

# BUNDILLA

Poll Merino Stud

# 2015 Bundilla News

Welcome to our 2015 Newsletter. We would like to thank all our clients for their continued & loyal support in 2014 and really look forward to visiting you during the coming months.



The 2014 top priced ram to Mr Jim Brooker (not pictured) and Mr John Booker "Futter Park" Harden, with advisor Mr Chris Bowman and Jill, Ross and Rick Baldwin.

## BUNDILLA POLL ON PROPERTY 2014 RAM SALE..

158 hogget rams averaged \$1844 to a top of \$7,000.

## Bundilla 2015 Production Sale – Wednesday 30th September

Our aim for the 2015 Production sale is to lot 180-200 Bundilla Poll Sires, with 400 private sale Poll Sires available post sale. We currently have 270 Sires classed into the sale team to make up the 2015 Auction and have completed all of the carcase testing and fleece weighing for this group. Below is an ASBV comparison of the 2015 production sale group verses the sires sold at the 2014 Production Sale.

	YCFW	PWWT	YWT	YEMD	YFAT	YWEC	EBWR	NLW
2014 Production Sale (170)	14.6	4.3	5.8	0.6	-0.1	-13.1	-0.2	1.4
2015 Production Sale Group (270)	17.8	5.0	7.2	0.6	0	-14.7	-0.2	2.1
Genetic Improvement	3.2	0.7	1.4	0	0.1	-1.6	0	0.7

We are constantly looking at ways we can improve the genetics available to our clients through better selection of dams and sires that will impact your breeding program in the future, our embryo transfer programs and better use of ASBVs throughout the Stud has helped achieve the genetic improvement illustrated above.

## 2015 Events

17th - 19th July  
Australian Sheep and Wool Show (Bendigo)

3rd September  
South West Slopes Stud Merino Field Day Galong

18th September 10am  
Bundilla Open Day

30th September  
Bundilla On Property Ram Sale

## Bundilla 30 years focus on Growth

As seasonal conditions are changing sheep breeders across eastern states of Australia are showing greater intent to turn off lambs earlier as a risk management tool.

With this in mind increasing the Bundilla PWWT or 200 day weights is a key selection point for our breeding program for the next 10 years. The 2014 drop Bundilla ewe lambs (1306 full pedigreed) averaged 39.7kg at 200 days and we have set a breeding goal to increase this by 20% by 2025. The top 10% of the ewes 200 day weights averaged 47.4kg, so the genetics to achieve these goals is available. The key selection point is to identify dams and sires that do not forgo other key traits such as fleece value, carcase quality or fertility.



At Bundilla we have over 30 years of genetic data collected at 100, 200, 300 and 400 days of age, and have continually been improving growth, muscle and fat, while maximising fleece values. Conformation continually remains of great importance as we focus on faster growing genetics. We believe the 2014 drop Sires that will be represented in the 2015 Bundilla Production sale represent the outstanding progress we have made.

Why is 200 day (PWWT) weights and 300 day (YWT) so important to your breeding program? ASBVs continue to be the best genetic tool in identifying genetics that have the largest impact on selecting sires that can maximise genetic efficiency of your breeding flock. Often we get asked how to quantify the genetic merit of a high growth sire. Firstly the average for all sheep processed by Sheep Genetics in 2014 had a YWT of 3.8.

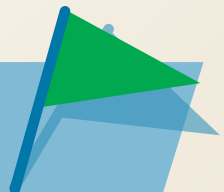
If we joined a sire such as Bundilla RR14 (111265) that has an YWT ASBV of 11.6 (Top 1%), the expected genetic result of the joining to ewes with an average ASBV YWT of 3.8 is  $(3.8 + 11.6) / 2$  giving the progeny an expected genetic YWT of 7.7.

So what does this mean for a commercial breeder? For every +1 in YWT equals 8 days faster that a lamb will reach 50kg in your breeding program, or the progeny from Bundilla RR14 will reach 50kg 31 days faster than the progeny of a sire with an average YWT (3.8) under the same management conditions.

## BUNDILLA ON PROPERTY RAM SALE

### Wednesday 30th September 2015

For more info visit [www.bundillamerinos.com.au](http://www.bundillamerinos.com.au)





## Breeding the Most Efficient Ewe

By June 2015, the Australian sheep flock is forecast to decline 0.9% on year-ago levels, to 71 million head. 41 million of this population are breeding ewes, with 22 million being merino ewes for pure merino breeding. The merino continues to be the dominant breed in the Australian sheep industry although to continue this and to grow this percentage the merino ewes efficiency must become the number one breeding objective.

### Ewe Breeding Intentions

### June - 2014

	National	NSW	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	QLD
Ewes for Pure merino Lambs (million)	21.8	7.8	3.2	0.5	3.2	5.5	1.5
Ewes for Other Type Lambs (million)	19.0	7.1	3.1	0.7	4.8	2.7	0.6

### MLA & AWI Wool and Sheepmeat Survey

### MERINOS THAT COUNT

Ewe efficiency is a dam's ability to maximise kilograms per hectare of lamb weaned and merino fleece value per hectare. Bundilla is unique within the Australian sheep industry having had this primary objective for 40 years. Bundilla has maternal genetics with full pedigrees on dams dating back 40 years. In 2014 at Bundilla we collected full pedigrees on 2601 stud lambs from 1930 full pedigreed Bundilla Stud Dams with a result of 135% lambs weaned. These dams cut 7.8kg of 18.7 micron. Bundilla stud Dams are run and assessed under commercial conditions to give us the best opportunity to identify genetics we wish to multiply and spread throughout the 4000 Bundilla commercial ewe base.

Superior Stud Dams are identified through their long term ability to rear top performing twins over three lambing's while maintaining a high value fleece through their life time. These 15 to 20 dams are used in our annual embryo transfer program and have over the last 11 years contributed to 60% of the sires retained at Bundilla, to continue to take our genetic base forward.

We have always had a performance base approach for our genetic selection and our breeding objectives have never been traditional, instead our methods are unique and aimed at maximising genetic progress of our program. The Bundilla bloodline is now recognised as one of the leading maternal genetics within the Australian sheep industry, selling sires and semen to all states across Australia, which in the last five years has been incredibly rewarding for our family.

The Bundilla breeding program in 2016 will include 2000 Bundilla Stud full pedigreed ewes, 1000 ewe lambs joined, with a major focus on selecting within flock under high rainfall and grazing pressure.

## BUNDILLA POLL ON PROPERTY RAM SALE

Wednesday 30th  
September 2015

Visit our website

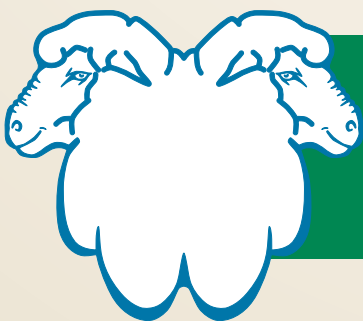
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# The Leading Maternal Merino

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

Our genetic achievements;

- \* Merino fleece quality and cut per head, with an average adult 18.7 micron at a cut of 7.8kgs. We are increasing staple length and strength as we select towards a plainer sheep.
- \* While leading the way in levels of Merino fertility with an average of 143% weaning over 25 years, we have set our next goal at 150% by 2020. 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 we have found positive correlations with reproduction traits, such as twinning ewes carrying 12% less worms compared to singles.
- \* Continued focus on early high growth rates, muscle and fat while maintaining improved Merino fleece returns per head is a major part of Bundilla 40 years of breeding towards the Bundilla Poll.
- \* Improved early puberty with 70% of classed ewe lambs being joined at 7 months of age at 40kg+.
- \* Great importance is placed on sheep conformation and body structure, as improved growth and muscling is built into the flock.
- \* The Bundilla Stud and commercial flock is run at a winter stocking rate of 14 DSE.
- \* To continue to benchmark the progress of our genetics through Sire Evaluation, wether trials, Sheep Genetics. In 2015 we have entered 3 sires in 3 Separate sire evaluations across eastern Australia.



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