THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

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ARMDALE'S Australasian triumph

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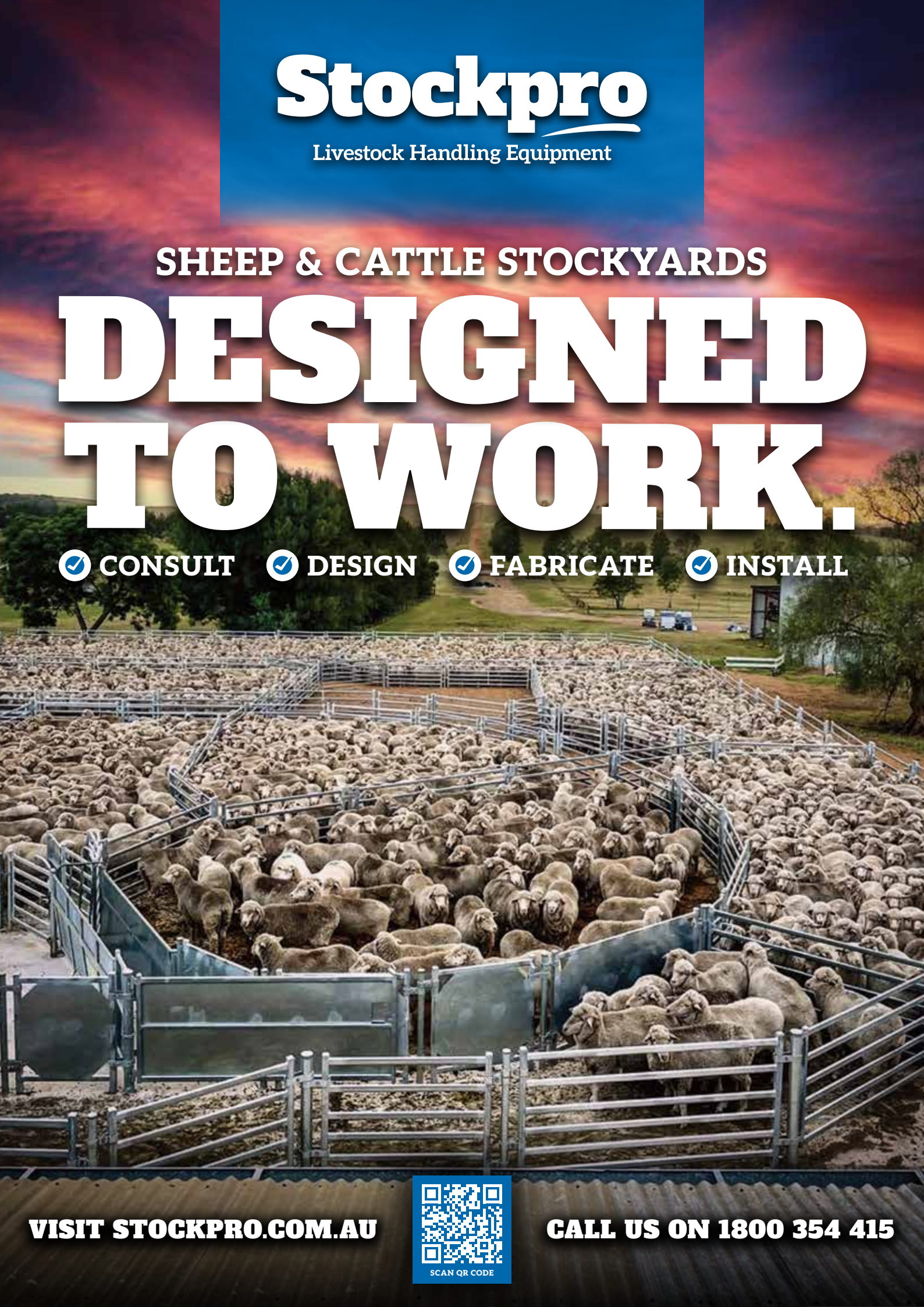
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Poll Dorset breed has a lot to celebrate after a wonderful selling season for our commercial producers.

The lamb industry is in an excellent position and Poll Dorset-sired lambs have been topping saleyard averages week-on-week.

This is especially true for southern Australia, where many producers have been able to turn off a large portion of their drop as suckers, thanks to the early growth and muscling provided by Poll Dorset rams.

This has not happened by accident, but by determined breeding.

It's been tougher in the northern lamb breeding areas, with a short spring, but optimism around the industry gives hope to those who have not been as fortunate with rain.

However, a shrinking sheep population will bring new challenges.

Recently I was part of the 50-year celebration of the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit. Five decades ago, AGBU was just a vision but it is now the world's leading, generating breeding values for livestock across Australia.

The journey has been aided by massive advancements in computing power - changes that have been evaluated and embraced.

It can be easy for producers to miss adapting to the technology, and if AGBU had done this, it would not be able to offer what it does to today's livestock industries, both sheep and cattle.

Genomics has also added to the pace of development. Initially it was pedigrees and now genomics are combined with information collected by breeders which allow rapid advances in genetic progress.

Don't doubt it - the next generation farm managers will be relying on this information for buying decisions and they are the ones who will be future buyers of Poll Dorset genetics.

A caveat - genomics are not a silver bullet but on the other hand, can't be ignored.

Personally, I was first attracted to breeding values to decrease my cost of production, and going back to AGBU, they made me adjust to an ever changing world.

Together, the breed needs to find a way for us all to work together to find ways for our commercial producers to breed prime lambs more efficiently.

That was something I noticed at the Perth Royal Show where I had the honour of judging. It was refreshing to see how the sheep were presented. They were nearly all bare shorn (28 days or less) before the show and dragged into the show ring. They were, without a doubt, commercially relevant and would be sheep that would have a low cost of production, were moderate in size and had slim shoulders. These are the kinds of rams that commercial producers would make money from.

It was also wonderful to see the showing of our breed at the Australasian Show and Sale at Bendigo. Congratulations to all those who exhibited and put their best forward to make this an opportunity to put the spotlight on our breed.

In closing, please consider our commercial sponsors, who give unwavering support, when making purchasing decisions. The stud advertisements are also a very important part of the journal. Thank you to those breeders who have advertised to support this journal.

May the coming year bring strong ram sales and further progress for our wonderful breed as we grow market share in the vibrant prime lamb industry.

George Carter

PRESIDENT

THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET JOURNAL

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Our cover: Holly Rowlands, from WFI with winners of the champion of champion ram, Maddie and Sam Armstrong, Armdale, Marrar, NSW, at the Australasian Show and Sale at Bendigo, Victoria

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ACROSS THE PENS



As we head towards Christmas, I have been reflecting on the past 12 months and how much I have appreciated being part of the Poll Dorset community. What stands out for me is the willingness of people to give their time, share their knowledge and support one another.

A special thank you goes to all our volunteers for their contributions over the past 12 months. Much of this work takes place quietly, alongside the demands of running a farm or a stud. Whether you have helped organise an event, volunteered at a show or made time to assist another member, your efforts are noticed and greatly appreciated.

There have also been some wonderful achievements to celebrate, including the breed's interbreed win at the Australian Sheep & Wool Show and record sales at the Australasian Championships. It was a pleasure to meet and catch up with so many of you at the championships in September. On-property sales also seem to be recording some very strong prices, which is encouraging to see. These successes give us plenty to be proud of as a breed.

To all members who have exhibited at shows or held ram sales this year, I acknowledge the time and care you put into presenting your sheep and promoting the breed. The preparation involved is considerable, and I hope the season has been rewarding for you all.

I would like to thank the Board for their time and support throughout the year, and Keryn and Stephenie for their work in the office. Their assistance with member enquiries and the day-to-day running of the association is greatly appreciated.

As Breed Secretariats Manager, Keryn looks after our all-important database and flock book, among her many other responsibilities. Stephenie's sales and marketing role includes coordinating advertising for the journal, managing our social media and overseeing the national and regional advertising levies.

My thanks also go to Fiona and Sam for their work behind the scenes on the journal, which gives us an opportunity to celebrate the people and stories behind the sheep.

A friendly reminder to send in DNA samples early for rams sold to other breeders, to help streamline the flock book process.

While the work on the farm does not stop for Christmas, I hope you can enjoy some time with family and friends over the festive season. Thank you again for your support throughout 2026. I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Wishing all our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and rewarding 2027.

Sue Opie

CEO & SECRETARY

SEPTEMBER BOARD MINUTES

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Poll Dorset Association was held Sunday Septemner 13, 2026, at 9.00am at Prince of Wales Showgrounds during the Australasian Dorset Championships. The September Board Meeting was held at Sheep House later the same day.

Please find below an edited summary of the meetings

Election of Office Bearers for 2026/2027

- President – George Carter
- Vice President - Dan Roe
- Treasurer – Liz Mann
- Promotions Chair – Will Milroy
- Admin & Planning Chair – Dan Roe
- Flock Book Chair – Tania King
- Flock Book Committee Members - Damon Coates, James Frost, Dan Roe

Finance Report

George Carter presented in Liz Mann's absence and the treasurer's report and financial atatements were presented as contained in the Annual Report. The Association recorded a loss of $12,507 for the year ending 30 April 2026. Increased database management and hosting costs, together with investment in the new website, were noted as contributing factors. Board expenses were higher due to the conference.

The conference was reported at the meeting as having recorded an approximately $2,000 profit, with revenue received after the close of the financial year.

A motion was carried to appoint AFS and Associates to perform an annual accountant review as required by legislation.

Industry Event Support 2027

ICMJ Sponsorship – Live Sheep workshops

General Business

Brad Davies opened discussion of regional promotion with social media. Regions require assistance with managing their social media presence. Guideline recommendations to be discussed by the board.

Flock Registration Report

The following new studs were approved at the meeting:

- James & Dillon Dawson, Cavendish, VIC - "Kookaburra Park";
- Piper, Harry & Isabel Fairclough, York, WA - "Rockdale";
- Jim White, Suntop, NSW - "Suntop";
- Peter & Jasmine Armstrong, Taralga, NSW - "Braeside";
- The Scots PGC College, Warwick, QLD. - "Scots PGC";
- and the renewal of lapsed membership :
- Anthony & Marg Killalea, Wantagong, NSW – "Killandayle".

TREASURER'S REPORT

Firstly I would like to thank our Chair, George Carter for presenting the Treasurer's Report at the AGM on my behalf at very short notice as I was unable to attend due to illness.



With the retirement of our bookkeeper Kaelene at the end of September 2026, the board has now appointed Erin Sullivan of "The Numbers Bureau" as the new bookkeeper of APDA. Erin is also currently working with the ASBA and has been streamlining their accounts. We welcome her onboard with the APDA and look forward to working with her to improve our account reporting.

Regional and State Secretaries

Please once again remember that applications for major and regional advertising will need to be submitted prior to the end of February 2027 to be considered at the following board meeting in early March 2027. To be eligible for this funding though regions must also submit meeting minutes and financials. If these are not received prior to the end of February then there is no obligation to approve any funding requests.

Liz Mann

TREASURER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEB 19 - 21	Royal Canberra Show
MAR 5 - 6	Wagin Woolorama
MAR 10 - 11	Sheep Genetics Leading Breeder Conference, Wagga Wagga
MAR 19 - 30	Sydney Royal Show
MAY 7 - 9	NSW State Sheep Show Dubbo
TBC	NSW Dorset Championships
JUNE 20	Victorian Sheep Show Ballarat
JULY 16 - 18	The Australian Sheep and Wool Show
AUG 1 - 2	Hamilton Sheepvention
AUG 7 - 15	Ekka Royal Queensland Show
SEPT 4 - 12	Royal Adelaide Show
SEPT 10 - 12	Australasian Dorset Championships
SEPT 23 - OCT 3	Royal Melbourne Show
SEPT 25 - OCT 2	Royal Perth Show
OCT 20 - 23	Royal Hobart Show

PROMOTIONS REPORT

As my first report as Promotions Officer, I would like to acknowledge and thank Brittney Bolt and Sue Opie for their efforts over the past 12 months. Their work on the redevelopment of the Poll Dorset website has provided members and commercial producers with a modern, informative platform that effectively showcases our breed and provides easy access to relevant, up-to-date information.

Members are encouraged to contact myself or any member of the Promotions Committee with ideas, suggestions, or feedback, all of which are greatly appreciated. Your input plays an important role in ensuring our promotional activities continue to meet the needs of both members and the wider industry.

The Promotions Committee is currently working on a strategic social media and marketing campaign, and we welcome the submission of photos and videos. Please forward these to Stephanie Rigney or myself for consideration in future promotional content.

The Australian prime lamb industry continues to show positive signs, with renewed confidence, particularly within the commercial sector. This confidence has been reflected in strong Poll Dorset ram demand and encouraging sale averages across the country. It is important that we continue to build on this momentum and ensure the Poll Dorset breed remains at the forefront of industry promotion. I encourage all regions to take advantage of the Regional Promotion Grants and invest in initiatives that promote Poll Dorsets within their local areas.

Finally, I would like to thank Fiona Myers for her work on this edition of the Poll Dorset Journal. I look forward to working with members, breeders, and industry stakeholders to continue promoting our breed and to a successful and productive 2027.

Kind regards,

Will Milroy

CHAIR, PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE



Ellen Musckee, Sorrell, Tasmania, with Marshall Douglas from Abelene Park at Tamworth, NSW, and Will Milroy, Rangeview Poll Dorset stud, Pipers River, Tasmania.



Flock ram sales

Record prime lamb prices which have held all year have been reinvested by producers in Poll Dorset genetics, with flock ram averages up across the nation.

A strong season in many areas, combined with burgeoning export demand and excellent lamb prices, have flowed through to ram sales, with some averages up by $800.

Angus Kelly and family from Marocara Poll Dorset stud at Wongarbon, NSW, sold 180 rams for a $3192 average to post one of the best sales for the spring, and the highest ever average result the enterprise has achieved, with a top price of $5500.

He said they were blown away by the competition and loyalty of commercial clients who competed strongly to buy rams.

Mr Kelly said buyers were chasing rams with strong Australian Sheep Breeding Values for growth, and particularly post weaning weight numbers, but were not prepared to compromise on structure.

"It seems that the buyers go along and look at the rams and pick the ones they want and then check for the figures," he said.

"But we've had figures on our rams for 30 years and it does make a difference to our clients to have good data."

Mr Kelly said the stud had a loyal commercial client base, which was welcome given that there were other breeds competing for market share.

"What we produce as Poll Dorset breeders needs to be right for our producers to be profitable," he said.

Garry Armstrong from Armdale Park at Marrar, NSW, sold 132 flock rams at auction for an average of $2541 and said the spill over from a strong lamb industry was starting to be seen in flock ram sales.

"You can see that the producers who get a premium for their prime lambs are buying the top end sheep and the rams in the top third of the catalogue," Mr Armsrong said.

"There seems to be a greater willingness to spend on flock rams and what makes our clients profitable is what keeps them in the lamb industry."



Mallee Park ram sale.

Victoria's Tim Ferguson runs the Mallee Park stud near Hopetoun and sold 93 rams at auction for an average of $1726 and said buyers were chasing Australian Sheep Breeding Value figures for post weaning weight and fat cover.

"Our clients come to us because they like the stretch and cleaner points of our rams and if those rams that fitted that type also had really good ASBVs, the buyers would zero in on them," Mr Ferguson said.

"If the ram was not so much to that type, then they were not as interested in them even if they came with good figures."

Mr Ferguson said figures did not need to be breed leading to create interest, but needed to be above average for buyers to step up.

There was also extra demand from clients who were stepping up the size of their flock and were requiring more rams, based on the profitability of the enterprise.

And while lamb producers were reaping the regards of high prices and these were flowing on to results at ram sales, Mr Ferguson said Poll Dorset breeders could not rest on their laurels.

"We need to be careful that we just don't keep saying we are the number one terminal sire breed and not keep working at being this," he said.

"There are other breeds and alternatives that will take market share if we drop the ball and if we are not careful, we will lose share."

The Bruan Poll Dorset stud at Condah, Victoria, is run by the Gordon family and sold 148 rams for a $2514 average at their on-property sale.

David Gordon said he was expecting a lift in his average from the previous year, but not the $800 rise that the sale produced.

“This was our best sale by far,” Mr Gordon said.

“Our clients, of which 90 per cent have prime lambs as their primary enterprise, understand their production systems and are looking for sheep (rams) that suit that system.”

This year’s sale garnered a few new clients, which Mr Gordon said put a floor in the market.

Buyers were chasing rams with figures for growth and muscle, but there was also a group that was bidding on rams with low birth weight figures to join to ewe lambs or Merinos.

“These buyers were prepared to accept slightly lower growth to get this lower birthweight,” he said.

“But there were others chasing the higher growth and muscle, and they are the ones who are trying to target the sucker market and looking for the extra productivity.”

Mr Gordon said the positivity around the prime lamb market had undoubtedly added impetus to bidding, with a shortage of prime lambs and the strength of export demand.

“Lamb has been quite the story and it’s given a lot of encouragement to producers and it’s an interesting time to be in lamb production,” he said.

Mr Gordon said the depth of the catalogue and consistency meant prices held on throughout the offering, and a total clearance was achieved.

“We could probably have sold a few more rams,” he said.

“But if a buyer missed out on one ram, the depth of the catalogue meant they had another and another they could try to buy.”

In South Australia, the Allendale Poll Dorset stud at Bordertown sold 98 rams for a $2314 average and principal Alastair Day said it was rewarding to see that producers were prepared to spend to secure the right genetics.

“I think producers are understanding that if they invest in better genetics, it only costs a little more in the long run when you spread that cost out over the number of lambs the ram sires, but can boost the quality of lambs you produce, which makes you more money,” Mr Day said.

“It costs as much to raise a poor quality lamb as it does a better quality lamb, so why not try to breed the best quality you can.”

The total clearance of rams, plus an average that was up $600, was reward for the rams they put up for sale, Mr Day said.

Buyers were chasing rams with growth and muscle, but also, at times, lower birthweights, to use over maiden ewes.

“It’s hard to tell why the buyers choose the rams they do, and some will pick the biggest one in the pen of three, and then another buyer will pick the one with the best figures from the same pen,” he said.

Mr Day said the lift in prime lamb rates, and the flow on effect to ram values was good for everyone.

“Producers are being rewarded for their lambs and then spending money on rams, and that gives us confidence to reinvest as hard as we can in genetics ourselves,” he said.

Full ram sale results are detailed on pages 30 to 31.



Marocara ram sale.

A processor's perspective of the lamb industry

The Poll Dorest Journal sat down with Jack Thomas, the southern livestock manager for Thomas Foods International, to ask his views about the lamb industry. This is what he had to say.

How do you see the outlook for Australian lamb? Where will the industry be in five and 10 years' time?

We believe Australia is very well placed to supply the world with lamb. Flocks in competing countries are shrinking much faster than ours. Australia now looks set to rebuild modestly while those countries keep declining. That leaves us in a strong position to keep supplying markets our competitors are finding harder to serve.

What does the industry need to do, as prime lamb breeders and through prime lamb genetics, to make sure this happens?

There are two key factors. The first is consistently meeting market specifications for quality and carcass attributes, which Australia already does very well. The second is reliable year-round supply, so that production keeps pace with demand.

Can you detail the development of the Mt Shank brand: why you pursued it, where it's headed, and what it shows about quality and demand for graded lamb?

The brand has been in development for about two years. We're not the first to market with a technology-backed marbled lamb brand. Our goal is to be the first to deliver one at scale and to establish it as a recognised name in the global market. The aim is to capture more value for premium carcasses so we can pass that back to producers.

What's the process for grading the lamb, and how do you give producers feedback so they're hitting the mark?

As hook-tracking technology is rolled out across our plants, we'll be able to give producers feedback on each carcass. That will cover carcass weight, fat, intramuscular fat (marbling), defects and other measures.

How does this elite lamb fit within the broader TFI business? Do you want to move more of your production into it?

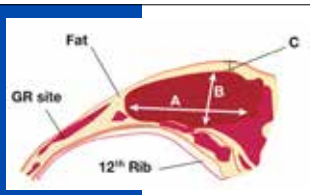
As the brand develops, our ambition is to grow it as far as we can. Ultimately, the market will decide how much volume it wants and what it's willing to pay.

Why should prime lamb breeders be excited about the future of lamb, and where do you see lamb expanding its reach?

The biggest reason for optimism is the overall shape of the industry. There's a global shortage of red meat, and Australia is well placed to meet that demand. The main challenges are global trade conditions and geopolitical tensions.



Jack Thomas, Thomas Foods International.



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What the world's chefs want from lamb

Twenty-three global chefs traded aprons for boots in Western Australia this spring to gain a firsthand look at the people, operations and practices behind the Australian lamb industry.

The visit was part of Meat and Livestock Australia's Lambassador program, which connects influential food professionals with the producers, processors and practices behind Australian lamb.

Over two days, the Lambassadors visited saleyards, farms and the processing facility of WAMMCO, a Western Australian farmer-owned co-operative that produces, processes and markets premium lamb.

Held in Katanning on October 15, the visit culminated at WAMMCO's annual general meeting where the Lambassadors joined local producers and put their culinary skills to work in a live cooking challenge judged by WAMMCO members.

The dishes drew on Thai, Korean, Chinese and Western influences to showcase the versatility of Australian lamb and its place on menus around the world.

WAMMCO marketing manager Damien Giumelli said the visit showcased the value of connecting producers directly with the people who influence consumer purchasing decisions.

"What a wonderful opportunity to have such creative and connected people here in Western Australia," Mr Giumelli said.

"To be able to give the Lambassadors an experience in Western Australia, to educate them on how lamb is produced, the provenance, the story behind it, which then they can take back to their customers."

The connection between paddock and plate was a recurring theme throughout the AGM, with discussions among members focused on market conditions, processing capacity and future growth opportunities.

The presence of international chefs, however, offered producers a rare glimpse into what matters most at the consumer end of the supply chain.

WAMMCO chief executive officer Coll MacRury said the industry remained focused on positioning Australian lamb as a premium product.

"Our markets want healthy protein; high-quality lamb, grass-fed, antibiotic-free, that's going to be the premium," Mr MacRury said.

That message resonated strongly with the visiting chefs, many of whom were seeing Australian lamb production up close for the first time.

Among them was Thailand's Chef May, who teamed up with fellow Lambassadors from Korea, China and the United States to create a fusion dish featuring grilled lamb loin with tamarind glaze, kimchi and complementary side dishes.

Rather than treating lamb as a traditionally Western ingredient, Chef May said Australian lamb lent itself naturally to a range of cuisines.

"It doesn't mean that we need to cook Western style only," she said.

"We can combine good quality imported Australian lamb with a Thai dish."

Just as impactful as the cooking was the opportunity to understand how the product is produced.

"The picture I saw yesterday is totally different from what I was imagining – it's clean and professional," Chef May said.

After touring the processing facility and seeing the care taken throughout the supply chain, she said it was easy to understand why Australian lamb had earned its reputation for quality.

For Western Australian producer, Geoff Bilney, the exchange offered a rare opportunity to hear directly from chefs using their product around the world.

Mr Bilney's business was recognised during the AGM for supplying one million lambs to WAMMCO since 2014, but he was equally interested in the conversations taking place between producers and chefs.

"I don't think the farmers understood what was important to the chefs," Mr Bilney said.

"The animal welfare, all the stuff that's important to those people, that's just standard practice for farmers."

As chefs shared what consumers are increasingly asking about, producers gained fresh insight into how their everyday practices contribute to Australia's reputation in premium markets.

"I think they're all quite proud at the end of it, realising that what they're actually doing is greatly appreciated around the world," Mr Bilney said.

That pride was evident throughout the afternoon as producers sampled dishes created by the Lambassadors and discussed market trends with WAMMCO representatives.

Despite ongoing global market challenges, the co-operative continued to see strong opportunities across North America, China and other premium export destinations.

According to Damien, maintaining diverse market access remained one of WAMMCO's greatest strengths and allowed the business to maximise value across the entire carcass.

For many in attendance, the day's biggest takeaway wasn't commercial. It was the reminder that every cut of lamb carries a story.

By bringing producers, processors and chefs together in Katanning, the program not only strengthened connections across the supply chain, but brought Australian lamb producers closer to those serving their product in kitchens around the globe.

Article and photo courtesy of MLA.



2026 Bowan Park research results

Bowan Park Poll Dorset stud research flock is open to all members of the Australan Poll Dorset Association and provides them with the opportunity to assess their flock genetics and benchmark them within the Poll Dorset breed.

The purpose of the progeny trial is to compare the performance of one sire to another in the same cohort of lambs. The lambs are all bred and grown together on the same farm, giving a unique situation where stud stock can be compared from birth through to slaughter.

The 2026 cohort is made up of 341 AI lambs, plus 139 naturally-mated backup lambs, all born within a 30-day period (1/5/26 – 31/5/26).

Sixteen sires were included in the trial. Sire selections were made with criteria that ranged from high performers, show champions and pedigrees of untested genetics. One sire is included as year- on-year link ram (Ridgehaven 190083 – with lambs in previous cohorts), which enables comparison across cohort years.

On Farm Performance

Growth of the lambs in measured at regular intervals to show actual weight gain at different stages of maturity.

Heaviest lamb at:

- 4 weeks – 24.4kg
- 10 weeks – 46.7kg
- 14 weeks – 58.0kg
- 17 weeks – 64.5kg

Open Day

The drop of lambs was made available for viewing August 28, on property at Cudal, NSW. This provided an opportunity for the sires' contributors and the general public to visually appraise the lambs in their sire groups.

Chris Marr from Gererdan Poll Dorsets at Gooloogong, NSW, attended the open day, and not for the first time, and said seeing the progeny of a range of sires was valuable.

"What we are trying to do in the long run is produce a range of sires that produce more profit for our ram clients, so looking for weight for age and growth," Mr Marr said.

"It's amazing to see the huge difference in the drop of lambs and you can't look at the outliers and you need to look down the middle.

"I'm there to look at the type of lambs the sire produces and while it's all very well to have flash data, you need to see the kinds of lambs a sire produces in that they are functional, with good structure and the ability to follow their mothers along and see if there are any structural faults.

"If lambs are not profitable for your clients, then that's not something we want."

Carcass Testing

A selection of lambs was sent to Gundagai Meat Processors on September, where carcass data was collected by UNE Meat Science. Results are outlined below.

Sire ID	Row Labels	# lambs	Rear Multiple	Birth Weight (KG)	4week Weight (kg)	10week Weight (kg)	14week Weight (kg)	17week Weight (kg)	17week EMD (mm)	17week EM Fat (mm)	19week Weight (kg)	Total Daily Weight Gain (g/day)
1	RIDGEHAVEN-250041	14	1.5	5.1	16.0	28.8	36.7	43.3	32.8	4.3	47.0	305
2	DERRYNOCK-240222	30	1.7	4.9	17.0	31.7	40.2	47.6	34.1	3.9	51.7	342
3	RIDGEHAVEN-250199	20	1.7	4.8	16.2	32.8	41.9	49.2	32.8	4.2	53.2	354
4	ILFRACOMBE-240044	21	1.6	4.3	15.1	30.2	39.1	45.9	32.5	4.2	49.6	333
5	ULANDI PARK-240020	26	1.8	4.6	14.3	29.3	38.2	45.2	31.1	3.6	49.1	331
6	WRATTENBULLIE-240003	22	1.6	5.3	17.2	32.3	41.1	48.7	33.3	3.6	52.8	351
7	LINTON-230634	23	1.6	4.5	15.3	30.3	38.9	45.6	30.9	3.8	49.2	330
8	GOORAMMA-240131	25	1.4	4.7	15.2	29.5	37.9	45.4	31.4	4.5	49.5	330
9	ARMDALE PARK-240182	8	1.2	4.8	17.4	34.6	43.7	51.0	34.0	5.4	55.1	375
10	IVADENE-220031	16	1.3	5.0	16.0	32.0	40.6	47.4	33.7	4.3	51.1	339
11	HILLDEN-240727	27	1.5	4.7	16.3	31.6	40.4	48.3	32.4	4.1	52.7	351
12	ABELENE PARK-240111	19	1.8	4.6	14.8	28.7	37.7	42.7	31.5	3.9	46.4	306
13	RANGEVIEW-240066	18	1.4	5.0	17.5	32.4	40.3	47.2	32.0	3.9	51.0	338
14	SUNNYBANKS-240126	25	1.4	5.1	15.7	31.6	39.7	46.8	31.8	4.9	50.7	337
15	KENTISH DOWNS-250071	22	1.8	4.8	14.5	30.5	39.5	46.7	32.8	4.0	50.7	340
LINK 16	RIDGEHAVEN-190083	18	1.7	4.7	14.8	29.5	37.2	43.8	32.1	3.4	47.4	316
	Average	**334**	**1.7**	**4.8**	**15.8**	**30.9**	**39.5**	**46.2**	**32.5**	**4.1**	**50.4**	**336**

TABLE 1 – Summary of On-Farm Performance, reported as averages per sire.

BOWAN PARK UPDATE

Sire ID	Row Labels	# lambs	Empty Pre-Slaughter Weight (kg)	Carcase Weight (kg)	Carcase Dressing (%)	Carcase EM Fat (mm)	Carcase EM Area (cm2)	Intra Muscular Fat (%)	Shear Force (N)	Lean Meat Yield (%)
1	RIDGEHAVEN-250041	9	48.8	26.0	53.1	5.1	16.7	3.7	47.7	63.5
2	DERRYNOCK-240222	17	52.9	28.7	54.2	5.3	19.5	3.7	40.4	62.7
3	RIDGEHAVEN-250199	13	53.2	28.4	53.1	4.9	17.3	4.6	39.6	62.2
4	ILFRACOMBE-240044	12	50.6	27.8	53.9	5.1	17.1	4.8	34.9	62.3
5	ULANDI PARK-240020	12	51.3	26.8	52.0	4.8	17.6	3.4	45.6	64.6
6	WRATTENBULLIE-240003	13	54.0	29.1	53.6	4.7	18.9	4.3	39.9	62.9
7	LINTON-230634	13	50.2	26.6	52.3	5.6	17.3	4.6	29.8	62.7
8	GOORAMMA-240131	14	52.3	27.5	52.6	6.7	16.7	5.1	32.6	61.2
9	ARMDALE PARK-240182	8	52.5	28.3	53.8	7.1	17.1	3.8	30.6	61.5
10	IVADENE-220031	12	49.7	27.4	54.5	5.3	18.7	4.7	37.9	63.2
11	HILLDEN-240727	14	55.4	29.4	53.0	5.0	17.1	4.1	43.1	63.1
12	ABELENE PARK-240111	11	49.7	27.5	54.3	4.8	17.5	4.2	32.6	63.7
13	RANGEVIEW-240066	12	51.5	27.9	53.4	5.9	18.3	4.3	38.6	62.2
14	SUNNYBANKS-240126	13	51.4	28.2	54.0	6.6	16.9	4.4	40.2	62.1
15	KENTISH DOWNS-250071	12	52.3	28.8	53.9	5.9	18.8	3.9	36.2	62.5
LINK 16	RIDGEHAVEN-190083	10	49.4	26.7	52.6	5.5	17.3	3.8	46.2	63.7
	Average	**195**	**51.7**	**27.9**	**53.4**	**5.5**	**17.7**	**4.2**	**38.4**	**62.7**

TABLE 2 – Summary of Carcass Performance, reported as averages per sire.

Age of lambs at kill date: 130 – 142 days (Average 19 weeks)

- Heaviest carcase – 38.8kg (HSCW)
- Biggest dressing yield - 58.3 per cent
- Biggest EMA – 24.96 cm2 (EMD 48mm, EMW 65mm)
- Highest IMF – 8.07 per cent.

The sire contributors were also invited to inspect the lambs on the hook.

Garry Armstrong from Armdale Park at Marrar, NSW, was one of those who looked at the carcasses at GMP as well as attending the field day to see the lambs live and said there was lots to learn by looking at the cohorts.

“What I did notice was that in a lot of cases, the carcasses we saw in the abattoirs matched the lambs we saw when they were on display before being processed,” Mr Armstrong said.

“I saw three groups of lambs that were behind the rest and two that were pretty good.”

While not entering a ram in the trial, Mr Armstrong said buyers of his rams had entered them and he was pleased to see the way they had performed.

“What I saw from the progeny of one of the rams we had bred was a tight group of lambs in terms of carcasses and that’s backed up by their growth rates,” he said.

“That’s what it’s about for the industry, to be able to breed big lines of lambs that match up.”

The final report on the performance of lambs and carcasses will be available early December at www.bowanpark.com.au





Combined LAMBLAN - tips for joining

Make every mating count: everything Poll Dorset breeders need to know about the new Combined LAMBPLAN analysis before making joining decisions

Now is the time to re-benchmark your flock, plan matings against your breeding objective and set up your reproduction recording schedule before the rams go in. If you're not yet up to date with the Combined LAMBPLAN analysis, now is the time to understand the enhancements and benchmark your flock before making mating decisions.

Combined LAMBPLAN brings Terminal and Maternal genetics into one analysis. Practical advantages for Poll Dorset breeders include:

- a more accurate analysis
- greater across-breed comparison of genetic merit
- improved data management and analysis efficiency
- a stronger platform for developing new commercial tools

If you have not already done so, review the Combined LAMBPLAN analysis enhancements online. The enhancements cover changes including contemporary grouping, model improvements and the use of genomic information, and will help you understand how to interpret current results.

From early 2027, the Combined LAMBPLAN analysis will be run fortnightly, and the Terminal evaluation will run monthly until it's decommissioned

Please scan to review Combined LAMBPLAN enhancements

New visual traits for Combined LAMBPLAN

Research breeding values are available for dag score, breech cover, shedding, birth coat, tail length, face cover and horn status. Where relevant, use current protocols and record the whole contemporary group. If you're interested in finding out more information on how to score and record these traits to get breeding values, please scan above QR code.

Re-benchmark with Combined LAMBPLAN before making joining decisions

Before making joining decisions, re-benchmark sires, sale purchases and the ewe flock using current Combined LAMBPLAN breeding values and percentile bands.

Important: Current Combined LAMBPLAN breeding values should not be directly compared with previous Terminal or Maternal ASBVs. Use current results and percentile bands when assessing animals.

Use Combined LAMBPLAN results to:

- Select sires and dams to join based on your breeding objective
- Class replacement ewes
- Support culling decisions
- Plan mating allocations that manage risk and drive progress

Using Combined LAMBPLAN in MateSel

You can now use your Combined LAMBPLAN breeding values in MateSel to support mating allocations, culling decisions, and purchasing decisions. Use it alongside your breeding objective as well as classing on structure, type and confirmation.

For more information on MateSel or to sign up for training please scan

Joining checklist

1. Confirm your breeding objective: traits to improve or maintain
2. Re-benchmark: review sires, purchases and ewes using current Terminal percentile bands and benchmark to the equivalent percentile band in Combined LAMBPLAN
3. Set priorities: identify strengths and weaknesses from trends and classing
4. Plan matings: use breeding values, indexes and MateSel in conjunction with structure and confirmation assessment
5. Prepare records: set up joining and reproduction records before rams go in

Start recording—and submit the results

Reproduction recording has not been consistently completed or submitted across Poll Dorset flocks. This joining is an opportunity to improve coverage by planning the records before the rams go in and submitting outcomes through the full breeding cycle.

Do not record only the successes. Submit the whole contemporary group, including ewes that didn't conceive as well as lambs that did and did not successfully survive through to weaning.

Start with these records

- Pre-joining: record adult ewe weight and condition score within 30 days of joining or on joining day
- Joining: sire and dam, mating allocation, joining details, management information
- Scanning: pregnancy scan outcomes (including ewes that did not conceive)

Lambing to weaning: birth and rear types, and dead at birth lambs

Record as events occur, check the whole group is complete, then submit the data. Weaning Rate incorporates conception, litter size and ewe rearing ability, so every stage matters.

Make the next joining count

Before joining, re-benchmark to identify your target breeding values in Combined LAMBPLAN, plan matings against your breeding objective, use MateSel to help inform mating decisions, and establish complete reproduction recording.

GLENORE
POLL DORSET STUD



We at Glenore would like to thank all our clients for their support throughout 2026 and wish you the best of luck for the season ahead. We hope you have a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year!

The Cain Family

RAMS SOLD

84 / 98

Top price: $3,400

Average: $1,642

STUD EWES SOLD

6 / 12

Top price: $1,500

Average: $883

Top price ram Glenore 202-25 (pictured), purchased by long-time clients, the Nicholls family.

Peter, Gillian & Charlotte Cain 'Glenore'

582 Carisbrook-Eddington Road, Carisbrook, Victoria, 3464

0407 843 711 | petergillcain@bigpond.com

Young gun gives stud new boost

She may act like a seasoned performer but Charlotte Hiscock from Brurob stud at Kilmore is just 16 years old.

She's one of a host of younger breeders stepping up to play an active role in Poll Dorset breeding and showing, including at the Australasian Show and Sale at Bendigo in September.

Charlotte is a fifth generation farmer, and has taken an active interest in breeding and showing Poll Dorets from the family's stud in the past few years.

"The stud was started by pop and his brother, and the name came from a combination of their two names - Bruce and Rob," Charlotte said.

"My dad used to show and then he stopped but I wanted to have a go at it so we started about three or four years ago to get back into the showing scene."

It was a big call to make at 12, but Charlotte said her love of standing her family's sheep up against other breeders has grown and grown.

"I just like doing it (showing) and loved it ever since we started again," she said.

"It is fun as you get to know everyone, you can go and talk to everyone and you are always learning new things."

Brurob joins between 200-300 stud Poll Dorset ewes each year and holds an annual sale. They also use their own genetics across their commercial flock of several thousand first cross ewes for prime lamb production.

"I love Poll Dorsets because they have a broad body, they stand nice, they have that great back end and plenty of meat which makes them great as a prime lamb sire," she said.

The Brurob flock has Australian Sheep Breeding Values, another aspect that Charlotte looks at carefully.

"It is exciting to learn about ASBVs but phenotype and genetics are really important too," she said.

The Year 11 student is bringing a fresh set of eyes and the enthusiasm of the next generation to the stud, with the full support of her family who watch proudly from the stands as she exhibits their Poll Dorset sheep.

She's not sure what she will do after school, but knows that Poll Dorsets will still be part of her life.

"I will keep showing sheep and want to keep striving to breed better and better sheep so we can be up there and win the big prizes," she said.



Charlotte Hiscock from Brurob Poll Dorset stud at Kilmore, Victoria, at the Australasian Show at Bendigo, Victoria.



Charlotte Hiscock from Brurob Poll Dorset stud at Kilmore, Victoria, at the Australasian Show at Bendigo, Victoria.

The total conformation and performance package

DERRYNOCK
POLL DORSETS
Flock 1143 Est. 1966

2026 Sale Results

* 20 stud rams sold to $19,000 – av $7010 *
* 120/130 flock rams – av $2222 *
* 32/32 ewes sold to $1550 – av $903 *

Stud ram purchases include:

* $12,000 – Uondo - vic
* $10,000 – Camborn stud, NSW.
* $9000 – Ridgehaven stud, N.S.W.
* $8000 – Saber stud, N.S.W.
* $7000 – Ulandi Park stud, S.A.



Derrynock 108/25 - $19,000
Sold to Kobyboyn, VIC



Derrynock 165/25 - $12,000
Sold to Iona Stud, VIC

A big thank you to all who attended and bid at our 2026 sale. And congratulations to everyone who has continued success with Derrynock genetics!

Special thanks to Kobyboyn Pastoral for their purchase of our CHARITY lot. $3800 supporting - Margaret House Refuge!

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COMMERCIAL FOCUS - COMMERCIAL RESULTS

James Frost, Hillden, Bannister

How long have you been on the board and why did you join?

I joined the Board in 2016 so this will be my tenth year on the Board. Having bred Poll Dorsets with my family for my entire life, the breed has always been a significant part of my life. Growing up involved in the stud, I developed a deep appreciation for the people, genetics, and opportunities that the Poll Dorset industry provides. Joining the Australian Poll Dorset Association Board was a way for me to give back to a breed and community that has given so much to our family over the years.

I am passionate about helping ensure the long-term success and sustainability of the Poll Dorset breed. Serving on the Board provides an opportunity to contribute to the future direction of the Association, support fellow breeders, and help promote the value of Poll Dorsets within the Australian sheep industry. I believe it is important that experienced breeders and the next generation work together to build on the strong foundations of the breed and continue driving progress for the benefit of all members.

Where do you see the future of the Poll Dorset breed and how does it fit with the modern prime lamb industry?

I see a very strong future for the Poll Dorset breed. The modern prime lamb industry is increasingly focused on producing lambs that are efficient, profitable, and deliver a consistent, high-quality product to consumers, and Poll Dorsets are ideally positioned to meet those requirements.

The breed has long been recognised for its ability to add growth, muscling, and carcase yield, traits that remain highly valuable to commercial producers.

Looking ahead, I see Poll Dorsets continuing to play a leading role as a terminal sire breed, helping producers achieve better productivity and profitability while meeting market specifications. The breed's adaptability across a wide range of environments and production systems is a significant advantage, particularly as producers face changing seasonal and economic conditions.

By continuing to focus on sound structure, fertility, and Dorset type, I believe the breed will remain at the forefront of the Australian prime lamb industry and continue delivering value to both commercial producers and consumers.

What are some of the changes you have seen which have benefited the breed in the past decade?

One of the best qualities of the Poll Dorset breed over the past decade has been its ability to adjust to continually changing market trends without losing focus on the traits that commercial producers want and have made it the leading terminal sire in Australia. A key development has been the increasing demand for early maturing lambs that can consistently meet market specifications at a younger age. The Poll Dorset breed has continued to evolve to meet these requirements, producing lambs with excellent growth, muscling, carcass quality, and market flexibility, allowing producers to target a range of domestic and export markets.

At the same time, breeders have remained committed to the fundamentals of the breed, including structural soundness, fertility, performance, and productivity.

How does the breed make sure it stays relevant with the industry and how does it make sure that it is first choice for prime lamb breeders?

The Poll Dorset breed has remained at the forefront of the prime lamb industry by continually evolving to meet the changing needs of commercial producers and their target markets. While market requirements have changed over time, the breed has maintained a strong focus on the traits that matter most, including growth, muscling, carcase quality, fertility, and structural soundness.

The breed's ability to produce early maturing lambs that meet market specifications efficiently has also helped maintain its position as the leading terminal sire option. Commercial producers are looking for genetics that improve productivity, profitability, and market flexibility, and Poll Dorsets continue to deliver on those objectives.

Ultimately, the breed remains the first choice for many prime lamb breeders because of its proven performance, adaptability across a range of production systems, and the confidence producers have in the consistency of Poll Dorset genetics. By continuing to respond to industry needs while staying true to the breed's strengths, I believe Poll Dorsets will remain a key driver of the Australian prime lamb industry well into the future.



James Frost, Hillden, Bannister, NSW, has been on the Australian Poll Dorset board for 10 years and is currently vice president.

Valley Vista

50 years of Poll Dorsets

SEMEN AVAILABLE



VALLEY VISTA PARK 240093

- 174 EQ INDEX | **TOP 1%**
- 0.63 FOR IMF | **TOP 1 %**
- **TOP 5%** FOR TCP, PEMD, DRESSING , SHEAR 5, CEMD
- SON OF IVADENE 220031



IVADENE 220031

- 175 TCP | **TOP 1%**
- **TOP 5%** FOR EQ, PEMD, CEMD, IMF, DRESSING
- 589 PROGENY OVER 8 FLOCKS



VALLEY VISTA 260168

- CHAMPION LAMB 2026 AUSTRALASIAN DORSET CHAMPIONSHIPS
- 1ST POLL DORSET RAM LAMB AT AUSTRALIAN SHEEP & WOOL SHOW
- SON OF HILLDEN 190110

ON-PROPERTY SUMMER SALE

FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY 2027

STUD AND FLOCK RAMS AND SIL STUD EWES



COOLAC NSW | SCOTT FAMILY | 0419208272

Vale Ian Bucknall

The Poll Dorset breed lost one of its finest with the passing of Ian Bucknall in October.

Ian was a highly respected Life Member and Past President of the Australian Poll Dorset Association. He served on the Board from 1979 to 1994, including as President from 1987 to 1989, and was awarded Life Membership in September 1996 in recognition of his outstanding service. He also dedicated many years to the Victorian State Committee and Royal Melbourne Show.

Together with his wife of 66 years, Beverley, Ian established Yaralla Poll Dorset Stud (Flock 407) in 1961, creating a lasting breeding legacy. The stud produced many influential sires, including Yaralla Leader, whose genetics made a significant contribution to the Poll Dorset breed, particularly through the Tattykeel Stud. Yaralla Stud was sold in 2005, with Buck and Beverley later retiring to Lakes Entrance.

Ian will be fondly remembered for his dedication, knowledge and outstanding contribution to the Association and the wider Poll Dorset community. His influence on the breed and the friendships he formed throughout his many years of involvement will be long remembered.

Daughter Jacque presented one of the eulogies at his funeral and this is part of what she said:

"An astute sheep breeder, he established the Yaralla Poll Dorset Stud which went on to become one of the leading Poll Dorset studs in Australia.

"In 1981 he sold a Ram at the Royal Melbourne Show Sales for a world record price.

"He was renowned for encouraging new breeders young and old, always offering sound advice.

"In 1969 Dad was invited by the charity "For Those Who Have Less" to accompany a boat load of Poll Dorset Sheep to India and, to work with the local agriculture teams to improve

their flocks. This had an enormous impact on Dad and he delighted in sharing his experiences on his return.

"A side note, Mum kept the home fires burning with three wee girls and a farm to run for 12 weeks!

"Dad absolutely loved going to shows. He started showing sheep at the local agricultural shows and then the Melbourne Royal Show.

"The Melbourne Royal was the highlight and pinnacle of the year. Dad would spend weeks preparing the show team. He always wore a tie at the Shows, whether trimming sheep or during judging; presentation was very important, himself included.

Before judging, each sheep would be put on a stand for the final preparations but nearly every time we'd put a ram on the stand, he'd say I'll be back in a minute, I just have to do something and an hour later he would return having sorted out a problem and or meeting someone along the way to talk to.

Within 10 minutes of returning, someone else would come along and say, "Hello Buck" and off he would go again.

"These friendships led to sheep judging invitations throughout Australia, New Zealand,

England and Scotland, where Dad would meet more people and forge more friendships.

He became the go-to for the Poll Dorset breed at the Melbourne Royal Show, this led to the

Royal Agricultural Society asked him to be a Councillor.

His commitment, work ethic and ability to work with everyone and anyone are qualities that I saw in Dad."



Royal record

This is the $24,000 world record priced Poll Dorset ram, from the Yaralla stud. He is the highest priced Victorian bred ram sold at auction.

Bred by Ian Bucknall, principal of the Yaralla stud, Maryborough, the ram easily topped the Royal Melbourne show ram sales last week and beat the old record of $16,000 for a Poll Dorset.

He was bought for the Tattykeel stud of Mr John Gilmour, Oberon.

Stock and Land photographer, FRANK JOHNSON, was at the sale and took this picture of the record priced ram. Holding the ram is Yaralla principal, Ian Bucknall, while his new owner, John Gilmour looks on.

The sales, held over two days, attracted strong demand with many breed record prices being set.

Full report of the Melbourne ram sales and more pictures pages 18 and 19.

Vale Phil Clothier

Farewell Phil

The Australian Sheep Industry lost an innovator, leading sheep breeder and mentor to many with the sudden passing of Phil Clothier.

Phil was a man of great integrity, passion and commitment to his family, to Meat Elite Australia, the Super Whites and the Australian Poll Dorset and White Suffolk Associations. His support for his three sons, Jason, Aaron and Tristan and their families in partnership with Sharon laid foundations for generational success. Following the pattern of achievement that had been passed down from his parents and shared with his siblings.

Phil, Graham and Lee transformed 'Greenvale' by the early adoption of clay spreading, drainage and pasture innovation. They changed relatively poor-quality country into productive pastures, extending the growing seasons by months. The Woolumbool property's productivity underpinned by Phil's stewardship and fiscal management doubled, enabling the production of fine quality merino wool, highly fertile multi-meat sheep and outstanding Poll Dorset & White Suffolk rams for the prime lamb industry.

Phil's development of Multi-Meat sheep in association with his friend Dr Colin Earl was designed to lift the productivity & profitability of prime lamb dams. The breed can now be found across four Australian states and internationally in China, Israel and India.

Again, Phil was an early adopter of the White Suffolk breed (Flock 26), recognizing the traits of lambing ease, hardiness and growth rates that this clean headed sheep offered the industry. Phil utilized some of the genetics from the Woolumbool Poll Dorset Flock to advance the White Suffolk breed in the early days and returned the favour later on.

As a committed Poll Dorset breeder, Phil focused his goals on producing sheep with excellent carcass qualities, low to medium birthweights, rapid growth rates that were also resilient to worms. This meant he was an early adopter of objective measurement so breeding decisions were based on objective data that underpinned phenotypic assessment. Sheep Genetics Australia provided the comparable data Phil needed to assess his sheep within and across flocks. To say that this brought success for the Woolumbool Studs is a bit of an understatement. Woolumbool genetics have been influential across the breed Australia wide and internationally.

With the above headset, it was natural that Phil was a founding member of Meat Elite Australia. He along with Jim Martin, Graham Oxley and others drew up the framework for the Young Sire Program to achieve greater genetic gain. Ever since, as a committed member he and Aaron contributed genetics (rams) for testing in the Young Sire Team. A desire to advance the breed saw Phil, Sharon and Aaron in particular, host MEA commercially focused lamb trials with data collected and submitted to Sheep Genetics for the benefit of the prime lamb sector broadly and the Poll Dorset breed in particular.

Phil was a much-valued contributor and an astute treasurer to the Meat Elite Australia group for decades. He capably monitored income and expenditure while also guiding investments in Meat Elite projects.

He served on the Young Sire Team selection committee for many years, handing the baton to others having mentored younger members in his knowledgeable, but humble manner. This extended to actively supporting the Lucindale Area School agricultural program.

His legacy is a greatly improved Australian sheep industry transformed from an art form to a science. Phil's commitment to genetic improvement underpinned by objective measurement was unwavering. The results across the industry speak for themselves. Phil's collaborative contribution is a beacon for others to follow.

It was with great sadness we lost a man of great integrity, passion and a true friend to many. In our last conversation Phil commented that he and Sharon had made many wonderful friends, thanks to sheep. He valued your friendship, your support during difficult times, but equally he treasured the laughter and banter of times shared.

We are all visitors in time to this place, we are just passing, our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love. Rest In Peace Phil.

Dale Price
Chairperson Meat Elite Australia



Australasian Show and Sale, Bendigo

A sire from the Armstrong family's Armdale stud at Murrulebale, NSW, took top honours at the Australasian Show and Sale at Bendigo taking out the champion of champion rams.

It capped off a stellar showing for Sam and Maddy Armstrong, who also won the champion of champions ewes and the most successful exhibitor at the flagship event for the breed.

The champion of champion rams, Armdale 250134 "Starlink" was sashed champion under multiple judges across the show season.

Sam Armstrong said the ram was fast maturing and a "stand out lamb from the get go" and will be retained within the stud.

"We have currently sold 1000 doses of semen out of him and across multiple breeds including into lambplan and non-lambplan flocks," Mr Armstrong said.

"I believe this highlights the importance of exhibiting stud sheep at shows.

"Growing up around the shows, it has been a lifelong dream of mine to win such a title and I couldn't be more proud of Maddy and I for making such an incredible achievement so early on in our career."

The champion of champions ewes also went to Armdale with Armdale 250056.

The champion of champions awards came at the conclusion of a large showing of Poll Dorsets which were judged under the careful eye of Ian Kyle from Bairnsdale.

He said there was a lot to like about the lineup of sheep presented.

He said the supreme champion ram, Armdale Skyscraper 250110, which had earlier won senior champion ram sash, fitted his criteria to be "a ram that would breed rams".

"There are a lot of rams that are wonderful to fit into their role which is to breed prime lambs, but this ram was above that," Mr Kyle said.

"The grand champion ram was structurally correct and sound enough to breed other good rams.

"There's a lot of focus on figures and numbers and potentially some people put a higher priority on that.

"I know that some watching the judging may say that the ram I chose was too big and it is always one person's opinion as a judge.

"There are two or three types of sheep emerging in the Poll Dorset breed – one is pure figures, one is structural soundness and the third in between.

"I see a lot of rams that are not quite right whether it's feet or mouths or legs and we need to breed rams that can do the job in all climates."



Judging of one of the bigger classes at the Australasian Show at Bendigo.

Mr Kyle said he was also happy with his junior and intermediate champion rams, which he said had just been beaten by a better sheep on the day.

The intermediate ram award was won by Abelene Park 25107, shown by the Douglas family, Woolomin, NSW, for a ram drawn from the pair of rams class, while the junior champion ram went to the Marr family's Gererdan Poll Dorsets, Gooloogong, NSW, again for a ram drawn from a best pair of rams class.

Mr Kyle said he preferred to see and judge rams that were shorn, rather than woolly classes, where trimming played a disproportionate role.

"There is no criticism against the exhibitors, it's just what I prefer," he said.

He said the lamb classes, won by Valley Vista, Coolac, NSW, for the ram and Yentrac, Tatura, Victoria, for the ewe, were a credit to the breeders, especially the champion ram lamb which showed phenomenal growth and was awarded the champion lamb. He said they were a credit to the breed.

"We are seeing Poll Dorset-sired lambs in the commercial lamb sale highlights, which reflects where we are as a breed," Mr Kyle said.



Grand champion Poll Dorset ewe was exhibited by Allendale, held by Alistair Day, Allendale, Bordertown, South Australia.

The grand champion ewe was exhibited by Allendale, Bordertown, South Australia, with Allendale 250050, a ewe which earlier won its class for ewes born after April 1 the preceding year, machine shorn not more than 28 days proper to judging and with no trimming.

Other awards included:

- Reserve senior champion ram: Rene, Culcairn, NSW
- Reserve intermediate champion ram: Wrattenbullie, Naracoorte, SA
- Reserve junior champion ram: Hillden, Bannister, NSW
- Reserve champion ewe: Armdale, Murrulebale, NSW
- Group of one ram and two ewes: Armdale, Murrulebale, NSW
- Best pair of rams: Gererdan, Gooloogong, NSW
- Group of three rams: Gererdan, Gooloogong, NSW
- Sires progeny group: Armdale (from sire Armdale 200-22), Murrulebale, NSW.
- Strike rate award: Brurob, Kilmore, Victoria



Winner of the Australasian Dorset Show supreme exhibit was Armdale Skyscraper 250110 . Pictured are Joe Scott, Valley Vista, Coolac, NSW, judge Ian Kyle, Bairnsdale, and Sam Armstrong, Armdale, Murrulebale, NSW.

Australasian Sale, Bendigo

The supreme exhibit at the Australasian Show and Sale continued its winning run by topping the sale component of the event, setting a record price of $34,000.

Armdale Skyscraper 250110 was sold by Sam and Maddy Armstrong, Armdale, Murrulebale, NSW, for the new high for the fixture.

The ram, which carried broad ribbons from the show including senior and grand champion ram as well as supreme Poll Dorset exhibit, sold a partnership of Armdale Park Poll Dorset stud, Marrar, NSW, and Boree Lane Poll Dorsets, Lidster, NSW.

It's not the first time the two studs have collaborated in buying genetics, having previously bought Skyscraper's grandsire from Tattykeel for $36,000 several years ago.

Armdale Park's Garry Armstrong also bred Skyscraper's sire, Armdale Park Elvis 220200, and said he liked the sire line which had bred well.

"We have collected semen and already artificially inseminated ewes," Mr Armstrong said.

Fellow buyer Karl Sinclair from Boree Lane said he liked the structural correctness of the ram, his high growth and his good sire outlook.

"Skyscraper also had very good raw data especially for his eye muscle area and fat cover," Mr Sinclair said.

He, too, has used his new purchase in an AI program and is excited to see the lambs produced.

Mr Sinclair said the ram's price was "in the ballpark" of what he had expected to pay, and came to the event knowing he wanted to buy him if possible.

"I had seen him prior to Bendigo and had my eye on him and probably the number of ribbons he got at the show attracted a bit more attention to him than I'd like but the ram was available to everyone to buy," he said.

The sale results showed 23 of 51 rams sold to average $6761 while two of two ewes sold at an average of $1500.



Top price ram at the Australasian show and sale was Armdale Skyscraper. Photographed are buyers Garry and Chloe Armstrong, Armdale Park, Marrar, NSW, vendor Sam Armstrong, Armdale, Murrulebale, NSW, and fellow buyers Karl and Fergus Sinclair, Boree Lane Poll Dorsets, Lidster, NSW.

Tasmania's Julian Iles receives national recognition

One of the stalwarts of the Poll Dorset breed was recognised at the Australasian Show and Sale at Bendigo when Julian Iles was awarded life membership to the event in September.

It was fitting recognition for Julian, who has had a long involvement with breeding Poll Dorsets as well as the national fixture which he helped to set up.

Julian started the Killara Poll Dorset stud, based at Sorell, Tasmania, in 1963, with flock number 707, after moving away from another breed.

"We started the Poll Dorset stud and stopped breeding Ryelands, as there looked to be a good market for Poll Dorsets," Julian said.

"This was especially the case in our area of south-east Tasmania where breeders wanted to turn off sucker lambs early.

They wanted a breed with good early growth and Poll Dorsets could deliver that."

At its peak, the Killara Poll Dorset stud joined about 160 stud ewes, and held an annual sale.

They brought in genetics from New Zealand which were a different type to what was traditionally seen locally, with cleaner faces, taller and longer bodies.

"We copped some criticism but it was a great move and changed the Poll Dorsets to what our clients wanted, which was the cleaner face and longer bodied animal," Julian said.

"But all breeds have changed and have to, to move with the times."

The stud is still running, albeit at a smaller scale, and is run by his daughter Ellen Muskee, and sells about 20 rams a year.

Julian concedes he never imagined the impact Poll Dorsets would have when he jumped into breeding them decades ago.

"I never imagined that Poll Dorsets would be so dominant," he said.

"Producers want fast maturing, well muscled lambs and they are what the market looks for in the auction system."

As for the current prices for lambs, Julian said he had never seen a time like it in his decades of breeding sheep.

"I do stop and think and wonder how long the prices will stay there," he said.

"But the world loves our lamb and so does Australia - I never would have thought you would see Tasmanian lamb chops selling in Queensland for $78/kilogram!"

Julian's involvement in the broader industry has been significant. He was one of the original members of the Australasian Poll Dorset Show and Sale committee and is still a member of the Tasmanian Poll Dorset Association.

"I made a prediction that we could make the Australasian (show and sale) the biggest event in the world for Poll Dorsets," he said.

"We used to have 60 sheep in a class at the Royal Melbourne Show and it would be great to see this event grow that big."

There was an additional award presented at September's event, with the late Noel Armstrong recognised with a meritorious service award to Australasian Show and Sale, which was accepted by Sam and Garry Armstrong.



Julian Iles from Killar Poll Dorsets at Sorell, Tasmania, was awarded life membership to the Australasian Show and Sale at Bendigo for his contribution to the event.

Perth Royal Show 2026

Poll Dorsets had a good couple of days at the Perth Royal Show this year, with strong results in the individual classes, the interbreed groups and the All Breeds Ram Sale.The shed held more than 430 sheep from 42 studs across 15 breeds. The Poll Dorsets were judged by George Carter of Linton Rams, Walcha, NSW.

A special congratulations to Callum Levett, Tipperary Poll Dorsets for being awarded the Champion Junior Handler during the show for his skill and determination when handling 100kg-plus sheep in the show ring.

Individual classes

Brimfield stud, Kendenup, took grand champion Poll Dorset with its champion ram, shown by co-principals Max Whyte and Gail Cremasco and handlers Tyler and Harley Jeffery. Shirlee Downs, Quairading, took reserve champion ram. Dongadilling, Quairading, won both champion and reserve champion ewe, shown by Zarah Squiers and Jaydip Vaddoriya. In the lamb classes, Tipperary, Walkaway, won champion ram lamb, shown by Randal Levett and his son Callum, and Brimfield won champion ewe lamb.

Interbreed group classes

The interbreed group classes are where the Poll Dorset breed really stood out.

In the group of three rams under 1-1.2 years, Tipperary won by seven points, coming out on top of a White Suffolk team in second and a Suffolk team in third. One of the judges, Andrew Hall from Wirrilla Texel stud, South Australia, said it was a challenging class to judge because every breed had strong groups, but he said the Poll Dorsets were an outstanding team: three big rams with plenty of meat through the shoulders and hindquarters, structurally sound, and the look of sires in the making. The rams were June 2025-drop and sired by Ivadene 25, Valma 470 and Tipperary 209.

Brimfield was runner-up in two other group classes. It finished second to Annaghdowns Suffolks in the breeder's group of one ram and two ewes, missing out by just one point, and second again in the group of three ewes, four points behind the winning Suffolk trio.

The sale

The All Breeds Ram sale was a tougher day overall. Agents Elders and Nutrien cleared 19 of 27 rams for an average of $4247, back $641 on last year. Poll Dorsets were the equal largest breed by numbers offered, with 11 rams from three studs, and they led on numbers sold, with eight finding new homes. They also topped the sale and achieved the best breed average at $5188, up $763 on last year. The agents felt buyers were selective on figures.

Dongadilling offered three, sold two, top of $8900, and average of $7350. Dongadilling's $8900 ram, bought by Steve Eales and Wally Mills of the Elspeth and Lakeside studs, West Popanyinning, was the highest price of the entire sale. This 2025-Drop ram was sired by Shirlee Downs 210088. Dongadilling's second ram sired by Dongadilling 230003 sold for $5800 to the Lawrence family's Canternatting stud, Northam.

Shirlee Downs offered five, sold four, with a top of $6100 and an average of $4525. The top price ram, sired by Shirlee Downs 230171 going to Rockalong stud, Wagin. The other three rams sold at $4000 each to Glencraobh (sired by Shirlee Downs 230040) and Orrvale (sired by Rangeview 220075) (both Kojonup) and Eringa Park, Kalannie (also sired by Rangeview 220075).

Tipperary offered three, sold two, top $4700, and an average of $4350. The top ram at $4700, sired by Ivadene 230025 went to the Carter family's Ridgetop stud, Narrikup. The other ram sold for $4000, also by Ivadene 230025 went to Mt Ferguson Grazing Co, Scotts Brook.

Elders agent Michael O'Neill said the rams presented extremely well and the top lots with good physical traits and figures saw strong competition. He also pointed to the interest on AuctionsPlus, including from the Eastern States, with over 2000 views on the sale and 70 logins to the sale.

Compiled with assistance from a report prepared by Jodie Rintoul, Farm Weekly.



Grand Champion/Champion Ram: Brimfield (stud Principals Max Whyte and Gail Cremasco, George Carter centre and handlers Tyler and Harley Jeffeas.

Adelaide Royal Show

Wrattenbullie has delivered a dominant display in the Poll Dorset competition at the Royal Adelaide Show, sweeping the senior and junior ram titles before claiming grand champion ram and supreme champion.

The Naracoorte stud took out all four major ram ribbons, with exhibit 230 named senior champion, grand champion and supreme champion, while exhibits 245, 272 and 271 filled the reserve senior, junior champion and reserve junior champion positions respectively.

Nine exhibitors presented 141 entries before judge Alistair Sutherland, Konongwootong, Vic, who said the decision to award supreme champion to the ram came down to the greater industry significance he placed on the ram.

“Both are magnificent animals, and both competitive winners of their classes and champions,” Mr Sutherland said.

“But I think the ram has probably got a bigger emphasis on the industry than the ewe.”

The May 2025-drop Wrattenbullie 250088, sired by 230449, weighed 141 kilograms and recorded an 8.5 millimetre fat depth and 54mm eye muscle depth.

Mr Sutherland described the grand champion ram as an easy decision, praising its topline, meat and breed character.

“It was a pretty easy decision actually, he’s got a ripping topline on this bloke, and he’s full of meat right through,” he said.

“Good Dorset head on him, pretty good in the wool and he paraded fairly correctly - I think he is well worthy of the honour.”

Wrattenbullie stud principal Brad Davies said the ram had been identified as a standout from a young age and was retained for use in the flock.

“I used him as a lamb because he was a standout as a lamb,” Mr Davies said.

“I like that genetics line as it’s always bred pretty well, and he’s just got such good skin and length.”

Mr Davies said the ram represented the type of flock sire Wrattenbullie aimed to produce, with genetics tracing back to a Hillden, NSW, ram several generations ago.

The win marked an exceptional result for the stud, which also claimed both the junior champion and reserve junior champion ram titles, as well as reserve senior champion.

“We’ve never done anything like that before,” Mr Davies said.

“To get reserve and senior champion and junior and reserve as well - I’ve never seen it done.”He said the result was also recognition of the strength of Poll Dorset genetics being bred throughout the South East.

“The most important thing to see here today was some of the sire progeny groups and those were all South East sheep,” he said.

“The genetics around the area work.”

Mr Sutherland said the champion was an outstanding ewe, with the decision between the top two coming down to fine margins.

“There’s just magnificent ewes there in that top line-up and it’s only splitting scores with those two ewes in top,” he said.

The June 5, 2025-born exhibit weighed 101kg, with a 13mm fat depth and a 50mm eye muscle depth.

The June 27, 2025-born reserve champion, also weighed 101kg and recorded a 13mm fat and a 51.5mm EMD.

Mr Sutherland praised the champion ewe’s topline, structure and Dorset type.

“She’s got a beautiful topline, she stands well, her back legs are in the right position most of the time,” he said.

“She’s got a good head on her and her front legs are good.”

He said the reserve champion was an excellent ewe but lacked some fill through the back end compared to the winner.

Allendale’s Alastair Day said the champion was a sound ewe with a strong hindquarter and good Poll Dorset type.

The ewe will travel to Bendigo Agricultural Show next week before being turned out for breeding.

Mr Day said the ewe team had been particularly consistent, with the stud winning three of the major ewe classes.

The champion and reserve champion ewes were both sired by the same homebred sire 220255, which Mr Day said had been highly consistent in producing progeny to type.

Article courtesy of Stock Journal



AE Day and Son's Alastair Day, Bordertown, holds champion Poll Dorset ewe while Keeley Murch, Bordertown holds reserve champion sashed by judge Alistair Sutherland, Konongwootong, Vic (centre).

Hobart Show

Judge: Frank Badcock, Fairbank, Hagley, Tasmania.

Only eight rams came forward for judging from three exhibitors, with no ewe entries. Champion Ram: Maccelslie Park 250047, drawn from August, 2025-drop class, K & S. Baker, Maccelslie Park, Penna, Tasmania.

Reserve champion ram: from pen of two rams class, exhibited by Julian Iles, Killara, Sorell, Tasmania.



Winner of the grand champion ram at Royal Hobart Show was Maccelslie Park 250047, a 1-1/2 year old ram from Maccelslie Park, Penna, Tasmania.

Brisbane Show

A ram which will be the foundation sire for a new stud took out the grand champion ram at the Brisbane Royal Show.

The three-year-old ram, which was bought from Sovereign Poll Dorsets, was exhibited by Michael Baillie, Cedar Grove, Queensland, who registered his Mapleton stud in 2025.

The ram, with tag number 230004, was sired by Valley Vista 160172 and was from dam Sovereign Poll Dorsets tag number 170052.

The ram was also the grand champion at the Ipswich, Gatton and Mount Gravatt shows this year.

Mr Baillie said the ram was bought as a foundation sire as a one-year-old, without firm plans to continue to show him, but had been encouraged by others to exhibit the sire.

The ram has been joined to a number of ewes, and the Baillies plan to keep expanding their stud.



Brisbane Royal grand champion ram was exhbited by Michael Baillie, Mapleton, Cedar Grove, Queensland.

Melbourne Royal show

Finley High School took 12 sheep to the Melbourne Royal Show and scooped the pool. The stud's champion ram was sired by Hillden 140070 and the champion ewe sired by Hillden 200211.

Finley High School also won the sires progeny (Hillden 211-20) and the breeders group. The ram lamb, sired by Hillden 110-19 was awarded Interbreed lamb of the show.



It was a hugely successful showing for the Finley High School's Poll Dorset team.



Year 10 student, Abbey Tanner and Champion Poll Dorset ram at the Melbourne Royal, which also won the supreme Poll Dorset exhibit.

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SALES RESULTS

STUD	STUD RAMS Sold	STUD RAMS Top	STUD RAMS Average	FLOCK RAMS Sold	FLOCK RAMS Top	FLOCK RAMS Average
Abelene Park				35/51	$4,000	$1,397
Aberdeen & Hovell	12/12	$2,800	$2,350	143/166		$1,439
Allendale	11/11	$8,000	$4,500	98/98	$3,000	$2,314
Armdale	14/14	$9,000	$5,428	118/118	$4,800	$2,928
Armdale Park	12/12	$11,000	$5,667	132/151	$4,000	$2,541
Ashbank				88/92	$4,200	$2,188
Ashcharmoo				32/32	$2,800	$1,534
Australasian Dorset Championships	23/51	$34,000	$6,761			
Avondale				77/95	$1,800	$1,377
Barwon				74	$3,250	$1,672
Bo Bar				72/80	$3,800	$1,672
Brimfield				21/21	$4,000	$1,500
Bruan	10	$19,000	$6,640	148/148		$2,454
Brurob	9	$23,500	$6,267	69	$3,400	$1,670
Bundara Downs				86/89	$2,000	$1,417
BYGO				30/30	$4,000	$2,050
Camborn				150/150	$4,000	$2,326
Cheetara				25/25	$1,600	$1,268
Caternatting				76/76	$2,600	$1,547
Chrome				63/90		$969
Coledale				98/100	$4,250	$2,107
Cranbrook				56/56	$4,000	$2,184
Derby Downs				72/72	$3,100	$1,546
Derrynock	22	$19,000	$7,015	110		$2,022
Ellsmere				19/19	$1,500	$1,500
Elspeth & Lakeside				48/60	$1,800	$1,306
Englewood Park				100/100	$3,500	$1,829
Estjam				51/54	$2,200	$1,273
Eringa Park				54/54	$2,100	$1,722
Fairbank				69/98	$4,000	$1,641
Felix				145/145	$16,000	$4,085
Geejay				37/40	$2,400	$1,386
Glen Devon				72/83	$5,000	$1,310
Glencraobh & Amberley				50/50	$2,400	$1,548
Glenore				84/98	$3,400	$1,642
Gooramma	30/30	$21,000	$6,350	136/136		$4,219
Gowam Brae				122/122	$3,200	$1,740
Greywood				38/40	$3,000	$1,362
Hillden				115/130	$4,000	$2,208
Ilfracombe				70/80	$3,000	$1,489
Ivadene	16/16	$23,500	$6,566	68/75	$5,000	$2,369
Jackson				60/60	$2,350	$1,937
Janmac				149/149	$5,000	$2,170
Jews harp					$4,800	$1,596
Kenlorne				79/82	$2,600	$1,791

SALES RESULTS

STUD	STUD RAMS Sold	STUD RAMS Top	STUD RAMS Average	FLOCK RAMS Sold	FLOCK RAMS Top	FLOCK RAMS Average
Kentish Downs				102/102	$5,500	$2,976
Kismet				17/40	$2,400	$1,341
Konongwootong	9		$3,022	186		$1,871
Kraywood				70/75	$4,800	$2,389
Kurralea	14	$7,000	$3,643	135	$3,250	$1,809
Leween				50/50	$2,200	$1,216
Maccleslie Park				19/29		$1,190
Majardah				156	$4,200	$2,151
Majella				74/101	$3,600	$1,800
Mallee Park				93/103		$1,726
Marocara				180/180	$5,500	$3,192
Morton				84/84	$3,000	$2,265
Mulgundawa				124/124	$3,600	$2,300
Mullinger Park				188	$3,000	$1,497
Narranmore				83/110	$4,800	$1,955
Netly Park				34/34	$3,200	$2,191
Newbold				72/92	$9,000	$1,690
Orrvale Poll Dorset				66/85	$2,800	$1,302
Palana				44/50	$2,600	$1,700
Pembroke				44/44	$2,500	$1,634
Pinewalla				52	$3,400	$1,992
Pinora				72/72	$2,600	$1,592
Rainbow Park				40/40	$1,600	$918
Rene	3/5	$7,000	$5,500	28/51	$2,800	$1,879
Ridgehaven				180/180	$5,000	$2,580
Rowallan				154/165	$4,000	$2,570
Saber				130/131	$2,200	$1,538
Shellal				127/127	$3,200	$1,966
Shirlee Downs				118/118	$3,200	$1,924
Springwaters	33/33	$10,000	$6,280	152	$4,000	$2,700
Stokes Bay Genetics				90/90	$3,600	$1,918
Stone Lea				70/70	$3,100	$1,833
Sunnybank's and Faraday Park				43/58	$3,750	$1,337
Tattykeel	13/22	$22,000	$8,615	52/87	$2,750	$1,726
Tipperary				94/94		$1,730
Ulandi Park		$8,000		129/129	$4,000	$2,096
Valley Vista				143/143	$6,200	$2,340
Valma (Online Auction)	20/22	$15,400	$3,750			
Warburn				35	$8,000	$1,951
Wilgarna				39/39	$1,900	$1,349
Windy Hill				47/61	$3,100	$1,776
Woolumbool				77/78	$2,400	$1,758
Wunnamurra				143/143	$4,200	$2,492
Yentrac (Ballarat)				22/27	-	$1,254
Yentrac (Tatura)				110/119	$3,500	$1,530

New Research Finds Higher Lamb Weaning Weights Can Lift Farm Profit and Emissions Efficiency

New research suggests sheep and beef farmers could improve both profitability and emissions efficiency by increasing lamb weaning weights, with only marginal changes in total greenhouse gas emissions.

The research, led by PhD candidate Joseph Adjabui at Massey University, New Zealand, examined how higher lamb weaning weights affect productivity, profitability and predicted enteric methane emissions (methane produced during digestion).

While previous studies have focused on the production and financial benefits, this research also considers greenhouse gas outcomes, an increasingly important factor in farm systems decision-making.

Using a system dynamics bioeconomic model, the study analysed a North Island hill country sheep and beef farm under three scenarios: a base system, a 10 per cent increase in weaning weight and a 20 per cent increase.

The modelling assumed a fixed feed supply, reflecting typical New Zealand pasture-based systems with limited supplementary feeding.

The results showed consistent improvements in farm performance as weaning weight increased.

Lamb carcass weight sold per hectare increased by approximately 2 per cent under the 10 per cent scenario, and 14 per cent under the 20 per cent scenario, relative to the base system. Cash operating surplus also improved, increasing by around 6 per cent and 51 per cent respectively.

Adjabui says the gains were driven by improved system efficiency rather than increased inputs.

“Heavier lambs at weaning meant more kilograms of lamb could be produced and sold earlier, improving both total production and farm income,” he said.

The proportion of lambs meeting prime specifications soon after weaning also increased, reaching 84 per cent under the 20 per cent scenario compared with 60 per cent in the base system.

Because total feed supply was fixed, ewe numbers were adjusted slightly downward to balance demand, helping keep total emissions broadly stable. Predicted enteric methane emissions declined marginally from the base scenario as weaning weights increased.

While total emissions remained similar, emissions per kilogram of product improved, decreasing by approximately 1.8 per cent under the 10 per cent scenario and 3.6 per cent under the 20 per cent scenario. Economic emissions efficiency also increased.

“These results show there is no trade-off between profitability and emissions efficiency under this system,” Adjabui says.

One of the key drivers of improved performance is earlier finishing. Increasing weaning weight allows lambs to reach slaughter weight sooner, reducing time on farm, improving feed use efficiency and lifting overall system output.

PhD supervisor Emeritus Professor Steve Morris says the efficiency gains from earlier-finished lambs are clear when viewed at a whole-farm level.

“The most efficient lamb is the one sold directly to slaughter at weaning. It has been alive for fewer days, eaten less feed and required fewer animal health treatments, less labour and no shearing,” he explains.

“That feed is then available for other stock classes, improving overall farm performance. It is also often sold when prices are strongest, before peak seasonal supply.”

However, Head of School of Agriculture and Environment Professor Paul Kenyon notes there is a wider industry consideration.

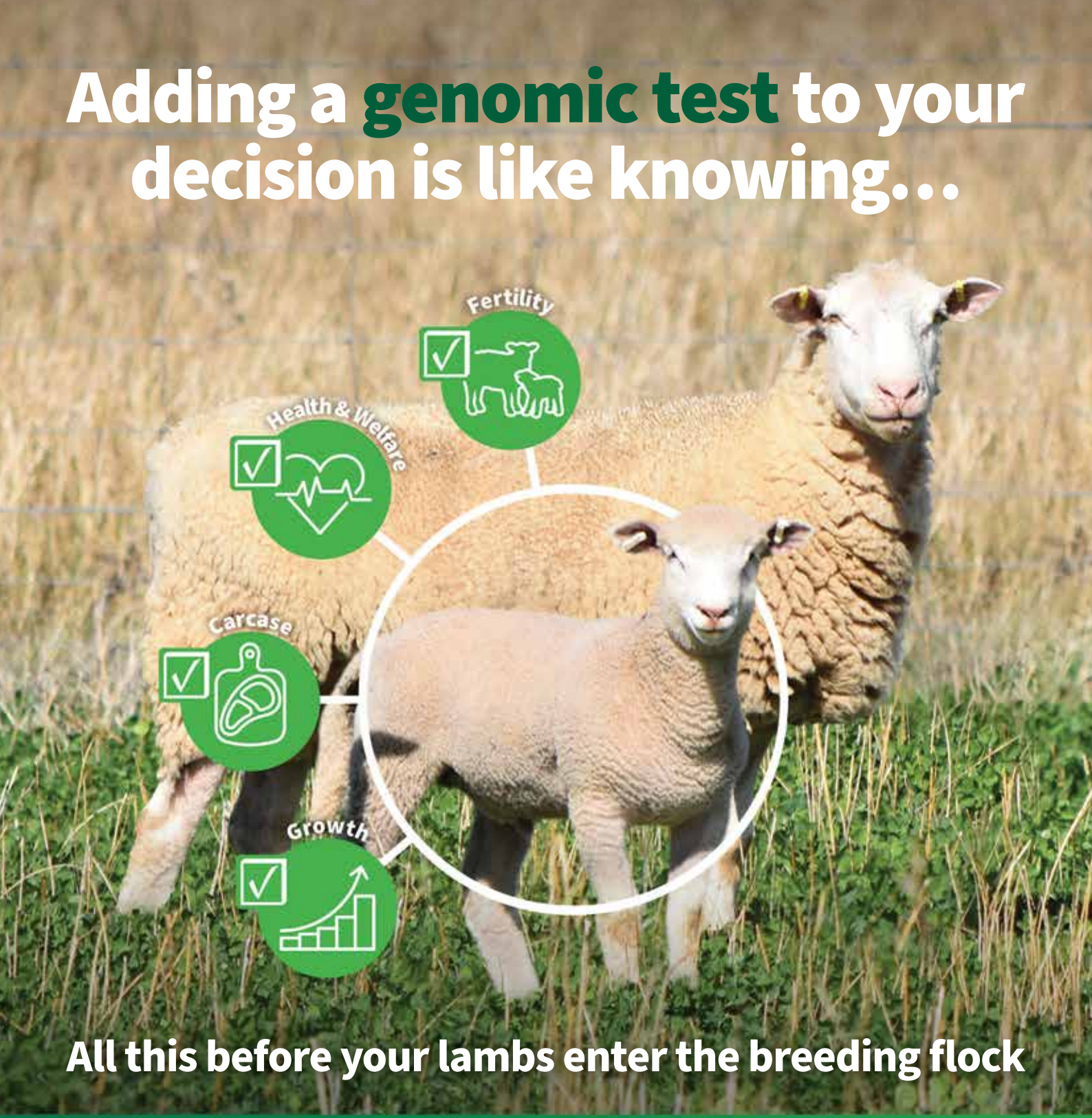
“While earlier finishing improves profitability at farm level, the industry also relies on a steady year-round supply of lamb to meet export demand, which is a conflict.”

Joseph Adjabui’s research was supervised by Emeritus Professor Steve Morris, Professor Patrick Morel, Professor Peter Tozer, Associate Professor Ramilan Thiagarajah and Professor Paul Kenyon at Massey University.

Article Courtesy of NZ Rural News.



Adding a genomic test to your decision is like knowing...



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SCAN TO LEARN MORE

Build a Stronger Flock from the Ground Up

If you ask most Poll Dorset breeders what drives their flock's future, many will point to their top sires. But increasingly, industry leaders are turning their attention to a different powerhouse in the genetics equation, the ewe base.

At the 2026 Poll Dorset Conference, one of the standout messages was clear: the strength of tomorrow's lamb drop comes from the genetic decisions made about ewe replacements today. And genomics is reshaping how breeders make those decisions.

While sires often attract the most attention, every ewe retained in the flock has a lasting influence on future performance, helping shape the productivity, consistency and profitability of the next generation.

As you evaluate replacement ewe candidates and make decisions about the future direction of your flock, genomic testing can provide valuable insight before those decisions are locked in. By identifying high-genetic-merit females earlier, you can retain the ewes most likely to drive long-term genetic gain, build a stronger ewe base, and avoid investing further resources in animals that don't align with your breeding objectives.

Ewes rarely get the spotlight, yet they quietly determine most of a flock's performance, consistency, and predictability. They influence birth type, survival, growth, maternal behaviour, and even carcass traits carried into the next generation.

That's exactly where genomics steps in.

Seeing Beyond the Visual Appraisal

Most producers visually remove 10–15% of ewe lambs at classing. But according to Dr Greg Sawyer, Senior Sheep Genomics Specialist at Neogen Australia, that's only half the story.

"Visual appraisal will remove the obvious faults, but genomics can identify another 5–10% of females that simply don't meet your breeding objectives. It adds a layer of precision you just can't get from the outside."

Instead of waiting for maternal traits to appear over several years, genomic testing identifies high-merit females early and highlights those less likely to drive future progress.

The outcome? Stronger selection pressure, reduced feed costs on underperforming animals, and a more genetically aligned ewe flock.

Predictability: The New Currency in Breeding

Reproductive performance and maternal traits are some of the hardest, and most valuable, traits to improve. They also drive a large proportion of economic return.

By integrating genomic results with ASBVs, breeders gain a clearer, more reliable picture of each ewe's potential.

As Dr Sawyer explained:

"Genomics gives you greater predictability of maternal performance. It increases confidence in decisions that historically relied on instinct or long-term observation."

This means breeders can more accurately rank ewes and build a female line known for consistency and reliability.

Consistency Sells, and Genomics Delivers It

Commercial buyers and processors increasingly value uniformity, consistent growth, consistent muscling, consistent carcass weights.

And consistency starts with the ewes.

By combining phenotype with genomic validation, breeders can remove much of the uncertainty from selection. That leads to a more even, reliable flock that delivers exactly what markets are demanding.

"You want a consistent product, and processors want a consistent product," Dr Sawyer said. "Genomics helps make that achievable."

Data Builds Trust, and Builds Your Brand

In a competitive ram market, objective data is becoming a major point of difference. Genomic results provide hard evidence behind breeding decisions and strengthen buyer confidence.

Neogen testing supports:

- Accurate pedigree verification (sire and dam)
- Objective ranking of all sale animals
- Greater buyer satisfaction and repeat business

Dr Sawyer highlighted the marketing value:

"Ranking, knowing parentage, and applying genomic testing over time will increase buyer recommendations and buyer validation."

For studs looking to stand out, a data-driven approach is becoming a compelling brand advantage.

Precision Across the Entire Flock

One of the most practical benefits of genomics is how seamlessly it integrates with Sheep Genetics data. Once genomic results are uploaded, producers gain a full, objective snapshot of their flock, helping determine which animals should stay in the stud and which should enter commercial programs.

A Stronger Flock Starts with the Ewes

The future of your flock is built on the genetic strength of your ewe base. Genomic testing gives breeders earlier insight, greater accuracy, and more control over flock direction than ever before.

By pairing visual appraisal with genomic data, Poll Dorset producers can build ewe flocks that deliver:

- greater consistency
- improved maternal performance
- more predictable progeny
- accelerated genetic gain
- stronger market reputation

Before finalising your replacement ewe selections and joining plans, consider how genomic testing can strengthen your decision-making. Combining genomic information with visual appraisal and performance data allows you to identify the females best placed to drive future productivity, consistency, and long-term genetic gain within your flock.

If you'd like to learn more about the genomic tools available, or discuss how genomics could support your breeding objectives, have a chat with the Neogen team. We're always happy to talk through the options and help you determine what might work best for your flock.

In a world where data drives decisions, genomic testing of Poll Dorset ewes isn't just beneficial, it's becoming essential.

ADVERTISING RATES

ADVERTISING RATES

(INCLUDES FULL COLOUR) ALL PRICES BELOW ARE GST INCLUSIVE

	Members	Commercial
Back cover	$826	$1125
Inside front or back cover	$661	$909
Double page spread	$978	$1345
Centre spread	$1042	$1432
Full page	$543	$747
Half page	$394	$542
Quarter page	$241	$331

SERVICE FEES

ALL PRICES BELOW ARE GST INCLUSIVE

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

Full page	$150
1/2 page	$110
1/4 page	$80

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 182 mm 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

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 7	April 28
September	Closes July 31	August 16
December	Closes November 6	November 27

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

Linton Dorsets

FLOCK 2288

Linton Rams

Merry Christmas!

While in many districts November is the middle of mating.

In the New England its lamb marking is in full swing.

The job description for a Poll Dorset ram varies across Australia. The continued success of Poll Dorsets depends on stud masters breeding and promoting rams that produce prime lambs that the consumer wants.

Think what can I do to help Poll Dorsets.



I wish you and your families a merry Christmas, happy New Year and may the prime lamb prices remain strong.

– George Carter

George Carter **T:** 0447 272 371 **E:** linton@caubaune.com.au

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