
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PETER BUTTON



Wow! How time has flown as I find myself writing my first Presidents report already.

Our year started with a well supported and well run conference in Albany WA. Congratulations to everyone involved in organizing and running the event. Although the weather was a bit of a mixed bag, everyone enjoyed the occasion in a great setting. It was interesting to follow the boys road trip from Victoria in the RAV 4 - sounded like getting there was half the fun. Oh to be young again!!! Hopefully everyone arrived home safely and motivated to implement relevant lessons learnt at the conference.

At the time of writing, talking to members around the country, most seem to have finally received some good opening rains, with seeding and pasture renovation well underway with good subsoil moisture setting things up well into the winter. Hopefully this will be the year the spring rains will return and the year will finish on a high.

By the time you're reading this lambing will be finished in most areas and hopefully enjoying a nice green pick. This is an exciting time of year seeing the results of your time spent selecting sires and allocating ewes to progress your stud to the next level, which in turn has an influence on the industry in the future.

The Show & Sale season will now be underway and we wish members all the best in what is shaping up to be another good year with high demand and prices reflecting this. All the indicators are pointing towards solid lamb prices again in the spring. Our commercial clients will also have a good choice in replacing sires. It is up to all of us to maintain the highest quality in the sires we make available to the industry to keep our breed the number one choice of Prime Lamb Sire.

On a personal note on behalf of all members I would like to wish Nikki, Dan & Harry all the best on the impending arrival of the newest member of the Ward family. We can't wait to meet the newest member of the White Suffolk family. Enjoy your time off with the family Nikki.

If any members ever have any queries please don't hesitate to contact any member of the committee as we are here to help and work with you.

Peter Button



FROM THE SECRETARY

NIKKI WARD

2016 is flying by quickly!

ANNUAL RETURNS

The Annual Return process has been and gone again. Thank you to all members for sending in returns and payment promptly.

If you were a little slow in completing your return you would have noticed that reminders were sent out direct from the database electronically. This was a great way to trial the new email feature with those members receiving an Annual Return summary direct to their inbox.

The process has had positive feedback and email will now be used for distributing returns (to all those with an email address on their membership file) in 2017. This does mean that paperwork / postal returns will be a "thing of the past" and will ensure efficient distribution so you have the best opportunity to complete your annual return in time.

Obviously those without email will continue to receive a paper copy in the post.

MATERNITY LEAVE

As you are aware I will be taking maternity leave at the end of August for twelve months.

Ms Gudrun Hanke has been appointed Acting Secretary during this time. Gudrun has worked part-time within the Rural Services office for three years as an Administration Officer and will take a step up to the White Suffolk role in both secretarial and financial management. At this stage her work days will remain the same as those I worked - Monday, Wednesday and Friday and I encourage you to contact the office on these days. Please make Gudrun feel welcome and be sure to introduce yourself.



It is hard to believe it will be twelve months before I speak with most of you again. No doubt you will hear the news of our new arrival as the time comes and I will definitely make sure I share some pictures.

I sincerely wish you all the best for the remainder of the year, and in particular great success for the White Suffolks in the show and sale ring. See you in 2017!

Nikki Ward

NEW MEMBERS SINCE APRIL 2016

Welcome to the following new members of the AWSA:

Flock	Name	Address	Town	State	Stud Prefix
875	Thornton, J	759 Marsden Park Rd	Loomberah	NSW	Springview
876	Wadlow, N & K	Old Ashrose	Hallet	SA	Old Ashrose



AUSTRALIAN WHITE SUFFOLK ASSOCIATION

National Conference

Wagga Wagga, NSW
February 12th - 15th

Venue: Carriage House Motor Inn

- Many top local and national speakers will be attending.
- The Carriage House Motor Inn will be the venue for all formalities during the 2017 conference. They have 32 rooms reserved until the end of the year, so book now! www.carriagehouse.com.au
- The Big 4 Wagga Wagga Holiday Park is also nearby. www.big4.com.au/173



FEDERAL COUNCIL MATTERS

WHITE SUFFOLKS AT LAMBEX

We have again taken up the opportunity to sponsor the Young Guns competition at LambEx 2016 in Albury, NSW from 10th – 12th August.

The AWSA is pleased to align itself with the Young Guns Competition, which encourages participants from high school students to those starting out in the workforce to share their ideas and interest in the sheep and lamb industry.

We will have a display booth at LambEx as part of this sponsorship and a full report on the Association's presence and involvement in the Young Guns Competition will be provided in the next newsletter.

WHITE SUFFOLK EDITORIAL - KIM WOODS

Kim Woods has again been engaged as Media Officer for the Association.

We are fortunate that Kim has an extensive distribution list and the ability to ensure White Suffolk editorial receives good exposure in rural press papers and on social media however we need leads for stories to take advantage of this.

To assist in writing editorial for the breed, please forward any contact details or information on leads for commercial stories or anything else you feel may be worthy of a good news story onto Kim or the Secretary (see contact details in the front of this newsletter).

2017 NATIONAL CONFERENCE - WAGGA WAGGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Carriage Motor Inn & Function Centre in Wagga Wagga, NSW has been secured as the venue for the 2017 National Conference. The Conference is scheduled to be held from Sunday, 12th February through to Wednesday morning, 15th February 2017. More information will be distributed to members as the time comes.



BROMAR ENGINEERING SPONSORSHIP

A reminder of the Bromar Engineering sponsorship secured for the following five major shows this year: Adelaide, Dubbo, Hamilton, Hobart and Perth.

Bromar have kindly donated one lick feeder to each of these shows for the winner of the Supreme Exhibit Award.

Congratulations to Kinellar Stud who took home the feeder at Dubbo Show in May (pictured below)

A report on all winners for 2016 will be included in the November newsletter.



BRANDED PRODUCT

The Council is pleased to report that Branded Product continues to move forward on a positive note.

At the beginning of July the Branded Product proposal was again taken overseas to present to a variety of companies and markets for support. More detail will be provided to members as soon as available.

continued >

FEDERAL COUNCIL MATTERS CONT.

WIN A RAM COMPETITION

The Win A Ram Competition is now open to all commercial White Suffolk producers. Members are encouraged to promote the competition to their clients.

The prize of a \$1000 Ram Voucher will be received by the successful entrant to use towards the purchase of a White Suffolk ram from a registered AWSA stud.

The competition will run from 1/7/2016 to 28/10/2016, and the winner will be drawn and announced on 31/10/2016.

If you would like any competition information to include in your stud newsletter please contact the Secretary.

Entry and details of the competition are available on the AWSA website at www.whitesuffolk.com/win-a-ram.



RURAL PRESS ADVERTISING

The Rural Press Advertising campaign will begin across the states from July and will be co-ordinated by the advertising liaison in each state.

The 2016 campaign will again be similar to last year with a series of strip ads that will include the Win-A-Ram competition details. An example is included below to familiarise yourself with the look and feel of our advertisements for 2016.

STATE ADVERTISING LIAISONS

The following advertising liaisons will be co-ordinating Rural Press advertisements in each state for 2016:

NSW – Paul Routley

SA – Mark Grossman

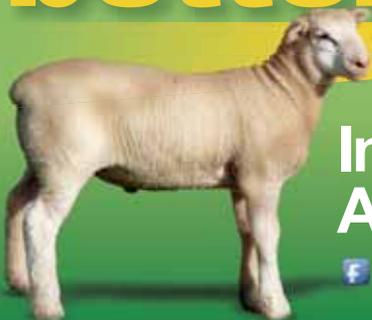
TAS – Dale Moore

VIC – Craig Mitchell

WA – Bruce Buswell

A reminder that the above liaisons have volunteered to take on the role for your state. If you have any suggestions or requests please contact them to discuss. We are always open to new ideas!

white suffolks
better by design



Investing in the Future of the
Australian Lamb Industry

Like us on Facebook www.whitesuffolk.com.au



PROMOTE YOUR STUD ONLINE THROUGH THE AWSA

There are a number of ways you can advertise your stud electronically through the AWSA.

BANNER ADVERTISEMENT ON AWSA WEBSITE

Advertising space has been provided on the AWSA website for any stud breeder or corporate business that would like to promote themselves in the form of a rolling banner advertisement.

Here is an example, or visit the AWSA website and access the sponsors at the bottom left of the page to view all current sponsor adverts.

Details for advertisement:

- Advert size: 290px wide by 200px high – saved as a 72dpi.jpg file
- Cost: \$330 inc GST paid to the AWSA annually
- Link: to your website, Facebook page or breeder's page on the AWSA website



E-NEWS STRIP ADVERTISEMENT

This is another great way to promote your stud sales!

Members have the opportunity to advertise in the AWSA E-News.

The E-news distribution covers members, industry representatives and commercial producers that have signed up online or via our Commercial Register. At present, each E-news edition is pushed out to 692 contacts, with 6 editions each year (bi-monthly).

Here is an example of the look and feel of an E-News trip advertisement. The advertisement can link directly to your website, Facebook page or breeder's page on the AWSA website.

Cost: \$110 inc GST per E-news edition.



BREEDERS PAGES ON THE AWSA WEBSITE

Arrange a link on the AWSA website (outside of the membership area) featuring a brief description of your stud and a link to your own website.

This area gives you additional exposure to the members list with any member or the public having the ability to click on your stud name, read details about your stud and click through to your own website.

Cost: \$25 inc GST per year



If you would like to arrange any of the above advertisements please contact Sue or Caitlin at BizBoost. Phone (08) 8572 4470 or email info@bizboost.com.au to find out more.

SHEEP DNA TESTS NOW QUICKER & EASIER

COURTESY OF SHEEP CRC
THURSDAY 30TH JUNE 2016

DNA testing of sheep is now quicker and easier than ever, following moves by the Sheep CRC to simplify the process for breeders.

From July 1 producers will be able to purchase a stock of blood cards to keep on hand on their properties, allowing them to take blood samples at their convenience, such as at lamb marking, and only submit those they are most interested in for analysis at a later date when they consider their selection options.

Chief executive of the Cooperative Research Centre for Sheep Industry Innovation (Sheep CRC), James Rowe, said the change was in direct response to a recent survey which indicated that breeders would be more willing to use DNA testing to improve their flocks if turnaround times were faster.

"We're always eager to make sure that new technology is practical for producers and their feedback has been really valuable in identifying how we can improve the DNA test system," Prof. Rowe said.

"Being able to order and keep on hand blood cards may seem a simple change to the process, but in effect it will shorten the turnaround time by up to two weeks and save breeders time, labour and money."

The Sheep CRC operates as part of the Federal Department of Industry, Innovation and Science's CRC program. It is a collaboration of over 40 organisations from across industry, government and the commercial sector, and includes producer groups, farm advisers, universities and research organisations, meat processors and retailers.

Working with its Participants and a number of international consortia the CRC has developed a range of sheep DNA tests, including genomic trait analysis, parentage and poll/horn tests, which rely on producers to collect a small tissue sample – either a couple of drops of blood onto a special card or an ear punch sample. The samples are sent to Geneseek's laboratories for extraction and analysis of DNA before the results are processed and reported by the Sheep CRC and the Sheep Genetics.

"Producers can now pre-purchase blood cards at 90c per card and hold a stock on farm to use when it's most convenient to take blood samples," Prof. Rowe said. "The Parentage or Genomic Test order can then be made separately to purchasing the blood cards.

"Previously breeders would order and pay for a number of tests, wait until that exact number of blood cards were sent to them, and then conduct an extra yarding of only those animals they were interested in testing to collect the blood samples – it's fair to say it was a cumbersome process.

"Now, they can sample as many animals as they wish, hold those samples on farm, wait until they see how those lambs mature, and only need to pay for DNA tests for those animals they are most interested in when they send in the blood cards. It will save sheep breeders both time and money."

Sheep breeders are also able to submit ear-punch tissue samples using Allflex's Tissue Sampling Unit (TSU).

The pricing structure has also been altered to reflect these changes, with the price of the blood card or TSU now separate to the price of the DNA tests. Parentage/Poll tests are now \$16.10 (ex GST) and the Genomic Test now \$49.10 (ex GST).

An online payment system is also being implemented and will be available later in July.

- More information on sheep DNA testing is available at www.sheepcrc.org.au.

Top tips for quicker DNA test results:

- Place an online order for cards and/or tests at www.sheepcrc.org.au
- After sampling return the cards or tissue samples via express post with a test order form
- Provide an electronic file with details including sample ID, group details and where possible Sheep Genetics ID
- Provide payment details when cards/TSUs are returned (online payment coming soon)
- Provide a complete sire/dam list to match to progeny for parentage testing



WELL CHUTE, THAT SIGN IS A TAD MISLEADING

COURTESY OF THE WEEKLY TIMES
FEBRUARY 10, 2016

THIS ram couldn't believe his luck when he came across a field bin on the farm of Maja Weiland and Lenny Polkinghorne.

The St Arnaud couple had mustered a small mob in the paddock and discovered their White Suffolk ram had disappeared.

"We eventually found him stuck in the field bin. And he was really stuck. He couldn't have got in further if he tried," Lenny said.

The bin was not as bountiful as the ram thought and, in a bid to get at the little bit of grain in the bottom, he wedged himself tightly in the chute.

Maja and Lenny took a leg each and a couple of good hard yanks later he was free. Clearly the Oversize sign applied more to the ram than the bin.



WILLIAMS GATEWAY EXPO 2016

COURTESY OF FARM WEEKLY
CLAIRE KING & BOBBIE HINKLEY

IT was a tough day from start to finish for British and Australasian breed judges Michael O'Neill, Annaghdowns Suffolk and White Suffolk studs, Northam and Denam Carter, Ridgetop White Suffolk, Poll Dorset and White Dorper studs, Mt Barker at the Make Smoking History Williams Gateway Expo in April.

There were equal measures of quantity and quality sheep on show to fill out each breed section of the judging and when it came down to the business end of the day there were some standouts in the interbreed selections.

In the coveted interbreed group competition, the two wheel Honda Motorbike (sponsored by Farm Weekly), the award went to the White Suffolk group from Max Whyte and Gail Cremasco's Brimfield White Suffolk stud, Kendenup.

Picked as the winning group out of seven breed groups in total, the White Suffolks pipped the Prime SAMM, Texel, Suffolk, Poll Dorset, White Dorper and Ile de France breeds to win the motorbike. Bolstering the Brimfield interbreed group was the interbreed champion and champion White Suffolk ewe and the champion White Suffolk ram from the individual interbreed and single breed judging.

The interbreed champion Brimfield White Suffolk ewe was an ET-bred ewe by a Depta Grove sire, which Mr Whyte said had made \$23,000 at the Depta Grove sale in 2014.

When commenting on the ewe, judge Michael O'Neill said it was a very soft and well-balanced ewe.

"She has the right degree of muscle and finish," he said.

"She is exceptionally well-balanced and very stylish, she is a lovely ewe."

White Suffolk

Four studs put their sheep up to be judged in the White Suffolk breed judging and it was the interbreed champion ewe from the Brimfield stud who scooped the pool as the best of the breed and champion White Suffolk ewe.

While the Brimfield ewe pipped the ram as the judges' preference for the best of the breed, the champion White Suffolk ram also hailed from the Brimfield stud.

When commenting on the champion ram, judge Michael O'Neill said Brimfield 621 was the ram which he felt was the sire whose progeny would create more market options.

"He is longer, a bit better muscled and has the type of frame which could create more market options for his progeny," he said.

"A very fine example of the White Suffolk breed."

The champion ram was by Glengarry 12-11 which was a sire breeding particularly well in the Brimfield stud.

In reserve to the Brimfield champion ram was a sire from Grant and Debbie Bingham's Iveston stud, Williams, which was described by Mr O'Neill as being the complete package in terms of conformation and muscling but was just a bit overpowered on the day.

Continuing the broad ribbon winners in the single classes, a ewe from the Ashbourne White Suffolk stud, Katanning, was sashed the reserve champion White Suffolk ewe.

In the breed group classes, the champion pair of ewes was exhibited by the Sasimwa stud, York, and the group of two rams and two ewes were exhibited by Brimfield and was the group which later went on to win the motorbike.

WILLIAMS GATEWAY EXPO 2016

COURTESY OF FARM WEEKLY



INTERBREED GROUP - BRIMFIELD

With the winning group of two rams and two ewes from the Brimfield White Suffolk stud, Kendenup, which took home a brand new two-wheel Honda agricultural motorbike courtesy of Farm Weekly, were Fairfax WA group manager Trevor Emery (left), judges Denam Carter, Ridge Top stud, Mt Barker, and Michael O'Neill, Annaghdowns stud, Northam, Julie Philipps, Brimfield stud principal Max Whyte, Brett Barton, Brimfield stud and Tim Beech, Mt Barker.



INTERBREED EWE, CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK EWE & BEST OF BREED – BRIMFIELD

Brimfield White Suffolk stud principal, Max Whyte (left) with judges Denam Carter and Michael O'Neill with the champion interbreed ewe exhibited by the Brimfield White Suffolk stud. The ewe was also sashed the champion White Suffolk ewe and Best of Breed.



CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK RAM – Brimfield

The Brimfield stud exhibited the champion White Suffolk ram, pictured with stud principal Max Whyte (left) and judge Michael O'Neill.



RESERVE CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK RAM – Iveston Iveston stud principal, Grant Bingham (left) and judge Michael O'Neill, with Iveston's reserve champion White Suffolk ram.



RESERVE CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK EWE – Ashbourne Ashbourne stud principal, Simon Kerin, holds his reserve champion White Suffolk ewe.

SHOW SUCCESS IS ALL IN THE PREPARATION

COURTESY OF THE LAND
MARK GRIGGS



St Paul's College, Walla Walla, year eight student Ellie Mazzocchi gets an appreciative look from her White Suffolk ewe before judging. She went on to win the novice class for the St Pauls stud at the NSW Sheep Show.

Bobby Chard, Kirsty McIndoe, Isla McIndoe and Molly Chard helping to show White Suffolk rams.



TRIGGER VALE SHEEP STUDS ANDREW BOUFFLER SUCCEEDING IN SHEEP SECTOR

COURTESY OF THE WEEKLY TIMES

SOPHIE SUTHERLAND

A FORWARD-thinking mindset and a whole-of-industry approach allows Lockhart farmer Andrew Bouffler to make waves within the sheep sector.

Andrew, his wife Mandi and three children, Jamieson, 16, Henry, 15, and Ruby, 12, run a traditional mixed farming enterprise on their 1630ha farm at Lockhart in the NSW Riverina.

But it is their sheep stud, Trigger Vale, established in 1952 by Andrew's grandfather, that Andrew said was "right at the coalface" of the industry.

"You look at our farming enterprise here with regards to innovation and I don't think you can say we are anything other than early adopters of things," he said.

The turning point, which defined Trigger Vale's breeding objectives, was Andrew's Nuffield scholarship tour of South Africa, South America and Europe in 2007.

The fourth-generation farmer said he had applied for the scholarship because he was "getting frustrated" with not being able to find the time to work on the business.

"You've got all the intentions in the world to allocating a couple of days to sit in the office and do research and read scientific papers, but there is always a job on the farm to be done," he said.

The key concept gained from the scholarship came from the flocks of South African farmers whose heavy focus on carcass traits was detrimental to the wool.

"Nuffield really taught me about what was needed to be in the genetic makeup of something ... the science behind how to actually build these animals to have the capacity to do both (produce wool and lambs) well," he said.

Through his involvement with Sheep Genetics Australia and genomics, Andrew started to grasp that he could improve carcass attributes and fertility of his Merinos without sacrificing wool by focusing on fat, muscle and growth traits, likening them to a fuel tank.



Making Waves - Andrew Bouffler on his property at Lockhart, NSW.

"If you have more muscle and fat then you have a bigger fuel tank and they can actually do more, so they've got a chance of still cutting six to seven kilograms (of wool) and raising twins," he said.

"If you haven't got the fat and muscle they haven't got the reserves and something has got to break or give."

The Boufflers run about 2200 White Suffolk and Poll Merino breeding ewes as well as a commercial flock on their property, shearing the Poll Merinos twice a year to help lift conception rates, improve mothering ability and increase survival rates of both ewes and lambs.

In regards to the current state of Australian agriculture, Andrew said it was currently pretty strong despite conditions being tough for the livestock sector for the past 10 to 15 years.

"To me it is extremely rewarding that those guys that have stuck with livestock are now getting the returns," he said.

"You can't change the rainfall, you can't change the climate, but you can change the way you react to what the climate hands up and that is really what you need to do."

It's clear that Andrew thrives on that very challenge.

"You're not 100 per cent sure what's going to unfold and you've got to get out there and take it on and make the most of it," he said.

ANNA VILLA STUD PRINCIPAL DON FERGUSON REMEMBERED

COURTESY OF THE STOCK AND LAND
CATHERINE MILLER



RESPECTED BREEDER: Don Ferguson, Anna Villa stud, Weetulta, passed away last month but will be long remembered for his contribution to sheep breeding in SA and nationally. He was among the foundation White Suffolk breeders.

ONE of SA's great sheep breeders – Don Ferguson, Anna Villa stud, Weetulta – passed away last month but will long be remembered for his extensive involvement in the White Suffolk and Poll Dorset breeds.

The 77-year-old held the rare honour of being a life member of both breeds.

The highly-respected sheep judge was also a life member of the Moonta and Royal Adelaide Show societies.

Last year Anna Villa celebrated 75 years of breeding stud sheep, with the Dorset Horn stud first established by Mr Ferguson's father Archie in 1940.

A Poll Dorset stud was founded in 1956 – the same year he returned to the family farm after completing his schooling at Scotch College.

A Suffolk stud followed in 1973 and Anna Villa was a White Suffolk foundation breeder in the early 1980s.

It was also the first stud in Australia to offer White Suffolks at auction.

As long-time exhibitors, Anna Villa has enjoyed many wins at the Royal Adelaide Show.

Australian White Suffolk Association president Peter Button said the breed owed a lot to Mr Ferguson.

"Don was always encouraging to newer breeders and prepared to offer his advice to progress the whole industry," he said.

"The Anna Villa-type sheep were renowned as being correct, stylish sheep."

SA Poll Dorset breeder Bill Close said Mr Ferguson made a major contribution as chief inspector at the Royal Melbourne Show in the 1980s. "He had great tact in dealing with people of differing opinions and steered the Poll Dorset breed through changing times," he said.

Anna Villa was a long-time Dorset Fair vendor, which resulted in genetics being dispersed across Australia.

"He was widely respected for breeding solid, genuine sheep," Mr Close said.

Mr Ferguson threw himself into organisations that were important to him, including Rural Youth, CFS, Ag Bureau, Show societies and Masonic Lodge.

In his later years he suffered ill health having been diagnosed in November 2002 with aplastic anemia.

Mr Ferguson is survived by his wife of 55 years, Cynthia, and their four sons Anthony, Scott, Kerry and Heath, 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

THE THREE KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL SHEEP PRODUCTION

COURTESY OF THE MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

Despite having 30 years' worth of experience, South Australian producer Graham Clothier believes it doesn't pay to be complacent when you're trying to breed the ultimate wool and meat sheep.

Graham, his wife, Karen, and son, Sam, run a crossbreeding operation on 'Greenvale', Woolumbool, turning off 3,100 lambs a year, mainly for Woolworths supermarkets.

Graham recently attended an MLA-funded Bred Well Fed Well (BFWF) workshop on his brother Phil's farm to pick up some tips on ram and ewe selection, preparation and nutrition and using Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs).

The workshop confirmed he was on the right track.

"As you get older you tend to know your sheep very well and find a recipe for what works, but these workshops offer the overall package that you need to fine-tune the whole system," Graham said.

"They're particularly good for young producers starting out."

The practical, one-day BFWF workshops are funded by MLA to help producers combine genetic decision-making with managing ewe nutrition to boost reproduction rates and flock productivity.

Success, according to the Clothiers, comes from a combination of breeding, feeding and the time of joining.

Graham's program for the 1,800 White Suffolk-Merino cross and 400 Merino ewes on the 650ha 'Greenvale' has been tested lately by two failed springs, when the usual annual rainfall of 500mm has slipped to 370mm.

The property in the Limestone Coast region of south-east South Australia is predominantly sand through to sandy loam and terra rossa, which is excellent sub clover country, and is supplemented by another 170ha of heavier soil closer to Narracoorte, where the Clothiers produce hay.

Breeding

Graham buys his rams from the family's Woolumbool stud at Lucindale, now run by his brother Phil, and also brings in genetics from Andrew and Mandi Bouffler's Poll Merinos from Trigger Vale stud at Lockhart, west of Wagga Wagga, NSW.

Graham aims to breed a medium wool, robust crossbred lamb and uses ASBVs to select for fat and muscle, to produce an animal with a meat to wool income ratio of 80:20. He joins Merino ewes to White Suffolk sires for first cross replacements and Merino-White Suffolk across White Suffolk for the second cross lambs.

The use of genetic evaluation through LAMBPLAN and MERINOSELECT, combined with workshops like BFWF, yields results. Last year, 68% of the ewes had multiple births, but Graham says it's not a matter of just selecting for fertility.

Feeding

Graham had his feeding regime confirmed through BFWF, which focuses on the impact of ewe nutrition on reproductive performance and flock profitability, and equips participants with skills such as condition scoring and how to do a simple energy budget for their flock.

At 'Greenvale', ewes are joined in early January for a five-week lambing in June, and fed three megajoules (MJ) of energy daily for a month, with feeding increasing as the season progresses. Hay or silage is fed twice a week, then grain is added into the mix until shortly before lambing when the ewes are on 8-10MJ/day.

At 'Greenvale', feeding regimes change after ewes are pregnancy tested and drafted into single, twins and empties. But for those in lamb, timing of feeding is critical.

"Even if it means you start feeding the ewes early, you can't let them lose that bloom they got in spring. You want them in as good a condition as possible, and no less than 2.8 condition score at lambing, otherwise they're underdone," Graham said.

"I feed my sheep well – my bank manager would probably say too well!"

Rams too, come in for their fair share of attention, and are all from brucellosis-accredited flocks. After a physical check and at a condition score of four or better, they're joined at one ram/100 ewes plus one for five weeks, a formula that the Clothiers have applied for 30 years with maximum results.

Time of joining

Lambing starts in the first week of June, which can be risky weather-wise as cold fronts take their toll on newborns, especially multiples. A precaution taken by the Clothiers is to sow narrow strips of wheat grass through the lambing paddocks, so the sheep can shelter in the tall, rank grass.

The aim is for 150% lambing from ewes mated, a goal that was easily achieved last year in the relatively mild winter.

All prime lambs are turned off finished. Depending on the season, most are offloaded at 50kg live or 22kg dressed weight, with the bulk sent to Woolworths and the heavier lambs sold to JBS Australia at Bordertown.

The Clothiers grow 250ha of dryland lucerne, but in a dry year will finish the lambs on barley and locally-made feed pellets in pens, and are not averse to buying-in surplus lambs to feed in a good year.

A 2004 Nuffield scholar, Graham Clothier studied branded lamb production, quality assurance programs and lamb lot feeding in Europe, US, New Zealand and Canada, and he's a big fan of backing up the visual appraisal of old with as much new measurement as possible.

"You do get to gauge the performance of your flock better just by working with them, but visual appraisal is a poor way of guessing what's happening to the sheep nutritionally and genetically, rather than knowing what's happening through measurement," he said.

More information

To find out about hosting a workshop contact BFWF co-ordinator Serina Hancock E: S.Hancock@murdoch.edu.au or T: 0403 570 823.



MAJOR UPGRADE ON THE WAY FOR RAMSELECT.COM.AU

COURTESY OF SHEEP CRC

Commercial sheep breeders could soon have access to a new DNA test that profiles the average genetic merit of their flock.

This new information will increase the precision with which rams can be selected to have the greatest impact on flock performance.

The DNA test results will feature in an upgraded RamSelect app, which will also allow breeders to store details of flock rams and their genetic merit in order to make better decisions about how they are used and how long they are kept.

Sheep CRC chief executive James Rowe said both of these new features of RamSelect.com.au would be available to producers in time for the forthcoming ram-buying season to identify and purchase the rams that are best-suited to their requirements.

“We are currently trialling the ‘Commercial Flock Profiler’ DNA test on a small number of properties, and early indications are positive that it could be a game changer for the industry,” Prof. Rowe said.

“The results of the test will improve sheep breeders’ understanding of the genetic make-up of their flocks, pinpoint traits which require improvement, and increase precision in ram selection targeting profit drivers in their business.

“By using the Flock Profiler DNA test on about 20 randomly selected young ewes, we can now calculate a ‘flock average’ by identifying genetic linkages to animals with full genomic profiles on the Sheep Genetics database.

“And by better understanding the genetic make-up of their flocks, commercial breeders will be better able to buy rams which fit their specific breeding objectives.”

Prof. Rowe said Flock Profiler results would greatly enhance the power of the popular RamSelect.com.au web-based app, which allows users to identify rams listed for sale which align with the specific genetic traits they are looking for.



Until now, the DNA tests offered by the Sheep CRC have been mostly purchased by the stud breeding sector to identify their superior rams and ewes earlier in life to accelerate the rate of genetic improvement in their flock.

Prof. Rowe said that while this demand from the stud sector would continue, it was exciting to see new avenues for participation opening up for commercial producers.

Prof. Rowe said that with the initial tests providing encouraging results, a larger-scale pilot trial would begin later this year, with a view to full commercial availability in 2017.

“The new Ram Team Manager feature on RamSelect.com.au will also provide valuable information about the genetic merit of the flock as it is the genes from the flock rams that flow through the flock and establish the genetics of the ewes,” he said.

“For commercial producers who have purchased rams with ASBVs and maintained good records of their ram team over time, the data will provide a flying start in having ready access to flock benchmarking data via RamSelect.com.au.”

In anticipation of the new version of RamSelect being launched at LambEx in August, producers can start documenting details of their ram teams. All that is needed is the unique Sheep Genetics identifier and the years that the ram has been used.

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LIVESTOCK CONSULTANTS

COURTESY OF SHEEP CRC

The next generation of livestock consultants is being equipped with the skills and tools to use the latest genetics technology through an innovative project designed to safeguard the future of the advisory industry.

The Future Livestock Consultants project is funded through participating consulting firms and the Meat & Livestock Australia Donor Company (MDC) and provides two-year internships for nine young professionals seeking a career in red meat and livestock consultancy.

The first intake of interns had a recent retreat which is part of their professional development program and included an on-farm sheep genetics workshop in Victoria, delivered by Cooperative Research Centre for Sheep Industry Innovation (Sheep CRC) Industry Engagement and Training Coordinator Lu Hogan and Steve and Debbie Milne, Waratah White Suffolks, Hamilton.

Participating consulting firms have funded the project in partnership with the MDC, which is trialling a new approach to attract and retain professional private consultants for the red meat and livestock industries.

The process involves the creation of a national network of consultants, which is underpinned by training and professional development to the interns. Sheep CRC is assisting with components of the technical training and skills development.

The interns, who are located across Australia within existing businesses, are also completing the UNE Graduate Certificate in Agricultural Consulting, a course developed by the Sheep CRC.

“The on-farm workshop at Hamilton provided training in understanding Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) and how they can add value to sheep businesses, and how ram breeders collect and submit



Pictured at the on-farm sheep genetics training day are Max Vowell, Brennan Mayne Agribusiness, Qld; with presenters, Steve and Debbie Milne, Richmond Hill Agribusiness and Waratah White Suffolks, Hamilton; Hannah Franz, Planfarm, WA; Emily Sims, Agripath, NSW; Dan Korff, Meridian Agriculture, Victoria; Lexi Cesnik, Sally Martin Consulting/Moses & Sons, NSW; Anna Ingold, Sheepmatters, NSW; Bec Reeves, Sheepmatters, NSW; Ben Reeve, Livestock Consulting Internship Program Manager; and Emma Egan, RMCG, Tasmania.

data to Sheep Genetics to generate the ASBVs," Mrs Hogan said.

"The interns also learnt how to use the RamSelect app to rank and select rams for a business.

"Other Sheep CRC initiatives were also discussed, including the development of the Wellbeing App and the potential of genomic testing to increase genetic gain."

Sheep CRC's involvement in the project is one way it's working to help address Australia's rapidly changing advisory and extension landscape.

"In 2008, CRC research identified that extension and advisory services were changing in the sheep industry," Mrs Hogan said.

"With the reductions in state government funding and aging advisors, there is a need to support the

development of a new generation of livestock consultants and advisors. This MDC Future Livestock Consultants project is working well to find solutions to this issue."

Meridian Agriculture is managing the project and Director, Mike Stephens, said it's important to develop the next generation of consultants and advisors as well as support their potential employers.

"There's an increasing number of agriculture graduates and a decreasing capacity of traditional first-time employers to take on new graduates and provide the training and support they need," Mr Stephens said.

"The idea of this project is that by the time the interns have completed the two years, there will be nine people who are fully equipped to work as livestock consultants."

More information on RamSelect is available from www.sheepcrc.org.au

HOW MUCH RED MEAT DO YOU EAT?

Many Australian women and children do not eat enough red meat and many Australian men eat too much, according to the Australian Dietary Guidelines.

A new website launched by Meat and Livestock Australia www.mlahealthymeals.com.au contains information about healthy eating, research reports and resources as well as healthy eating plans.

Meat & Livestock Australia supports consumption of 455g/week of cooked red meat as 100 to 200g (raw weight) portions, three to four times a week, as part of a healthy, balanced diet consistent with the Australian Dietary Guidelines.



TRUE TYPES TAKE TOP GONG

COURTESY OF THE LAND
ANNABELLE BEALE

THE White Suffolk breed's top titles were awarded to Borrehma, Braidwood and Timor, Parkes at the Sydney Royal Easter Show for their true-to-type exhibits.

Judge Mark Yates, Yerong Creek, NSW, described the April 2015-drop grand champion ram exhibit as a great representative of the breed.

Led by Timor White Suffolk stud principal Jason Barker, the ram was a triplet son of Timor99, and will be retained as a stud sire.

"He is the ram I have been looking for for a very long time," Mr Barker said.

The reserve champion ram title was sashed to Kinnellar White Suffolk Stud, Canowindra, NSW.

Borrehma's 11-strong show team made an impact in the female judging, taking out the grand champion and reserve title.

While Mr Yates praised the reserve champion for her traditional type frame, it was the grand champion's full package that got her over the line.

The ewe was a rising one year-old daughter sired by a Wingamin, Karoonda, SA, ram.

Her type, including structure, stance, presence and muscling was applauded by Mr Yates who said "she exhibits everything I am looking for in a show animal".

"She is a pleasure to put your hands on with nice meat coverage through the loins and right down through the twist," he said.

"Exhibitors should be congratulated on two magnificent exhibitors."

It was a successful day for Borrehma, who also took out the objective measurement class, after joining the show circuit just four years ago.

Stud principal Mick Wall said their significant investment in genetics was starting to show results.

"It is a young stud and we are starting to show out colours with consistency across the stud," he said.



White Suffolk champion ewe and ram, exhibited by Mick Wall, Borrehma, Braidwood and Jason and Thomas Barker, Timor, Parkes, sashed by Jane and Mark Yates, Yerong Creek.

SYDNEY SHOW RESULTS 2016

SYDNEY, NSW

JUDGE: MARK YATES, KUBURA STUD, NSW

Ram, under 1 year of age showing milk teeth only, shorn, born between 1 April – 31 May 2015.

1. Timor, J Barker
2. Kinellar, VJ Patterson
3. Borrehma, M Hall

Ram, under 1 year of age showing milk teeth only, shorn, born between 1 June - 31 July 2015.

1. Borrehma, M Hall
2. Timor, J Barker
3. Merton, B Stanford

CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK RAM

Ram, under 1 year of age showing milk teeth only, shorn, born on or after 1 August 2015

1. Borrehma, M Hall
2. Borrehma, M Hall & Vicki Barker
3. Macarthur, D Baker

Ram, under 1 year of age, showing milk teeth only in wool.

1. Timor, J Barker
- Highly Commended: "Warburn" A & M Dissegna

Pair of Rams, under 1 year of age showing milk teeth only, shorn.

1. Kinellar, VJ Patterson
2. Macarthur, D Baker

GRAND CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK RAM - TIMOR
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK RAM -
KINELLAR

Objective Measurement Class.

1. Borrehma, M Hall
2. Kinellar, VJ Patterson
3. Merton, B Stanford

Ewe, under 1 year of age showing milk teeth only, shorn, born between 1 April - 31 May 2015.

1. Borrehma, M Hall
2. Merton, B Stanford
3. Merton, B Stanford

Ewe, under 1 year of age showing milk teeth only, shorn, born between 1 June - 31 July 2015.

1. Borrehma, M Hall
2. Borrehma, M Hall
3. Merton, B Stanford

CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK EWE

Ewe, under 1 year of age showing milk teeth only, shorn, born on or after 1 August 2015.

1. Borrehma, M Hall
2. Borrehma, M Hall
3. Macarthur, D Baker

Ewe, under 1 year of age showing milk teeth only, in wool.

1. Merton, B Stanford
2. Swanbrook, D Snaith

Pair of Ewes, under 1 year of age showing milk teeth only, shorn.

1. Borrehma, M Hall
2. Swanbrook, D Snaith
3. Macarthur, D Baker

Ewe, displaying 2 teeth and over, shorn.

1. Macarthur, D Baker
2. Macarthur, D Baker

GRAND CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK EWE - BORREHMA
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK EWE -
BORREHMA

Peter Taylor Group. Consisting of one ram and two ewes, showing milk teeth only, to be bred by the Exhibitor. To be selected from Exhibits in General Classes.

1. Borrehma, M Hall
2. Merton, B Stanford
3. Macarthur, D Baker

Sires Progeny Group

1. Kinellar, VJ Patterson
2. Borrehma, M Hall
3. Macarthur, D Baker



WINNING SIRES PROGENY GROUP
- KINELLAR

**MOST SUCCESSFUL WHITE SUFFOLK EXHIBITOR
BORREHMA**



RESERVE CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK RAM
- KINELLAR

DUBBO SHOW RESULTS 2016

DUBBO, NSW

JUDGE: FINLAY MACDONALD, FAIRBURN STUD, VIC



**SUPREME CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK
- KINNELLAR**

Ram under 14 months, no more than 2 teeth shorn NOVICE

1. KIS, Kristy, Isla & Skye McIndoe

Ram under 14 months, no more than 2 teeth shorn OPEN

1. Kinnellar, VJ Patterson
2. Warburn, A & M Dissegna
3. Warburn, A & M Dissegna

Ram showing milk teeth only, shorn - born between 1/6 & 31/7/15 NOVICE

1. KIS, Kristy, Isla & Skye McIndoe
2. KIS, Kristy, Isla & Skye McIndoe
3. Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School

Ram showing milk teeth only, shorn - born between 1/6 & 31/7/15 OPEN

1. Warburn, A & M Dissegna
2. Smithston, D & B McIndoe
3. Ashburnia, NL Williams

Ram showing milk teeth only, shorn - born after 1/8/15 NOVICE

1. Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School
2. KIS, Kristy, Isla & Skye McIndoe
3. KIS, Kristy, Isla & Skye McIndoe



**CHAMPION & RESERVE CHAMPION RAMS
- KINNELLAR & WARBURN**

Ram showing milk teeth only, shorn - born after 1/8/15 OPEN.

1. Warburn, A & M Dissegna
2. Smithston, D & B McIndoe
3. Smithston, D & B McIndoe

Ram born after 1st April no more than 2 teeth, woolly NOVICE

1. St Pauls College
2. Yanco Agricultural High School

Ram born after 1st April no more than 2 teeth, Woolly OPEN

1. Smithston, D & B McIndoe
2. Warburn, A & M Dissegna
3. Ashburnia, NL Williams

PAIR OF 2 RAMS shorn, born after 1st April no more than 2 teeth

1. Kinnellar, VJ Patterson
2. Roccelli, B & S Picker
3. Warburn, A & M Dissegna

RAM over 1 1/2 yrs woolly or shorn.

1. Smithston, D & B McIndoe
2. Merton, BN & HF Stanford

RAM OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT CLASS to be drawn from shorn ram lamb classes

1. Kinnellar, VJ Patterson
2. Rocdell, B & S Picker
3. Kinnellar, VJ Patterson



**CHAMPION & RESERVE CHAMPION EWES
FARRER & MERTON**

EWE born after 1st April no more than 2 teeth, Woolly OPEN

1. Merton, BN & HF Stanford
2. Ashburnia, NL Williams
3. Warburn, A & M Dissegna

PAIR OF 2 EWES shorn, born after 1st April no more than 2 teeth

1. Warburn, A & M Dissegna
2. Ashbank, EC & JE Dixon & Soons
3. Smithston, D & B McIndoe

EWE over 1 1/2 yrs woolly or shorn.

1. Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School
2. Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School
3. Smithston, D & B McIndoe

EWE OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT CLASS to be drawn from shorn ewe lamb classes

1. Merton, BN & HF Stanford
2. Smithston, D & B McIndoe
3. Milton Park, J & A Milton

**GRAND CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK EWE - FARRER
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK EWE -
MERTON**

**GRAND CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK RAM - KINELLAR
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK RAM -
WARBURN**

EWE under 14 months, no more than 2 teeth shorn OPEN

1. Merton, BN & HF Stanford
2. Smithston, D & B McIndoe
3. Warburn, A & M Dissegna

**EWE showing milk teeth only, shorn - born between 1/6 & 31/7/15
NOVICE**

1. St Pauls College
2. Farrer Memorial Agricultural H
3. St Pauls College

**EWE showing milk teeth only, shorn - born between 1/6 & 31/7/15
OPEN**

1. Ashburnia, NL Williams
2. St Pauls College
3. Smithston, D & B McIndoe

EWE showing milk teeth only, shorn - born after 1/8/15 NOVICE

1. Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School
2. Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School
3. Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School

EWE showing milk teeth only, shorn - born after 1/8/15 OPEN.

1. Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School
2. Smithston, D & B McIndoe
3. Bygo, AN & JR Ireland

DUBBO SHOW RESULTS 2016 CONT.

DUBBO, NSW

JUDGE: FINLAY MACDONALD, FAIRBURN STUD, VIC

KEITH McINTOSH MEMORIAL SHIELD - Sires Progeny Group of 3

1. Kinnellar, VJ Patterson
2. Rocdell, B & S Picker
3. Ashburnia, NL Williams

GROUP 1 RAM & 2 EWES, milk tooth only, wool length open.

1. Smithston, D & B McIndoe
2. Warburn, A & M Dissegna
3. Milton Park, J & A Milton

BEST WHITE SUFFOLK HEAD, RAM OR EWE
SMITHSTON FARMS

SUPREME CHAMPION WHITE SUFFOLK EXHIBIT
KINELLAR

MOST SUCCESSFUL WHITE SUFFOLK EXHIBITOR
SMITHSTON FARMS

WHITE SUFFOLK CARCASS TRAITS STACK UP IN DUBBO PRIME LAMB COMPETITION

AUSTRALIAN WHITE SUFFOLK ASSOCIATION MEDIA RELEASE

JUNE 22, 2016

White Suffolk lambs have stacked up for carcass traits by dominating the hoof and hook trade classes at this year's Dubbo Show Prime Lamb Hoof and Hook competition.

The pure and crossbred lambs placed second on the hoof and first on the hook in the trade category of the competition, held in May at Fletcher International, Dubbo, NSW.

Catering for pens of six, the competition drew a record 528 entries from 12 maternal, terminal and composite breeds, competing across trade and export categories.

Finishing in overall second place, the White Suffolk team averaged 46.8kg liveweight, 23.5kg dressed, 50.2 per cent yield, 12.7mm fat depth, fat score three and with an average eye muscle depth of 15.9mm.

The lambs were awarded 36.2 from a total of 50 points on the hoof and 41.7 from 50 points on the hook.

The highest scoring White Suffolk entry was from Dugald and Bec McIndoe, Smtihston Farms, Glencoe, NSW.

Their pen of three spring-drop purebred lambs were out of maiden ewes and had been supplemented with grain for two weeks before entry.



They averaged 46.8kg liveweight, 24.8kg dressed, yielded 52.9 per cent, 13.3mm fat depth and had an eye muscle depth of 18.1mm at fat score three.

John and Diana Presnell, Ben Lomond, NSW, entered spring-drop, January shorn White Suffolk cross lambs out of Border Leicester-Merino ewes, finished on pasture to an average liveweight of 43kg.

The lambs dressed at 21.6kg, yielded 50.3 per cent, had a fat depth of 12.7mm and eye muscle depth of 14.7mm.

They were randomly selected out to of the paddock the day before entry.

The third White Suffolk entry from Darrel, Dawn and Brian Lewis and Roch Mercer, Glencoe, comprised spring-drop White Suffolk-cross lambs out of White Suffolk-cross ewes.

John and Diana Presnell run 2000 first-cross ewes in a 1050mm rainfall zone at an altitude of up to 1400m.

Their White Suffolk cross lambs are sold over-the-hooks into the supermarket trade at 20-24kg dressed.

"We entered the Dubbo prime lamb competition last year as a learning exercise and to compare our lambs," Mr Presnell said.

"This year we selected 12 lambs straight out of the paddock on type, carcass shape and liveweight.

“We use the White Suffolk for lambing ease and buy the best grade rams we can.

“Ewes are joined in April and receive no special treatment but marked 150 per cent last year.”

The lambs are finished on improved pasture and fed barley ad lib for six to eight weeks before sale.

The family's last consignment of lambs sold over-the-hooks to average 21.4kg dressed and returned 600c/kg HSCW plus \$8 skins.

Brian Lewis, Glencoe, entered the competition for the first time to compare lambs from White Suffolk-cross maiden ewes.

The November/December drop lambs had been randomly selected, with Brian keen to receive the carcass feedback on yield.

The Lewis family run 500 White Suffolk-Border

Leicester-Merino cross ewes across two properties, Killara and Euroka, turning off lambs over-the-hooks as suckers at 50-55kg liveweight.

Mr Lewis said the White Suffolk was used for its maternal traits of lambing ease, fertility, mothering and milking ability.

The White Suffolk-cross ewe lambs were joined at 60kg bodyweight and marked 100 per cent lambs last year.

Mr Lewis said body condition and nutrition needed to be emphasized when joining ewe lambs.

“I joined 137 ewe lambs and only pulled one to two lambs,” he said.

“The White Suffolk-cross lambs finish with a nice, fresh skin – the three-quarter White Suffolk ewes are good mothers and milkers.”

WHITE SUFFOLKS SUPPORT INAUGURAL SHEEP EXPO

BY NIKKI WARD

The drive from Victoria's Mornington Peninsula to Adelaide for the SA Sheep Expo proved worthwhile for Emily Attard, who was the recipient of the ASSBA Award of Excellence and Sheepmeat Council of Australia Scholarship for the highest senior achiever of the Expo.

Emily, together with 57 other young people aged between 12 and 23 years, participated in the inaugural Expo held over three days in Adelaide in late April.

Participants travelled from Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia to join South Australian participants.

With education a focus of the Expo, participants completed a diverse program which covered all facets of the industry; from nutrition, animal and wool assessment, through to marketing and career opportunities.

Emily won a travel bursary to participate in a New Zealand study tour, claiming the award by just 0.1 point from runner-up Klay Smith, Glenville stud, Cowell SA.

Emily spoke on behalf of all participants indicating that she had come away with a wealth of knowledge in various aspects of the sheep industry, "the Expo has made me more keen and excited to pursue a career in the industry and I can't wait to tour New Zealand."

The Australian White Suffolk Association supported the Expo as a bronze sponsor and supplied stud rams and ewes for the participants to care for during the Expo and compete with in the Handler classes held on the Friday.

Association President and SA Sheep Expo committee member Peter Button attended the Expo and had the opportunity to work with and support the participants during their stay at the Showground. "The enthusiasm and positive attitude of all participants was pleasing to see and the exposure of the breed to the next generation was well worth it", he said. "The Expo has definitely filled a gap in the industry in educating young sheep enthusiasts, and I am excited at the opportunities and exposure the Expo will create for the kids in the future."

The Expo was well-supported by industry bodies, sheep breed societies and individual studs. Major sponsors included Australian Wool Innovation, Sheepmeat Council of Australia, Thomas Foods International, Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia, with industry funding provided by SA Sheep Industry Fund.

With the fantastic feedback received from the inaugural event, the Expo already has the go ahead for 2017 with a tentative date set of 19th – 21st April.



Erica Nealey, McLaren Vale, SA, winner of the Intermediate Handler Class with the White Suffolk ram she looked after during the Expo.