



*"Profitable sheep for all areas"*

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Winter

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# BINDAWARRA NEWS

## BIOSECURITY—IT REALLY IS IMPORTANT

As stud breeders, we are very aware of the biosecurity risks to our animals. Usually the risks involve contact with other animals, which we limit with double fencing and being in the enviable position of having few livestock-owning neighbours. Now all farmers are becoming aware of risks to their animals.

Biosecurity is at the forefront of everyone's mind at the moment with many media reports about Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Lumpy Skin Disease and the varroa mite incursion. We encourage everyone to develop a biosecurity plan for their property. A template can be found at the Animal Health Australia website:

<https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/better-on-farm-biosecurity>

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## Bindawarra Sale Ram Inspections / Open Day— Tuesday August 23rd, 2022

Due to the increased awareness about biosecurity, we will have measures in place at our Open Day to minimize any risk to all visitors and animals alike. We are not sure what will be required, but may include cleaning of footwear, designated parking areas and visitor registration, as per our biosecurity plan. We ask all visitors to follow whatever guidelines we have in place.



All the sale rams will be on display and light refreshments will be available all day, as usual. The gates will be open from 10am until about 4pm.

Last year's open day.

Left: Steve showing Tom Thorburn the merits of some horned rams.

Right: Peter Young, Angus Laws, Gavin Missen and Malcolm Nicholls getting up close to some rams.



## 2022 Sale Rams & Auction Information

This year we will be offering 67 rams at the Gippsland Stud Merino Ram Auction on August 30th, the same number as last year. For the first time, we will be offering more poll rams than horned rams, due to the continued demand for poll rams. The rams will be displayed at the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange at 11 Saleyard Road in Bairnsdale (access via Dalmahoy Street) on the auction day, however the rams will be sold on the AuctionsPlus platform only (no auctioneer). It will be interesting to see how the change of venue works.

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 again this year. Steve did take four rams (two polls and two horned) to the Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo recently to display with the NE Merinos Group. It was great to have our rams “out there” after a couple of limited years and Steve was happy with how they presented when compared to other rams on display. With industry leaders and potential clients in attendance, it was a great opportunity to exhibit our product at the premier wool show in the country.



We will have private sale rams available from August 31st and first preference will again be given to those clients who have purchased rams at this year's auction.



## **GENETIC SELECTION ON FARM**

For the last few years we have been identifying the lambs with plainer breeches so that we can work more with these genetic families. We will continue to objectively breech score all lambs at marking to identify those animals that display these traits. There will be more unmulesed rams on offer in 2023. We are now in a position to investigate and offer ASBV's for next season.

Lambing percentages this season have been exceptional due to mild weather, extra grass cover and continued fox control. Seventy foxes were shot last year and we have already reached that number this year.



### **SHOW FLEECES**

At the recent ASWS, the two fleeces that we entered both won prizes. A 11kg fleece from a wether won second place and most valuable in its section with a value of \$111 (pictured left) while the other fleece from a ewe was valued at \$92 and received third place in its section (pictured right). We were very pleased with these results as the standard of competition is extremely high.





## **POLL TESTING—HOW AND WHAT IS IT??**

Many people ask how we get the poll genetic tests done. While we don't know the details of the testing process, the procedure from our end is quite simple. We use an applicator to pierce the ram's ear (very similar action to applying an eartag) to extract a small tissue sample (approx 3mm) which is stored in a small vial. We then post the vials off for testing and we get an email back with the results.

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.



## **FAMILY CELEBRATIONS**

### **STEVE the AGRIPOLITICIAN**



As well as continuing his role as WoolProducers Australia Vice President, Steve is still the VFF Livestock President. This role in particular has been very challenging of late with many topics discussed at

length, including the FMD risk, Lumpy Skin Disease, animal welfare, traceability and Sheep Sustainability.

Steve attends a lot of meetings, both online and in person and is on the phone a lot in these roles and meets people from all across Australia and from many agriculture related industries. He finds the roles very rewarding and has learnt many skills from how to log in to Zoom meetings to how to get the attention of the Ag Minister in such a way that he will be heard and how to speak to policy staff in these organisations.

We have enjoyed celebrating more milestones in our family in the last year.

Our youngest daughter Brooke finished Year 12, got a job in Sale, turned 18 and got her license. Independence at last! She has also played her 100th club game of netball with the Woodside FNC. We wish her all the best for her adult life.



Megan turned 21 and we held an "Op Shop Formal" party in the ram shed. It was a fun night with some fantastic items of clothing featured. Yes that dress is water-wave taffeta straight from the 80's.

### **Dates to remember:**

- *Open Day* 23rd August, 2022
- *Gippsland Merinos Ram Sale (Bairnsdale)* 30th August, 2022

### **Email, not snail mail**

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*"Ambition is the path to success. Persistence is the vehicle you arrive in." - Bill Bradley*