

What, where, when

What: Karoonda & Districts Stud Merino Field Day
Where: Karoonda Football Oval
When: Friday, July 29
Times: From 9:30am, ram judging at 10:30am. Food available from 11am.

1 Participating Studs

Carcuma North
 Glenlea Park
 Gunallo
 Hilton Heath
 Kamora/Netley Park
 Kamora Park
 Kongal Park
 Lucernbrae
 Pepper Well
 Radnor
 Ridgway
 Ridgway Advance
 Sherlock
 Woodoona

Now is a great time for Mallee Merinos

On behalf of all members of the Karoonda & Districts Stud Merino Field Day Group, I invite you to attend our field day on Friday, July 29.

The outstanding display of Merinos and Poll Merinos from 14 studs can be viewed at the central display by the Karoonda Oval from 9.30am to 4pm.

Mallee stud breeders must be congratulated again for producing high-quality, dual-purpose sheep and setting higher benchmarks. The breeders have become known for their large-framed sheep with strong constitution and quality wool that suit many different regions around Australia.

Our field day continues to draw a large crowd, with many now travelling from other states to see what this region is producing. The determination of Mallee breeders to improve and progress can be seen on our field day and deserves the highest praise.

Those already sourcing genetics from the studs exhibiting at our field day are enjoying high returns for both meat and fibre. I am confident they are at least equal to those produced anywhere in the State.

In 2010, Mallee Merinos again achieved some of the highest prices in Australia and had good clearances and averages at on-property sales. Demand at off-shears sales within the Mallee continues to soar, for young ewes in particular as their large frames and "doing ability" become recognised. Now is a great time to get into Mallee Merinos.

We would like to thank our valued sponsors for their support and their belief in the quality of our product. We are proud of the sheep we produce in this area and happy to be able to present them to you. We seek your honest assessment and appraisal and are confident you will be impressed.

Peter Wallis,
Karoonda & Districts Stud Merino
President.



CARCUMA NORTH

Grant and Carolyn Johnson are now well established with their Carcuma North Poll Merino stud at Peake. With a solid and respected foundation, the stud is stamping its presence with consistent production of productive dual-purpose Poll Merinos. Carcuma North sheep display heavy-cutting fleeces of free-growing, bright 19-21 micron wools on large-framed and plain-bodied sheep with positive carcass attributes – so important in today's sheep industry. The Johnsons place selection emphasis on continuing to lower coefficient of variations and microns while increasing comfort factors, all without sacrificing wool weights, or importantly, body size and growth rates in the process. Grant and Carolyn have made select infusions of outside genetics to meet these objectives, with the 2011 offering to include the first progeny of Anama sires 989 and 1142 and Gunallo 822. Two other top Gunallo sires – "Ablett" 627 and 680 – have been used in the 2010 Carcuma North AI breeding program. The Johnsons invite inspections of their sheep at this year's Karoonda Merino Field Day or on-property at any time by appointment. Their on-property sale on Wednesday, August 3, will offer 40 "Better Choices" and industry-focused Poll Merino rams together with their Select Poll Dorsets.

GLENLEA PARK

Peter and Marianne Wallis, Glenlea Park Merino and Poll Merino studs, breed uncomplicated sheep. They aim to breed rams with exceptional early growth and this can only be achieved with plain-body, loose-skin sheep. Combining these traits with a lustrous, deeply crimped and long-staple fibre is the aim. In 2010 our hoggets' wool made 1050 cents kilogram greasy and our adult stud ewe flock cut 8kg wool at 11 months. Performance recording all of our livestock at regular intervals allows us to identify highly profitable sheep and maximise productivity from these through AI and ET. It also presents our clients with the opportunity to buy sires that will increase profitability while addressing all management issues. Glenlea Park's major influences are Wallaloo Park and Leachim. In 2010 Glenlea Park won the prestigious 'best pen of 5 rams' at the Hamilton Sheepvention and came second in the sale averages, selling 10 rams to a top of \$14,000. We sold two rams at the Adelaide ram sale topping the averages (\$15,500). Our on property ram sale resulted in 97 out of 101 rams selling for an average price of \$1511 with many new clients coming from the Eastern states. We sold six rams at the

Classings Classic ram sale to a top of \$10,000. Glenlea Park then sold a line of 150 one year old ewes (still with lambs' teeth) at the Pinnaroo off shears market for a national saleyard record of \$244. Glenlea Park rams were sold to all six states in Australia in 2010 and their quality and strong constitutions ensure they perform in all environments. Our commercial clients' success continues to be our ultimate measure of our performance as breeders. In 2011 we will once again be selling at Hamilton Sheepvention, Adelaide ram sale and Classings Classic. Our on property ram sale is on September 14. We welcome enquiries anytime.

• Details: Phone Peter on 08 8576 6141 or visit our website www.glenleaparkmerinos.com.au

GUNALLO

Gunallo Poll Merino and Merino stud is situated 8 kilometres south of the Mallee Highway between Murrayville, Victoria and Pinnaroo, South Australia. Gunallo breed uncomplicated sheep that are early maturing and fertile with long-stapled, crimp white wool on the large frame that its sheep are noted for. The sheep also have a strong constitution. The stud is working towards mules-free sheep. Extensive artificial insemination and some embryo transfer have been instrumental in achieving these goals as has advice from the stud classer Bill Walker. In 2010, Gunallo had a complete sell-out of sale rams and surplus stud ewes with its clients receiving good prices for their wool and gaining top prices at off-shears sales. This year, Gunallo is excited about the young rams showing plenty of potential, with more of them having elite free-growing wool on large frames. Some ET rams by WP "Maximus" are outstanding. Other progeny to watch for are Leahcim 203, Leahcim 295, Leahcim 533 and Mernowie 854. Gunallo will be displaying rams at Karoonda and Hamilton and selling at Adelaide, Classings Classic and Hamilton and at its annual on-property sale on Thursday, September 1, at 1pm (SA time). Current wool tests will be available on all rams. Gunallo is accredited brucellosis-free and MN3 status Sheep MAP. Ray and Bradley Schroeder welcome your inspections.

• Details: Ray 08 8577 8485, Brad 03 5095 2151, stud consultant Bill Walker 0428 973 804, gunallo@activ8.net.au, www.gunallo.com.au

HILTON HEATH

Hilton Heath Merinos are bred on plain-bodied, long, white, soft and rich medium-wool sheep. Wanganelia sires bred out of Charinga, Reggie and Junior families are used along with home-grown

Poll Merino under-1500 classes, it was the most successful exhibitor three years running. Radnor also won 2010 RAS champion country shows Merino ewes fleece and most successful exhibitor merino autumn shorn and open classes. Radnor Dangerfield p89 with 17.7 microns, 2.9 standard deviation, 16.4 coefficient of variation, 99.8 per cent comfort factor, 108.5 body weights, 44 EM was second in the Fibre Meat Class at Adelaide Royal Show, and first in the group of the three Fibre Meat sponsored by Landmark. Radnor Maric HB29TAG459 with 20.2M, 3.1SD, 15.3CV, 99.6pc CF was first in the two-tooth strong wool Australian Merino all-purpose at Bendigo Sheep Show. Both rams retained for stud sons available in 2012. 2009 Radnor VanBerlo HB32TAG91 was placed second in the Fibre Meat class Royal Adelaide Show. Radnor also purchased Moorundie Park C74 for a \$10,000 half share. Many sons of these two sires will feature this year with OJD MN3 status.

• Details: Steve 0407 099 465, Brett 0438 379 569

RIDGWAY

2010 saw the best sale result for Ric and Gail Ridgway's 'Ridgway' stud based at Kulkami in the Murray Mallee. A complete clearance of rams was highlighted by increased recognition of Ridgway's outstanding quality by interstate breeders. A big boost for the stud was the Classings Classic sale where their select rams sold to a new Ridgway record top of \$25,000. The typical Ridgway sheep is big, plain-bodied, clean-pointed and highly fertile, carrying long-stapled and free-growing, deeply crimped, fine medium wools. In the breeding program, the stud has kept the SA Merino's renowned size but eliminated sheep with thick, complicated skins while always maintaining and improving wool quality. While the sheep industry has focused on improving carcase traits in line with sheepmeat demand, Ridgway has made sure wool quality is not forgotten. Long-stapled wools with deep, sharp crimp and highly aligned fibres on loose, thin skins is evident throughout their offering of big, plain-bodied sheep. Shearing ease is an obvious bonus. They mate 90 per cent of their ewe flock by AI to both their own elite sires and the best available rams from other leading studs. This ensures high standards are maintained and assists in achieving rapid genetic progress. Both fleece and body weights have steadily increased over the years. The stud's growing recognition, especially from across the border, has been matched by a strategic increase in supply of high-quality rams, keeping Ridgway rams affordable for established commercial clients. There has been a slight increase in sale averages in line with improved sheep and wool industry outlook but over the last

eight years, ram offerings have doubled in number, maintaining the "very affordable" tag associated with the Ridgway sheep. Ridgway will again be displaying at Hamilton and Bendigo in 2011 and at the Karoonda field day. They will sell select rams at the Hamilton Sheepvention and the Classings Classic, with their main offering reserved for their annual on-property sale on Monday, August 9, when 150 top-quality Ridgway rams will be offered. This year's sale rams are sired by WP Maximus, WP 780, Roemahkita 7224, Roemahkita 9017, Roemahkita 8365 and RA 199. All of them have good size, meat, muscle and fibre.

RIDGWAY ADVANCE

David and Karen Ridgway, principals of the Ridgway Advance stud, have created a distinctive type of sheep displaying all the attributes of the 'Modern Merino'. These dual-purpose sheep portray a genuine balance in their production and performance, focusing on both wool and meat qualities, with high reproduction results. There has been no deviation in the direction the stud has taken for the past 15 years. Commitment to a long term stable breeding strategy and selecting for both meat and wool traits has seen the Advance sheep become an established recognised genetic line of Merinos renowned for their even, predictable breeding. An important aspect of the Advance merino is their plain, supple and highly productive skin, allowing a thriving robust animal with great carcase attributes to produce a large quantity of elite soft wool. Ridgway Advance Merino and Poll Merino stud annual on-property ram sale will be held on Wednesday, August 10, at 1 pm at Senior Property, Emu Flat Road, Bordertown with 200 auction rams.

SHERLOCK

Sherlock Poll Merino Stud is a family enterprise run on 14-inch-rainfall Mallee limestone country without irrigation. Sheep are bred to survive and thrive, hence their ability to perform in wide-ranging climatic conditions that range from 8-inch-rainfall station country to high-rainfall areas. The stud's aims have always been sound structures and longer-bodied sheep with meaty carcasses. Sherlock's surplus young ewes have been highly sought after for decades and have been at or near the top prices at local off-shears sales and admired for their robustness and early maturity. A selection of 1.5-year-old ewes was snapped-up for \$225 by the Broadoak Stud for what Sherlock still believes is the highest private sale price. These ewes grew 109 millimetres at 10 months. Sherlock blood ewes have enviable reputations as prime lamb mothers who can also fill a bale with

good crimp wools. The term 'elite wool' is not new to Sherlock wools, with definite family lines well imprinted for generations. The stud expects its families to continuously improve and does not rely only on hybrid vigour. Sherlock believes there is a lot to be said for sheep which have adapted in the paddock for almost four decades. The introduction of high-rainfall genetics in 1990 has allowed the stud the benefit of breeding wools which will handle water better. This evolving wool type has helped Sherlock survive major blow-fly waves. Artificial insemination and embryo transfer continue to be used to maintain and monitor improvement. The stud is the proud owner of 'Majestic' and expects it to take them to the next level. As an example of the impact Majestic is having at Sherlock, 34 sons were offered and sold to an on-property record of \$7000 in 2010. Three of Majestic's sons used AI. The stud also used a New South Wales Poll with unquestionably elite wool over Majestic's daughters and eagerly await the result. Clients have been enjoying the benefits of affordable, value-for-money, sound structured, paddock-run rams ready to work and that don't need to make a transition from shed preparation. Stud recognition in 2010 saw sires sold to studs in three states. Sherlock's 28th auction on Tuesday, August 9, will again feature a large contingent of Majestic's sons, all offered on grating for closer inspection.

WOODOONA

Woodoona Merino stud was founded at Borrika by Steve Wood in 1958 with ewes and rams bought from Koonoona. The Poll Merino stud was first registered in 1983 on Koonoona and Pollville bloodlines. Woodoona runs 1900 ewes with a flock average of 21 microns in 325-millimetre rainfall country at Borrika. The stud sells rams both locally and into the pastoral country, providing a classing service for regular customers if required. Rams for sale this year are predominantly by Moorundie Park sires as well as One Oak, Charinga, Collinsville and Woodoona bloodlines. The stud looks forward to lambs from our Moorundie Park ram G103, bought for \$9500 at the 2007 Adelaide ram sale. The ram had wool of 19.5µ, 3.1 standard deviation, 15.9 coefficient of variation and 99.3 per cent comfort factor. His massive frame was covered with long-stapled free-growing wool. Progeny of Moorundie 55 (17.2µ, 3.3SD, 19.2CV, 99.3pc CF) have shown the early growth rates and overall frame the stud was hoping for and are complemented by their attractive fine wool. Moorundie Park 'Boof' (18.6µ, 3.1SD, 16.7CV, 99.8pc CF) was bought at the 2005 Adelaide Ram Sale. His progeny are pleasing and showing solid meat frame while retaining heavy-cutting, stylish wool. Rams are available for private selection at the field day and by arrangement throughout the year. Enquiries are welcome.



families. Poll Merinos are bred out of Moorundie Park, Nyowee and Poll Boonoke sires and PB0004 is breeding some of the richest, well nourished medium wools going around. Sons of Cojac and Garrett are being used to breed bare breech sheep and their sales have been positive. The dual-purpose qualities of Hilton Heath sheep continue to fit the needs of self-replacing Merino flocks and first-cross lamb growers. The rich Merino wool is bringing high wool prices to the auction floor. In 2011, Hilton Heath will be displaying at the Mundulla, Angaston and Mt Pleasant shows, Mid North, South East and Murray Mallee Field Days, Karoonda Farm Fair, Bendigo Sheep & Wool Show and at the Royal Adelaide Show. Ram sales start in August by private selection or through your preferred agent. The stud will have a sale team at the Adelaide Ram Sale. All rams have current tests available. Rams are sold throughout South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales including pastoral areas, high rainfall zones and graingrowing regions. All enquiries are welcome.

KAMORA-NETLEY PARK

Kamora-Netley Park prides itself on producing flock that showcase its long-term breeding consistency as evident in its sale rams, stud ewes and clients' sale sheep. This year, the stud bred a team of sale rams to suit today's markets and clients. These rams are heavy-boned, early-maturing carcasses with long stapled, soft handling, high-yielding, eye-catching wool that reflect today's Poll Merino. Sheep from the stud have wool cutting abilities second to none, backed by good mothering skills. The rams are bred from Moorundie Park, Nyowee and Kamora along with 150 artificially inseminated ewes to Australian proven sires each year. Rams with the said quality traits will be displayed at the Karoonda and District Stud Merino Field Day at Karoonda Oval in July. Auction rams will be displayed and sold on August 5 at the stud's property in Sandalwood at 1pm with inspection from 9am. Kamora-Netley Park congratulates clients on their presentation of good, early-maturing, deep-bodied, heavy lambs which have been profitably sold on hooks, privately and in sale yards. The stud is positive this will continue for growers this year. Top-quality stud ewes will be available for sale in September for those looking for all-round profitable stock in 1.5-year-old and 5.5-year-old ewes. Classing service is available for regular clients.

• Details: Paul Boughen 08 8578 3427, Justin Boughen 08 8578 7016.

KAMORA PARK

Kamora Park stud principals Colin and Julie Boughen use the profitability and success of their commercial clients as a measuring stick to gauge their own flock standard. On that basis, they will have a lot of information to draw from as demand for their big, long-bodied Poll Merino rams with sound toplines and outstanding fine/medium wools continues to grow. Last year, the stud achieved a high average with an increased volume of rams sold at their annual on-property sale. The good sale year was highlighted by four rams selling for \$8000 or better to other studs at the Classings Classic, topping at \$19,500 to Victoria-based Kendlestone Park stud. This eclipsed the stud's previous record of \$11,000 achieved at last year's on-property sale to the renowned Charinga stud. Kamora

Park has been selecting for dual-purpose attributes since 1963. While wool quality has always been important to the Boughen family, they have addressed current industry market signals and are producing bigger, plainer-bodied sheep with excellent carcass traits. As growth rates and carcass attributes are hard to assess subjectively, the Boughen family weighs and scans sheep at 10 months of age. Estimating breeding values at this age can highlight the genetics that can produce more profitable offspring for their clients and heavier, better-muscled lambs in a shorter time. Independently assessed, this progress has resulted in Kamora Park being the most successful stud in the Fibre-Meat class at the Royal Adelaide Show in its three-year life span, including two wins. Sires represented in the 2011 Kamora Park ram offering include a group of top homebred rams, Leahcim rams 154, 47 & 295, Ridgway Advance B2 and more progeny from the highly successful Nyowee 430, the sire of the stud's high-priced sellers for the last two years. Kamora Park will be displaying at Karoonda, Bendigo, Hamilton and Adelaide in 2011. The annual on-property sale is at Sandalwood on Friday, August 5, at 11am, with 170 rams on offer.

KONGAL PARK

Kongal Park has had some big changes in the past few years. Francis and Monica Andrews now have a plainer animal with a finer fibre wool without having to sacrifice on body size or wool-cutting ability. They also have a new sheep adviser in Stuart Hodgson who comes with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. The stud is optimistic about creating an animal suitable for modern production. This new approach is reflected in Kongal Park's 2010 mating patterns and its 2011 sale team – the stud used rams from Roemahkita and Wallaloo Park (OL306 by Maximus) and the plainer sire from Nyowee P-087 and Nyowee 41 are producing new, modern Merinos. Kongal Park has continued its success in the Adelaide wool show by getting reserve grand champion Merino ram's fleece – KP50 with rams in this year's sales teams as well. These new sire with current test can be seen at the SA Merino Field Days, Burra; South East Field Day, Karoonda; Hamilton Sheepvention, and Kongal Park's on-property ram sale on August 19. The stud will have 60 outstanding sires with current test and a large team of more than 150 rams for private selection. Inspections welcome anytime.

LUCERNBRAE

Lucernbrae thinks 'wool is our business' and this approach has continued to enhance the quality of its sheep over a long period, starting with Merinos in the 1950s leading to the development of a Poll Merino stud in the 1980s. The progress towards the modern wool Merino in 2001 has focused on the stud's continued commitment towards growing plain-body, uncomplicated skins and sheep with free-growing wool. Less skin means minimal flystrike, fewer chemicals, and no mulesing; reduced second cuts at shearing; emphasis on the ability of the ewe flock to rear a lamb each year. Visit the stud's annual on-farm field day and sale on Friday, August 12, from 9.30am and see the stud's goals are being achieved. Its achievements include flock average of 20 microns, all rams and ewes being subjectively and objectively classed by renowned Classings Pty Ltd classer Bill Walker, brucellosis accreditation and Ovine Johnes Disease MN2. Sires in use are Wallaloo Park, Lorelmo-Willalooka, Leahcim, Roemahkita, Ridgway and

Lucernbrae. The stud is a member of the Superior Wool Syndicate. It will be displaying on-property and at Classings Classic.

• Details: Keith and Judy Paech 08 8538 5092, 0415 701 493, lucernbrae@internode.on.net, www.lucernbrae.com

PEPPER WELL

Pepper Well Poll Merino stud has property at Keyneton, Sedan, Cambrai, and on Flinders Island in Tasmania. It was founded on ewes and rams bought from Ridgway Advance in 2005 and has been on Ridgway Advance blood since 2001, sharing the vision of the parent stud. Before this, Memowie, Kelvale, Barton Hill, Moorundie Park and Craiglee in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. The philosophy of Pepper Well Poll is to select for early-maturing, big, long-frame sheep heavily muscled in the right places, loin and hind leg attached to a huge pelvic area. These animals are always covered with uncomplicated skin and draped in very long, bold staples of silky soft, deeply crimped, aligned wool. The flock is medium wool, with mature ewes averaging 19-20 microns. A neighbour, new to the district, described them over the fence as first-cross ewes which the stud took as a compliment. The stud dislikes pampered stock – Pepper Well stock are run tough, with no shedding and little strategic supplementary feeding. Simplistically, it all boils down to how much profit your sheep make for you from each mouthful of grass they eat. Pepper Well Poll is no-mules, and ceased mulesing with the 2008-drop. Fertility rates have been as high as 131 per cent lambs marked. With improving growth rates, producing a robust animal with good wool, which maximises feed conversion, and the ability to put on weight fast when the feed is on, is what Pepper Well Poll is all about. In August 2007, the sale team of 52 rams averaged 450 grams-a-day weight gain in a 21-day period – that is 9.4 kilograms on standing feed only! Pepper Well, in association with Roemahkita and Calcookara studs, bought RA 199 from Ridgway Advance for \$12,000. He is a very exciting wool and frame sire with fantastic temperament and a huge libido, a worthy addition to our stud. He has also sired top sheep wherever he has been used. A half-share of Roemahkita stud's famous 'Mr. Cricket' was bought in 2009. The 2011 sale team will include many of RA 199's and Mr. Cricket's progeny. Pepper Well's sale will be held at its Keyneton property on Thursday, September 15 at 11am. Inspections can be arranged by appointment or see us at the Karoonda Merino Field Day on July 29. Pepper Well is on Facebook too.

RADNOR

Radnor Merino Stud was founded in 1982. The current drop is from sires which originate from Radnor, Charinga, Banavie and Orrie Cowie Merino studs. Radnor Poll Merino Stud was founded in 1985. Artificial insemination has involved Moorundie Park, Collinsville, Walladale, Wallaloo Park and several of the stud's own sires. Radnor aims to produce a true dual-purpose animal which can survive and thrive, display good size, bone structure and constitution and produce high-quality, long-stapled white, crimped wool which is high yielding. This wool is highly sought after by manufacturers. Radnor has had some encouraging show results in recent times including recognition as the most successful livestock exhibitor at the Royal Adelaide Show twice. The stud also won the Jack Hewitt Memorial trophy, awarded for being the most successful wool exhibitor, in 2007 and 2008. In the