresses that people living in our cities may find hard to understand. We're incredibly passionate and whole-heartedly committed to supporting hard-working Australians with our donations and supporting our farmers, agricultural stores and veterinarians with the supply of animal health products where needed."

"Although we have reached our target of \$500,000 over five years, our campaign doesn't stop here. We encourage our staff and the wider community to continue to raise awareness of depression, anxiety and suicide prevention and help to reduce the associated stigma."

Beyond Blue CEO Georgie Harman thanked Zoetis for their efforts in supporting this important cause.

"We are honoured to receive such wonderful support from Zoetis each year with all funds raised by Zoetis going towards the Beyond Blue Support Service. In fact, it's very encouraging to see that people in rural and remote communities access the Beyond Blue online forums at a proportionally higher rate than people living in the cities," Ms Harman said.

This year, Beyond Blue has responded to a 30 to 40 per cent increase in demand, which peaked at 60 per cent in May, for its counselling service compared to 2019. "This additional \$100,000 will help to ensure that people across Australia can access support when they need, regardless of where they live. People living in rural and regional areas face a number of challenges which can take a toll on their wellbeing, including disasters, economic change, isolation, and poor access to services," Ms Harman said.

"While it's well known that droughts, floods and financial worries can contribute to distress for farmers, the impact on the wider community in these areas is less well-known. From farmers and their families, to re-sellers and regional businesses, much of the community is impacted as the effects of hard times trickle through the local economy." Up to 33% of Australia has suffered from severe rainfall deficiency over the four years up to

January 2020. Although much needed rainfall was delivered at the beginning of 2020, this was overshadowed by the bushfires that ravaged 18 million hectares of land, destroying more than 2,000 homes. Just as the fires had subsided, severe flooding swept through parts of New South Wales and Queensland, and more recently Australia started its battle with COVID-19, forcing people into their homes and obstructing recovery from previous natural disasters.

Beyond Blue Lead Clinical Adviser Dr Grant Blashki said in any disaster recovery, it is tempting for people to throw themselves into the physical rebuild, but it is just as important that we invest in our mental health too. "We know that coming together physically as a community after a disaster is good for our mental health and wellbeing. At a time when we still need to maintain physical distance, let's make an effort to do that safely and remember we can stay connected in other ways. Make a phone call or use video chat to check in with each other," Dr Blashki said.

The Beyond Blue Support Service offers free contact with trained mental health professionals by phone, webchat or email. In addition to the Support Service, Beyond Blue's online resources can help people turn their lives around. More than 100,000 people use Beyond Blue's online forums every month, tapping into a peer support network offering people connection with others who have been through similar experiences. The forums are monitored by a team of moderators who are trained to offer support to users and ensure conversations are safe and welcoming.

For more information about depression and anxiety, visit [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au). To talk to a mental health professional for free, contact the 24/7 Beyond Blue Support Service on 1300 22 46 36. Free web chat is also available from 3pm until midnight at [beyondblue.org.au/getsupport](http://beyondblue.org.au/getsupport) and you can join the forums for free and download the BeyondNow app from the website. The free Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service is available 24/7 at [coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au](http://coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au). Its dedicated phone line, staffed by mental health professionals trained on the pandemic response, is now open on 1800 512 348.

For more information, please visit [www.zoetis.com.au](http://www.zoetis.com.au)



# Life Membership: Julian Iles

What started as a Tasmanian Junior Farmer project has turned into more than half a decade of breeding, and an Australian Poll Dorset Association Life Membership for Julian Iles.

The principal of Killara Poll Dorsets, Sorell, Tasmania, began breeding Poll Dorsets in 1963, first on his father's farm, then alongside his brothers with wife Del, and then with Del and daughter Ellen.

"When I was about 16 and in Junior Farmers we had to have a project, so I started breeding some Ryelands and then moved to Poll Dorsets - they were going to be the breed of the future," Julian said.

He's still a big believer in the breed, both of the impact they are having now and well into the future, referring to Poll Dorsets as "the top meat sheep breed in Australia"

"Since I have been breeding Poll Dorsets they have changed tremendously - in the future, there will be even more changes. Look back to Poll Dorsets when they started and what they look like now and see the difference in the breed," he said.

Julian believes it is crucial the breed maintains its diverse gene pool to keep the top spot.

"It is important Poll Dorsets have a big enough pool of genetics that they can make any changes within the breed and don't have to bring in other breeds - and risk not even making any improvement with them anyway.

Now running 80 Poll Dorset ewes, Julian said studs are managed differently these days, but the aim of the game hasn't changed.

"When it all boils down to it, it's money really - if you aren't making money don't be in it. We now have a faster growing animal that gives you a bigger return per hectare.

He adds that key traits that have improved are growth rate, type, and ease of lambing.

"Years ago a lot of people almost slept with their sheep because they were short necked and big shouldered, but now that has all changed. One of the other reasons Poll Dorsets are so dominant is they have better skin than a lot of other British breeds - I know skin values aren't worth much at the moment but they have been good. And their wool type is good for products such as doonas because it is springy and doesn't go flat, so that is an advantage for the Poll Dorsets as well."

Increased export has been one of the biggest lamb industry advancements over the years according to Julian, which has meant there is a market for more than one type of sheep.

"There is a market for extra heavy lambs sold overseas - our last lot of lambs last year sold to Australian Lamb Company for \$300. But then there is a market for lighter lamb as well - a market for every type now, light, trade and heavy - which is good. There are also more lambs sold over the hooks than what it was 50 years ago, which is good for the industry. We must continue to breed the type of sheep that produces meat, as eventually we will be paid for animals on yield, and that will be another change in the industry."



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## BREEDER PROFILE

Julian said there's a place for all breeds but Poll Dorsets have plenty of advantages to capitalise on.

"They are early maturing for the sucker market, but can also be held over to the following year and sold as hoggets - and their constitution is hardier than other breeds - when the drought breaks they are often faster than other breeds to respond and still grow on."

Looking back over a lifetime of Poll Dorset breeding achievements, Julian has been a regular champion winner on the show mat - but it is the rams he ended up keeping on that he classifies as real highlights.

"We used to send sheep to Perth to show (and sell) - the agents would look after our sheep over there we didn't go, and one year we had a ram destined for Perth who we called Long John because at that stage he was one of the longest Poll Dorsets in the State. He happened to get a lump on his testicle which meant he stayed at home and it was the best thing that ever happened. He bred on and changed our type from there forward. It might have been a bad decision to intend to sell him in the first place, but luck goes your way and it was to our advantage."

Julian was pivotal in the introduction of the WFI Champion of Champions competition held in 2019 (and to return when shows recommence), which judged the top ribbon winners from across the country against each other at the Australasian Dorset Championships. He says you are never too old to learn, no matter what you are invested in.



Julian Iles with his Australian Poll Dorset Association Life Membership. He says since starting the Killara stud in 1963 he's seen many changes in the style of sheep, but the one constant is the Poll Dorsets' relevance in the lamb industry.

"You've got to be willing to learn as a young breeder, always listen but you've got to make the decision yourself. I've told young breeders that are just starting they have got to make up their mind what type of sheep you want to breed and go for it. You can get advice, but never chase ribbons - just because a sheep has won a championship doesn't mean that is the animal you require - just know what type of sheep you want and what suits your environment."

Julian said he was very surprised and humbled to be honoured with an APDA Life membership, and thanked the Tasmanian branch, the board and all members.

"Being a member of the Poll Dorset association you meet people from all over Australia, and you make friends that you would never do in other activities. Exhibiting at Melbourne, Bendigo, Australasian, those friendships last for life, which is an experience you wouldn't get without having the stud. To join the life membership list, when you look at it, it is a real privilege. The founding breeders certainly got it right with the Poll Dorset breed, and we are indebted to them."



Julian judged the 2018 NSW Dorset Championships at Cowra and below, waiting to enter the sale ring at the Australasian Dorset Championships.





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## 2020 SALE RESULTS

- \* 40/40 ewes sold to \$900 – av \$521 \*
- \* 25 stud rams sold to \$16,000 – av \$6220 \*
- \* 115/125 flock rams sold to \$3400 – av \$1816 \*

### Stud ram purchases include:

- \* \$16,000 – D.Webb, vic
- \* \$8500 & \$5500 – Hovell stud, N.S.W
- \* \$8000 – Brimgower stud, vic
- \* \$7000 & \$3500 – Leween stud, W.A
- \* \$7000 & \$4000 – Tellarup stud, W.A
- \* \$5500 – Illfracombe stud, vic



**Derrynock 171/19 - \$12,000**  
**Sold to L & S Kelly – LSK stud, vic**  
**TCP – 157.3 SF 1.6**



**Derrynock 156/19 - \$10,000**  
**Sold to Ridgehaven & Wrattenbullie studs.**  
**TCP 157.1 SF -0.32 IMF +0.12**

### A big thankyou

**To all who attended and bid at our 2020 sale. And congratulations to everyone who has continued success with Derrynock genetics!**



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# ADVERTISING RATES

## ADVERTISING RATES

(INCLUDES FULL COLOUR) ALL PRICES BELOW ARE GST INCLUSIVE

	Members	Commercial
Back cover	\$751	\$938
Inside front or back cover	\$601	\$751
Double page spread	\$889	\$1112
Centre spread	\$947	\$1184
Full page	\$543	\$679
Half page	\$358	\$448
Quarter page	\$219	\$274
1/8th page	\$162	\$202

## SERVICE FEES

ALL PRICES BELOW ARE GST INCLUSIVE

The following basic typesetting/layout fees will apply where professional artwork is not supplied:

Full page	\$104.50	Up to 4 photographic scans are included in the service fees.
1/2 page	\$82.50	Additional scans are \$5 each.
1/4 page	\$60.50	
1/8 page	\$49.50	

Service fees do not apply where the complete advertising copy layout is supplied as a high resolution CMYK PDF file.

**PLEASE NOTE: Advertisements:** Print ready advertisements must be supplied as a CMYK (not RGB) PDF. Full page advertisements need a 3mm bleed and crop marks.

**Supplied photographs:** When sending photographs electronically for advertising or editorial use, they need to be at least 1MB in file size and high resolution; and attached as a jpeg file.

**Word, Publisher, Powerpoint and other** file formats **cannot** be used for full production but may be supplied as a layout guide - however, photos must be supplied separately.

## ADVERT SPECIFICATIONS

Full page (full bleed)	303mm deep x 216mm wide
Full page bordered	270mm deep x 182mm wide
Double page spread	303mm deep x 426mm wide
Half page (H)	130mm deep x 182mm wide
Half page (V)	270mm deep x 88mm wide
Quarter page (V)	130mm deep x 88mm wide
Quarter page (H)	62mm high x 182mm wide
One Eighth page	62mm high x 88mm wide

## ADVERTISING BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

Patrick Falconer, Unit 1/6 Merino Court, East Bendigo, 3550  
Tel: (03) 5443 9902 Email: marketing@polldorset.org.au

## ADVERTISING COPY & MATERIAL

All advertising and service rates are subject to change.

Issue	Advertising material	Date posted
May	Closes April 14	April 28
September	Closes August 8	August 23
December	Closes November 13	November 27

Advertising bookings required a full week before advertising material closing dates.

## FROM THE READERS

### LAMB ROLLS SUPREME WITH BILLABONG SAUCE

Rolls	Sauce
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>12 Lamb chops</li><li>6 Rashers bacon</li><li>1 egg</li><li>12 Pineapple rings</li><li>Plain flour</li><li>Breadcrumbs</li><li>Cooking Oil</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>100grams mushrooms</li><li>1 cup canned Tomato soup</li><li>¼ cup dry white wine (optional)</li><li>½ cup cream</li><li>1 tablespoon butter</li><li>½ cup finely cup shallots</li><li>1 chicken cube</li><li>Black Pepper</li></ul>

#### Method

Remove bones from chops. Trim and shape each chop into a round. Wrap ½ rasher bacon round each, then secure with small skewer. Dip each into flour, then beaten egg and breadcrumbs. Brush with oil. Place on oven tray and bake about 20 minutes. Serve each lamb roll on a ring of pineapple and garnish with parsley. Serve with green peas, duchess potatoes, glazed carrot straws, and billabong sauce.

#### Sauce Method

Fry sliced mushrooms with crumbled chicken cube in butter about 5 minutes. Add shallots, soup, and wine, if used. Season with black pepper. Simmer 20 minutes. Add cream and serve. Serves six.

(shortcut sauce by using tin mushrooms, soup & cream)

This recipe obtained from the Stock & Land 1/12/1983 and has become a family favourite.





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