

Australian Corriedale Journal
World Conference 2012 - Brazil

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Dual Purpose
Breed Since 1874**

For the Best of Both Worlds - Food & Fibre

Published by the Australian Corriedale Association Inc - April 2012

www.corriedale.org.au

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GRAND PRIZE

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Australian Wool Innovation is wanting to collect your wool stories in order to promote the fibre to the nation and the world. We want to celebrate the heritage, custodianship, community and pride that goes into every bale of the nation's clip.

WIN EMU prize packs valued at \$250 for category winners plus **100 FREE** copies of Woolsheds by Andrew Chapman to first 100 entrants.

HOW TO ENTER Write your story in 400 words or less with photographs or create a short video. For further details on entering and for a full list of prizes head to: www.wool.com/FibreOfOurNation

Visit www.wool.com/FibreOfOurNation for full conditions. Entry is by submitting a 400 word story or poem with pictures or 3 minute video into one of four categories. The Promotional Period is from 01/03/2012 at 9am AEDT to 30/06/2012 at 5pm AEDT. The Grand Prize Winner and 8 Category Winners will be judged and chosen by a panel at Promoter's premises on or by 30/07/2012 at 5pm. Total Grand Prize Value \$40,000. Category Prize Total Value \$2000. The Promoter is AWI Ltd ACN: 095 165 558.



Wool Outlook

Taken from Rabobank Global focus report

'Wool – Back in fashion?'
by Airlie Hoskins



The global wool industry has faced significant structural challenges over the past two decades. Wool has increasingly become a

specialty product, marginalised in mainstream fibre markets by the price competitiveness and relative processing efficiency of cotton and man-made fibres. From a supply perspective, alternative agricultural enterprises and climatic events have seen national sheep flocks in the main wool-producing countries diminish, spurring the decline of global production to historically low levels.

While a number of challenges remain, the past year has seen global wool markets perform strongly. The global supply-demand balance has tipped in favour of demand, after many years of a supply overhang. Changing dynamics in global wool consumption, historically low wool supplies and wool's improved price competitiveness relative to cotton and man-made fibres have resulted in above average levels for wool prices over the past year. This has led to renewed optimism among wool growers that finally, wool may be back in fashion.

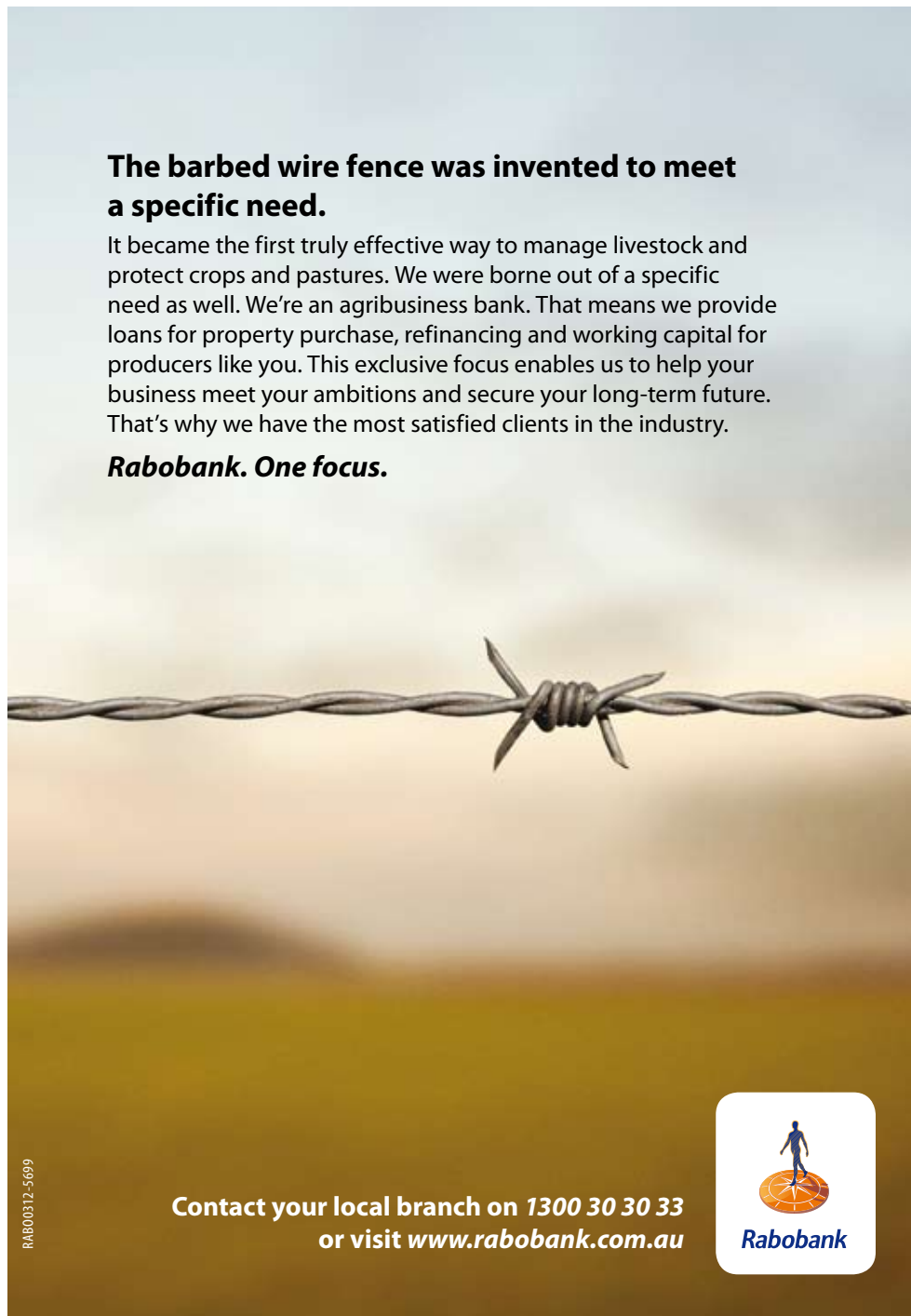
The barbed wire fence was invented to meet a specific need.

It became the first truly effective way to manage livestock and protect crops and pastures. We were borne out of a specific need as well. We're an agribusiness bank. That means we provide loans for property purchase, refinancing and working capital for producers like you. This exclusive focus enables us to help your business meet your ambitions and secure your long-term future. That's why we have the most satisfied clients in the industry.

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Australia

The AWEX Eastern Market Indicator (EMI)—widely known as the benchmark indicator for Australian wool prices—soared to AUDc 1,436/kg in June 2011, up over 60 percent year-on-year and over AUDc 500/kg above the 2005-2010 five-year average of AUDc 832/kg. In real terms—when adjusted for inflation—this is the market's highest level since 2003. Unsurprisingly, many farmers are now looking to rebuild sheep flocks to capitalise on improved market returns. Aided by increased feed and water availability in major producing regions across the Eastern States, Australian shorn wool production is expected to record a slight 1.5 percent increase year-on-year to 350 thousand tonnes in 2011/12. That said, Animal health issues



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and lower fleece weight expectations have left a tighter wool supply outlook than previously anticipated, and in-season testing results from the Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA) suggest that production is running below expectations, 1.1 percent below last year in the period July – January 2011/12.

China remains the key destination for Australian raw wool exports, having substantially increased their purchases over the past two decades. China purchased around 73 percent of Australia's exportable raw wool in 2010/11, a slight decline year-on-year, yet this is largely due to the stronger presence of European buyers in 2010/11. Chinese processors are not buying as aggressively this season—wary of building inventories in the current macroeconomic environment—yet orders are still relatively strong as their domestic market gathers momentum. The impacts of economic austerity measures in the Euro zone will continue to be a downside risk for exports to Europe this year. The volume of wool exported to the EU in 2H 2011 was 11% below 2H 2010 volumes, particularly as a result of weaker exports to Italy and the Czech Republic.

New Zealand

In New Zealand, market levels have held above the 2005/06 - 2009/10 five-year average of NZDc 415/kg since late 2010, and average auction prices rose 43 percent year-on-year to NZDc 602.3/kg in 2010/11. This predominantly reflects the price increase in broad micron wool categories which constitute over 80% of the national wool clip, and in real terms represents the market's highest level since the 2003/04 season. Despite improved market levels Beef and Lamb New Zealand are expecting shorn wool production to decline by 2.1 percent year-on-year in 2011/12 to approximately 149 thousand tonnes (greasy equivalent). This follows a 7 percent de-

cline last season and represents the lowest production level since the 2008/09 season, when wool production fell by a staggering 23 percent year-on-year.

Beef and Lamb New Zealand expect sheep numbers to increase by 2.1 percent this season to approximately 31.8 million head, particularly as a result of improving wool and sheep meat economics. This should encourage greater wool production going forward along with the expected improvement in average fleece weights. However, the ongoing conversion into dairy production, historically elevated slaughter rates and competition from alternative fibres will continue to challenge the New Zealand wool industry going forward.

Total raw wool exports from New Zealand declined by approximately eight percent from July to January 2011/12 (clean weight), compared with exports for the same period last year. Global macroeconomic uncertainty and the historically high value of the New Zealand dollar against the United States (US) dollar have weighed on demand this season. Demand from China—the predominant export destination—remains strong, with exports to China increasing by 15 percent from July to January, and accounting for almost half of New Zealand's total wool exports so far this season. In contrast, exports to the EU have been weaker, falling by 15 percent year-on-year as the impacts of the sovereign debt crisis begin to take a toll on textile retail sales.

Summary

The bull market for wool experienced in the 2010-11 season came in stark contrast to the market dynamics that have underpinned the long term decline in Australian and New Zealand wool production over the past two decades. The structurally low level of global supply has created the conditions

for a tighter market, however new global demand drivers also appear to be playing a more prominent role in global markets, and adding to competition for available supplies.

Despite generally favourable seasonal conditions, any supply response to more buoyant market prices is forecast to be limited given the depleted state of sheep flocks across Australia and New Zealand. Low stock levels should continue to offer near-term support to wool markets, while any longer-term recovery in production will likely be challenged by competing demands from other farming enterprises.

The demand outlook for wool has softened in the 2011-12 season in line with the fragile economic environment in many of the main wool-consuming countries. Buyer confidence has been duly affected along the supply chain, which has impacted upon purchasing patterns and is expected to lead to greater price volatility until buyers feel more confident in the economic outlook.

So is wool back in fashion? A sustained period of elevated profitability will be required to sway Australian and New Zealand farmers to return to the fold, however the great promise of emerging markets is beginning to crystallise, and may just deliver that opportunity provided the necessary investment in innovation and marketing is made to secure it. ✦

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- 2011**
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 - **Reserve Senior Champion Ram, Australian Sheep & Wool Show, Bendigo**
 - **An excellent clearance of sale rams – November 2011**

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Broader Wools Shine

'Broader Wools shine at world's biggest home textile fair'

by Marius Cumming

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) and Woolmark licensees have reported strong interest in broader wool products at Heimtextil, the world's largest trade fair for home textiles.

Over 2,600 exhibitors and 70,000 people from 61 countries attended the four day trade fair, seen as a platform for manufacturers, retailers and designers. Many visited the Wool Arena, set up by AWI to showcase eight licensees across the bedding and carpet markets.

While Merino wool promotions are often highlighted, promoting non Merino wool for the home textile market is an important part of the marketing investment. The global Campaign for Wool, spearheaded by HRH the Prince of Wales being the ultimate example. The five-year campaign has now been launched across many countries and has attracted hundreds of retailers, designers and publishers who all wish to promote the natural, renewable and biodegradable attributes of wool.

The Heimtextil event confirmed the global trend towards natural fibres and in particular, wool.

"We've had the best enquiry in four years at this event and we have seen some countries returning for the first time in some years. We use 100% Australian wool, from 33 micron wool for bedding through

to fine wool for our new baby range and the interest is strong across the board," Wool Products Australia managing director, Graeme Kerr said.

"The Woolmark is critical for this marketing as it brings so much integrity and quality to our product and people recognise this." Barry Young of bedding manufacturer Jaspa Herington added, "I am quietly confident and optimistic we will do some great business from this event. Europeans are well educated on the many benefits of wool and there is a massive opportunity to educate others around the world about the benefits of wool in bedding."

Jo Dawson of H Dawson and Co said he was pleased to meet many new customers at Heimtextil; "many are looking for washable wool for bedding and home textiles. There is definitely a move towards wool

because of its natural and renewable attributes. We have to continue to promote how people sleep better with wool, we know this but we must keep getting that message out there."

The Wool Arena was placed at a premium location at Heimtextil, where licensees Bönning + Sommer, H. Dawson, DBCwool, Eastcon, Jaspa Herington, Merino International, Nantong Dasheng Honglu Woolen Co. and Wool Products Australia showcased an extensive range of innovative, new wool products.

AWI's Dr Paul Swan gave an address at Heimtextil outlining the new Mothers and Babies program and challenging wool's reputation in some quarters as an allergen.

Watch home textile Woolmark licensees speaking at Heimtextil: www.youtube.com/user/WoolmarkOnline/videos. ✦



AWI display at Heimtextil Trade Fair

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Founded 1948

🌿 64 years of breeding

🌿 Corriedale ram sales around Australia and overseas

🌿 True to type 🌿 Bright white soft handling wool



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Performance Genetics

'Performance Corriedales meet objectives'
by Jim Gough



The Corriedale breeders using Lambplan to measure performance of their stock formed a group within the ACA in 2006

The group has called themselves **PERFORMANCE CORRIE DALES** and have been working together with the following published AIMS

- To test highly ranked Corriedale sires as identified by LAMBPLAN amongst member flocks to establish excellent genetic links between member studs & the Corriedale breed in general.
- To help and encourage a rapidly improving rate of genetic progress amongst member flocks.
- To foster improved record keeping to improve member's LAMBPLAN data quality and consequently improve the reliability of member's LAMBPLAN data.
- To enhance the Corriedale product overall, so that it is commercially reliable and highly competitive.

Most time so far has been spent on genetics with the help of the LAMBPLAN Project Officers.

The rate of genetic gain due to selection is a factor of 4 things

- The variance of the selection trait
- Selection intensity
- Generation interval
- Accuracy of selection

1. Variance.

Individual breeders cannot alter the Variance within the rules of the ACA but have some influence over the other 3. However as a group Performance Corriedales have altered the Variance by introducing NEWZEALAND Corriedales into the analysis. This was done with the support of both NZ and Australian breeders. It meant that Australian data was run with the New Zealand data on both the NZ Analysis and the Australian Analysis. As there were sufficient links this means on any one analysis sheep in both countries could be directly compared.

2. Selection intensity

In a traditional selection scenario, breeders would have the option of

- selecting only the best young animals as replacements
 - » the smaller the number of the animals selected as a proportion of the group – the higher the selection intensity

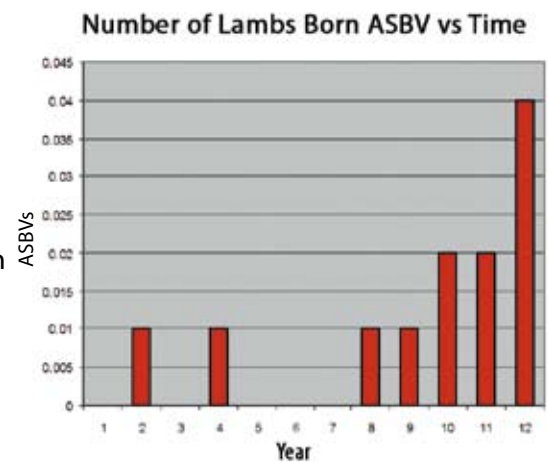
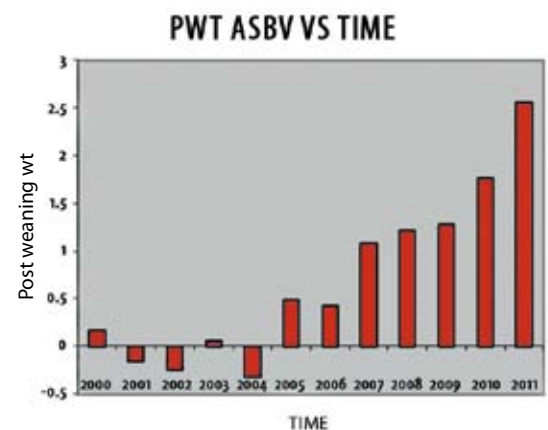
With modern genetic evaluation programs incorporating BLUP, (Best Linear Unbiased Prediction, the mathematical basis of LAMBPLAN) generation interval and selection intensity become less important because they allow us to select the "best" animals regardless of age.

3. Generation interval

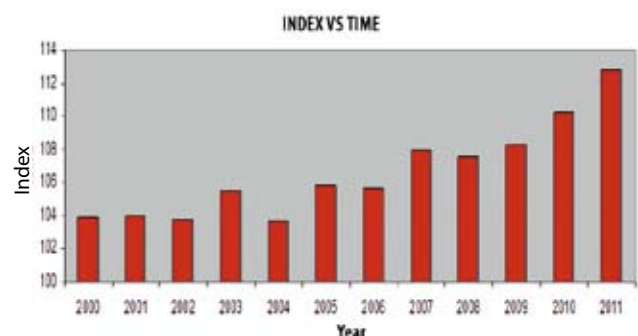
(If we are making genetic gain through selection then the younger animals should be the best but logistically it is not practical to have all young animals and still retain a viable flock structure)

4. Accuracy of Selection

Performance Corriedales recognises that growth rate, fertility and muscling are key profit driving traits and that these important traits cannot be accurately assessed visually. The following 2 graphs show the improvement made in Postweaning wt. ASBV, and Number of Lambs born ASBV. Interesting to note is that the group acting as individuals prior to 2006 failed to make gains in any of the major traits but as soon as PC started significant gains were made. ♦



It follows that a measure of profitability, The Dual Purpose Index, shows a similar improvement. ♦



'Liberton Corriedales' Quality Corriedales since 1927



**Breeding & achieving excellence in
Wool – Meat – Size – Style
of structurally correct Corriedale sheep**

History of the Stud

The stud was established in 1927 by Mr. W.R. Venters and his sons Robert and Stewart at "Dalkeith" Stonehaven. The foundation stock consisted of purchases of ewes from the studs of J.G. Guthrie, Bulgandra N.S.W. -E.F. Millar, The Rock, N.S.W. and Estate of T.C.Ellis, Mt. Gambier, S.A. Rams were obtained from the studs of J.F.Guthrie and J.R. Moodie, Hamilton, Vic. together with the ram "Moeraki 1V" bred by the N.Z. & Aust. Land Co. New Zealand. The stud showed with considerable success until in the mid 1930's, as the most successful exhibitor at the annual A.S.B.A. show, they retired from showing. In 1958 the stud was divided equally between Mr. Robert Venters at Dalkeith and Mr. Stewart Venters at Springdale and hence was run as two separate flocks until 1973. The "Liberton" Stud was formed at this time and recombined both complete flocks known as "Liberton Corriedales" run by Stewart's son, Jim Venters.

HISTORIA DEL CRIADERO

El criadero fué establecido en el año 1927, por el señor W.R.Venters y sus hijos Robert y Stewart en "Dalkeith" Stonehaven. La fundación del ganado consistió en la compra de ovejas del criadero de J.F.Guthrie, Bulgandra N.S.W. -E.F.Millar, The Rock, N.S.W. y el Estado de T.C.Ellis, Mt Gambier en Australia del sur. Los carneros fueron obtenidos de los criaderos de J.F. Guthrie y J.R. Moodie, Hamilton, Victoria. Junto con los carneros "Moeraki 1V" criados por la Corporación de tierras de Nueva Zelandia y Australia. En Nueva Zelandia, el criadero tuvo un éxito considerable, hasta mediados del año 1930, como el más exitoso exponente en la exposición anual A.S.B.A. ellos dejaron de exhibir. En 1958 el criadero fué dividido en partes iguales, entre el señor Robert Venters en Dalkeith y el señor Stewart Venters en Springdale, y por lo tanto funcionaron en dos rebaños separados, hasta 1973. El criadero "Liberton" se formó esta vez, combinando completamente los dos rebaños conocidos como "Liberton Corriedales" administrado por el hijo de Stewart, Jim Venters.



Liberton 7C4 - Sire 4C219 Supreme Interbreed Long Wool Exhibit Bendigo ASBA 2009



Supreme Interbreed Long Wool Group Bendigo ASBA 2009

**Our show team exhibits the depth and strength
within our flock of stud rams and ewes.**



Olá & Hola to all at the Brazil World Corriedale Conference 2012

**85
years of
breeding
and still
looking
ahead**



Aims of the Stud

To produce the highest production per head of fleece wool and meat on a big framed very easily managed typical Corriedale sheep, free of fly strike and lambing problems. The wool is to be well marked, white, soft handling, long stapled fleece in the 27-28 micron range with a yield of approximately 75%. To this end, we have used every possible avenue, to assist us in our breeding program. Naturally a very heavy emphasis is placed on visual appraisal and experience assisted by detailed records and objective measurement of wool.

Country

Our sheep are run on country that consists of very large areas of natural pasture species, which means they are not grown out on the soft highly improved pastures common to large areas of the Western District. This is because of the very rocky nature of the country together with the heavy clay soils. The annual rainfall is between 19 and 20 inches. These conditions produce a fairly harsh environment under which to raise sheep. Liberton Stud Masters select sires for their genetics from their long established gene pool that will produce very productive lambs that mature into big upstanding sheep. These sheep will provide you with a very sound basis for breeding Corriedale sheep that will thrive in a wide range of climatic conditions. They may be used over first cross ewes to produce prime lambs or to upgrade your wool weight, to gain softer handling, character and style in your wool.

- **Most Successful Exhibitor**
 - Australian ASBA Bendigo 2008 - 2009 - 2010 - 2011
 - Hamilton Sheepvention 2008 - 2009 - 2010 - 2011
 - Ballarat Sheep Show 2008 - 2009 - 2010 - 2011
- **Supreme Interbreed Long Wool Group - Bendigo ASBA 2011**
- **Supreme Interbreed Long Wool Exhibit & Group - Bendigo ASBA 2009**



STOCK & LAND

JF Guthrie Cup 2010 - Most valuable fleece



Liberton NZ213, H104 & C100 Supreme Interbreed Long Wool Group Bendigo 2011



Liberton 9C26 Supreme Interbreed Long Wool Ram Hamilton 2011

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'To God be the Glory, Great things He has done'

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'SPRINGDALE'**

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Legends of the Breed



Jeff Prell
(Order of Australia Medal)

Jeff Prell (OAM) has been passionate about many things in his 80+ years. Family, fly-fishing, cricket and Corriedale sheep are at the top of the list. Since leaving school in 1949, he has been intimately involved with the Corriedales at the "Gundowringa" stud. The stud was founded in 1916 by his grand-father and is number 18 in the Flock Book. It is regarded as one of the founding studs of the breed. Jeff was stud master at Gundowringa for more than 30 years after the death of his father in 1964. His impact on the type of sheep bred in the Gundowringa stud has been profound, always favouring a clean faced, easy-care sheep that cut a heavy fleece of wool and produced a commercially attractive carcass. This "Gundowrin-

ga type" of Corriedale can be seen in many countries around the world. Jeff has spent much of his life talking to sheep breeders in South Africa, Kenya, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Brazil, Chile and New Zealand. All these countries have introduced sheep from Gundowringa while Jeff was in charge.

The best sheep Jeff exhibited was probably Gundowringa "Perfection", a supreme example of a Corriedale ewe, who was undefeated in the show ring before she tragically died in the pen at the Melbourne Sheep Show of 1965.

Jeff attended five World Corriedale Conferences (from 1965 through to 1985) as a delegate of the Australian Corriedale Association. In addition, he was Chairman of the World Conference held in Melbourne, Australia in 1990. In 1975 he was the first breeder in the world to take a sheep with him to an overseas conference when he exhibited a Gundowringa ram at the show in Christchurch, NZ which coincided with the conference of that year. This ram (Gundowringa "Tasman") was later purchased by a Uruguayan breeder and sired lambs in three countries, without the assistance of artificial insemination. Jeff also took a Gundowringa ram to the show that

coincided with the Conference in Brazil in 1985.

Jeff judged Corriedales all over the world, including in Nukuru, Kenya in 1966, in Juliaca, Peru in 1978, and at Punta Arenas, Chile (with Oliver Guthrie) in 1980. He recently judged the ewes at the Bendigo Sheep Show, and earned plenty of accolades for his style of judging. Jeff was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 1994 for his contribution to agriculture.

Most of his association with Corriedales was with his wife Jess by his side. Jess passed away in 2007 and is missed by the many close friends she and Jeff made throughout the Corriedale world. Jeff continues to live in the homestead at Gundowringa and still takes a very keen interest in the activities on the Gundowringa property, particularly if that activity involves his beloved Gundowringa Corriedale sheep. ✦



Jeff Prell in Chile (1980)





Blackwood Performance Corriedales





- * Performance rams and semen available for sale
- * Latest news: Purchased the 2 top pens of 'performance' ewes from the Coora Dispersal Sale
- * The runs are on the board - Bendigo Australian Sheep & Wool Show 2011 results
 - * Winner Lambplan Interbreed Maternal Performance Class - Ram under 1½
 - * Winner Champion Corriedale Fleece - from ram Blackwood 27/09

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Legends of the Breed



Jim Gough

The Corriedale breed has lost one of its most innovative breeders with the retirement of Jim Gough. In his goal to cement the Corriedale as a proven dual purpose breed, Jim Gough used performance recording from the establishment of his Coora stud in 1962. Eventually he

founded Performance Corriedales; a small group of like-minded breeders dedicated to genetic progress based on performance recording and measurement.

Jim Gough was the first Corriedale breeder to use fleece measurements for his ram selection. This, along with Lambplan recording for carcase traits, enabled Coora to produce ewes that could grow six kilograms of 25.3-micron wool while achieving 130 per cent lambs marked.

He helped introduce performance classes for Corriedales in shows, sponsoring and exhibiting in Lambplan classes at leading state and district shows in Victoria and South Australia.

Jim Gough initiated the Trans-Tasman genetic analysis of Lambplan-recorded Corriedales in Australia and New Zealand sheep recorded on the Sheep Improvement Limited database to help breeders make informed performance-based selection decisions.


Coora rams were sold into flocks across Australia from 1994-97 and in February this year the Coora flock was dispersed, mostly to fellow members of Performance Corriedales. His 480 stud ewes sold to a top \$210 and averaged \$127. They included the highest indexing ewes across Australian and New Zealand Corriedale flocks.

"The good thing is that the right sheep were going to the right people," he said after the sale, meaning Jim Gough's influence will continue with his sheep.

Jim Gough created the Western District Corriedale breeders group and was made a life member of the Victorian State Branch in 1992 after being a long-time state meeting participant and state chairman from 1988 to 1990. He served on the Federal Council for 12 years. In 1999 Jim Gough was made a Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding & Genetics Society.



ROSEVILLE
Home of Roseville 06/209 • A champion with multiple credits



Champion ram at
Sydney, Canberra, Dubbo
& Bathurst in 2009

Semen Available

TAG	GFW kg	Yield %	CFW kg	Micron	GFWp	CFWp
06/209	11.5	63.36	7.29	23.99	119.66	112.53
FD	SD	CV	%>30	Comf	Spin F	Curv
-3.86	3.52	14.50	23.6	97.0	25.85	85.8

MWWT	WWT	PWWT	PFAT	PEMD	YWT	NWL%	PFEC
1.1	2.24	4.0	-0.19	0.54	4.3	6.0	-13

Roseville Corriedales: Back Creek Road, Kingsvale, NSW 2586
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Legends of the Breed

Oliver Guthrie

Australian Corriedale elder statesman Oliver Guthrie could be expected to take a step back in his sheep breeding activities at age 84, but he still takes a keen and active interest.

Oliver has ceded his well known Bulgandra stud to his grandsons; James, son of his daughter Georgina Cusack, and Glenormiston College graduate Edward, son of Chris & Jenni Guthrie; but it would continue to be run at Rich Avon, Oliver and his wife Pam's property, near Donald.

Daughter, Georgina Cusack said she had just helped her father class the latest crop of young Bulgandra rams.

"James isn't here at the moment so that gives me an excuse to look after his half of the sheep, but as I've had my own stud registered for 60 years, I thought that was long enough," Mr Guthrie said of the handover.

Close friend and fellow Corriedale stalwart Andrew Nicolson said Mr Guthrie played an important role in the breed's administration, culminating in the federal presidency from 1979-81. He had also done the ACA's auditing for several years and was made a life member and a patron of the breed.

"He was a very good leader and very much a hands-on president. He was very well respected for his wisdom and while he could be a bit outspoken at times, he usually made good sense.

"Oliver's father, Thomas was one of the foundation breeders in Australia and his uncle Frank was instrumental in founding the Australian Corriedale Association.

"Oliver was a partner with his uncle and eventually finished up with the Bulgandra stud," Mr Nicolson said.

Mr Guthrie ceased showing while on a high after the 2001 Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo. His Bulgandra supreme champion Corriedale ram had gone on to win the Supreme Australian Strong Wool Exhibit from sheep (rams and ewes) of nine other breeds.

"It took me 50 years to get it," Oliver said, in explaining his constant battle with the dust and other adverse conditions in the Wimmera while trying to prepare his show sheep.

Mr Nicolson said he had used Bulgandra blood sheep with great success, explaining they produce very good, long stapled breeding ewes.

Mr Guthrie said Corriedales had been very good to him, enabling him to judge in North and South America, plus every Australian state except Queensland.

WATTLE GLEN CORRIEDALES

True all purpose sheep

* Great success at Adelaide Feature Breed Showing 2011



Wattle Glen 09/12
Grand Champion ram at RAS Feature Show 2011
 128kg at 2yrs - 44mm eye muscle depth.
 March shorn - 28 micron & winner of Best Sire's Fleece.
 Also Reserve Champion Adelaide 2010 as a hogget

* Also winners of Reserve Senior Champion ewe,
 plus National Champion Corriedale ewe's fleece



Enquiries most welcome anytime
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CD Brand

Defines Australian Corriedale wool

by Brenton Lush



Is Corriedale wool an identical product to crossbred wool with identical specifications? One of the frustrations of being an Australian

Corriedale producer over the years has been our ability, or lack of, to market our wool in a generic, mass market. As producers of Corriedale wool, we always felt that we were producing wool that was superior to crossbred wool, an opinion that was shared by others within the industry. However, that superiority was never recognised when the wool was traded. Partly, that came back to the way Australian wool is classed and sold.

When Australian wool is classed, its breed of origin is defined by a Breed Code specified by the Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX). Until recently, Corriedale wool could have been described under any of three different breed codes. Finer wool (under 26 micron) would have been described by the code 'CBK' (Comeback). Most Corriedale wool would have fitted into the 'FX' (Fine Crossbred) code, while the stronger lines of wool were defined as 'MX' (Medium Crossbred). This meant that pure Corriedale wool was be-

ing sold alongside crossbred wool of no defined genetic background. While 'CBK' could be defined as a Merino, or a Polwarth, or Corriedale cross and of good wool quality, 'FX' and 'MX' wool could come from any combination of long wool, downs wool, or Merino composites and as such, the type of wool and its processing performance becomes very unpredictable.

Over many generations of breeding, Corriedale breeders have placed an emphasis on producing quality wool. Characteristics such as softness, well defined crimp, bright colour and freedom from pigmented fibres have been a part of breeders' selection criteria. The Australian Corriedale Association (ACA) felt that Corriedale wool offered the processing sector the benefit of this consistent quality. With this in mind, the Australian Corriedale Association (ACA) made a submission to AWEX to have Corriedale wool defined under the breed code of 'CD'. 🍀

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When AWEX released its Code of Practice (the 'rule book' for wool classing and preparation in Australia) for the 2010 to 2012 seasons, it included 'CD' as the breed code for pure Corriedale wool. This means that Corriedale wool can be identified as such to the point of sale. Regardless of micron or wool type (adult and lambs fleece, pieces or bellies), Corriedale wool is now described as 'CD'.

Another factor to consider is that while we may think that Corriedale wool is a superior product to generic crossbred wool, it is another matter to prove it. With this in mind, the ACA initiated a trial to determine the risks of 'dark' and 'medullated' fibres in our wool. As this trial was being planned, AWEX also began a similar trial across all breeds, so we joined their trial. Fleece and pieces samples were sent to the Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA) and the results of their testing showed that Austral-

ian Corriedale wool was a low risk of contamination due to dark (melanin) fibres and a medium risk of contamination by 'medullated' fibres. While the trial did not include any crossbreeds of sheep to compare Corriedale wool with, Corriedale wool would be the only wool to have known risks associated with it in the broader wool market.

Ideally, it would also be of benefit to test aspects of processing performance and end-use market suitability of Corriedale wool alongside a variety of crossbred wools, but in Australia that is not feasible. We will have to continue to rely on



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anecdotal feedback from buyers and processors to support that case. Australian wool is sold in a number of ways, including on farm, privately through brokers, or at auction. In the first year of the CD breed code being established over 2600 bales of Corriedale wool was sold through the auction system, but more wool was sold through other means. In Tasmania, Corriedale producers have worked with the Australian Wool Network (AWN) and the Schneider group to supply quality fleece wool to the Japanese fibre company Motohiro. This wool is being processed into yarns for the hand knitting sector and a trial found that the Corriedale wool performed better than its 'crossbred' equivalent. Wool for this product ranges from 24.8 to 30.5 micron (average of 28 micron) and needs to be free of any water stain, or colour. Selling wool in this manner not only has financial advantages for the grower, but also strengthens the connections along the wool supply pipeline between the grower and consumers.

In the auction market, the wool broker Elders has taken the initiative over the last few years to hold special Corriedale Wool Feature Sales in Melbourne. They hold three of these sales a year, aiming to attract at least 300 bales of wool to each sale. Wool under 28 micron has primarily been sold to the trade that makes uniforms for the Chinese public sector, while the stronger wools have gone to China, Thailand

and Korea for knitwear. Any wool over 30 micron has been used for wool furnishings, while lambs' wool has been blended with finer wool (24 to 27 micron) for hand knitting yarn. Elders report that they always receive positive feedback from exporters and processors about the quality of the wool, which receives good prices on the market.

Wool that is over 25 micron is generally seen as a base commodity, end-

ing up as either knitwear, or interior textiles for furnishings, and its value is defined by its price relative to its competing fibres. By identifying Corriedale wool under its own breed code and working with brokers who recognise the quality of the product, Corriedale producers have the potential to tap into special markets that may arise, getting our superior product into superior markets and attracting a superior price. ♦



The CD brand enables quality Corriedale wool to be sold under its own brand and to demonstrate its consistency and quality.



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Corriedales in Schools

Chairo

Chairo Christian School is an independent Christian School made of students from pre-prep to year 12, spread over 3 campuses located in Drouin and Pakenham, Victoria.

The school has a strong agricultural program with the focus at the Drouin campus being on cattle and Corriedale sheep at the Pakenham Campus.

The Pakenham Campus breeds and shows Corriedales and has a flock of around 30 animals.

There are approximately 50 students involved in the co-curricular sheep program, with agriculture being a

compulsory subject from year 5 onwards. The sheep showing team attend a variety of agricultural shows throughout Victoria, including the Australian Sheep and Wool Show held at Bendigo each year in July.

The students learn all aspects of caring for the animals, including nutrition, lambing, marking, drenching and vaccinating and are responsible for caring out these activities themselves. It is the aim of the program to teach students in a practical manner how to responsibly manage a small flock, whilst raising the breed standards of their own flock.

Through this process students mentor younger students that come into the program, assisting them with all of the flock management skills. Students also share their own knowledge, which is built up largely from experience and networking with long-term breeders at agricultural shows.

Chairo has been breeding Cor-

riedales for approximately 7 years and has received great support from a variety of breeders and studs in the Corriedale association. In particular, Brenda and Jim Ventnors in have given enormous support to our program and a large proportion of our flock has been supplied by the Ventnors family. Their patience and willingness to support and assist student learning has been invaluable to many students from all the schools involved in agricultural shows, but particularly those from Chairo.

The Corriedale Association has been a great support to student flocks and as a result has enabled our school to run our sheep program with much success.

At the Chairo Christian School we intend to continue developing our flock to the best of our capabilities, with the objective of producing the best Corriedales we can. ♦

*Kim Thomsen
(Music Coordinator, Chairo Christian School, Pakenham Campus)*



Pictured are some of the Chairo Christian School students with their award winning Corriedale sheep. From left, Troy Clacy, Hannah Cleal, Annika Van Laambart, Steph Roeffs, Holly Battersby, Tahnee Sommers, Lauren Battersby, Tanner Thomsen, Jennika Peterson, Renee Green, Rachale Seal, Brooke Joseph, Liam Clacy & teacher Kim Thomsen.

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