

# ANNUAL RAM SALE

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

### 800 MERINO & POLL MERINO RAMS

AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE SELECTION FROM OCTOBER 1



Stephen Huggins and Justin Spicer, both of Woodpark Poll, with the reserve champion and grand champion unboxed ewes of the Hay Merino Sheep Show.

## WOODPARK DEPTH IN ITS EWE BASE

Two different shows, unboxed sheep, and different sheep each time but the same outstanding results for the Woodpark ewes at Deniliquin and Hay shows this year.

Champion unboxed ewe at both shows and reserve champion unboxed at Hay.

We always enjoy taking our sheep in to support our local shows, whether it's Deniliquin in February or at Hay in June, both times with ewes straight out of the paddock.

At Hay this year the unboxed section also delivered Woodpark Poll the most successful exhibitor award.

The Hay show has gone from strength to strength with body weighing and a massive showing with studs from South Australia through Victoria and right up to northern NSW. The flock classes have always been one of Hay's strengths but with another dry year impacting on management, numbers were down slightly in the flock section. However

entries were definitely up in the housed and unboxed stud classes.

At Deniliquin earlier in the year a lovely Woodpark ewe was awarded runner-up Riverina ewe of the year. We also showed the Grand champion unboxed ewe and reserve champion unboxed ewe.

At Hay the ewes were again solid performers, with Woodpark Poll ewes named grand champion and reserve champion unboxed ewe, after coming through from their respective classes.

We were also pleased recently when Fox & Lillie Rural's Adrian Flint told us Brian and Barbie Cunningham's Merriwagga district flock, which he classes, had lifted size and wool quality and productivity since introducing the Woodparks several years ago. The proof is always in the ewe portion and the Cunninghams' flock reshaping has paid great dividends.

## Woodpark Events 2013

### July 19-21: Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo

Woodpark's display at this annual industry event includes stud sires, auction rams and rams to be offered at Hamilton Sheepvention. We welcome the chance to catch up with sheep breeders attending the event.

### August 3: Nyngan Ag Expo

We will have a display of stud sires and auction rams suited to the central and western regions of NSW at our first outing at this wonderful event in the heart of NSW western mixed farming country.

### August 5 & 6: Hamilton Sheepvention

Hamilton Showgrounds, Hamilton  
We will offer a pen of five rams specially selected from among our best rams, to suit western Victorian region. We will also have a small selection of sheep on display.

### Friday August 16: Elders Riverina Sheep Expo - Deniliquin

### Thursday, September 5: South West Slopes Merino Field Day

Note change of venue - Displaying young rams at this central west NSW event.

### Monday September 23: Woodpark Poll Merino Annual Ram Sale

120 rams - Jerilderie Showground  
700 Merino and Poll Merino rams available for private selection from October 1



Owen & Helen Huggins

**Woodpark**

Wilson Road  
Jerilderie NSW 2176  
Phone 03 5886 7149  
Fax 03 5886 7148

www.woodparkmerino.com.au

Stephen & Carol Huggins

**Eurolie**

Hay NSW 2711  
Phone 02 6993 4616  
Fax 02 6993 4122

info@woodparkmerino.com.au

## Woodpark Merino • Woodpark Poll

## Blood Switch Success

- The Land February 28, 2013

"Change may never be easy but it was the necessity to progress for Ian and Jane Menzies in 2009 when they decided to introduce Woodpark bloodlines to their "Moonbah" Merino flock at Condobolin.

Their hard work, with guidance from classer Michael Elmes, began a

The appearance of off-types within the flock was another consideration for change but the result for Mr Menzies is the "evenness of crimp making our fleeces like peas in a pod".

"The new blood has helped to really seal the dust off. "This region is known for dust so it was important to get the nourished tip."

The winning maidens were from a drop of 837 head, from which 22 per cent were culled to leave 300 displayed in the "Moonbah" yards.

The recent introduction to the competition of body score and the weighing of 10 random ewes resulted in an average score of 3.5kg and average weight of 82.2 kilograms.

The increase in lambing percentages from 85pc in 2011 to 94pc last year has been to management according to Mr Menzies.

"We split our twinning but I'm a bit disappointed as we are getting about 130pc but should be getting 150pc," he said.

Foxes may be a problem but I've given up baiting because the 1080 we have been using is pointless.

The maiden ewes lambed in July/August and weaned in October.

"We shear them as weaners in late December, normally before Christmas and run them through to classing in late August/September," he said. "Then we shear them straight after classing so they have another seven months wool on them as they fit in to our main shearing in March/April." - Mark Grigg, The Land, 28/02/2013



rollercoaster ride to success - starting in 2011 with an achievement award, last year placing third and this year the fulfilling accolade of winning the Don Brown Memorial Ewe Competition.

"Our maiden ewes are the 2011 drop of full Woodpark blood," Mr Menzies said. "Woodpark has a fair bit to do with this success but our classer Michael Elmes has also played a big part."

MR Menzies also paid tribute to his earlier classer, the late Ian Munro, who guided the flock from 1994 to his untimely death in 2001.

In the red loam soil north of town, Mr Menzies told visitors to the 33rd annual Don Brown field day that any sheep operation out his way had to handle the dust because they were farmers as well.

For the Merino flock, which averages 21 micron wool, better wool nourishment from the change in rams had tightened the tip, preventing dust penetration - an exercise determined by the decade of drought prior to the change.

On the back of two very wet summers, Mr Menzies said his ewes grew well on lucerne pasture but the past six months had been a strain which had progressed to hand feeding from mid-January.

"We held off until then but will be in full scale by the end of this week," he said.

*Woodpark blood flocks achieved back to back success in Central Western NSW when Condobolin mixed farmers Ian and Jane Menzies and their family's, "Moonbah" flock won the highly regarded Don Brown Memorial Merino Ewe Challenge last week.*

*The Menzies win follows a win last year by longstanding Woodpark clients the McDonald family's "North Condobolin" flock in the same award. The Menzies placed third last year and the McDonalds took that position this year.*

*The previous week Rowan and Sarah Houston and family's "Budgewah" Hay flock won the southern area and climbed from fourth last year to third overall this year in the Hay district's big Peppin Shaw competition.*



# Woodpark Polls at \$5000

– By Bretty Tindal, *The Land*, September 27, 2012

**“Poll Merinos were again chased hard at the Huggins families annual Woodpark Poll Merino ram sale at Jerilderie, selling to a top of \$5000.**

A strong showing of return clients pushed the top ram to \$5000 with 116 of the 120 rams clearing to a \$1791 average, with 23 buyers purchasing on the day and 13 of these buying for than five rams.

The top ram again sold to Stuart, Leanne and Hayley Reading, “Brynaston”, Callawadda, Victoria, who were chasing his well-nourished, heavy cutting white wool, with excellent character on his big frame.

The ram was 19.3 micron, with a standard deviation of 2.8, coefficient variation of 14.5 and 99.7 comfort factor, combined with a 139 greasy fleece weight percentage and strong 150 bodyweight percentage.

The Readings had a field day, leading most of the top rams, buying 15 rams in total to record a \$2020 average across the draft.

Stud buyers were present with Bob and Mikala Walters, Middle View merino stud, Dalgety, paying \$4000 for an 18 micron sire with a 100pc CF, 145 GFW percentage at 2.4 SD, 13.3 CV and 120pc BWT.

Michael and Jane Corkhill, Grassy Creek Merinos, Reids Flat, paid \$3600 for a replacement ram that Mr Corkhill’s classer Craig Wilson, Craig Wilson Livestock, Wagga Wagga, said would have made a lot more money if he was at the front of the draft and not five from the end.

But luck was on their side as he came out of the reserves and the only hole in the catalogue was late in the catalogue.

Mr Wilson said he had a super soft skin, with a white, defined, crimped wool with good figures.

Volume buyers were everywhere you looked with Gregor

McNaughton, “Burong”, Seaspray, Vic, leading the charge, paying to \$2600, averaging \$1680, while Elston Pastoral, Wallaloo, Vic, bought six rams at \$2150..

David and Richard Bibby, “Burrupa”, Tattyoan, Vic, paid to \$4000 for six stylish, predominantly 18 micron rams with good GFW and bodyweights, combined with strong testing figures.

Danny Boland, Cavandale Grazing, Gifford, Vic, bought nine at \$2067, while Arthur Sleeman, “Riversdale”, Jerilderie, averaged eight at \$1650 and Rowan Houston, “Budgewah”, Hay, paid to \$2600 for five rams averaging \$1980.



Flinders Gem Pty Ltd, Wilby, Vic, bought three of the top rams to \$3400, averaging \$2733, while S and H Exton, Coolamon, averaged their five at \$1800, KP and M Fyffe, Sandon, Vic, bought seven at \$1043 and IW and LM Kreuzberger, “Glenly”, Rand, also bought seven at \$1343.

G Potter, Mathoura, purchased six at \$1217, while Glencoe Pastoral Pty Ltd, Hamilton, grossed \$10,000 for six rams to average \$1667 and EV and RA Klemke, “Hillview”, Henty, rounded out the sale snapping up six rams at the upset of \$800.

The sale was conducted by Elders and Landmark with Ron Rutledge and Peter Godbolt as the auctioneers.”

the mark with above average fleece weight ewes, below average micron ewes, above average body weight. We are then joining them with those rams that are performing into the elite ewes and getting really good outcomes.

The rams are breeding as they look because of the tight control we’ve had for the past 10 years and that predictability that is so evident in each generation. As we assess this year’s young rams we see we will be selling in large numbers rams we would have been keeping as stud sires even two years ago, three years ago.

That elevation is really notable and this year in particular the depth is fantastic. Our field day display shows multiple rams by individual sires that are performing.

The 10-33 progeny have all got that quality soft wool and great shape. The numbers of 10-015s being kept and displayed tells a story in itself.

We are just thoroughly enjoying seeing the breeding results.

## Depth showing in rams, ewes.

It feels as though we say it every year but we really have been taken by the depth of rams coming through this year and feel we are seeing the results of the process that we put in place a number of years ago - by indexing, working on the tightness of the sheep and working on the uniformity of the ewe flock, including bringing in only sparing outside influences.

For 10 years we have had basically no outside introductions so the ewe base is very predictable, very even and we’ve really lifted that whole standard.

Other aspects such as progeny testing are becoming even more important. We’ve identified the best rams; not just the visual appeal of them but measuring their progeny’s growth rates, wool cuts and micron and their body weights.

We are doing it in enough numbers that we are getting really good information back and once we find those really good performers we can go to our elite ewes, the ones who have stepped up above

# Woodpark Top of the Pile

– *The Weekly Times*

**“As good a sheep as you’d see anywhere in Australia was the verdict from last week’s (March 1) Loddon Valley Stud Merino field day.**

Their hard work, with guidance from classer Michael Elmes, began a Loddon Valley Stud Merino Breeders Association president Norm Weir said “You’d go a long way to see better.” Yulong Poll Stud principal Peter Rogers and his son Daniel who judged the competition for best pen of three rams from the 12 studs, agreed.

Many of the entries – there were four on-farm displays and eight at Serpentine – were even and productive with rich wool.

The Rogers chose the Woodpark Poll pen as the winner because the rams were well-grown with free, soft-crimping wools and good staple length.

Woodpark Poll stud principal Stephen Huggins said they had been working on good fibre density on a plain body seeking nourished wools with soft crimping.

“That’s been our focus for a long time and when we get a sheep that looks that way, it breeds that way,” he said.

Woodpark Poll previously won the award for best pen of three rams at the field day in 2011.

Mr Huggins said his animals typified the modern Merino.

“There’s a big emphasis on plain-bodied, the risk is losing nourishment and softness,” he said. “Our focus has been on keeping that.”

Mr Huggins said the Woodpark breeding ewes averaged 19 micron wool and the flock averaged 5kg of wool cut every eight months.

More frequent shearing was an effective way to maintain the body condition of sheep.

“The industry’s in a good spot,” he said. “Sheep prices have backed off but it’s still affordable for people to get back into sheep.”

– Excerpt from *The Weekly Times*, March 6 2013

## Brighter Wool a Winner

“IAN and Jane Menzies were ecstatic with their win of the coveted memorial cup at the 2013 Don Brown Merino Ewe Competition last week.

Their “Moonbah” flock of maiden ewes competed against 17 flocks this year judged over two days by Robert Harding, Glendonald stud and Collinsville stud manager Tim Dalla.

Both judges praised the Moonbah ewes, with Mr Harding suggesting their wool shouldn’t get any whiter or the shearers would have to wear sunglasses.

He said he was “still impressed with these sheep” (having judged last year in the first of the two-year judging rotation).

“They are big and woolly and I couldn’t find many off-types.”

Tim Dalla said the maidens were of an even type, good frame size and good bone.

“They have a good depth of wool and plenty of soft, medium wool,” he said.

– Mark Griggs, *The Land*, 28/02/2013

## Hay & Deniliquin Merino Sheep Shows

**We always enjoy taking our sheep in to support our local shows, whether it’s Deniliquin in February with ewes straight out of the paddock or at Hay which is an institution on the Woodpark calendar.**

At Hay this year we were really pleased when the unhoused ewes had a tremendous day and delivered Woodpark Poll the most successful exhibitor award.

The Hay show has gone from strength to strength with a performance class, body weighing and a massive showing with studs from South Australia’s Yorke Peninsula through Victoria and studs right up to northern NSW. The flock classes have always been one of Hay’s strengths but with another dry year impacting on management numbers were down slightly in the flock section. However numbers were definitely up in the stud and unhoused classes.

At Deniliquin earlier in the year a lovely ?? ewe was awarded runner-up Riverina ewe of the year. to a ewe from Ouyen’s Tamaleuca Poll Merino stud.

We were thrilled recently to receive a call from Fox & Lillie Rural evergreen Adrian Flint who rang to report progress from Brian and Barbie Cunningham’s ???, Merriwagga flock. The Cunninghams reshaped their flock’s breeding direction when Adrian took it over

Meanwhile, those who congratulations to Spike and Kate Orr (nee Munro) and their daughter Anna who were delivered of a beautiful son, Lachlan Hamilton Orr, in early July.

