



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STUD MERINO
SHEEPBREEDERS' ASSOCIATION INC

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting

of the South Australian Stud Merino Sheepbreeders' Association

will be held on **Tuesday 2 September 2025** commencing at **6.00pm**. Location:

upstairs Board Room in the Heavy Horse Pavilion,

Royal Adelaide Showgrounds

AGM Minutes

Meeting Opened at 6:00pm

Attendees:

Robert Sullivan (President), Matt Ashby (Vice President), Leonie Mills (Treasurer), Justin Boughen, Joe Dahlitz, Peter Meyer, Ian Michael, Tom Ashby (Life member), Stephen Kellock, Peta Kellock, Bronte Blyth, David Rowett, Nick Wadlow, Justin Lines, Grant Johnson, James Sullivan and Lin Cowling (Executive Officer)

Apologies:

Tracey Dahlitz, Geoff Davidson, Ian Rowett, John Daniel (Life member), Margaret Daniel, Ian Koch, Jim Sullivan (Life member), Rob Ashby (Life Member), Alex Horne, Aaron Watson.

Attendees asked to sign the attendance register.

Welcome and Vale

The Chairman, Robert Sullivan, welcomed attendees and called for attendees to stand for a minute's silence to acknowledge the passing of deceased members of the Association.

1. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting.

R. Sullivan asked attendees if they had read the Minutes from the 2024 Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 3 September 2024. A raise of hands indicated that all had read minutes prior to commencement of the meeting.

Motion:

It is proposed that the minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting be confirmed as an accurate record of the business of the meeting, with the amendments made above.

Moved: M. Ashby

Seconded: J. Dahlitz

.....CARRIED

Matters arising from the previous Minutes:- Nil

2. President's Report

R. Sullivan read and tendered his President's report on the activities of the Association during 2024 - 2025.

It has been a very challenging year for all South Australian Merino Breeders with record low rainfall for large areas of the state for the last 18 months. Thankfully a wet July and some useful falls of rain in August have turned seasonal conditions around for many with the exception being the Riverland and areas of the Mallee which remain dry. We hope the forecast of a wet spring delivers the much-needed finish to our year that we all need to fill our haysheds and grain silos and give us the bulk of paddock feed to get us through summer and autumn.

On a positive note, sheep prices are exceptional at the moment reflecting the lack of supply and strong demand. Lambs have been setting new record prices and mutton prices are very strong. Breeding ewes will be in short supply and anyone with surplus young ewes to sell will be well rewarded in the spring sales.

The wool market has seen some positive gains recently and receivals in SA have been down about 20% on the previous year. The EMI is currently at 1261c which compares to 1124c twelve months ago. The Merino field Days and Expos held at Burra, Wudinna, Keith and Jamestown were all successful events with good crowds attending. It is important that we all continue to support these events to showcase the wonderful attributes of the modern Dual Purpose SA Merinos.

Congratulations to Sharlu Park who achieved the top price of \$23,000 at the 2024 Adelaide ram sale and the overall sale average of \$7,364 was a solid result given the tough season.

The 2025 ram selling season is in full swing at the moment and so far, the results from On Property sales have been pleasing. Most studs have offered a few less rams this year and generally clearance rates have been good, with average prices down slightly on the previous year. There have been some outstanding private sales recorded by SA studs with prices up to \$50,000 for top young sires.

Congratulations to all South Australian Studs who exhibited at various interstate shows winning many major awards.

The School Merino Wether competition held at the Royal Adelaide show continues to grow each year and attracts a huge crowd. Congratulations to David Rowett and his committee for such a well-run and successful event.

I would like to congratulate Geoff Davidson as President of the Australian Association of Stud breeders and his committee for the work they have done in establishing the new Merino Australia body. Merino Australia will offer a more streamlined national organisation and will represent all the states needs for a unified body to advocate for the merino industry. Merino SA looks forward to working with this new body as it continues to evolve.

On behalf of Merino SA, I would like to thank our major sponsor Elders and all our other valued sponsors for their ongoing support and commitment to the South Australian Merino Industry.

I would like to extend my appreciation to our Management committee members for their input throughout the year. A special thankyou to our E.O. Lin Cowling for the professional and efficient manner in which she has carried out her duties and made my job so much easier. Well done to Leonie Mills our treasurer who once again has been very efficient in keeping Merino SA finances in order, and thanks to Matt Ashby for his support as Vice President.

Nick Wadlow is retiring this year from our committee after many years of dedicated service, and I would like to thank Nick for the outstanding contribution that he has given Merino SA and the Australian Association during this time.

Finally, I would like to wish all exhibitors and vendors at this year's Adelaide Show and Ram Sale the best of luck and look forward to catching up with many of you at the social function on Wednesday night. To all Merino SA members I hope you all get a kind finish to the season, and we all look forward to some exciting times ahead for the Merino Industry.

Motion:

It is proposed that the 2024-25 President's Report be accepted.

Moved: R. Sullivan

Seconded: P. Meyer

President's Report attached.

.....CARRIED

3. Treasurer's Report

Leonie Mills provided the Treasurer's report regarding the finances of the Association during 2024 - 2025. The three Financials (2023,2024,2025) have now been reviewed, but they will be assessed as a review only without the drill down level of an audit. The Reviews do comply with our Constitution but can be discussed at a later stage, whether we need to have full Audits going forward or if reviews are sufficient. The report presented is 2024-2025 Review:-

- The Trading income in 2025 was \$345,319 (Inc Interest)
- The Operating expenses in 2025 were \$336,764.
- The profit for 2025 was \$8,556.
- The Cheque Account balance as at 30 June 25 was \$126,957.84.
- The Financial Summary as of 30 June 2025 was \$363,341.

a. The significant Inputs and Outputs were:

- Adelaide Ram Sale inputs - \$11,161
- Adelaide Ram Sale outputs - \$12,978
- Annual Directory inputs - \$49,763
- Annual Directory outputs - \$39,884
- Member subscriptions - \$45,660
- Promotional Levy \$33,134
- Promotion and Publicity - \$19,835
- **SUMMARY:** At June 30th last year we had a cash balance of \$390,110 As at June 30th, 2025 we are sitting at \$363,341, with the difference being in the Cheque account balance.
- As we have forecast a loss of around \$67K for the current financial year we will certainly need to have some in-depth discussion before setting up our next budget.

Treasurer's Report attached.

Motion:

It is proposed that the 2024-2025 Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: L Mills.

Seconded: N. Wadlow.

.....CARRIED

Motion:

It is proposed that The Association appoint Australian Independent Audit Services as its auditor for 2025-2026.

Moved: L Mills,

Seconded: P. Meyer.

.....CARRIED

4. Annual Subscription and Promotion Levy

Motion:

In light of the ongoing drought and the difficult circumstances many studs have faced in recent years, the Merino SA Management Committee has proposed a 50% reduction in the 2026 Membership fees. This is a one-time concession, and the Promotional Levy will remain unchanged.

It is proposed that the Membership Subscription Fees for 2025–26 be reduced by 50% as a one-off recommendation of the Finance Committee. The committee is recommending that no changes are made to the Promotional Levy.

Moved: L Mills,

Seconded: J. Dahlitz.

.....**CARRIED**

5. Election of Management Committee and Office Bearers

R. Sullivan vacated the position of Chairman, and P. Meyer assumed the role of Chair for Election Proceedings. He extended his sincere appreciation to Robert Sullivan for his commendable leadership as President over the past year, to Lin Cowling in her role as Executive Officer for her outstanding efforts in maintaining cohesion, and to Leonie Mills for her diligent management of the Organisation's finances. He also acknowledged the Management Committee for their dedication and consistent attendance throughout a challenging year, before formally declaring all positions vacant.

Management Committee Election:

The following four nominations were received for five positions on the 2025- 2026 and 2026-2027 Management Committee:

- Mr. Joe Dahlitz
- Mr. Ian Michael
- Mr. Justin Boughen
- Mr. Chris Prime
- Mr. Grant Johnson

There being no other nominations, the above-mentioned members were elected unopposed for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027.

- The following Committee Member has given notice to retire – Mr. Nick Wadlow

Nominations for President:

P. Myer called for nominations for the Office of President of Merino SA for 2025-2026.

M. Ashby nominated R. Sullivan. There being no other nominations R. Sullivan was declared President for 2025-2026.

.....**CARRIED**

Nominations for Vice-President:

P. Meyer called for nominations for the Office of Vice President of Merino SA for the 2024-2025 term.

I. Michael nominated S. Kellock

There being no other nominations received. S. Kellock declared Vice President for 2025-2026

.....**CARRIED**

Nominations for Treasurer:

P. Meyer called for nominations for the Office of Treasurer of Merino SA for 2025-2026.

N. Wadlow nominated L Mills for Treasurer.

There being no other nominations received. L. Mills was declared Treasurer for 2025-2026

.....**CARRIED**

R. Sullivan took over as President.

I. Michael, speaking on behalf of the Management Committee and Stud Members, extended heartfelt thanks to N. Wadlow for his 20 years of dedicated service. He acknowledged N. Wadlow as a true leader and valued friend, expressing deep appreciation for his unwavering commitment to the Association.

R. Sullivan also conveyed his gratitude, recognising N. Wadlow as a respected and valued member for his significant contributions.

A warm welcome was extended to Grant Johnson, the newest member of the Management Committee. Appreciation was also expressed to S. Kellock for stepping into the role of Vice President, and to M. Ashby for his longstanding contributions over the years.

6. Membership Movement

- **Resignations:-** Wyndhurst December 2024, Orrie Cowie February 2025
- **Retirement of Merino Studs Only:-** Broadoak February 2025, Borung October 2024, Glenville September 2024.
- **New Studs:-** Mt. Monster February 2025.
- **Change of Ownership:-** Baderloo December 2024, Glenlea Park December 2024.

7. Any Other Business

- **Adelaide Ram Sale** – J. Dahlitz voiced serious concerns over the steady decline in entries for the Adelaide Ram Sale in recent years, warning that its potential cessation could also affect sheep competition numbers at the Show. He emphasised the need to attract new entrants to secure the Industry's future. After several difficult seasons, there are signs of minimal improvement, and now is the time to rally support and lead efforts to restore the Ram Sale to its former glory.

Next Meeting

To coincide with the Royal Adelaide Show 2026. (Tuesday 1 September 2026)

Meeting Closed at 6.50 pm.

Signed Date:-.....

Robert Sullivan
President