

2013 Bundilla News

MERINOS THAT COUNT

Welcome to our 2013 Newsletter. We would like to thank all of our clients for their continued support in 2012 and we look forward to visiting you during the next couple of months.

**OUR 2012 ON
PROPERTY RAM
SALE... 150 hogget
rams averaged \$1937
to a top of \$6,600.**

2013 Program

- * **19th - 21st July**
Australian Sheep and Wool Show (Bendigo)
- * **5th September**
South West Slopes Stud Merino Field Day
(St Clements Retreat, Galong)
- * **18th September 10am**
Bundilla Open Day
- * **2nd October**
Bundilla On Property Ram Sale

BUNDILLA ON PROPERTY RAM SALE

**Wednesday 2nd
October 2013**



Suzanne and Stanley Hall Monte Verde Merinos, Tenterden, WA. Ross, Rick & Jill Baldwin Bundilla Merinos with top priced ram \$6600.

Bundilla Poll - The Leading Maternal Merino

Our breeding strategy focuses on a true dual-purpose merino that targets wool, prime lambs and the surplus ewe market opportunities.

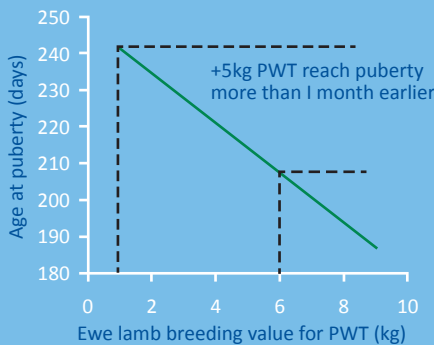
Bundilla's genetic achievements:

- * Wool quality and cut per head, with an average adult micron of 18.9 at a cut of 7.8kgs. We are increasing staple length as we select towards a plainer sheep.
- * While leading the way in levels of merino fertility with 143% average weaning over 20 years, we have set our next goal at 150% by 2016. Such fertility levels are a great profit driver, allowing for rapid genetic gain and a 90 per cent turnover of flock genetics every three years.
- * Selecting for worm resistance and resilience has been ongoing since 1993 and is complementary to reproduction traits with twinning ewes carrying 12% less worms compared to singles. This worm resistance enhances growth and wool production across the flock.
- * Continued focus on early high growth rates, muscle and fat while maintaining emphasis on improving wool returns per head is a major part of Bundilla's 37 year breeding program towards the Bundilla dual purpose merino.
- * Improved early fertility with 50% of our classed ewe lambs being joined at 6.5 months of age at 40kg+.
- * Great importance is placed on sheep conformation and body structure, as improved growth and muscling has been built into the flock.
- * The Bundilla Stud flock is run at a winter stocking rate of 12 DSE.
- * To continue to benchmark the progress of our genetics through Sire Evaluation, Wether Trials, Sheep ASBVs and increasingly in the show ring.

The Bundilla breeding program in 2014 will include 3000 Bundilla Stud ewes, 1000 ewe lambs joined, with a major focus of selecting within flock under high rainfall and grazing pressure.

Improving Early Fertility in Merinos

Graph 1



Selecting merino genetics that are successful in reducing the joining age of ewes to 6 - 8 months is currently at the forefront of merino development. This is very achievable though a few factors need to be considered.

Nutrition is one of the keys to reaching a merino's full genetic potential so pasture improvement and topdressing is essential. If breeders have highly productive pastures and management programs they are able to push the boundaries of genetics.

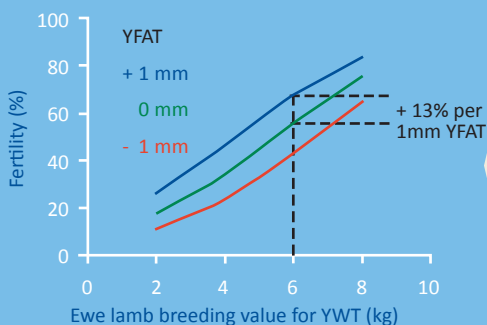
At Bundilla we have continually stressed the importance of carcass traits and have been providing ASBV's for growth to our clients for many years. Identifying animals within our flock that have genetically higher 200 day PWT (Post Weaning Weight) has a major impact on early maturity and has allowed us to join our ewes at an earlier age. (Graph 1)

In our 2010 Newsletter we highlighted how importantly we valued finish or fat cover when selecting sires and dams for the stud, and we have continued to provide genetics that have improved fat. In the 2013 sale catalogue you will find much higher ASBV's for fat as a result of identifying sires that are genetically superior. Sires such as Bundilla PP9 (100291) who has a positive fat value will have a big impact on our breeding program over the next 3 years.

BUNDILLA-100291

YWT	AWT	YEMD	YFAT	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	YWEC	NLW	MP+	DP+
11.9	12.6	1.6	0.8	16.4	-1.0	-1.6	3.5	1.3	16	5%	180	181
92%	83%	67%	58%	89%	93%	88%	78%	69%	76%	42%		

Graph 2



Genetically improved fat enables an increase in a ewe's body reserves and therefore gives the ewe the ability to wean more lambs. This obviously can also be achieved by management and making sure your twin bearing ewes are in three score or better at lambing. Graph 2 illustrates two ewes of the same weight but one ewe carries 1mm more fat. This extra fat cover statistically allows her to wean 13% more lambs.

In 2013 we are involved in a research program with Jo Newton a PhD Candidate from the Animal Genetics & Breeding Unit at the University of New England. The trial involves blood testing 500 ewe lambs 14 days after they were joined to identify ewes that are mature enough to ovulate. Identification of the most relevant traits that influence this reproductive success will be observed. This trial will continue over a three year period and we are looking forward to the results. If you require further information regarding this trial Jo can be contacted at jnewton9@une.edu.au.

BUNDILLA OPEN DAY
Wednesday 18th
September 2013 10am



Jo Newton, Sal Martin, Ross Baldwin and Mick Raue collecting blood samples from Bundilla Stud Merino ewe lambs.



Jason Southwell (Stud Advisor)

Sheep Breeding Values

We have asked Jason Southwell to discuss his experiences in using Australian Sheep Breeding Value's (ASBV'S). Jason has worked at Mungadal, Hazeldean, Uardry Dohne, and is Stud Advisor at Bundilla Merinos. As he's built his knowledge of sheep he has been exposed to the use of Australian Sheep Breeding Value's.

One of the hottest topics at present is the use of Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBV's) in the selection of sheep in particular rams for commercial producers. With ram selling season fast approaching it is important that ram buyers have both a commercial and practical understanding of the use of ASBV's. For the record I am an advocate of the use of objective measurement in sheep selection but view it as a tool with both pros and cons.

- ✳ *At Bundilla we have been using ASBV's as a tool to build sheep in every level of the stud. We don't look at an overall sheep index but are more focused on individual traits that are relevant to the Bundilla Program.*
- ✳ *The ASBV's for growth, muscle and fat traits are the main reason every stud should be using Merinoselect. Carcase traits indexes as they have a higher degree of across flock accuracy and can be used with a higher degree of confidence.*
- ✳ *From experience and observation the degree of accuracy in across flock fleece traits appears low. When using figures to select for fleece traits I tend to use within flock figures. Low micron and high fleece weight are still the most important wool traits with high heritability but don't forget CV.*

At Bundilla the Baldwin Family have very successfully combined the use of visual selection and performance based breeding to have a very positive impact on clients merino enterprises, this is mostly due to having very clear long term breeding goals and using every tool available to achieve them.

In summary, have your rams selected in your mind before you arrive at the sale and also have very clear breeding goals. Visually select your rams then use the figures to confirm your decision.

Jason Southwell

Bundilla Wether Trial Results 2011-2013

Wether Trials

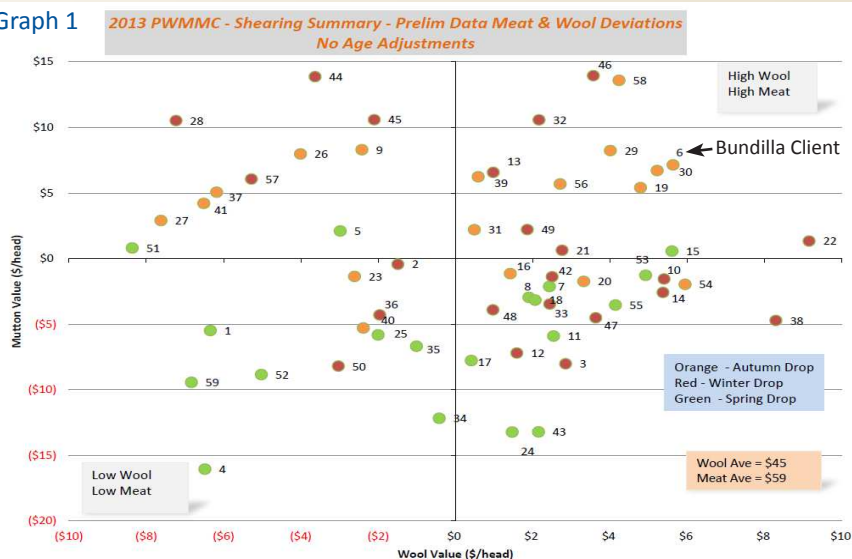
Bundilla Merinos have performed extremely well again this year in wether trials. Alan, Marie and Rick Mattiske and daughter Jill Baldwin "Geraldra" Stockinbingal NSW have entered 30 wethers in currently Australia's largest commercial genetic evaluation, the Peter Westblade Memorial Merino Challenge (PWMMC). The trial has attracted 60 teams of 30 Merino wether lambs from NSW, SA, Vic and TAS. Each team was split into two components, a Wool and a Meat Challenge.

The Meat Challenge saw the Mattiske's Bundilla/Pooginook team achieve up to 340 g/head/day in the feedlot to average 248g/head/day. The wethers had the heaviest final live weight of 67kg at slaughter with an overall lamb value of \$123.61/head placing them 8th.

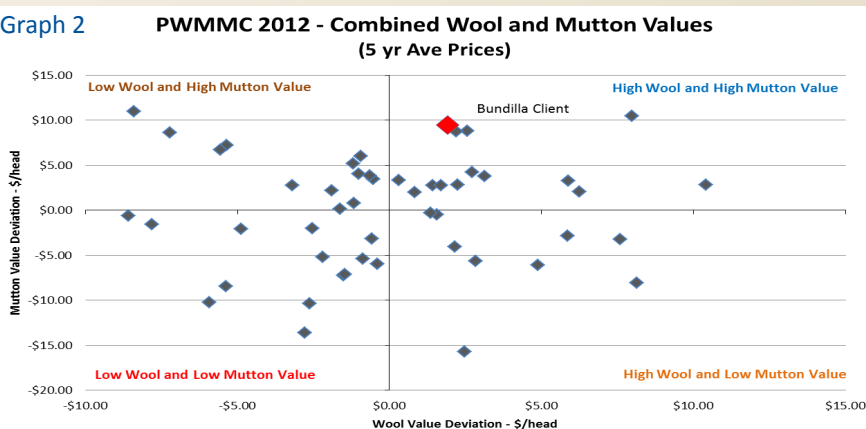
In the Wool Challenge the wethers had an outstanding wool value of \$50.73 or 12.5% higher than the average wool return. This placed the Mattiske team 4th out of 60 teams - a fantastic result for Jill, Alan, Marie and Rick. (Graph 1)

The PWMMC 2010-12 final shearing (March 2012), of Bundilla client, Philip and Clare Brown's team, Burrangong Station, achieved excellent results for both wool and mutton economic values. The final results of their team ranked them 10th out of 50 teams. (Graph 2)

Graph 1



Graph 2



Sires Impacting the Bundilla Breeding Future

Bundilla SS4

Photo: SS4 at 300 days

BUNDILLA SS4

TAG 120901
Natural Born Twin
17/7/2012
Joined at 7 Months
Sire Bundilla PP9
(100291)
Dam Bundilla 100671
(Sire Bundilla KK11)



BUNDILLA-120901

YWT	AWT	YEMD	YCFW	YFD	YDCV	YSL	YSS	YWEC	NLW	MP+	DP+
12.4	11.6	0.6	23.8	-1.5	-1.6	6.9	1.8	-8	5%	192	185
74%	67%	49%	71%	81%	71%	59%	55%	46%	33%	42%	39%

BUNDILLA ON PROPERTY RAM SALE

Wednesday 2nd
October 2013

Visit our website
www.bundillamerinos.com.au

Bundilla SS4 has been a standout since a lamb with a fantastic outlook, faultless body confirmation and tremendous balance. Born a twin from a maiden he has the outlook that Bundilla sires will become recognised for, and is a sire who looks how his data reads. Bundilla SS4 was joined at 7 months and will have a big impact on the breeding direction at Bundilla.

Name	Value
Greasy Fleece Wt	5.4
Fibre Diameter	16.82
Comfort Factor	99.7
Fibre Dia CV	14.88
Fibre Dia SD	2.53
Spining Fineness	15.64
Weight kg	70.0

Actual Results 8th March 2013
8 months of age after a 5 week joining



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