



# Introducing POOGINOOK® POLLS

This year marks the introduction of the Pooginook Polls to the Stud.

Strong and sustained interest from the sheep industry has generated demand for the addition of the Pooginook Polls to the Stud. To meet this demand, Pooginook has increased its overall Stud ewe numbers and joined a portion of total Stud ewes to Poll rams. Pooginook has also expanded its size of operation to include the acquisition of 'Stud Park North', approximately 6,000ha on its southern boundary.

- Pooginook Stud ewe numbers increased to 5,700 for the 2011 mating season. Of these, 2,000 Stud ewes will be mated to Poll rams to produce Pooginook Polls.
- A weaning result of 112% (lambs weaned to ewes joined) was achieved in 2010. This has provided over 1,400 rams for selection in 2011.

The Pooginook Poll compliments the unique Pooginook Merino type of dual purpose sheep by combining the traits of good growth, high fertility and excellent wool production with a polled sheep.

I am convinced that Merino production including carcase, fertility and wool

production have been held back in some management practices. The Merino is the true dual purpose breed and under best management practices the Pooginook Merino and Pooginook Poll will achieve outstanding profitability when compared to other breeds and types in the current market.

At Pooginook, we see fertility as just one of the key drivers of profitability in the sheep industry. Other drivers include: selecting sheep with both good constitution and good conformation; ensuring good animal husbandry practices, and; ensuring good nutrition.

Pooginook continues to submit data to Sheep Genetics (SG) and to benchmark its genetics and performance with the wider industry. This data, along with visual assessment at classing and mating is an important management tool adopted at Pooginook.

The top 25 Poll rams are reserved for the **On Property Sale** on September 27th.

I welcome you to attend the **Pooginook Open Day** in July and **the On Property Sale** in September and to become part of the Pooginook vision for Merino breeding.

*John Sutherland*



thinking and breeding for the future

## JULY 2011 NEWSLETTER EDITION 40

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[www.pooginook.com](http://www.pooginook.com)

# What's happening at PGK



After 3 years managing Pooginook, Jock and Louise Campbell have moved to manage Paraway Pastoral Company's new acquisition 'Mungadal Station' at Hay.

John Sutherland from Paraway's 'East Borambil' at Condobolin has been appointed the new manager of Pooginook. John has been responsible for the genetics at Pooginook since Paraway's purchase in 2007. The changeover occurred in November 2010, and John along with his wife Anthea look forward to the challenge at Pooginook.

David Taylor continues to class the Stud ewes at Pooginook. Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBV's) and visual

assessment are used to class all the Stud sheep. Back in 2009, David selected the Pooginook Merino ewes for the foundation of the Pooginook Polls.

Pooginook enjoyed an excellent spring in 2010 followed by 350mm of rain during the summer months. This provided a valuable body of perennial grasses after many dry years, which ensured excellent lambing conditions for the 2011 drop lambs. Maiden ewes averaged 105% lambs marked to ewes joined. The final average across the flock is expected to be over 109% lambs marked to ewes joined.

Ram weaners have been rotationally grazed (predominantly on native pastures)

in one mob since weaning. The ram weaners are well grown with their 12 month average body weight being 65kg.

Six monthly shearing of all breeding ewes continues to have a positive influence on conception and lambing rates. The five year adult fleece average is at 20.1 micron and the 2010 June drop ewe hoggets averaged 18.7micron when hip sampled in June 2011.



At Pooginook ewe hogget classing – June 2011

Matt Harris, Sally Martin NSW DPI, John Sutherland and David Taylor (left to right).

## Technology

Data collected on farm for important traits such as greasy fleece weight, fibre diameter and body weight is submitted to Sheep Genetics (SG) for analysis. SG then provides a single figure that can be used to rank animals for their suitability to a particular production system.

Pooginook is using a 7 percent Dual Purpose Index (DP7%). This index aims to produce sheep suited to a medium wool self replacing production system, with moderate emphasis on fleece weight and fibre diameter, plus a high emphasis on live weight and number of lambs weaned. Although the focus is on these traits, all other performance traits are maintained.

Pooginook has been submitting performance data to SG for many years. This data along with other records from

Merino breeders and Sire Evaluations around the country have been entered into a national database.

Accurate data collection and entry are vital for ASBV information. Bill Murray and Belinda Steers from Exact Livestock are engaged to provide technical advice on the data collection.

The Sheep and Wool Officer for NSW DPI, Sally Martin, has also been engaged to verify our 2011 weaner data collection technique at Pooginook. Sally assisted with the data recording at the 2010 drop ewe classing where visual and ASBV's were used.

Rams at Pooginook in 2011 will have ASBV's available to assist buyers with selection decisions.



Sally Martin NSW DPI using electronic tag reader for fleece weighing March 2011.

# The Statistics that Count

Written by Sally Martin, NSW DPI.

The Peter Westblade Memorial Merino Challenge (PWMMC) is the largest commercial genetic trial currently being run in Australia. The PWMMC is a collaboration between Craig Wilson & Associates, Moses and Son and NSW Department of Primary Industries. The PWMMC is based on the evaluation of 50 wether teams from across Australia and has successfully integrated a range of meat quality traits into the standard Merino wether trial protocol and is a model extension tool.

The PWMMC aims to demonstrate to entrants and the broader industry the genetic opportunities that exist to be more financially sustainable in the future.

Three Pooginook commercial clients are participating in the PWMMC. The results represent how these three individual

Pooginook clients are performing against their industry peers.

Recent results from the first shearing placed all three teams in the top 27 of the 50 teams based on average wool value per head.

When the Wool Challenge results are translated to net profit per hectare there is a 114% difference between the top performing teams and the bottom performing teams, based on a 5 year average price for both wool and mutton.

The three Pooginook clients ranked 1, 14 and 30 out of the 50 participating teams.

*Wool Challenge 2011 results:* All three

Pooginook teams were above average for clean fleece weight, 133%, 118% and 110% and two teams above average for staple strength +4.6 and +3.4 n/Ktex. Eric and Dianne McKenzie topped the wool value section.

*Meat Challenge results:* The Meat Challenge results released in October 2010 demonstrated a strong performance for the three Pooginook teams for growth and carcase weight.

Congratulations to clients Eric and Dianne McKenzie for winning the Wool Challenge Section in the Peter Westblade Memorial Merino Challenge in 2011.

Congratulations also to Rob, Mandy and Bob Taylor from Grenfell and Craig and Bruce Perry from Serpentine for their outstanding results in 2011.

## Client Success

Again Pooginook commercial clients have been successful in various Ewe Hogget Competitions throughout NSW.

Congratulations to the Gibson family from 'Croïdon' at Hay for winning the revised 2011 Peppin Shaw competition. Rob and Makeeta, Maurice and Liz have been using Pooginook as the base for their breeding program for many years.

Congratulations also to Doug, Marie, Brad and Glenn Hart for running a very close second in the Lake Cargelligo Ewe competition.

Congratulations to Matt Browning for the 'East Borambil' flock gaining second

place in the Don Brown ewe competition held in Condobolin. Matt has also reported that his maiden ewes have recently marked 113% lambs to ewes joined.

Eric McKenzie of Bethungra NSW recently reported an excellent return from his Merino enterprise. His 1680 adults, which included 25% maidens with 10 months wool, had an average cut of 8 kilograms for an average wool return of \$69 in mid May 2011 sale.

His ewe and wether weaners cut 3.8 kilograms of wool for nine months growth to give a wool return of \$44 per head.

The 740 wether portion having cut \$44 for their wool, were sold by mid June for a top price of \$142 and returned an overall average of \$123 plus skin price.



175 Stud and Selected Merino Rams and introducing 25 Stud  
and Selected Poll Merino Rams for Auction at Pooginook  
12.30pm Tuesday 27 September 2011

Catalogue available at [www.pooginook.com](http://www.pooginook.com) from mid September.

■ 99 years of breeding ■ Wool quality ■ ASBV's ■ Fertility and growth



## Sire Watch

### Pooginook Ranger

Sire: PGK 030582 Diamond      GFW%: 100  
Tag: 82065 (Born June 2008)      BW%: 121  
Fibre: FD 19.5, SD 3.4, CV 17.4, 7% Dual Purpose Index: 124.7  
CF 99.4 (August 09)

At the recent Pooginook 2010 ewe hogget classing, Ranger proved to be the most outstanding sire from a classing of 2500 ewes. 85% of his ewe progeny were graded into the breeding flock with only 15% graded into sales. This classing was performed with the use of ASBV information, and stipulated visual traits.

Sons of Ranger are available in 2011.

## Open Day



Wednesday 27 July 2011

at Woolshed Yards from 9.30am until 3pm

Jason Trompf: Sheep Management Specialist  
Lifetime Ewe Management Program  
Poll and Merino Rams on Display

## 2011 Calendar of Events

Pooginook stock will be on display at:

- 15-17 July      Bendigo Sheep Show
- 27 July      Pooginook Open Day
- 6 August      Nyngan Expo
- 19 August      Riverina Expo Deniliquin
- 1 September      South West Slopes Field Day
- 27 September      Pooginook "Top of the Drop" Auction

## Flock Rams Available in 2011

Pooginook will again have a selection of well grown rams available for private sale. There will be:

- 175 MERINO and 25 POLL RAMS offered at the TOP OF THE DROP ON PROPERTY SALE
- Over 1200 flock MERINO and POLL RAMS will be available in grades from \$500

Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBV's) and current micron data will be available to assist with ram selection.

New enquiries are always welcome, for more information contact the Stud Sales Manager Pat Brown on 0427 546 151.



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