

Australian



CORRIEDALE

Association Newsletter



JULY 2012 ISSUE



FROM THE PRESIDENT

A reminder to members that the ACA annual general meeting will be held on Thursday, 19th July, 2012 in the Committee Room, Bendigo Showgrounds, Vic, commencing at 5pm.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a very comprehensive report from Ian and Di MacKinnon on the Corriedale Conference and tour in Brazil and other countries.

Also many show reports including the extraordinary effort of Ballarat Grammar students at the Holbrook Sheep and Wool Fair in June.

Nick Cole
President



VICTORIAN BREEDERS TAKE CORRIES TO THE FIELD DAYS

(Courtesy – Milton Savage)

The Wimmera Machinery Field Days were held in the first week of March in Horsham, Victoria. Though this was only the second year we had taking Corriedales to these Field Days, it was the event's 50th anniversary. While the response in 2011 was good, there was more interest in 2012, with producers showing interest in moving towards self-replacing flocks.

Milton Savage with Darryl and Jan MacDonald set up on the morning of Tuesday 6th, with Darryl and Jan staying the whole day. Oliver and Pam Guthrie, along with two of their grandsons, attended the tent on the Wednesday. The MacDonalds returned on the 8th, with Milton arriving late to help pack up.

Darryl Macdonald presented some ram hoggets, and as well there were some older Corriedale ewes, and some Corriedale fleeces from Gambier View. The comment was made that "the ewes were too big for the shearers to pull out," and it was suggested that the fleeces were a lot softer and finer than their true micron of 27.

Breeders also attended the Elmore Field Days late last year, which took place on 2-4 October.

This was more in sheep country and was a huge success. People who saw the sheep at the Field Days ended up being clients at ram sales, and private sales. The main organizers once again were Darryl and Jan MacDonald, and Bruce Hamblin, who presented some of the Loddon Park sheep.

This year the Victorian branch is presenting a site at the Elmore Field Days again in the first week of October as well as having booked a site for the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo in 2013.

CORRIEDALE HILLS BREAKOUT

(Courtesy Ian Turner, the Stock Journal)

Sometimes you come across the strangest stories and the Lush family can relate one that is quite different. One of their old Corriedale rams is now a stuffed exhibit in the Bundeswehr Military History Museum in Dresden, Germany in a display of animals involved in war.

Brenton Lush said, “The enquiry came through when I was federal president of the Corriedale association and when you hold that position you get all sorts of enquiries.

“We were trying to work out the connections and presumed it was because Corriedale wool was used in uniforms, but we were way off the mark.”

It turns out the connection is with the Falkland Islands War between Britain and Argentina.

In that war the Argentines laid a lot of anti-personnel land mines in the open paddocks and many of these had a plastic coating the normal detectors could not locate.

“The dominant breed of sheep was Corriedale, so in a decision that was regarded as the lesser of two evils the sheep were rounded up and walked through mined areas. Obviously this had a rather disastrous effect on the particular sheep that triggered the mines,” Brenton said.

For quarantine regulation reasons the Falklands were eliminated as a source of supply of a sheep for the museum and Argentina was hardly going to support the exhibition, so they then considered Australia. The end result was one of the Lush family’s ‘cast for age’ rams that was going to the slaughter market found his way to the taxidermist instead, and is now one of 30 animals on display.

“To make it relevant to the display and to depict the cause the sheep were used for, it is

missing one back leg and is no longer a ram!” Brenton concluded.

INLET VIEWS MAKES ITS CORRIEDALE MARK

(Courtesy – Farm Weekly)

The WA College of Agriculture Denmark’s Inlet Views Corriedale stud gained positive praise from judge Brian Smith, Neribri, Boyanup, at this year’s Wagin Woolorama.

“They were well presented sheep, all from the one stud, and with student handlers,” Mr Smith said.

“They are using quality sires to achieve really good results.”

The Best of Breed sash went to the young champion ram.

“He was a good stretchy young ram, with a good wool type,” Mr Smith said.

“He walks well and has good muscle and length.”



The Corriedale Hills Corriedale ram on display with other animals used in war in the Bundeswehr Military History Museum in Dresden, Germany. (MHM/David Brandt photo)

ROYAL CANBERRA SHOW

There was a good turnout of Corriedales at the Royal Canberra Show in February, with six studs showing. The ribbons were shared fairly well among the studs. The supreme Corriedale went to the ewe from Billigaboo who went on to win supreme long wool ewe. Roseville won champion ram and champion shorn Corriedale. It is very encouraging to see Ballarat Grammar travel so far to show at Canberra; they also had some success, winning the group of 1 ram & 2 ewes. Badgally won the reserve champion ewe. It was also the last show that David Baker would be at with St Gregory's College. Overall the show was a great success and we are looking forward to next year.

ROYAL EASTER SHOW

Three studs exhibited sheep at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The champion ewe and ram went to Billigaboo and the reserve champion ram went to Badgally, while Tymec won the best head Corriedale. There was a farewell held for David Baker to recognise the efforts he has put into the breed and the way Badgally has developed into a very successful stud. It was also a time to welcome the new people looking after the school sheep, Ed and Rick. We wish them good luck

and have offered support whenever needed.

ROYAL BATHURST SHOW

There was a small showing of Corriedales at the Royal Bathurst Show in April this year with two studs showing about 20 sheep. The champion ewe and ram went to Roselea and the reserve champions to Esbank. Although the numbers were down from previous years it was a very enjoyable show and I would encourage other studs to consider attending. It is a two day show with judging on Friday and a junior judging on the Saturday. Arrivals for sheep can be done on the Thursday or before 8:30am on the Friday. Sheep can be loaded from around 4:00pm on the Saturday. The facilities are great and feedback is always good. If you have 40 to 50 sheep there then you have really good numbers to stand out and get noticed.

LANDMARK NSW SHEEP SHOW: FEATURE BREED CORRIEDALE

What can I say other than 73 Corriedales, supreme interbreed long wool ewe and group, champion schools exhibit, and grand champion carcass of the show (Corriedale-Dorset X) exhibited by Tattykeel. This year's Landmark NSW Sheep

Show in May was the biggest show since the Albury Sheep Show in 1984; it just seems to get bigger and better each year! Billigaboo showed at Dubbo for the first time, which proved to be a good decision as they met with amazing success, winning supreme ewe and ram and group of three. The ewe and the group went on to win interbreed long wool ewe and group.

The standard of all the sheep is getting better each year. With 73 Corriedales being exhibited, the goal of 100 sheep at Dubbo is getting closer. There are expectations of the entire sheep show being over 1000 sheep in 2013, so exposure from the show should be good for the Corriedale breed. It would be interesting to see if any interstate studs might consider attending next year. Studs that attended Dubbo were Badgally, Billigaboo, Cuttabaloo, Esbank, Merrigal, Roselea, Roseville, and Tymec.

The annual meeting for the NSW branch was held with good feedback. The annual dinner that followed was held at a new location, "The Matilda", and was a great success with 40 people attending. Prizes were handed out and a lovely meal was had. Later on in the night we decided that Richard Carter should shout as he won all the prizes earlier in the day – a request to which he kindly obliged. The dinner is becoming a highlight of the Landmark NSW Sheep Show in Dubbo. We would encourage anyone who would like to come to please do so as you will have a great night.

(The above reports are courtesy of Rick Hoolihan)

SHOW RESULTS

LANDMARK NSW SHEEP SHOW 2012 RESULTS: FEATURE BREED CORRIEDALE

Champion shorn ram

Roseville

Reserve champion shorn ram

Roseville

Champion woolly ram

Billigaboo

Reserve champion woolly ram

Roseville

Grand champion ram

Billigaboo

Champion novice ram

Tymec

Reserve champion novice ram

Merrigal

Champion shorn ewe

Roseville

Reserve champion shorn ewe

Badgally

Champion woolly ewe

Billigaboo

Reserve champion woolly ewe

Billigaboo

Novice champion woolly ewe

Tymec

Novice reserve champion ewe

Cuttabaloo

Grand champion Corriedale ewe

Billigaboo

Grand champion Corriedale ram

Billigaboo

Supreme Corriedale exhibit

Billigaboo (woolly ewe)

Group one ram & two ewes (milk tooth)

Billigaboo

Interbreed long wool ewe

Billigaboo

Interbreed long wool group

Billigaboo

CAMPBELLTOWN SHOW RESULTS 2012

A good showing of Corriedales at Campbell Town was judged by Milton Savage, with Noel Littlejohn as steward. Stuart Burbury's newly registered Leamington stud made a very impressive debut in the show ring with a team of well bred, well presented March shorn hoggets. Awards in the senior ram classes were evenly distributed between Blackwood, Quamby Plains and Streanshalh.

Ram under 1½

Blackwood 1 and 2,
Leamington 3

Ram under 2½, over 1½

Streanshalh 1 and reserve
champion, Quamby Plains 2,
Blackwood 3

Pen of two rams over 1½

Quamby Plains 1 and champion

Ram over 2½

Blackwood 1, Streanshalh 2,
Quamby Plains 3

Ram under 1½, March shorn

Blackwood 1 and 3,
Leamington 2

Ewe over 1½, unprotected

Streanshalh 1 and reserve
champion, 2

Ewe over 2½

Streanshalh 1 and champion, 2

Best Head on a Corriedale Ram

Streanshalh

Best three sheep, progeny of one sire

Leamington

Ram with best sire's fleece

Blackwood

Fleece Awards:

Corriedale Ram

Streanshalh 1 and champion
Corriedale fleece

Corriedale Ewe

Leamington

Group of three Corriedale fleeces

Streanshalh

CAMPBELLTOWN SHOW – JUDGE'S COMMENTS

(Courtesy – Milton Savage)

It was pleasing to see the quality of the rams when they came out for the championship. There was a three year old ram from Blackwood that had a magnificent fleece that had lasted the test of time, with a good head, frame and constitution.

The Streanshalh ram which placed second in the three year old class was very impressive, with a good fleece, head, and a good frame which stood on four good black feet, but just didn't have the preparation. With regard to the championship, the reserve champion went to Streanshalh, a two year old ram that had a nice fleece, good head and frame, and once again had black feet that stood in the right places, but preparation was lacking again.

The champion ram was an older two tooth ram exhibited by Quamby Plains. The sheep had a good frame and head, and an

SHOW RESULTS

excellent heavy cutting lustrous fleece. I feel that he was unlucky not to win the champion interbreed, as he was structurally more correct, and a better and more even fleece than the Merino.

Blackwood's junior champion ram was a very good sheep but did not have what it took to defeat the senior champion.

Streanshalh exhibited the champion and reserve champion ewes, from sheep that were straight out of the paddock, and still very good representatives of the breed.

HOLBROOK SHEEP AND WOOL FAIR

The Holbrook Sheep and Wool Fair took place on the 12-15 June this year. Over 160 students from

11 schools (NSW and Vic) attended for workshops and interschool competition on Wednesday, with open judging Thursday and interbreed finals held Friday.

Ballarat Grammar saw excellent results, including top achievements of all major ribbons and most successful exhibitor in Corriedale section, champion interschool group of three, reserve champion interschool ram, champion dual purpose ram (open comp), champion dual purpose group (open comp) and the G & L Lieschke Trophy for the best maintained school team. Staff in attendance with the students included Alan Preston, Matt Dickinson and Georgie Buntine.

Mr. Dickinson said the event has proved valuable to Ballarat

Grammar. "Attending this event gives our sheep an outing prior to the three big shows in July and August. It lets us know how our sheep are looking and which ones to enter in the different classes," he said.

"Holbrook, as an event, is geared specifically to students. All the big Riverina schools are there. They are very professional in the way they prepare their animals and the way they look and behave. As a school, we have learnt and developed quickly, being a relatively new school to showing, by competing against these schools.

"We also get to promote the Corriedale breed, particularly the benefits of a dual purpose breed, in a predominately meat sheep arena."



The Ballarat Grammar team – Back row left to right: Henry Dickinson year 4, Stephanie Leishman, Kate Jackson, Ali Hodgson. Front: staff member Matt Dickinson, and students Tahlia Bruce and Jordie Gilmer (all girls year 9).

SHEEP HANDLING WORKSHOP HAILED A SUCCESS IN BALLARAT

(Courtesy – Matt Dickinson & Milton Savage)

The Victorian Corriedale Association, in conjunction with Ballarat Grammar, held a sheep handling workshop for secondary school students on Friday 1st June. Initially the day was to be held at Ballarat Grammar's Mt Rowan Farm, but once numbers headed above 40 attendees, a new venue was sought. In the end the day was held across the road at Ballarat University's TAFE Farm Campus. The state of the art sheep handling facilities – including a 10 stand sawtooth shearing plant, classrooms and

undercover yard area – made an ideal venue for the day. Over 80 year nine students attended, from six different schools – one as far as Sassafras in the Dandenong Ranges. Most schools already had sheep of some description, and came with a range of experience levels and skills.

The day was designed to be as 'hands-on' as possible, and geared towards running a team of sheep and exhibiting at shows. There were seven sessions on offer and the students were able to choose four to attend. Jim Venters and Peter Baker instructed the students on how to select, prepare and present a show sheep, while Matt Dickinson taught them how to make halters and presented husbandry tools. Ladies from a local fleece spinning organization helped students in selecting and

preparing wools for spinning. The students also listened to Darryl MacDonald give a talk on the calendar year on the requirements of sheep husbandry. A welfare officer from the Department of Primary Industries spoke on sheep diseases and preventions, and a James & Sons stock feed company representative educated students about the feed requirements of sheep, and showed a variety of feeds that can be used.

Students were happily engaged in the various activities throughout the day and left knowing a great deal more about Corriedales than when they arrived. Well done to Matt Dickinson for putting it all together and organising the program so well.



Jim Venters explaining some of the key points of judging sheep at one of the workshop seminars.



Peter Baker demonstrating show preparation and trimming to students at the sheep handling workshop in Ballarat earlier this year.

WORLD CORRIEDALE CONFERENCE REPORT

(Courtesy – Ian & Di MacKinnon)

In Santiago, Chile on **7th May** Di and I caught up with a very weary Jim and Midge Gough after their flight from Australia. Di and I had already spent three weeks in South America visiting Buenos Aires, Iguazu Falls, Rio de Janeiro and Peru.

On the **8th May** we joined the NZ contingent of Gordon and

Barbara Gilbert, Doc Sidey, Tom Burrows (NZ Chairman), Harry & Jan Little, Di Rawlinson, John Hickford and Trish Johnson and her husband John. We then all flew to Punta Arenas and were met by Gerry Williams from Auckland who was our tour leader on this part of the tour and Erica our guide and interpreter.

9th May we left the hotel at 8.30am and drove to Estancia Avelina which is a commercial Corriedale flock managed by John Nicol. It is owned by Arturo Mendez. It is 12,000 ha, has 450mm rain annually (sometimes a little snow), and runs 9,000 mixed aged Corriedales. They buy 10 rams

a year from Estancia Aike, and overall they have 95-105% lambing on native pasture. They AI (not laparoscopic) a percentage of ewes to increase lamb production. They then scan these and get about 128% on the scanning. Their main problem is light lamb carcass weights 11.8Kg – 13.6Kg. We lunched this day at Estancia Lolita which has a wildlife park, as well as a commercial Corriedale operation. Here they have two Pumas, a fox, a variety of water ducks and fowls, alpacas and llamas. We were treated to Pisco Sour, whiskey and a delicious steak lunch. Probably the nicest beef we had while in South America. After lunch we visited Estancia Aike owned

by Naldo Almonacid and run by his son Patricio. This is 5,000 ha, running 6,000 sheep. They sell 700-800 rams a year within the region, Peru and Argentina. They sell the cull ewes. They AI with a laparoscope as well vaginally, doing so over 22 days starting mid-May. Ryegrass and clover has been widely used. Patricio is now using electric fences as the system is very fragile due to the climate. They have 400 stud ewes and 1300 pure cross ewes. 40% of lambs go for export. They shear in October. This stud competes with the MacLeans for the top sheep in the region. In 1979 they imported a quantity of rams and ewes from New Zealand and in 1989 they purchased a ram from Oakshot (Peter Bailey). On the way back to the hotel we visited a wool store and saw over 1,000 bales from one Estancia, bale weights over 300kg each. They also dry and bale sheep skins for the Chinese market, 120-150 skins per bale. This evening we had dinner with the local farmers at the showground restaurant in Punta Arenas.

10th May we boarded the bus at 7.00am so we could catch the 9.30 am ferry to Isla Riesco to visit Kenneth MacLean's daughter Gillian Boyd who runs Estancia Trebol. The island is a micro-climate; small forests of beech trees and very pretty at this time of year. Gillian's brother Robin, his wife, and her sister Anne were there as well. Her other brother Roderick was away. He owns Estancia Los

Cholleros. Gillian's nephew Peter helps her and manages the stud under the guidance of Jim Sama. Trebol is 2,500 ha and has 500 mm rainfall April-November with very little snow sometimes afoot. They have 5,000 sheep. They get 100% lambing in flock ewes, and stud ewes about 115%. They sell about 500 rams a year. We had lunch at the MacLeans and then headed to Puerto Natales. On the way we visited Estancia Jeronima. (This 'estancia', which means a large rural estate, belongs to Erica's sister-in-law.) Jose Manuel is the administrator; he is also a vet and a great friend of Peter MacLean. It is 8,000 ha and runs 7,000 sheep, 400 Herefords and employs four gauchos. They are trying to overcome feeding problems and poor wool. Jose is returning the flock back to Corriedales having used a variety of breeds. They use Texels as terminal sires. He wants to stabilise the stock numbers at 6,200 ewes and 1000 hoggets plus the cattle. Carcase weight of lambs is 11-14.7kg at 12 months old. He is trying to manage pasture with electric fencing, so he can try to fatten the sheep to get higher returns. He buys rams from the MacLeans. Problems he encounters are stock theft, pumas, and foxes (red and grey).

11th May we were tourists for the day, visiting the National Park Torres del Paine. We were fortunate to see a large number of vicuñas. The vicuña is a protected native animal similar to an alpaca.

12th May we drove from Puerto Natales to Rio Gallegos in Argentina. After crossing the border, there was very obvious overgrazing. After a seven hour drive we arrived at Las Vegas owned by Jim Sama. Las Vegas is 1000 ha running 700 sheep comprising Corriedale, Dohne and Poll Dorset. His paddocks carry highly productive grass, he manages 150 ha with electric fencing. He has another farm 100kms away, which is 5,000 ha and has 3,000 sheep. Jim has had three drought years at Las Vegas with only 20% lambing. It is a very dry, cold and arid area.

We arrived at 5.30pm at our hotel in Rio Gallegos, and said goodbye to our interpreter Erica, our bus driver and our comfortable bus, while they returned to Chile. That evening we had dinner at the British Club with George Jamison's daughter Sandra and her husband Michael O'Byrne, a sheep meat exporter.

13th May we travelled to Estancia Condor. It was a 2½ hour drive. Condor, owned by the Benetton Group, was purchased in 1994 and is managed by Marcelino Diaz. It is 220,000 ha running 100,000 sheep (64,000 ewes) 10 camps, three shearing sheds, 175 windmills pumping water from 70-90 metres down, a few cattle for on farm consumption, 68 employees and 165 horses. They hold an annual sale the first week in March for stud and commercial sheep. They sell

700 Corriedale rams on sale day. They use New Zealand and Australian genetics. A show winner was sold recently to Brazil for US \$12,000. We had a wonderful lunch, after which we inspected their show and sale rams, and there was also a tour of the shearing shed where they were very busy carrying out their AI program. We then boarded the bus for our 2½ hour trip back to Rio Gallegos.

14th May we had an early start to the airport for a 9am flight to Rio Grande on Tierra del Fuego. We were met by San Julio owner Alberto Paz. We went to the hotel to drop our bags and then we visited Estancia Maria Behety which is 15kms from Rio Grande. There we met the president of the company, Roberto Speroni. Maria Behety is 180,000 ha running 50,000 sheep (37,000 ewes), 1200 cows, 200 horses, and they produce 200,00kg wool in 300kg + bales. There are 37 full time staff members at a fishing lodge which employs 50 people in peak season. If you would like to stay there it is US \$5,000 a week per person. Sixty years ago the Estancia employed 100-110 staff. It is isolated for three months in the winter. The shearers come from Buenos Aires. Maria Behety made her money with ships and cargo out of Puenta Arenas and then purchased many farms. She started with 700 sheep. The old shearing shed burnt down in 1935 and the shearing shed that stands today is the largest shed in the world with 40 stands. They use

20 stands now. It will hold 7,000 woolly sheep. When the 40 stands were operating they would shear approximately 7,000 sheep a day. Sheep were brought in from San Julio and Flaminco Estancias from as far away as four days' driving for shearing. They shear in January and receive US \$4.00 per kg of wool. They AI around 3,000 ewes. Once again we were given a wonderful lunch by our host and were joined by various managers.

15th May we had a three hour drive to Alberto Paz's San Julio Estancia as there had been some rain and we had to take the oil industry roads. Alberto drove two hours to meet our bus to lead us in to his Estancia. He has a very impressive shearing shed that he designed which was built in 1991. It took a year to construct and is 1.8m off the ground to allow for the removal of sheep manure from under the shed. It has a 16 stand L shaped raised board (knee high). The wool room has a cement floor. He gets 350mm rain and San Julio is 51,700 ha and runs 42,000 sheep (31,000 ewes) and 400 Hereford cows. Last spring he lost 5,000 hoggets in late snow. He is trying new grasses like Kentucky Blue and he is irrigating in valleys. The sheep manure from under the shed is used for fertilizer on the paddocks he grows oats in. They have to backline sheep for ticks, they now pre-lamb shear and get 70-75% lambing, not pre-lamb shorn gives a result of 50-60%. The shearers

shear in bare feet. He has a wool press that turns out 380kg bales. The wool is stored on farm and after core testing sold to an exporter in Buenos Aires. The older sheep average 28.5 micron and the hoggets 23.5 micron. Alberto has been coming to Tierra del Fuego for 43 years and has owned San Julio for 40 years. He spends six months of the year on the estancia and six months elsewhere. He has 160 purebred ewes which he lambs under cover and 2,200 pedigree ewes as well. We also visited his very sophisticated AI centre where laparoscopic AI was being carried out. From here we followed Alberto back across the oil roads to the Estancia Sara where we were given a very late lunch. Sara runs 60,000 sheep (45,000 ewes).

16th May we flew from Rio Grande via Buenos Aires to Uruguay. Our tour leader Gerry Williams said goodbye to us in Buenos Aires. We arrived at our hotel about 6pm. This night we were joined by Charlie Prime and his son Michael, Bill and Pauline Bain and Arthur Blakely.

17th May we departed the hotel in Montevideo at 7:30am to commence the conference organised pre-conference tour. We headed north-east for 2½ hours to "San Gerardo", owned by Gerardo, Ricardo and Fernando Garcia Pintos. We had to leave the bus to be transported along country roads by Corriedale breeders and what a sight we saw at the edge of the farm! It was a T

intersection and they had gauchos on horses holding up their Hereford cattle in the corners of the paddocks. We all got out of the cars and were welcomed to Uruguay by the Uruguayan Corriedale president and given minute cups of sweet coffee and biscuits in the intersection. From here we proceeded across the paddocks to see their new irrigation dam and then onto the Estancia where we were greeted by the gauchos and young family members on horses with all the flags of participating countries. The farm is 1,000 ha and has a Coneat (soil) index of 98. They have a Corriedale stud, Poll Hereford, Angus and Limousin studs as well as commercial herds. They run 885 sheep and have 783 cattle. From the Corriedale stud they sell 170-180 rams and 120-140 ewes a year. They sell 30-35 bulls a year. The Garcia Pintos family has been breeding Corriedales for more than 60 years. They had a good selection of rams for us to look at. As well as their own rams they have used Quamby Plains 134-05, Strathblane 511, La Estela 7023 (son of Quamby Plains 134-05) and Aquara 9991 (son of Core Clifton). We felt very welcome and had a lovely lunch in the sun in the garden.

From here we were driven back to the bus and then visited "Refugio" owned by Juan Echeverria. The farm is 3,801 ha and has a Coneat index of 101. They have 5,813 Corriedales of which 300 are pedigree breeding ewes and

350 are purebred breeding ewes. They have their own auction on the first Thursday in March. They also have 2,813 Hereford-Angus cross cattle. Some sheep they sell as heavy lambs and cattle they sell as feed lot steers (380-420kgs) and fat cows. From Refugio we drove for a couple of hours north-west to our hotel at Duranzo.

Friday **18th May** we departed our hotel in Duranzo at 7am with our guide and translator Hector. Hector had retired from the army and as we found out over the time he was with us he liked everything orderly and punctual but he had a wonderful sense of humour. He did remind some of us of Manuel from Fawlty Towers. Our first visit was "La Lucha" owned by Echeverria & Sons. It is 4,257 ha over four blocks and has a Coneat Index of 112. They have a grazing area of 2,785 ha. They have Hereford, Charolais and Holando cattle totalling 2,807. They have 2,603 Corriedale sheep. They sell 300 rams a year at two on-farm auctions. Their pedigree flock has 260 sheep and their purebred flock has 1,050 sheep. Some of the sires used are Strathblane 304, Strathblane 209, Clifton 526, and Glenovis A82.

From here we travelled to "La Estela" owned by Jorge Rodriguez Britos. The farm is 990 ha and has a Coneat index of 176. They have 2,404 Corriedale and Hampshire Downs and 514 Angus and crosses with Hereford and Shorthorn. The original

purebred Corriedales go back to 1964, they now have 300 purebred ewes and the pedigree flock which was started in 1978 now has 300 ewes. They have two annual sales. Some of the sires they have used are Glenovis 82, Clifton 526, Quamby Plains 134, Quamby Plains 199 and Strathblane 209. We then went to a local town hall where all the participants were given an amazing lunch comprising of a local dish which was lamb, covered with olives, tomatoes, onion and cheese then cooked in giant woks over the barbeque.

In the afternoon we visited "Nuevo Amanecer" owned by the Charbonier family. It is 116 ha and has a Coneat Index of 168. They are a commercial operation having 1,652 commercial Corriedales and selling heavyweight lambs. The stocking rate is 17 sheep/ha on a mixed pasture of lucerne and oats, wheat and ryegrass or lucerne and wheat. They also add white clover to some of the mixes. The lucerne stand lasts about six years. We looked at one paddock 45 days after planting at a rate of 50kg wheat/ha and 20kg lucerne/ha. This appeared to be an extremely good mix, well-established and was already being grazed. They were losing sheep on pure lucerne within hours of being moved onto the paddock. They were keen to know if we had that problem in Australia. Some production figures are wool, 4.4kg per sheep including lambs which equates to 66kg/ha.(30

micron) a lambing % of 130%, and 399kg/ha meat. After this we drove for a couple of hours to our hotel in Paysandú.

Saturday **19th May** we drove to “La Magdalena” owned by Los Tordos S en C. It is approximately 24,000 ha. The Coneat Index is 125, with annual rainfall of 1,400mm. This is a very diverse farm; the first farms were purchased in 1991 and they have slowly added other farms to the group. They have 17,416 sheep, including a Corriedale and Merino stud. The Corriedale averages 28.1 micron and the Merino 20.5 Micron. Sheep meat production is 25kg/ha. Last year they artificially inseminated 7,807 ewes over 45 days, with a marking percentage of 89%. La Magdalena Corriedale stud was started in 2000. They have 105 pedigree sheep and 295 purebred sheep. “La Pradera” Corriedale stud was established in 1936 with 10 ewes from NZ and more animals from Argentina. In 2002 a strategic alliance was formed with “La Pradera” Corriedale stud and the flocks were incorporated to the Global Genetics Evaluation Program. La Pradera has 110 Pedigree ewes and 270 purebred ewes. The sale results for the 60th Annual Corriedale sale were 38 stud rams averaging US \$1,115, with the top price being US \$3,500. There were 114 flock rams sold, averaging US \$705, and 390 mixed age selected breeding ewes averaging US \$160. Sires used include

Quamby Plains 134-05. The index results for the Quamby Plains progeny were above 138%. The manager of La Magdalena Corriedale stud personally owned the ewe which won at the show on Friday 25th May. La Magdalena also has an Angus stud and a Hereford stud. They run Hereford, Angus, Braford and Brangus cattle. There is also a feedlot that has a capacity of 4,000 head. The cattle go into the feedlot at 360kg and go out at 500kg the daily weight gain is 1.2-1.6 kg. They must leave the feedlot under two years for the European Market. They crop extensive areas of rice, soy bean, corn, sorghum, wheat and do a large amount of silage. They also have a very extensive silo and elevator system that has a capacity of 25,000 tonnes of on farm silo storage. They also run about 260 horses. Before the farm tour we were given a fantastic lunch which provided as much as we could eat. We then drove to Salto for the night.

Sunday **20th May** the tour was joined by Nick Cole, Susie Archer and David Williams. We drove to “San Pedro” owned by Suc. Pedro and A. Narbondo. The Corneat is 67, it is 8,000 ha and has a permanent staff of 2345 during shearing. San Pedro has belonged to the same family since 1860 and some of the staff have been there for three generations. It produces about 53,000kg wool which is 4.53kg/ha including lambs which is 7.6 kg wool/ha. They have 87% lambing. Hogget

micron averages 26.2 with a yield of 79%. Adult ewes average 29 micron with a yield of 76.6%. They have been through three years of drought. They sell their lambs at 37kg at US \$2.24/kg equating to US \$82.90 per lamb. The Corriedale stud “La Tapera” was established in 1952. They have been flock testing ewes since 1971, EPDs introduced in 1994. They have 290 pedigree ewes and 305 purebred ewes. They sell 70 rams a year for an average price of US \$520, 1,500 mixed age ewes average price US \$120. Amongst the sires used are Quamby Plains 612, Strathblane 511 and Gaetan 3727 (index of 141.3), a son of Quamby Plains. We sat under the veranda with Pablo Narbondo, his wife and daughter and enjoyed lunch. After this we set off for Uruguayana in Brazil. Unfortunately it took us 2½ hours to cross the border making us very late to our hotel.

Monday **21st May** we visited Estancia Sao Marcos. They have a Corriedale stud which was started in 1957. In 1970 they bought rams from Argentina. They lamb in August/September and have about 153% lambing. They have been having an on farm sale for Corriedales and cattle for 47 years. They have trouble with predators, eagles in particular (as they are protected) and also people stealing sheep in significant numbers which is helped by all the public roads crossing their farms. We saw good

Corriedale sheep, and good quality Herefords were also penned for our inspection. We then visited Estancia Sao Pedro, which measures 85,000 ha and has 80 staff. It was established in 1906. It started with Devon cattle, and now runs 1,500 Angus, 4,200 Brangus and 800 Braford and 500 Hereford. They sell 300 bulls a year. They have 12,000 sheep, 2,000 of which are Corriedales. They have reduced their sheep numbers significantly over the years due to predators and stealing. They pre-lamb shear 60 days before shearing. They are trying to negotiate with the wool buyers to be paid on micron and yield but unfortunately are having great difficulty achieving this. 4,000 ewes were purchased in 1982 from Uruguay. Amongst sires used are Stanbury, and Clifton. They use electric fencing extensively. They also breed a significant number of horses that are sold on an on property sale. We had lunch under the trees and as well as the usual barbequed lamb we had barbequed blood sausage and onion sausage. While we were having lunch we were treated to a display of gauchos bringing up various sale bulls across the four breeds for us to inspect and also the yearling horses and older mares that were to go in the sale. It was an exceptional presentation.

That evening we dined with the Uruguayana Rural Association at a spectacular dinner with a wonderful

display by scantily-dressed and beautifully feathered traditional Brazillian dancers accompanied by a traditional band.

Tuesday **22nd May** we visited the Paramount Textile factory and saw a scour line working and top making in progress. Quite interesting to see the large amount of stain going through the scour and people trying to pick this out before it entered the dryer. There was too much for anyone to deal with and large amounts were still getting through. The tops were an order for China. We saw 30 tops being pressed into 380kg bales. We then visited Cabanha Santa Angela owned by the Pons Family. It is managed by Fredrico Pons. They run Corriedales, Merinos and Ideals. They also run Angus, Braford, Brangus and Crioulos cattle. It was difficult to obtain figures about the farming operation but it was very obvious that this is only part of quite a large business which includes crops like rice and sorghum as well. We saw a good line up of all three breeds. We were given a very nice lunch which included salads and a rendition by a local bard. From here we went to the Uruguayana showground where members of the Rural Association of Uruguayana had brought sheep in for us to look at. It was a very picturesque setting and the amount of work this exhibit took was not lost on us. Perhaps as many as 1,000 sheep were trucked in to set up

this display in front of the sheep pavilion which is quite an imposing building looking down on the sheep judging ring.

Wednesday **23rd May** we woke to find it was raining. We left Uruguayana and headed Livramento to “Sao Pedro” farm operated by Mazza Wetterick. A number of studs in the surrounding area had bought sheep in for a display. We arrived at the farm front gate to find that the rain had turned to the road to mush and the bus was unable to take us in. Hector, our guide, stopped a passing car and asked him to drive to the farm and inform them and ask them to bring vehicles down to ferry the “bus people” in. On arriving at the farm we were greeted by a large marquee set up for our lunch, while out the back a large ground barbeque (covered by a tarp) was cooking the equivalent of 22 sheep on green sticks for our lunch. It was quite a sight. Another large display of sheep was presented to us. Some were in the open and some were under cover. After a long and delicious lunch the rain stopped and we were able to move around and inspect the various groups of ewes and rams. There was an interpreter provided who was able to tell us about the history of the various studs and their breeding policies. After this we were ferried back to the bus drove to Soa Gabriel for the World Corriedale Conference.

WORLD CORRIEDALE CONFERENCE

The 14th World Corriedale Conference was held at Sao Gabriel/RS Brazil.

The Conference was held on Thursday 24th May and the sheep judging on Friday 25th May, finishing with the sale on the Saturday.

The Conference opened at 9am on the 24th and it was attended by about 300 breeders and interested people from Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Peru, Australia and New Zealand.

After being welcomed by Carlos Leil, President of ABC Corriedale, there were eight key note speakers. The theme of the conference was 'genetic gain'. The proceedings were opened by Tom Hooke from MLA based at UNE who spoke about genetic opportunities for lamb production (LAMBPLAN). He was followed by Dr. Jon Hickford from Lincoln University in New Zealand, who gave a very well received talk on improving lamb survival. This created quite a discussion amongst the audience even before he had finished his paper. It really did get the participants animated! The other international speaker was Dr. Tricia Johnson, a scientist in sheep genomics from Ag Research, New Zealand. Her paper was titled "Using genetics to improve the lean meat yield of lamb". The other presentations included Dr. Ana Carolina (veterinarian) on the use of glycerin as a feed supplement derived from the bio-diesel industry, Dr. Cesar Poly on feeding systems to produce lambs, Dr. Diego Gimeno concerning genetic evaluation of the Uruguay Corriedale, Dr. Marcus Brocardo Maciel discussing the use of grape silage as a feed supplement, and Dr. Maria Elena Guerra on the nutrition of livestock in extensive sheep systems. These papers can be viewed on the Congress website www.abccorriedale.com.br (click on the Congress Emblem, then translate and click on technical lectures).

After these speakers, the chairmen of attending countries gave their reports. A cocktail party was held in the evening, sponsored by the Bank of Brazil.

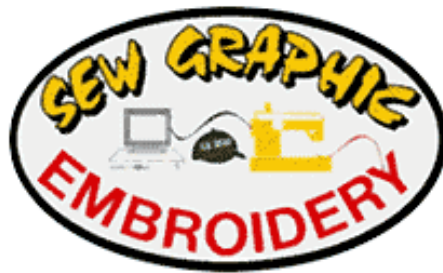
Friday 25th May was judging day and after a South American start to the day (1½ hours late) under bright sunshine and a very picturesque judging ring, champions were decided on. There were three judges including Arthur Blakely from New Zealand. The winning ewe was from Uruguay from Cabana La Milagrosa owned by Alejandro Stirling. This ewe sold in spirited bidding the following day for US \$8,000. The champion ram exhibited by Cabana Monzon Chico owned by the "EstMonzon Chico" sold after extremely exciting bidding for US \$ 42,500. Its sire was Quamby Plains 134-05. We finished the night on Friday with the conference dinner and a wool fashion parade and many presentations.

Sunday 27th May the "bus people" (as we had become known) boarded the bus for a 12 hour drive back to Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, calling in at a vineyard just outside of the city for dinner.

Monday 28th May saw the first of the "bus people" leaving at 2.30am. We all dispersed over the next couple of days, some for home and some to continue travelling.



Front cover: students from each of the schools at the Ballarat sheep handling workshop in June represented in a team photo.



SEWGRAPHIC EMBROIDERY

The official supplier of Corriedale merchandise and the only manufacturer licensed to use the Corriedale logo. A wide range of caps, pullovers, rugby tops, etc.

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Web: www.sewgraphic.com.au

WFI

Level 4,
440 Collins Street,
Melbourne, Vic, 3001.

Phone: (03) 9342 1285

Fax: (03) 9876 3000

Web: www.wfi.com.au



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2012	
Thursday, 19th	AGM 5pm followed by the Council meeting in the Committee Room, Bendigo Showgrounds.
Saturday, 21st	Corriedale judging, ASBA Show, Bendigo, Vic.
AUGUST 2012	
Monday, 6th	Hamilton Sheepvention judging.
OCTOBER 2012	
Tuesday, 2nd	Corriedale Hills sale, SA. Contact Brenton Lush (08) 8598 5281. Elmore Field Days begin.
Friday, 5th	Mooralea sale, Vic. Contact Noel Price (03) 5576 4215.
Monday, 22nd	Haven Park sale, Vic. Contact Shirley Foster (03) 5582 0200. Croydon sale, Vic. Contact Michael Deppeler (03) 5578 2212.
Thursday, 25 th	Blue Ribbon sale. Gambier View/Compton House sale, Vic. Contact Milton Savage (03) 5340 3592. Stanbury WCH sale, Vic. Contact Nick Cole (03) 5593 9278. Loddon Park sale, Vic. Contact Peter Baker (03) 5475 2576. Sweetfield sale, Vic. Contact Bronwyn Ellis (03) 5266 1562. Fairburn sale, Vic. Contact Darryl MacDonald (03) 5348 7630.
NOVEMBER 2012	
Monday, 19 th	Tasmania Selected Sale Quamby Plains (contact Richard Archer (03) 6392 2322) Streanshalh (contact Andrew Nicolson (03) 6381 1194) Blackwood (contact Peter Blackwood (03) 6398 5255).
MARCH 2013	
5th, 6th, 7th	Wimmera Machinery Field Days, Vic.

For alternative sale dates, please contact your local registered Corriedale Breeder for a private selection at any time.