



**FROM THE
PRESIDENT**



*Brenton J. Lush
President*

As I sit to write this report, we are receiving our first rain since before Christmas, which certainly makes a pleasant change. In the past month or so the north of the country has been flooded while the south has had temperatures over 45 degrees and massively destructive bushfires. Even Tasmania has had temperatures over 40. Hopefully, this rain is the start of a more moderate autumn followed by a decent winter.

In this issue of the Corriedale newsletter, you will be informed of what is happening in the Corriedale world. At the moment, much of this is to do with wool research and marketing, which coincides with a fall in the general wool market, while 'crossbred type' wools are responding well with several orders coming out of China. So have a good read and if you feel you would like to respond or contribute, please contact myself or our secretary and tell us what you think.

Elders Wool Sale

A full report is included elsewhere in the newsletter, but we need to thank Elders, in particular Elliot Lindley, and all those producers who supported this sale which achieved good results and gave producers the opportunity to move a step closer to their wool buyer. The next sale will be in May, contact your local Elders wool manager or Elliot on 0409 504 709.

**AWEX identification of
Corriedale Wool**

Late last year, the Australian Corriedale Association submitted a proposal to the

Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX) to have Corriedale wool identified by the breed code CDL in the 2010 -2012 AWEX Code of Practice. The Industry Services Advisory Committee of AWEX has reviewed the submission. The feedback so far has been positive, with the final decision to be made in June. If this is successful, your Corriedale wool will be branded AAACDL and will be differentiated from other wool of similar specification through the wool selling system.

**Dark and Medullated Fibre
Test**

On the subject of differentiating Corriedale wool, we have organised a trial through AWTA and SA Research and Development Institute to test Corriedale wool for dark and medullated fibres (DMF) through the DMF Risk scheme. For this trial we need to test a range of Corriedale fleece and lamb's wool and pieces for their levels of dark and medullated fibres.

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The standard DMF test only gives an overall risk rating of combined DMF, while under this trial we will get separate counts which SARDI will analyse. Initial results have been very interesting (in a positive sense), but we need more samples to get a result more representative of the Corriedale breed. Each sample costs around \$45 (GST inc) which is met by the producer, with up to 5 samples per producer, depending on what wool is available to test. For more information, give me a call.

Promotions

When I get back from holidays in April, I will start chasing up peoples thoughts on a coordinated Corriedale promotions effort. If you have any thoughts on this please let me know, otherwise I might chase you up!

International News

Nick Cole has a report on his travels to South America in this newsletter. I had a visit from Francisco Preve, a young researcher with the Uruguayan Wool Secretariat, it was a good chance to catch up with what was happening in research in Uruguay, especially into dark fibres. We have also received enquiry about Corriedales from Turkey, which I am currently chasing up.

Meeting Up

Over the next few months, there are several opportunities to catch up. Wagin Woolorama in WA, Royal Sydney Easter Show with Corriedales as Feature Breed, Campbelltown (Tas) in June leading up to Federal Council at Bendigo ASBA in July.

Corrienews

If you have a burning desire to keep up to date with what is happening with Australian Corriedales, there is a more or less monthly email newsletter that comes out. If your current email address is in the flock book, you will receive this already. If you would like to receive it, please send me your email address and I will put you on the list. If you have any sale results or other information you would like to contribute, please forward it on to me.

Enjoy your read and all the best for the coming year.

Regards

Brenton Lush

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FEATURE WOOL SALE

Elders Limited conducted the first Corriedale feature wool sale on February 19, when 250 bales of wool were offered to the wool trade and processors.

99% of the catalogue was sold.

90% of lots all above appraisal.

All micron indicators across the wools increased during the sale.

24 micron 687+13

26 micron 566+21

28 micron 472+18

30 micron 421+13

There was good competition from most sectors of the trade with 10 different processors purchasing from the sale.

The major buyers from the Corriedale sale have said that the finer end of the Corriedale wool is to be processed in Turkey and would then go to China and be woven into uniforms for the Chinese public sector.

The broader edge of the Corriedale wool is going to Thailand and China for knitwear.

The lambs wool will be processed in China to be blended with 22.5 to 25 micron wool to be hand-knitted for retail.

The Corriedale clip of the sale was awarded to K.S., M & G.S. Davis from Dergholm, Vic.

The sale was a success and we look forward to the support from Corriedale woolgrowers and the Corriedale Association.

Volume is certainly the key if we are to put together commercial parcels of wool for the processors to be able

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to give feedback.

The next Corriedale feature wool sale will be held on the 21st May 2009, at the national wool selling centre in Melbourne.

Thanking all who participated in the first Corriedale feature wool sale.

*Elliot Lindley
Premier Wool
0409 – 504 709*

NEW MEMBERS

The Association welcomes the following new members.

Flock 2409

S.A. & S. Don
91 Dons Road
NEWHAM VIC 3442.
Prefix *Shajle*

Flock 2410

Ballarat Grammar
Corriedales
c/- Matthew Dickinson
201 Forest Street
WENDOUREE VIC 3355
Prefix *BGC*

Flock numbers and prefixes have been allocated pending Federal Council's final approval in July 2009.

HISTORY OF KURANDA AND GLEN MOREY FLOCKS

The breed of the versatile Corriedale sheep seem to

thrive in the dry, open plains country of the central midlands of Tasmania, particularly the Woodbury district. The rainfall ranges from 250 – 700 mls. annually with the average 475 mls.

Sydney Burbury came from Fonthill, Andover to Glen Morey in 1927 with his Merino flock. After experiencing the 1934/35 drought they realised the Merino sheep were not suited to the open Woodbury plains. He called his three sons, Jack, Stan and Phil together and told them, "We'll go broke unless we change our breeding", having experienced a disappointing 70% lambing and still losing another 10% of the lambs during their first 12 months of life.

They decided to purchase Corriedale rams and put them over the Merino ewes. The rams were purchased from the studs at Hilly Park, Parattah (Fred Burbury), Strathroy, Breadalbane (Percy Grubb), and Middle Park (Geoff Green) at Antill Ponds.

In the early 1950's the Burbury Bros partnership was dissolved and Stan and Phil set up their partnership on The Braes which adjoined Glen Morey. Later in the 50's Phil set up Kuranda. Jack stayed on the original Glen Morey block.

For the Glen Morey flock, Corriedale rams were purchased from Middle Park (Geoff Green) and Cluny (Bowden family), also Taranaki (Jim Osborne). The flock at this time stood at

3500 ewes. About 1960 a nucleus flock of 100 ewes was selected from the commercial flock and joined to stud rams which were purchased from Cluny, Streanshalh, Redbank (Alf Carroll from Molong, NSW), Stanbury (Wettenhall family), Taranaki (Jim Osborne), and Quamby Plains (Compton Archer) over those years. This program of breeding their own rams is ongoing to this time.

The commercial flock has varied from 3000-4000 ewes according to the seasons and over 5000 lambs have been marked in good years. The best lambing produced over 130%.

At the present time the Kuranda flock stands at just over 4000 ewes. It is based mainly on Cluny blood having had first pick of their rams for 40 years. The white soft handling 26-28 micron wool is very much valued. Since the dispersal of the Cluny stud, Kuranda has selectively bred some pure Cluny blood rams and also introduced Quamby Plains (Compton Archer) and Streanshalh (Andrew Nicolson) bloodlines.

As a small sideline the Corriedale ewes not in lamb have been mated to an East Friesian/Border Leicester-Merino ram as an alternative to the traditional 1st cross Border ewe. These are sold at the annual Tunbridge Sale with considerable success. To demonstrate the true versatility of Corriedales, this year Kuranda has sold
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within a fortnight: (a) cast-for-age 5yr.old ewes; (b) cull 2 tooth ewes; (c) East Friesian/Corriedale x ewe lambs aged 22wks. for \$91; (d) two tooth wethers; (e) Corriedale wether lambs aged 18wks. weighing 20-23kgs. for \$86.

Often Kuranda enjoys cash flow for 11 months of the year from these sheep. "There has never been a truer saying than Corriedale sheep create cash flow", says present principal at Kuranda, Philip Burbury ("the younger").

(from the Burbury clan of Syd & Jill and Philip & Jan)

WOOLORAMA 2008

The 2008 Wagin Woolorama in March only had one exhibitor flying the flag in the Inlet Views stud of Denmark Agricultural College.

Naturally the College won all the Corriedale awards including champion Corriedale fleece.

ASBA SHOW BENDIGO

Judging at the 2008 Australian Sheep and Wool Show Bendigo, Vic., was held on July 19.

Judges were:

Alex Carroll – rams

Michael Deppeler and Oliver Guthrie – ewes

Andrew Nicolson and Oliver Guthrie – national pairs

Jim Sama, Argentina – schools competition

Winners of the major awards were:

**Supreme champion
Corriedale – Wettenhall
Perpetual Trophy
Quamby Plains**

**Grand champion ram
Quamby Plains**

**Grand champion ewe – Jill
Savage Memorial Trophy
Haven Park**

**Supreme Champion
Corriedale Exhibit
Quamby Plains**

**Champion shorn sheep –
The Roy Baker Trophy
Sweetfield**

**Senior champion ram
Quamby Plains**

**Reserve senior champion
ram - Haven Park**

**Junior champion ram –
Hopeglen stud trophy
Sweetfield**

**Reserve junior champion
ram - Liberton**

**Senior champion ewe
Haven Park**

**Reserve senior champion
ewe - Streanshallh**

**Junior champion ewe –
Wahroonga Park trophy
Liberton**

**Reserve junior champion
ewe - Sweetfield**

**Most successful exhibitor in
the open Corriedale classes
– The J.F. Guthrie
Perpetual Cup
Liberton**

**Most successful exhibitor in
the Corriedale shorn classes
– Goxhill Perpetual trophy
Sweetfield**

**Best sire's fleece – The
Harold F. Prell Memorial
trophy
Quamby Plains**



*Richard Archer,
Quamby Plains,
Hagley, Tas.,
exhibited the grand
champion ram and
supreme champion
Corriedale at the
2008 ASBA Sheep
Show Bendigo-
(Photo – Wayne
Jenkins)*

HAMILTON SHEEPVENTION

Major awards from the 2008 Hamilton Sheepvention, Vic., on August 4 were:

Supreme ram
Haven Park

**Supreme ewe and interbreed
supreme longwool ewe**
Haven Park

Best group
Haven Park

Junior champion ram
Sweetfield

**Reserve junior champion
ram**
Stanbury WCH

Junior champion ewe
Liberton

**Reserve junior champion
ewe**
Wye

Senior champion ram
Haven Park

**Reserve senior champion
ram**
Coora

Senior champion ewe
Haven Park

**Reserve senior champion
ewe**
Liberton

Most successful exhibitor
Liberton

Judges were John Booker, New Zealand who judged the rams, and Andrew Nicolson, Tas, and Oliver Guthrie, Vic. who jointly judged the ewes.



(L: to R) Haven Park champion ram and champion ewe 2008 Hamilton Sheepvention, held by Rick Foster and his mother Shirley –

(Photo – Wayne Jenkins)

ADELAIDE ROYAL

Major Corriedale awards at the 2008 Royal Adelaide Show in early September were as follows:

Champion ram
A.R. & J.L. Hunt

Reserve champion ram
A.R. & J.L. Hunt

Champion ewe
A.R. & J.L. Hunt

Reserve champion ewe
A.R. & J.L. Hunt

Breeders Group
A.R. & J.L. Hunt

Other exhibitors included G.G. & D.L. Jenke, and Corriedale Hills Pty. Ltd.

The most successful exhibitor award also went to A.R. & J.L. Hunt. This award was competed for at both the 2007 Royal Adelaide Show and the 2007 Mount Gambier Show.

PERTH ROYAL

Denmark Agricultural College, Inlet Views, Denmark, WA, was the only Corriedale exhibitor at the 2008 Royal Perth Show and hence won all the awards.

The College also competed very strongly with their fleeces and exhibited the Corriedale champion ram fleece.

ROYAL CANBERRA SHOW 2009

*by Tony Manchester
NSW Chairman*

The Royal Canberra Show has been and gone again. We were disappointed there were only 22 Corriedales in total. The Show is becoming quite large, 520 sheep altogether. St Gregory's had a great show again, winning many ribbons. The young men were a delight to be with, and again did their school and our breed proud. They had reserve champion ram and the School section for the longwool, and the group longwool. A great result against so many schools.

Roseville won champion ram and champion ewe, and reserve champion ewe. We also won the group. We went through to the interbreed longwool, and were beaten by the Border Leicester.

Sydney Royal

I have finally received a letter from Pat Cooper, coordinator for the Sydney Royal Show. The British Breed Section arrive on April 19th, with judging on the 20th and 21st. This year's judge for the Corriedales, Tom Burrows, and his family, from New Zealand, are arriving a few days before the Show. He is trying to organise two young men, from New Zealand, to be a part of the show, as too did Jack and Tom from NSW in a reciprocal role. Jack and Tom's stay in New Zealand was a huge success and they

will give a report at the Bendigo ASBA Show.

I'm very disappointed to report that there will be only approximately 50 sheep from all the studs in NSW and I believe there will be no sheep from Victoria coming. I think this will be our last opportunity to be the feature breed in Sydney.

From here in NSW, I must pass on my thoughts and condolences to all Victorians who were affected by the tragic fires. Being a Bush Fire Captain for over 40 years, I even have little understanding of the devastation and loss. My family and I pray that a dreadful disaster like this will never occur again.

Results Canberra Royal Show

St Gregory's College

- Five 1sts, seven 2nds and three 3rds.
- Reserve champion ram
- Champion longwool schools section

Roseville

- Eight 1sts, three 2nds.
- Champion ram
- champion ewe
- Reserve champion ewe



(From left) Andrew Nicolson, Streanshalh, Campbell Town, Tas.; Darryl MacDonald, Fairburn, Porcupine Ridge, Vic.; and Oliver Guthrie, Bulgandra, Rich Avon, Donald, Vic; were presented by the Australian Corriedale Association with centenary certificates.

(Photo – David Rizzoli)

JUDGING CORRIEDALES IN THE SKY

(By Nick Cole)

In September 2008 I was asked to judge the Corriedales at Ayaviri, midway between Cuzco and Juliaca in the Andes, Peru. This is one of the biggest sheep shows in Peru with a line-up of 400 Corriedales and 100 Hampshire Downs sheep. The other exhibits there are Brown Swiss cattle (about 500) and a few Alpacas.

Going up to 4000 metres is serious stuff and you have to be careful, it is best to do it in stages, which I didn't!! Going from sea level to 4000 metres in three hours can be very hard on body and soul as it takes a lot of getting used to, so headaches and fatigue are very common, for me anyway.

After being met at the Cuzco airport by Billy Prime and his wife, going to a hotel and picking up Susie Archer, we began our Peruvian drive in the Andes (hair-raising some times and just plain scary the rest). Road rules, there are none except bigger is better!

After a two hour drive we reached Billy Prime's farm and because of irrigation pipes we had to walk the last 50 metres, a very tiring exercise leaving me gasping for breath. The first day was a rest day where we visited Lake Titicaca, Puno, which is a wonderful sight and amazing to see the people

who live on the reed islands in the lake. They have been there for 400 years, after escaping the Incas.

Day 2 dawned and in true South American style I was told that judging would start at 9.30am so up and ready to go at 8.30am and everybody is still asleep. We eventually arrived at the showgrounds at about 10am and then stood around for a bit. Ayaviri is a small town surrounded by the Andes. Standing at the showgrounds (4000 metres high) looking up at some even higher mountains, is quite stunning.

By 11 o'clock there seemed to be some organisation happening and sheep being mustered into the shed for judging and after meeting my interpreter, Rafael, for the next three days to help me explain to the spectators why I did what, we headed in. Rafael did a wonderful job. He runs the Lima Para gliding tours, so knew nothing about sheep, and now knows even less. At the showgrounds they have a very good indoor arena with a grassed area for judging and tiered seating on two sides for spectators. The building is old but very serviceable.

The first day was spent judging "non pedigree" Corriedales. It is quite common in South America for them to exhibit non stud sheep. The sheep are led in and walked around and then lined up in accordance with the way the judge wants them, and then judging proceeds much the same way as here in Australia. Except

after bending down to inspect the front legs, belly etc and then straightening up, with the lack of oxygen, everything got a bit dizzy at odd times. Lunch was called at 1 o'clock and to be back ready to start at 2 pm.

We headed off, 2 pm came and went and nobody seemed worried. As 3 pm approached there was talk of starting again, which eventually did happen about 3.30. Most things move at a slow pace there and because of the altitude it is not surprising.

The second day it was on to the pedigrees. The standard of the sheep was very good, the top rams and ewes would be competitive in any line-up anywhere. This is from flocks where the average size is about 50 sheep and subsistence farming. These people live with their sheep and know them very well.

The sheep are a bit smaller and finer in the wool than here in Australia, but that is due to the harsh environment and pastures. After awarding the champion ram and ewe and being photographed with over half the people from the Andes, we ran out of light to do the groups, as there is no electricity at the showgrounds. So I finished up for the day and went outside to see the cattle judging continuing with cars being brought on to the arena to provide light.

The next day, Day 3, I finished off the groups and then the committee asked whether I could judge the
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Hampshire Downs as well, as I was here and the other judge hadn't come. So half a day until the plane left and 100 sheep, I made both deadlines, just.

Judging there is an experience with many sights, sounds and smells that you don't get elsewhere, like the women in traditional dress for the area with bowler hat and child on her back in a papoose staring at you as you go over their sheep, and the children leading and holding the sheep. They get involved at a very young age and know what to do.

I am very thankful to Billy Prime and the Ayaviri Show Committee for asking me to judge there, it was a wonderful experience and I would say to anybody if offered the job, do it, but be careful of the altitude - it is dangerous!

**ELISABETH
MURDOCH COLLEGE
VISITS NEW
ZEALAND**

Excited students and staff arrived at Tullamarine Airport, Vic., on the second last Friday of term one to start their agriculture adventure. Passports and boarding passes in hand, 23 students and staff boarded the plane for Christchurch, New Zealand.

For many this was their first plane flight. On board students experienced the sights of Melbourne. This is a totally new way of viewing

our city. More impressive sights were to be seen as we hit the coast of New Zealand. The flight path went very close to Fox Glacier and was easily seen. Arrival at Christchurch was uneventful except we did not get a stamp in our passports. They could not find the welcome stamp. Buses collected we travelled to the nearest supermarket to get provisions. Prices were more expensive. Petrol was \$1.77 per litre. Diesel was \$1.29 per litre. The next stop was the Golden Arches. Once again prices were a little more however quality was the same.

For the next 13 days the group visited many farms. These included Corriedale and Hampshire Down studs. Organisation of the trip was greatly aided by David 'Doc' Sidey. He is one of the local Corriedale breeders and was involved in the Corriedale Conference in 2007. Doc as he likes to be called spent many hours contacting farmers across New Zealand to ask them to open their doors to our group.

Doc was very successful and was the key organiser of the Hawarden Agricultural Show.

Our group spent their second day in N.Z at the show competing in various competitions. At the end of the day our group was very successful with many awards. One of our girls, Michele Egan won the major prize of the show. It was interesting to see that the stud animals were judged in their pen and not paraded like in Australian shows.

Talking to a number of Corriedale breeders it was evident that they preferred smaller framed animals. Other Corriedale studs visited were Wattlebank and Longfield.

As well as sheep the students visited a deer farm, apple orchard, Hereford stud and a piggery. Other highlights were walking on Fox Glacier, Queenstown and Curling in Dunedin which has the steepest street in the world.

In the south part of the Island we were able to visit the cairn that commemorates the establishment of the Corriedale breed. It is located at Ngabara which is west of Oamaru.

The students were on the go for the whole time. Students and staff worked well together and had a lot of fun. As a group we learnt a great deal about working as a team. We also learnt that farmers in New Zealand do things a little differently to Australian farmers. As in Australia there are issues related to the marketing of their product. Many sheep breeders felt that they were not receiving a fair price for their lamb. As a result many were selling up or turning to the dairy industry. Water was another issue. As in Australia areas of the South Island were having water shortages. The New Zealand people were very friendly and helpful. They made our group feel welcome everywhere we went.

Andrew Cosby
Agriculture Teacher