



"Profitable sheep for all areas"

Steve & Lisa Harrison
(and daughters Emily, Megan & Brooke)
72 Giffard West Road
Giffard West, Victoria. 3851

Mobile: 0427 468 303
Phone: (03) 5146 8303
E-mail: slhgiffard@bigpond.com
www.bindawarra.com.au

Facebook—Bindawarra Merino Stud

Winter

July 2021

BINDAWARRA NEWS

"GOOD TIME TO BE IN FARMING"

Usually this phrase refers to good commodity prices, and whilst this is somewhat true at the moment, it has been used many times over the last 18 months by farmers as the Coronavirus pandemic has swept the world. How lucky are we to be able to continue working, earning incomes and to have space to get out and enjoy? It certainly goes a long way to making up for the hard times that we all experience with our life on the land. As Steve often says, we choose to be farmers, and what a good choice it is at the moment.

Our thoughts go to those who have been directly affected by COVID, in particular our family in the UK, and those who live along border regions.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- COVID—PAGE 1
- OPEN DAY—PAGE 1
- 2021 SALE RAMS—PAGE 2
- CLIENT NEWS—PAGE 2
- LAMBS—PAGE 2
- SHEARING SCHOOL—PAGE 2
- STORMS—PAGE 3
- POLL TESTING—PAGE 3
- FAMILY NEWS—PAGE 3

Bindawarra Sale Ram Inspections / Open Day— Tuesday August 17th, 2021

Over the last 18 months or so, we have certainly lived the meaning of the old saying "The best laid plans often go astray" as COVID has affected many events. At the time of writing we are currently in our 5th lockdown in Victoria, announced just as Steve arrived in Bendigo preparing to display rams and steward at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show.

However, we are still planning for our Open Day on August 17th. We have already had some clients inspect the rams and you are welcome to make a private appointment to view the rams if this day does not suit you. As with other years, we will have all our sale rams on display for your inspection. If you are unable to attend, but would like to know about the rams, please contact us and we will send you all the relevant figures.



Last year's COVID safe open day.

Left: Nutrien wool's Jarrod DeMarco goes through the ram list with Alan and Tim Paulet from Toongabbie.

Right: Trent Anderson from Giffard is shown some features of poll rams by Steve.



2021 Sale Rams & Auction Information

This year we will be offering 67 rams at the Gippsland Stud Merino Ram Auction on August 31st. This number is higher than last year due to an improved season (more lambs) and so that buyers can find the perfect ram to suit their budget. For the first time, the auction will be held at the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange at 11 Saleyard Road in Bairnsdale (access via Dalmahoy Street). It will be interesting to see how the change of venue works.

At the time of writing, the auction will be a physical open cry auction, interfaced with Auctions Plus. If you cannot be present at the sale

(or if COVID restrictions prevent a physical sale), please use the Auctions Plus site for purchasing, or ask your agent for assistance.



Unfortunately the North East Merinos Auction was cancelled for another year due to a variety of reasons, but we welcome those clients to the Bairnsdale sale for their purchases this year.

We will have private sale rams available after September 1st. First preference for paddock ram sales will again be given to those clients who have purchased rams at this year's auction.



RESULTS FROM OUR CLIENTS

** Clients from Merton were surprised to see triplets from a maiden ewe this year, as well as many sets of twins.

** Clients continue to receive above average prices for their wool. The Bindawarra wool type continues to perform well in all areas.

LAMBS, LAMBS AND MORE LAMBS!

With the improved conditions here in Gippsland, we have experienced some wonderful lambing percentages over the last two seasons, as have many clients in our area. From a stud perspective, this has allowed us to offer more rams for sale to meet the needs of our clients and gives us more options to breed the type of rams our clients are asking for. For our commercial flock, this is allowing us to rebuild our numbers following the de-stocking that occurred during the drought.

We pregnancy scan all our ewes to help with management decisions in both the stud and commercial flocks. This year we have seen scanning rates of up to 150% across all ewe types.



Brooke with her arms full of lambs last year.

The Next Generation of Shearers

We have hosted two AWI funded shearing schools this year, a beginners week and 3 days for an improvers school. Six young people attended the beginners school (*pictured left*) and worked their way through 200 commercial ewes with guidance from Stuart Neal. Megan was one of the participants, learning so that she can help Steve when she is home. (*Right: father and daughter shearing together*).



THE STORM OF THE YEAR

It is said that every drought ends in a flood, and that has certainly been the case here in Gippsland. The massive storm front that hit Victoria on June 9 certainly left a lot of devastation across a large area of the state with trees down and houses and fences damaged, but it also filled all our dams for the first time in many years. The wind strength was horrendous, causing most of the damage. We ended up with 118mm of rain over the four days. We had finished shearing some commercial weaners the day before, but they were tucked up nice and dry in the shed. Some local clients had some losses, but the resultant extra feed has brightened all our spirits and we are now set up for a good spring. We also had a major rain event in March when the barehorn AI ewes were a few days off lambing, which saw Steve's two favourite ewes lose their lambs. We received 113mm of rain, the first time since we have been here that we have received over 100mm in a 24 hour period.



STEVE'S OTHER ROLES

As well as continuing his role as WoolProducers Australia Vice President, Steve is also the current VFF Livestock President. This role sees him on the phone (LOTS) and attending either physical or Zoom meetings a number of times a week. Some important topics that he has been involved with recently include loading ramp safety, riverside camping and effluent regulations.

WoolPoll is gathering pace and you are all encouraged to vote. This is a democratic process and you ALL have a vote.



Emily has celebrated two important milestones this year, with us finally gathering for her 22nd Birthday Party in April (in the shearing shed of course!) then in May her graduation from Monash Uni with a degree in Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering.



We wish her all the best for her future.



Bindawarra Poll Rams

DNA test results for the poll gene will be available again this year for selected sale rams. These rams will be identified as being PP (full poll) or PH (half poll).

Remember the genetic status of the ewe is also important when aiming for poll lambs.

FLEECE COMP PRIZE

One event that did occur at the Bendigo Sheep Show was the Fleece Competition. We were thrilled to achieve a third place in a Fine Merino Class.

Dates to remember:

- *Open Day* 17th August, 2021
- *Gippsland Merinos Ram Sale (Bairnsdale)* 31st August, 2021

Email, not snail mail

If you have email and would prefer to receive "Bindawarra News" electronically, please let us know and we will add you to our database. It is much quicker and easier for all. Or follow us on Facebook .



"A goal without a plan is just a wish" Antoine de Saint-Exupery