

# One Oak Poll

July 2023 Newsletter

Poll Flock No.P408 Est.1963

Welcome to our July Stud newsletter. From October 2022, as with many other regions, we experienced an unrelenting wet period that provided it's share of challenges. Continual Rain, unseasonable humidity, frogs, blow grass, mosquitoes, inaccessible paddocks...the list could go on. We were however pleased to see that our sheep stood up to these flood conditions, with our wool clip from adult sheep, ram and ewe hoggets having very little, to no weather damage. The development over the last 20 years in improving wool quality is showing depth throughout the stud. Our current season is looking positive with good sub soil moisture and prolific coverage of native grasses across the farm.

Once again we will hold our annual on-property ram sale on the last Friday in **September, the 29th**. The auction begins 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 on 04 2786 7117. Catalogues and videos of sale rams will be available mid September on our website [www.oneoakpoll.com.au](http://www.oneoakpoll.com.au)



A bridge was built during the flood period to bring young ewes across for shearing.

## Client News

By Alexandra Bernard, *The Land Newspaper*

**DARREN and Gale Clarke**, Barmedman, have taken out the **West Wyalong flock ewe competition for the second year in a row**.

A wet season had tested all four entrants in the competition on Friday with Matt and Wendy Goodwin, West Wyalong, finishing second, Daryl and Jo Kitto, Tallimba, third and encouragement going to Ian Bell, Tallimba.

Ewes were judged by Russell Jones, Darriwell, Trundle, and Emma Northey, Kikoirra, along with associate judges Lindsay and Paige Brown, Beckom, and David Messner, Tallimba.

The three associated judges also awarded their choice to the Clarks.

The winning ewes from the Clarks were the youngest in the competition being July/August 2021 drop Merino ewes, One Oak Poll blood, June shorn, with a wool score of 19.3 micron and yield of 72 per cent.

The Clarks run 1000 breeding ewes and in 2022 had an average cut per head of 6.5 kilograms.

Like all the entrants Mr Clarke said the season had been tough with the wet year.

"They haven't grown out like they were last year but every-one's in the same boat," he said.

Judge Emma Northey said the first thing she noticed was the sheep had a softer face.

"You can feel the softer skin and that carries right through with your wool types and is reflective of your yield as well," she said.

"You can feel they're a softer handling wool, soft to the touch, and you've got good lock structure.

Judge Russell Jones said he first noticed the ewes are a very commercial flock with where the industry is today.

Mr Jones said the ewes were not as well finished as last year but the wet would have affected that with nutrition in the feed during that time not good enough for the lamb. "I think that's what's happened because the wool qualities good, lock structure is generally good," he said.

"I'm thinking that the nutrition in the mother wasn't enough to give them what they had last year."

"A lot of merino breeding isn't just about what we do - it's about what happens to the sheep."

Mr Jones said overall they were a great mob of sheep.

"They're a great line of ewes, tremendous evenness and structure is good - it's purely everything that's happened with the rainfall," he said.



## Breeding Direction

We aim at using 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**, his progeny and brothers (**Red-45**) 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. OOP-18010 has complimented the red tag family as well as our finer, white tag family, due to his quality wool, 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 The Lake Cargelligo Ewe Competition, winning or placing 23 times over the competition's 27 year history, is testament to their **commercial productivity**.

This year, clients **Justin** and **Natalie McCarten**, Glen Echo, Rankin Springs, once again featured in The Lake Cargelligo Ewe Competition, when they were presented with second place after winning the event in 2020, 2018 and 2010.

The McCarten's ewes had a micron of 20.1, 7kg average wool cut per head, yield of 66pc, and a lambing percentage of 105.

The judges said they were impressed with the big heavy barrel ewes and their ability to cut plenty of high quality wool.

One Oak Poll client's **Darren** and **Gale Clarke**, "Greenlands", Barmedman, have been purchasing rams for the past 13 years, and won the 2023 West Wyalong Ewe Competition for the second year in a row.

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. Our 2022 on-property auction saw a top price of **\$28,000** and average of \$3905 for 100 rams sold.

## Client News



Helen and Mark Hoskinson and their grandson Aiden with Natasha Wells, holding the top price ram at the 2019 on-property auction

We wish to thank **Mark** and **Helen Hoskinson** for their support of our stud over the past 30 years. Mark and Helen recently retired from farming and we wish them and their family all the best in their future endeavours.

The Hoskinson's developed their Poll Merino's into a highly regarded, profitable, dual purpose flock, with a keen focus on quality, soft, white wools. Their sheep and wool clip repeatedly topped markets and were a credit to the Hoskinson's dedication to Merino breeding and reflected the work put in over their years-farming their property "Fernleigh" at Kykiora.



It's the ability to target the meat and wool markets that has kept Kikoira sheep producer **Philip Hill** loyal to **One Oak Poll bloodlines** for more than three decades. Philip and Vicki and their sons Ryan and Andrew run about 2000 Merino ewes on about 2440 hectares of mixed farming country with a 425mm average rainfall.

He has always known his sheep have dual purpose characteristics, but the operation has proof that this is more than just talk. Philip has a stake in the meat industry and has their White Suffolk-Merino lambs processed in an abattoir in Cowra, with the lambs then butchered and sold direct to consumers. While the White Suffolks play their terminal role, Philip said "half the genetics still come from the ewe" which makes it essential that his breeders carry strong meat traits. "I've seen what One Oak Poll has done with their sheep and while they had good sheep to start with, they have improved the hindquarters even more," Philip said.

The meat business has been a lucrative offshoot of the main Merino line of sheep run on the Hill's property Pynvue, selected by his grandparents in the early 1900s.

The overall joining comprises 1200 Merino ewes joined to the One Oak Poll Merino rams, and then 800 Merino ewes joined to White Suffolk rams. Those joined to the terminal sire were originally those classed out from the main Merino line, but Philip said it was becoming increasingly difficult to find sheep that needed to be taken out. "I think we are seeing the results of the work down in the One Oak Poll flock, and how that is flowing through to our sheep which are always getting better," he said.

When it comes to buying rams, Philip said they had a budget that they stuck to, and often the ones that had the double ticks next to them in the catalogue went beyond their price range. While it is reassuring to know that he likes the same rams that others do, Philip said it was still possible to pick sires that had what he was looking for – great hindquarters, excellent constitutions, the ability to survive in tough conditions and good wool. They must be easy care sheep which he said the One Oak Poll sheep were, and it's seen in the lack of body strike in adult sheep. Michael Elmes helps with the ram selection, picking sires that will suit the dual-purpose nature of the flock.

"We tend to select rams around the 19-20-micron mark, and our adult sheep are cutting eight kilograms of 20-micron wool and our lambs are finer," Philip said.

"This is a medium wool operation that also has an emphasis on meat, and the rams we buy allow us to do that. "The success of the livestock operation has the Hills moving more of their country into livestock and less into cropping, believing it is a safer bet than outlaying money to grow wheat and canola.

The lineup of sale rams for this year's auction include ET and AI lambs by **O18010**. Special Medium rams for sale are by Red-31 (**R15031**), Red-50 (**R15050**), Red-45 (**R15045**) Red-35 (**R17035**) and were joined as a syndicate to our special stud ewes.

Purple stud ewes were joined to a Syndicate of sons of the above rams as well as sires, **O18002** and **O18011**.

Joined to the heavy fine (HF) group was **Morundie NE8-144 and his son LB19499**. Also Joined into the HF syndicate, was a son of Collinsville 351. This ram has a large correct framed ram with a heavy 17 micron wool.

**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 descends from the introduction of WP-422 and has extra staple length, coverage and depth of a stud sire. This sire was joined to the heavier, finer wool ewes to add staple length, volume and make use of his bright quality wool.

Joined in the special fine syndicate was **W17002** (son of LB1400). This sire was joined in sire evaluation and measured a yearling body weight of +10.2.



Sires

**O18002: joined to the purple tag syndicate**



**O18010: joined ET & AI to the best OOP ewes**

## 2022 Ram Sale

**By Jenny Kelly,  
The Weekly Times**

A ram with genuine sire appeal topped Friday's One Oak Poll sale at \$28,000, helping carry the Jerilderie-based Merino stud to a stud record auction average of \$3905 a head.

Nicknamed "Alistair" after breeder Alistair Wells, the ram was second under the hammer in the 110-lot catalogue and sold to local commercial breeder Donald Bull of Irroy at Deniliquin.

The price matched last year's top price for the stud.

Mr Bull said while it was the most money he had spent on a ram, he needed 20 replacement flock rams a year and the value was there in the longer-term.

Similar to many at the on-property sale, he was taken with the ram's wool and the way it was carried on a very correct structure.

The ram was 20.2 micron and boasted a comfort factor figure of 99.5 and weighed 102kg liveweight.

"He suits our conditions perfectly and he just has a beautiful square barrel with lush wool," Mr Bull said.

"We've been breeding our own rams for 20 years and



\$28,000 Top price - Andrew Combe, Elders, Alastair Wells, One Oak Poll Merino, buyers Donald, Will and Ann Bull, Conargo, and One Oak Poll Merino sheep breeding consultant Michael Elmes.

while we've spent over what we have in the past, I thought why not have a crack. And 20 flock rams at an average of \$3000 or \$4000 costs a lot more than (\$28,000)."

Noted sheep classer Michael Elmes said the ram was one out of the box.

"It's bold and lustrous wool that you don't see a lot of," he said. "He has got ram's wool and for a stud sire to breed on you need that something extra and he has it."

Natasha Wells said they had retained a semen share of the ram and he would be used in their stud.

"Alistair didn't want to sell him, we had a lot of conversations about it," she said.

The sale opened strongly, with the first 20 rams consistently selling from \$5000 to \$10,000.

The Pemcaw Merino stud at Dunedoo paid the second top price of \$10,000 for a sire, while Western District producer David Lyons of Melville Park Hereford stud outlaid \$8000.

Rams sold to buyers from a wide area, from southern Victoria to Queensland with several Merino studs battling it out against repeat commercial clients.

**"One Oak Poll  
Merinos match  
last year's top  
at \$28k"**

### Sale Results

- \$28,000 top price
- second top of \$10,000
- \$3905 Av for 100 rams

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