

One Oak Poll

July 2024 Newsletter

Poll Flock No.P408 Est. 1963



Welcome to our July Stud newsletter. A drier than average prediction for 2024 has luckily been averted for our region, with better than expected rainfall breaking in April/ May and continuing into this winter period. The paddocks have good growth and coverage after several wet years and the stock are responding well to these favourable these conditions.

Once again we will be holding our annual on-property ram sale on the last Friday in **September, the 27th**. The auction will begin at 1pm, with inspection from 10am, lunch and morning tea is provided. If you are interested in looking at rams prior to our sale, please contact Alistair. Catalogues and videos of sale rams will be available mid September on our website www.oneoakpoll.com.au



Client News

One Oak Poll Client tops 2024 Lake Cargelligo Ewe Competition

Article courtesy of Helen Decosta, The Land Newspaper

Justin and Natalie McCarten of Rankin Springs claimed top spot at the 29th Lake Cargelligo Maiden Merino Ewe Competition with their flock of One Oak Poll blood ewes.

A crowd of 50 people were in attendance to follow the competition on February 2, with perfect weather and a beautiful breeze to keep the flies and dust away.

The competitions judges were James Osborne, sheep and wool specialist with AWN, Deniliquin, Garry Kopp, Towonga Merino stud, Peak Hill, and associate judge Tamara Pabst, AWN wool technical officer, Tottenham, Vic.

Not only did Justin and Natalie McCarten's flock win in the judges opinion but they also won the peoples choice award, beating their previous years success being awarded second place.

The One Oak Poll-blood flock classed by Michael Elmes measured a fibre diameter of 20 micron, also cut an average of 6.1 kilograms per head over a nine month shearing interval with 68 per cent yield, while having a lambing rate of 110 per cent.

The judges said ewes were big, long framey ewes with excellent skins, that were a very even line, with a flexible but very well managed approach.

West Wyalong Flock Ewe Competition hat-trick win for Darren and Gale Clarke

Article courtesy of Elka Devney, The Land Newspaper

For the third year in a row **Darren and Gale Clarke**, Barmedman, have taken home the top spot at the West Wyalong Flock Ewe Competition.

Despite a challenging season for producers, five high quality entrants from across the region were judged by Ian Cameron of The Yanko, Jerilderie and Alex Karsten of Kiawarra Merino stud, Weethalle, along with associate judges Lachlan Kitto, Tallimba and George Ridley, Girral.

Classed by Michael Elms, the Clarke's winning July/August 2022 drop One Oak blood ewes were the youngest in the competition.

On average, the flock ewes had a 19.4-micron fleece with a 41 newtons per kilotex staple strength and cut 5.59 kilograms of wool per head per year.

The flock also achieved a 95 per cent lambing and 70pc yield with a 32pc culling rate.



Judge Ian Cameron said the yield was visible with a bright and white wool. **“They are structurally very sound and squared in the backside when you stand behind them,”** he said. The culling rate shows, and it is good to keep that pressure on to keep a tight flock. **With great skin quality, they’re an uncomplicated sheep that still have plenty of cut.”**

Judge Alex Karsten said the wool was well presented.

“The staple length is excellent with a nice bright wool, and good crimp,” he said.

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Coming in as the runner-up was Jason and Leonie Ridley, Grenoble, Girral, with their flock of Haddon Rig blood ewes classed by Andy McLeod. On average, the 1100 breeding ewes had a 19.6-micron fleece and cut 5.5kg of wool per head per year. Despite extremely difficult and isolating wet conditions which saw a 78pc lambing, the flock achieved a 78pc yield with a culling of 34pc. “I’m aiming to produce ewes with a free growing long staple length that eases shearing and handling,” Mr Ridley said.

“With all of the water we’ve had on-property, the pasture quality has been hopeless so they’ve had a bit of grain, but considering what conditions they’ve been through I’m really happy with them.”

Judge Alex Karsten said the ewes were well balanced with a good staple length. Judge Ian Cameron add that there were a few minor structural issues.

“They’re just little ones around classing, the odd foot and hock but they’re small things that can easily be remedied with the ram source,” he said.

Overall third place was awarded to Gerard, Caroline, Glen and Maureen O’Brien, Caloola, Bellarwi, with their Pooginook blood flock classed by Bruce Baker, who died earlier this year.

On average, the O’Brien’s February shorn 2000 flock breeding ewes had a 18-micron fleece and cut 7.5kg of wool per head, per annum. The flock had a 115pc lambing and 72pc yield with a culling of 22pc.

Breeding Direction

We aim to use a **balanced approach** within our breeding program - a sheep that is profitable for our business as well as that of our clients. Our focus is on breeding an **uncomplicated**, heavy cutting, quality wool sheep, that is **productive** and ultimately dual purpose, placing an emphasis on bright **quality wool** grown on a robust **frame**. Production of free growing, quality wool, on a good skin with **shearability**, has been central to our breeding goals for many years. Michael Elmes, our stud’s classer has also focussed on Staple length. One Oak Poll sire **Mr Ed**, had significant staple length and this trait has been further advanced with the introduction of WP-422. We are continually working at blending extra staple length with rich, quality wool, whilst maintaining a heavy emphasis on constitution and conformation.

A base of four families that compliment our long term breeding program has gradually emerged:

One Oak Poll sire **Red-31 (R15031)**, his progeny and brothers (**R15045**) are breeding heavy cutting, long stapled medium wools with very correct robust frames, suitable for sheep/wheat areas.

One Oak Poll Sire **18010** (sold for \$30,000) is breeding a good blend of white, heavy cutting, waxy wools on a dominate frame. 18010 has complimented the red tag family as well as our finer, white tag family, due to his quality wool and One Oak No.2 background.

Morundie Park Sire **NE8-144**, purchased from Sheepvention in 2019, has bred sons we have used in our dual purpose, finer wool family, suitable for higher rainfall areas. This sire was joined across descendants of One Oak No.2 ewes and the white tag family. Our finer white tag famiy is also producing a non-muelsing sheep with whiter quality wools.

Sons and grandsons of **LB14001** have been dominate within our white tag family. The white tag ewes are based on One Oak No.2 blood, with the the aim of breeding a dual purpose, fine medium wool type.

Our long-term clients are consistently achieving good fertility rates, wool cuts and store sale results. The outstanding results a number of our clients have achieved in flock ewe competitions is testament to their **commercial productivity**. Several of our long term clients have achieved consistent success in the The Lake Cargelligo Ewe Competition, winning or placing 24 times over the competition’s 28 year history.

Our rams have bred well in both sheep-wheat areas as well as higher rainfall regions. Over the last few years, One Oak Poll sires have bred successfully in a number of leading studs throughout Australia.

Breeding Direction *continued*

Sire Evaluation:

One Oak Poll sire **Red 15050** was recently used as a link sire in two sites. This sire, is a Heavy boned, stronger wool sire whose dominate attributes were repeated at the Trangie site, which was more suited to his genetic background. At Trangie R15050 consistently produced heavier cutting and structurally sound progeny

Data collection:

Electronic tagging, auto drafting and individual data recording has assisted with the accuracy in the implementation of our breeding program. Every young ram is **fleece weighed** and **physcially described** when shorn in March. This description assists us to better understand the **measured qualities in wool and skin** that we select for.

The use of the **autodrafter** has improved our management, particularly with drafting young sheep based on **bodyweight**; it enables us to focus on the body types that will perform better over the hooks

2024 Ram Sale Joinings:

The lineup of sale rams for this year’s auction include AI lambs by **180010** by B13014 (sold to Sandlawood Poll Merinos for \$30,000 in 2020). **R15031 (Red 31)** by WP-422 and **21B003** by R15031, (sold to the Bull family “Irrroy” Deniliquin for \$28,000 in 2022).

Paddock joinings include a syndicate of **180010 sons**, joined to the medium wool ewes. This joining worked well with a large number of progeny ear marked for our 2024 auction. Special medium ewes were joined to Red 31 (R15031) and Red 45 (R15045)

Leading rams in the fine wool joinings were **B19499** (by Morundie NE8-144) and **B19498**. B19499 is a superior quality, white wool dual purpose ram and B19498 is a heavy cutting sire (who cut 13kg of 17 micron wool after 7 months in the ram shed).

R19133 and **O21005** (ET son of 18010) were joined to the larger framed, heavier cutting woolled syndicate, with a good number of progeny from this joining currently in the ram shed. Sons of R19133, joined across the heavier cutting larger framed ewes will be for sale in this year’s auction

R19033 was the heaviest cutting sire of his drop (2020) and a half brother of **R19037** (purchased by Boorambil Merino Stud for \$28,000 in 2021). **R19033** has extra staple length, coverage and depth of a stud sire and has bred **22W349**, a leading sire of our 2024 drop lambs.



22W349 by R19133



21B003 by R15031 (RED-31)



O18010 by B13014

Sires



2023 Ram Sale

Article courtesy of Helen Decosta,
The Land Newspaper

There were buyers represented from all across the eastern states of the country at One Oak Poll Merinos ram sale, Jerilderie, September 29.

The sale topped at \$5500, with a clearance of 99 rams sold of the 110 offered, with an overall average of \$2300.

The sale started off strong with the top-priced ram, tag 22B707 selling to DJ Lyons Partnership, Melville Park, Vasey, near Hamilton, Victoria for \$5500.

The polled ram tipped the scales weighing 106 kilograms, with a fibre diameter of 18.5 micron and measured a comfort factor of 99.2 per cent.

David Lyons, DJ Lyons Partnership, Vasey said that the ram best suited his 1200 ewe, self-replacing Merino flock.

"I liked him from the word go, his wool quality, his micron and his softness of the wool," Mr Lyons said.

"It was bright white along his length and width also."

DJ Lyons Partnership, also the second top priced ram, tag 22W303, for \$5000, along with three other rams to average \$4600.

The volume buyer for the sale was Kingslea Partnership, Bookham, who purchased 10 rams to a top of \$4000, for an average of \$2360.

Rosie Mitchell, Kingslea Partnership said that her mother has been breeding the operations



Top price ram at the 2023 auction, sold to David Lyons, Vasey, Victoria

line of ewe for over 50 years, running 3000 Merino ewes with the older ewes being joined to Border Leicester rams for a cross-bred lamb operation.

The operation has also just recently changed over to One Oak Poll genetics.

"Chris Bowman is our classer and very kindly chooses everything that we purchased today and his main concern was that they suit our wet climate and also the hills and the rocks," Ms Mitchell said.

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