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## Woodpark Merino • Woodpark Poll

### Three successive wins at Condobolin

When Ian and Jane Menzies and their family were awarded the prestigious Don Brown Memorial Merino Ewe competition for the Condobolin district in February it was their second win in a row – and the third win in a row for a Woodpark blood flock in the competition.

As well as winning in 2014 and 2013, the Menzies placed third when the McDonald family's Woodpark blood flock won in 2012.

The result was turned around last year when the Menzies "Moonbah" flock was first and the McDonalds "North Condobolin" flock was third. The Moonbah flock was classed by Michael Elmes and the North Condobolin flock by Stuart Hodgson.

The Land this week reported the Menzies were only the third operation to win twice in a row in the 34 year history of the competition.

The Land also reported judge Tim Dalla, Collinsville stud noted a continuing improvement in type and quality in the area's flocks. The Land reported Mr Dalla said he "liked the ewes' size, balance and wool cut".

Co-judge Cameron Ritter, Dunumbral Stud, Collarenebri, said the display was a beautiful line of commercial ewes "big, bold and beautiful with plenty of wool on them".

"Classer Michael Elmes, "Moonbah", Narrandera, said the Woodpark blood flock lambs were dropped in July/August 2012 and were shorn in August last year.

There were 419 lambs altogether, with 286 being retained after classing," The Land reported.

About 150 people attended the two days to visit 16 entries. Greg Alcock, Greenland stud, Bungarby, was associate judge.



*The Menzies family's "Moonbah" ewes.*

#### BEST OF THE BEST WITH CENTRAL WEST EWE COMPETITION WINNERS

Seemingly not content with back to back wins in the highly regarded Don Brown Memorial Merino Ewe Competition at Condobolin, Ian and Jane Menzies, "Moonbah" Condobolin, Woodpark blood flock took the ultimate flock ewe prize this year. Their flock, classed by Michael Elmes, won the "Champions League" of ewe competitions on Thursday (February 27) when it was named the overall winner of the NSW Central West Ewe Competition.

The award is presented to the best flock of the winners and runner-ups of the major ewe competitions through central NSW. It's a major accolade and an incredible compliment to the Menzies management, particularly in a year when all the competitions have been reported as being among some of the best years for the competitions.

The Menzies sheep came through in the award for the best of the winning ewe flocks from the other Central NSW ewe competitions, as reported in The Land.

### Condobolin flocks lead region

By MARK GRIGGS

THE environment across which the Merino industry spans was well represented in the Central West Merino Ewe Competition, now in its 14th year. Organisers and followers alike regard this prestigious competition as a "grand final" from winners and runners-up of three maiden ewe competitions – Trundle's Ted Little Parkes Merino ewe fixture and Condobolin's two-day Don Brown event.

What's more, the growing conditions and environment of each are significantly different – Trundle and Parkes attract commercial flocks of mixed farming and cropping country as well as dedicated wool growers on the slopes while Condobolin district flocks are an important sideline to larger cereal cropping ventures.

However, what pulls these groups and breeding enthusiasts together is quality wool production, and that fact was borne out by 2012-drop maiden ewes of Ian and Jane Menzies, "Moonbah", Condobolin, which won the Don Brown and went on to become the central west champions.

The Menzies had won the Don Brown for the second consecutive year with their Woodpark blood flock which lambs in July/August and is shorn in August and with classing carried out by Michael Elmes, Narrandera.

Second placing went to the Ted Little competition winners Mat and Korina Aveyard for their 2012 drop maiden ewes which were bred at "Pleena West", Trundle and are of Pleena blood.

The Aveyard flock lambs in July/August, are shorn in June and are classed by Mat's brother, Boydie Aveyard, Trundle.

Winning the "runners-up" flock competition was the Hehary family's Koyuna Pastoral Company, "Koyuna", Tullibigeal, which was placed second in the Don Brown fixture.

The Koyuna flock of Belawick-blood lambs June/July and shearing is carried out in March with classing conducted by Allan Clarke, Dubbo.

■ Visit [www.theland.com.au](http://www.theland.com.au) for more information and online videos.

RIGHT: Peter Baxter and Ian Menzies, "Moonbah", Condobolin, with their Woodpark-blood maiden ewes.



The sale was conducted by Elders and Landmark with Ron Rutledge and Peter Godbolt sharing auctioneering duties.



# Woodpark wethers go to school



*Stephen Huggins and students at Yanco Agricultural High School with Woodpark blood wethers the students will be using in their schools wether challenge entry at Dubbo this August.*

**We have been really thrilled to have Agriculture students from Yanco Agricultural College in the Riverina use four teams of Woodpark blood wethers in their learning programs.**

The students will use the wethers for their entries in Schools Wether Challenge at the Rabobank National Merino Show & Sale at Dubbo on August 23.

The Year 9 & 10 Animal Management Challenge class will be responsible for caring for and preparing the wethers for the challenge which will be judged on wool and meat value.

Yanco Agricultural College Animal Management teacher – and passionate Merino producer - Ellie Quinn coordinated the wethers' delivery and will oversee their future management.

The students really have a reputation for cossetting their animals and the wethers will no doubt thrive for the few months in the students' care.

It is a privilege to be able to help the students out and we are looking forward to seeing the results of their work in a few months.

Meanwhile, Stephen was the Over Judge at the school's Merino Junior Judging at its Open Day in March.

The students are keen participants in junior judging competitions at local and royal shows and frequently come home decorated in ribbons for their efforts.

Stephen really enjoyed spending time with the students and helping them build their skills in sheep assessment through the competition. The eventual winner was Lawson Thomas of Mulwala.

## CUTTINGS

### EDUCATION ON THE SLATE

The education theme continued at Woodpark in May, when we hosted final year agriculture students from Charles Sturt University on May 15.

The students inspected a sample of our 2013 drop rams and maiden ewes and Stephen discussed our management and breeding techniques. He explained how we use both physical assessment and other available information including ASBVs and genetic information to complement each other in breeding and selection decisions.

The students were also interested in the impact of biosecurity issues and wider commodity markets on management and the business.

The visit was part of an annual tour of different sheep breeding operations by the students.

### NUTRITION NOTES FOR KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

Our information sharing and networking group the Woodpark Knowledge Network hosted leading animal specialist San Jolly at a workshop at Woodpark Poll's home base at Eurolie, east of Hay on May 16.

We invited San, co-principal of South Australia's Productive Nutrition to visit and speak with clients after Stephen attended a workshop she spoke at in Hay last year.

One of the key messages that we took away from the Hay workshop was that there was little advantage for us in terms of feed conversion benefits to a shorter than usual shearing interval.

The talk at Eurolie San's message reaffirmed that prem shearing doesn't influence ewe body weight after shearing.

We felt the information was so valuable we wanted to offer our clients and neighbours the chance to access it.

San discussed the different types of feed and their varying actions to an engrossed audience. Discussions included calcium lock up in sheep pre lambing. The informal nature of the workshop meant the participants were easily able to tap into San's knowledge.

The information was powerful and San's easy no-fuss delivery and broad knowledge on any topic made it easy to absorb. She backed up her discussion with research and reports, delivering excellent quality independent information.

Several people said they could see how the information would both save money and add returns to their sheep program.

### WOODPARK SHEEP GO WEST

This year we travelled to Broken Hill for its big AgFair field day and the Wilcannia field day for the first time, at the suggestion of local clients.

The AgFair field day is a fantastic day for livestock producers. Held every two years it usually attracts a crowd of several thousand local landholders and community members with its focus almost totally on livestock production and pastoral production.

The event saw some welcome wet weather and visitors were interested and focused in their discussions. We really enjoyed seeing the region and speaking with people so dedicated to livestock production and thoroughly enjoyed the two day event.

In a similar vein we also took a small display of rams to the Wilcannia field day on the June long weekend. Although only small and in its second year it was again an interesting trip to a region which has had a very variable season, some parts of the area really missing out on rain again.

# ANNUAL RAM SALE

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

### 130 POLL MERINO RAMS

#### 800 MERINO & POLL MERINO RAMS

#### AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE SELECTION IN DAYS FOLLOWING OUR RAM SALE

TEMORA SIRE EVALUATION RESULTS. SPRING 2013.			AMSEA Indexes Values			
Ram Code	Breeders Flock, Ram Number	No. of Progeny	Fibre Production +	Merino Production +	Dual Purpose +	F10% + SS
#1	*****	11	95	105	98	105
2	*****	22	102	108	107	108
#3	*****	11	n/a	92	88	n/a
<b>4</b>	<b>Woodpark Poll, 100015</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>109</b>
5	*****	29	104	106	108	101
<b>6*</b>	<b>Link Sire</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>99</b>
7	*****	27	101	100	93	103
8	*****	22	104	89	91	93
9**	*****	26	97	106	103	104
10	*****	29	90	94	105	85
Average performance		22	100	100	100	100

## WOODPARK POLL'S 10-015 TOPS EVERY INDEX AT TEMORA SIRE EVALUATION

Our sire Woodpark Poll 10-015 had a wonderful result when his progeny were assessed in the independent Temora Sire Evaluation results released late in 2013.

The ram topped every index of the sire evaluation at Temora, amongst company representing some of Australia's major studs and sires.

The indexes were Fibre Production +, Merino Production +, Dual Purpose +, F10%+SS

The evaluation is conducted through the Bluechip Livestock Young Sire program.

The nine other studs in the evaluation included some major studs, one link ram and another ram which was also common to other sites.

The FP+ index is based on a wool focussed production system. The range was from 95 to 109 (with our Woodpark Poll 015 the highest at 109).

The MP+ index is based on a balanced wool and meat production system where

surplus progeny are sold as hoggets. It ranged from 89 to WP Poll 10-015s index rating at the top with 108.

The DP+ index is based on a meat focused reproduction system where surplus progeny are sold as lambs and some ewes joined to terminal sires. These rams would deliver a high increase in meat traits and reproduction.

The DP+ ranged from 88 to the top of 111, which was again 10-015's level again.

The Fine 10% + Staple Strength index has a moderate emphasis on fleece weight and fibre diameter and moderate emphasis on staple strength. Its range was from 85 at the bottom to our 10-015s index-topping 109.

The results speak to us of the balance we have been building for so long.

Please contact us if you would like a copy of the results.



## Woodpark Events 2014

**July 18-20:**  
**Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo**

**August 2:**  
**Nyngan Ag Expo**

**August 4 & 5:**  
**Hamilton Sheepvention**

Hamilton Showgrounds, Hamilton

**Friday August 15:**  
**Elders Riverina Sheep Expo - Deniliquin**

**Thursday, September 4:**  
**South West Slopes Merino Field Day**

St Clement's Retreat, Galong.

**Monday September 22:**  
**Woodpark Poll Merino Annual Ram Sale**