

Australian



CORRIEDALE

Association Newsletter



MARCH 2015

Australian



CORRIEDALE

Official Newsletter of the Australian Corriedale Association Inc.

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**MARCH
2015**

From the President

The Corriedale family is greatly saddened by the death of Andrew Nicolson. He was a great supporter and spent a lifetime contributing to the success of the breed. Andrew had a great interest in genetics, he was not only a greatly successful Corriedale breeder but he also had considerable success with Polwarths and superfine Merinos. It is not widely known that he also had a very good Hereford herd. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

The Council Executive is about to start planning in preparation for the World Corriedale Conference which is being held in Australia in July 2018. Over the next three months decisions will have to be made about the conference venue and possible tours, the raising of sponsorship and planning of budgets. It may

seem a long time till the conference, but the more time we have to prepare the better, particularly around finding a suitable and financially viable venue.

Nick Cole, Di and I attended the World Corriedale Conference in Buenos Aires in July 2014. It was extremely interesting and beneficial to us as breeders. The breeders in Argentina had gone to a great deal of trouble to present a wonderful line up of sheep. Many of the sheep had to be sold after the show as they are not allowed to return them to Patagonia due to sheep health issues. The conference was held in conjunction with the Palermo Show and we were amazed at the number of livestock being exhibited. It is well worth a visit if you are in South America at that time.



**Ian MacKinnon
President**

The wool market continues to support our type of wool at record levels and surplus Corriedale sheep continue to attract good values in the saleyards. At a recent sale in Tasmania 1½ year Corriedale ewes sold for \$170 and 5 year old Corriedale ewes reached \$100.

I look forward to seeing you all at Bendigo in July.

Cover: The supreme champion exhibit, exhibited by Bron and Leigh Ellis, Sweetfield, at the 2014 Royal Melbourne Show.



Victorian Major Show Judges 2015

ASBA

Rams: Ian MacKinnon
Ewes: Robert Love
Shorn: Doug Deppeler

Hamilton Sheepvention

Woolly: Claire Blackwood
Shorn: Peter Blackwood

JOHN ANDREW NICOLSON

10TH JANUARY 1936 – 5TH NOVEMBER 2014

(The following is the eulogy Judith Nicolson delivered at her husband's funeral)

John Andrew Nicolson was born in Launceston on 10th January 1936. He was the youngest child, and only son, of Athol and Nancy Nicolson. His sisters, Alison and Margaret, who had been blissfully unaware their mother was expecting, were told they were going to get a surprise. When they saw a basket, complete with luggage label saying "For the Nicolsons of Streanshalh" and found they had a baby brother they were less than impressed. Tears followed – Alison (Nickie as she was known) had been hoping for a book on the little Princesses (Elizabeth and Margaret Rose).

The three siblings had a carefree, loving country childhood which was filled with family, friends, ponies, dogs, lots of sheep of course, afternoons out rabbiting with their mother and worshipping here at Kirklands.

Andrew eventually went to school at Scotch College in Launceston and later moved to Geelong College. Lifelong friendships were formed and Andrew came to realise he would never be a star at cricket. When Athol Nicolson died suddenly in 1951 Andrew returned to Scotch College in Launceston to be closer to his family. Many a time during our marriage I stirred Andrew that he only ever had bread to support the amount of butter he was using. He would look at me and say that it was quite obvious I had never been to boarding school during and just after the Second World War when the boys in the boarding house were constantly starving – he was just making up for lost time.

Jim (Jumbo) Walsh managed Streanshalh until Andrew was old enough to take over at around age 21. Andrew's passion for his beloved Corriedale sheep, his mother's Saxon Merinos and Hereford cattle had been ignited long before this time. He started his Polwarth stud in 1968.

Years of working hard, playing hard and youthful hijinks followed. Andrew enjoyed a couple of wonderful trips around various properties in

Victoria and New South Wales with his mates Malcolm Melrose, Rob Dowling and Chris Brown, amongst others. There were years of constant parties, cricket matches, Debutante Balls and picnic races at Brambletye amongst other places. He loved to reminisce about those times. He called them his "salad days". Andrew was a Best Man nine times and often regretted he didn't make double figures.

It was during this time that Andrew had a nasty fall from a horse and ended up in the Launceston General Hospital with concussion. After a while he had had enough of being in hospital and escaped in his dressing gown. He was found heading to the bar at the Sportsman's Hotel in Charles Street and was promptly frogmarched back to the hospital.

Andrew was very proud of the fact he was officially declared to be the Best Dressed Man at the Melbourne Cup in 1963. I found myself in deep trouble a number of years ago when the call went out for clothing for the Kosovo refugees at the Brighton Army Camp. I decided to have a sort through our clothes and gave away the morning suit he had worn at the Cup. Andrew was scandalised that I would do such a thing and we spent some time going through a mountain of black plastic bags containing donated clothing on the front verandah of our Red Cross President's home, much to her amusement. (Quite why I thought a Kosovo refugee needed a morning suit is another story!)

Andrew inherited his mother's love of literature. When he wasn't working he could be found buried in a book on a vast range of subjects. He was blessed with an outstanding memory for which he would sometimes apologise, but really it was a *huge* gift. He had an amazing recall of facts and figures, particularly relating to sheep pedigrees across all breeds and numerous studs, cricket records, family and local history. Travelling through Victoria with Andrew was a real treat as I would receive a run down on the



The late J. Andrew Nicolson, President of the Australian Corriedale Association 2005-2007.

owners of most properties we passed, plus what stock they were breeding. He was enormously interested in people.

Andrew came very close to marrying in the late 1970s, but it was not to be. Not long after Sir Donald von Bibra insisted (much to Andrew's annoyance) that Andrew go on a Ross/Campbell Town National Trust trip to Hobart to do a Battery Point Walk. As fate would have it that afternoon I was the guide. (I was working in Hobart, but was also an active member of the National Trust and was on the roster to take 2½ hour Battery Point walks every six weeks.) Obviously there were sparks between us!

Our first date was to Port Arthur and we saw each other whenever Andrew was in Hobart. However, I didn't realise that Andrew was seriously interested in me and he thought I was a career girl. In early 1985 I decided I needed a change in my life and headed to Perth, Western Australia for the next 12 years. Apart from the very occasional letter we lost contact for somewhere between eight to ten years. Then one night in 1994 I received a phone call from a very recognisable voice – he was coming to Perth for a Corriedale gathering – could we catch up? The rest, as they say, is history.

Andrew and I were married here at Kirklands on 24th August 1996 – his parent's 69th wedding anniversary. My conversion from city girl to country girl and from only child to being a member of a large, loving family began.

Andrew continued to show sheep at the Campbell Town Show and the Australian Sheep & Wool Show in Melbourne, and then in Bendigo, as his family had done since the 1920s. Trips to the ASBA were major expeditions, but Andrew loved catching up with so many of the breeders he knew from other States and personally

checking each and every ram housed in the pavilion. He carried out many judging assignments over the years across five States in Australia and in New Zealand. We often laughed that while I read recipe books Andrew read sheep catalogues and pedigrees.

Andrew was a Committee Member of the Midland Agricultural Association for just over 50 years and in the early 1980s was President of the Association, just as his father and grandfather had been before him. He had an enviable record for showing sheep. I would be told we were taking a “small team” and would then find between 16 and 20 Streanshalh rams in the pavilion. To my knowledge Andrew has been the only person to show three breeds at Campbell Town – Saxon Merinos, Corriedales and Polwarths. He was thrilled when he was made an Honorary Life Member of the MAA.

In 2008 Andrew was humbled to be awarded the Bruce Forster Laincot Memorial Award for Personal Achievement and Exemplary Service to the Merino Wool and Sheep Industry.

Andrew also served terms as President of the Australian Corriedale Association, the Australian Polwarth Sheepbreeders Association and the Stud Merino Breeders Association of Tasmania. He

was an Honorary Life Member of each organisation.

Kirklands has played a major role in Andrew's life. He has worshipped here since childhood and was an Elder for in excess of 50 years. His ashes will be scattered in the churchyard. He said he could think of nothing nicer than having sheep graze overhead from time to time.

In March 2007 Andrew was knocked over by a group of rams in a paddock on Streanshalh. This marked the beginning of the decline of his health. He led the Australian contingent to the World Corriedale Congress in Christchurch, New Zealand without realising his kidneys were bleeding as a result of the accident. He soldiered on over the years out with his beloved sheep at every opportunity. The past two years have been full on with specialists' appointments, hospital stays and his declining health. However he continued to buy new rams, even buying a magnificent Merino ram within three weeks of his death.

I think Andrew's life can be best summarised by saying that he was a team player. He always worked for the good of the breed and those around him – never just for himself. He was a true gentleman. Someone once said that “men don't work FOR Andrew Nicolson, they work WITH him.” He was a great raconteur, yes he could be naughty, yes he was eccentric at times, but I loved him. In recent days a close friend has said he was one of the characters of his generation.

In my opinion Andrew Nicolson was a very fortunate man in that he had total faith in God which sustained him through the challenges of life. Also his life's work was his *passion*. It has been an honour to share Andrew's life for the last 18 years.

His sister Margaret and I sat by Andrew's bedside in the Campbell Town Hospital for the last four days of his life and it was my privilege to share multiple kisses as my Andrew ‘crossed the bar.’

Shows

2014 Ballarat Sheep Show

Sunday 27th July 2014
Judge: Grace Calder, Hastings, Victoria

Champion ram
Stanbury

Reserve champion ram
Fairburn

Champion ewe
Loddon Park

Reserve champion
Loddon Park

Corriedale sires fleece
1st Stanbury, 2nd Fairburn

Interbreed longwool ram champion
Stanbury

2014 Royal Adelaide Show

Champion ram
Wye

Reserve champion ram
Wattle Glen

Champion ewe
Wye

Reserve champion ewe
Wye

Most successful exhibitor
Corriedale Hills

Champion interbreed longwool ram
Wye

Champion interbreed longwool ewe
Wye

USA Corriedale Centenary

(Courtesy Jim & Brenda Venters)

In 2014 the Corriedale Sheep Breed of America celebrated 100 years of the breed's introduction into the United States of America. During this period many special events were arranged. One of the most important is the huge 'North American International Livestock Exposition' which was held from 8-21 November in Louisville, Kentucky.

Brenda and I decided to enter and sent three Corriedale fleeces. Two ram fleeces and a ewe fleece. We were very excited to learn that 'Liberton Corriedales' gained 1st in the Corriedale ram class and 1st in the Corriedale ewe class. Great excitement was generated by Geof Ruppert when he sent us an SMS message that our ram fleece from 'Bull Dozer' had won the grand champion fleece over all breeds and received a magnificent fully

inscribed banner in recognition of this achievement. Spinning wool is highly sought by spinners in the States and these fleeces attracted much attention from the huge crowds who attended the show. The wool was sold for in excess of \$1200. Our thanks go to Geof for his interest and management of the sale of the fleeces.

Geof, who was recovering from a very crucial colon operation, was able to fly to Louisville and be part of the excitement especially when his ram 'Boomerang' bred by a ram from 'Streanshalh' (the

late Andrew Nicolson) and from a Liberton P-10-00 ewe. This ram is a wonderful representative of the Corriedale and won the best headed individual and the best Corriedale fleece on a Corriedale. Geof had great respect for Andrew and on his last visit to Tasmania was able to glean wisdom from an elder statesman in the Corriedale breed.



Geof Ruppert, who managed the sale of the Liberton grand champion fleece, at the 2014 North American International Livestock Exposition.

2014 Royal Geelong Show

Judge: Mr. James Walker

Supreme Corriedale
Sweetfield

Champion ram
Sweetfield

Reserve champion ram
Sweetfield

Champion ewe
Sweetfield

Reserve champion ewe
Sweetfield

Champion lamb
Sweetfield

Reserve champion lamb
Sweetfield

Most successful exhibitor
Sweetfield

Most successful exhibitor over all studs
Sweetfield

Best Corriedale ram fleece – Guy Wettenhall Perpetual Trophy
Stanbury WCH

Most attractive fleece other than Merino – F.O. Whitcroft Memorial Trophy
Sweetfield

Best Corriedale ewe or wether fleece - 'Stanbury' Corriedale Perpetual Memorial Trophy
Liberton

Best spinning fleece over all fleece sections - Donated by Geelong Handweavers & Spinners Guild
Sweetfield

2014 Royal Geelong Show Junior Judging

The Royal Geelong Show Junior Judging began with an early 8:30 start for both judges and competitors. Our sincere thanks go to James Walker from Tasmania, Heather Stoney, Andrew Wilkins and Russell Duncombe for their excellent rapport with the students and their attention to detail while judging the students. Jim Venters handled the microphone with clarity and Charlie Clarke was fantastic on the laptop recording at great speed. Thank you to Bron Ellis for secretarial preparation, Liz and Peter Russell for loaning their Texels, and the teachers for directing and assisting the students to the various stations. It all ran very smoothly and all students are to be congratulated for their attention to detail and their enthusiasm to compete in

this event. Thank you to Geoff Oliver, 'Englewood Park', for his sponsorship of this event.

It was decided to extend the Senior Students this year in the Geoff Oliver 'Englewood Park' competition with a team of four Corriedales and a team of four Texels to judge. This was extremely successful and the seniors thoroughly enjoyed the experience. There were three classes this year and the main placings are as follows.

Seniors

- 1st John Cox, Elisabeth Murdoch College
- 2nd Grace Calder, La Trobe University
- 3rd Emily Attard, Flinders Christian College
- 4th Jack Kane, Ballarat Grammar
- 5th Gabrielle Wardrop, Woodleigh School
- 6th Daniel Mosele, The University of Melbourne



Junior judging at the 2014 Royal Geelong Show.

14-16 years

- 1st Tessa Runting, Woodleigh School
- 2nd Ash Pircell, Woodleigh School
- Equal 3rd Sofia Grage-Moore, Woodleigh School
- Equal 3rd Amy Taylor, Tintern
- 5th Emily Healey, Flinders Christian College
- 6th Ella McCarthy, Woodleigh School

13 years and under

- 1st Emily Smith, Elisabeth Murdoch College
- Equal 2nd Max Hawkins, Woodleigh School
- Equal 2nd Haden Falcon, Flinders Christian College
- Equal 4th Ruby Croft, Woodleigh School
- Equal 4th Olivia Cross, Tintern Schools

Encouragement Award

Eva Mosele, Woodleigh School



Junior judging at the 2014 Royal Geelong Show.

Shows

2014 ASBA Show Bendigo

17-20 July

Ram judge: Diane Rawlinson –
New Zealand

Ewe judge: Graham Jenke –
South Australia

Shorn judge: Robert Grieve –
Victoria

Supreme interbreed exhibit
Quamby Plains

Supreme champion Corriedale
Quamby Plains

**National Pairs: Arcadian Wool
Brokers Trophy**
Quamby Plains

**The Late J.F. Guthrie
Perpetual Cup – most
successful exhibitor**
Liberton

The Goxhill Perpetual Trophy
– most successful in shorn
classes
Sweetfield



**Richard Archer, daughter Victoria and Glen, with the
Quamby Plains supreme champion Corriedale and supreme
interbreed exhibit, 2014 ASBA Show Bendigo.**

Grand champion ram
Quamby Plains

Senior champion ram
Quamby Plains



**Jim Venters with the Liberton junior champion ram,
2014 ASBA Show Bendigo. (Courtesy – Wayne Jenkins)**



**Diane Rawlinson (NZ) who
judged the ram section at the
2014 ASBA Show Bendigo.**

Reserve senior champion ram
Croydon

Shows



The grand champion ewe, exhibited by Bron and Leigh Ellis, at the 2014 ASBA Show, Bendigo.

Junior champion ram under 1-1½ years – RE Wettenhall Trophy
Liberton

Reserve champion ram under 1-1½ years
Blackwood

Grand champion ewe – ‘Jill Savage’ Memorial Trophy
Sweetfield



Brenda Venters holds the Liberton senior champion ewe at the 2014 ASBA Show Bendigo. (Courtesy – Wayne Jenkins)

Senior champion ewe over 1-1½ years
Liberton

Reserve champion ewe over 1-1½ years
Flinders Christian College

Junior champion ewe under 1-1½ years – Wahroonga Park Trophy
Sweetfield

Reserve junior champion
Loddon Park

Champion shorn sheep – The Roy Baker Trophy
Sweetfield

Reserve champion shorn sheep
Blackwood

Group 1 ram & 2 ewes under 1-1½ years - Loddon Park Trophy
Liberton

Best Corriedale head – R.E. Wettenhall Trophy
Croydon

Best March shorn ram
Croydon

Best March shorn ewe
Sweetfield

Best sires fleece
Quamby Plains

Ken Smith Memorial Trophy – Sires progeny group
Sweetfield

Corriedale group of four sheep
Woodleigh

G.B.T. Gates Memorial Perpetual Trophy for first year exhibitor
Lushford

Best Corriedale exhibited by a school - Liberton Corriedales Trophy
Flinders Christian College

School group 1 ram & 2 ewes – B. Hamlin Trophy
Flinders Christian College

Geof Shannon Memorial Objective Measurement – Coora Trophy
Blackwood

Junior Judging Bendigo

Sunday 20th July 2014

Corriedale Junior Judging ASBA Bendigo is one of the highlights of the show. Organised by the Australian Corriedale Association with sponsorship from The University of New England, students arrived promptly and judging began on time. 8:30 am is early but three sections were underway very quickly. Each participating student is presented with a UNE cap which looks most impressive and very professional.

Our thanks to our handling judges Di Jenke, SA, Milton Savage, Vic., and Grace Calder, Vic., and to the sheep accessing judges Di Rawlinson, NZ, Graham Jenke, SA and Robert Grieve, Vic., who patiently listened to each individual competitor. Jim Venters did a fantastic job with the microphone and Bruce Hamlin again a great organiser with the help of Amanda Conley, Jade and Charlie Clarke who were on computers. Thank you to the teachers who give their time and support in many ways. Congratulations to all competitors and our grateful thanks to The University of New England for their sponsorship of this event.

Senior Judging

- 1st Daniel Mosele, The University of Melbourne
- 2nd Shane Hall, Elisabeth Murdoch College
- 3rd Emma Skinner, Elisabeth Murdoch College
- 4th Bridget Leahy, Elisabeth Murdoch College
- 5th Sarah Williams, Ballarat Grammar
- 6th Chevonne Willis, Chairo Christian School



Section of ringside at the 2014 ASBA Show Bendigo.

14-15 years

- 1st Tess Runting, Woodleigh School
- 2nd Gabby Wardrop, Woodleigh School
- 3rd Jack Kane, Ballarat Grammar
- 4th Molly Cornish, Yanco Agricultural High School
- 5th Sophie Paul, Tintern Schools
- 5th Eliza Harvey, Tintern Schools

13 years and under

- 1st Elise Morgan, Elisabeth Murdoch College
- 2nd James Barton, Flinders Christian College
- 3rd Jacob Skinner, Yanco Agricultural High School
- 4th Emma Satherley, Chairo Christian College
- 5th Jack Hudson, Yanco Agricultural College
- 6th Emily Smith, Elisabeth Murdoch College
- 6th Eva Mosele, Woodleigh School

NEWSLETTER CONTENT NEEDED

We rely on our readers to send in the show results, articles and particularly photos that make up this newsletter.

If you have something you think should be included in our next issue, please email it through to secretary@corriedale.org.au.

Shows

2014 Hamilton Sheepvention

4-5 August 2014
 Judge: Mr. Jim Sidey, New Zealand

Supreme longwool ewe
 Sweetfield

Supreme champion ram
 Stanbury WCH

Senior champion ram
 Stanbury WCH

Reserve champion ram
 Croydon

Junior champion ram
 Sweetfield

Reserve champion ram
 Liberton

Champion unhousted ram
 Stanbury WCH

Champion shorn ram
 Stanbury WCH

Champion March shorn ram
 Croydon

Supreme champion ewe
 Sweetfield

Senior champion ewe
 Sweetfield

Reserve champion ewe
 Liberton



Brenda and Jim Venters, Liberton stud, at the 2014 Hamilton Sheepvention.

Junior champion ewe
 Sweetfield

Reserve champion ewe
 Liberton

Champion unhousted ewe
 Sweetfield

Champion shorn ewe
 Sweetfield

Champion March shorn ewe
 Sweetfield

Best group
 Sweetfield

Most successful exhibitor unhousted
 Woodleigh School

Most successful exhibitor
 Sweetfield



Bron Ellis, Sweetfield, holding her grand champion ewe and supreme interbreed longwool exhibit, with twin lambs at foot, pictured with judge James Sidey at the 2014 Hamilton Sheepvention.

Corriedale Young Ambassador Programme 2015

The Australian Corriedale Association (ACA) invites young people involved in the production of Corriedale sheep to consider nominating for the ACA Young Ambassador Programme (YAP). This programme seeks to encourage young people involved in the breeding of Corriedales, both commercials and studs, by giving them the opportunity to make connections within the sheep industry on both sides of the Tasman Sea.

The YAP is a combined initiative of the Australian and New Zealand Corriedale groups. In alternate years, each will host or send an ambassador across the Tasman. For the person selected as Australia's Young Ambassador, they will be awarded the chance to go to New Zealand for approximately 10 days, coinciding with the Christchurch Show in November. Return Flights will be paid for by the ACA (or another sponsor) and the New Zealand Corriedale Society will host them for their stay. If, for unforeseen circumstances, the selected ambassador is unable to make the trip to NZ in November, the runner-up will be asked to go in their place.

The responsibilities of the Young Ambassador include:

1. Be willing to represent the ACA as a young ambassador for the term of their appointment.
2. Be asked to report with a written submission to the ACA newsletter and also may be asked for a verbal presentation.
3. If possible be involved in the hosting of the New Zealand young ambassador, helping them to build networks for the future. This will be rotated around the states.
4. Be involved in the selection of the next young ambassador for the ACA in two years' time.

Nominees for the YAP need to be aged from 19 to 25 years old as at Bendigo ASBA show in July 2015, where the national selections will take place. They also need to be able to attend this show, and be available in November to travel to New Zealand. If they are chosen to represent their state at the national selections, the candidates will be assessed on four criteria, each contributing 25% to the final score. These criteria are:

1. A written resume, detailing the candidate's background in study, work, farming and community involvement, their present involvement and their ambitions for the future. This needs to be emailed to the Federal Secretary (secretary@corriedale.org.au) by July 1st, 2015.
2. A brief (less than 5 minutes) verbal presentation to Federal Council of ACA at Bendigo (Thursday evening, 16th July). The topic of this presentation is to be of the candidates own choosing, but could be related to agriculture in general, future directions for the sheep industry, their interest in Corriedales or their thoughts on a topical issue.
3. An interview with a panel of judges (Friday afternoon, 17th July).
4. A sheep judging competition (including verbal reasoning) on Sunday morning, 19th July.

Presentations will be made shortly after the judging competition.

2015 Royal Canberra Show

Judge: Barry Lang

Friday 27th February

Champion ram
Roseville

Reserve champion ram
Tymec

Champion ewe
Badgally

Reserve champion ewe
Badgally

Champion shorn Corriedale
Roseville

Supreme Corriedale
Roseville

15th World Corriedale Congress – Buenos Aires, 21 & 22 July 2014

Reinventing dual purpose sheep

By Jack Allolio, for the Australian Corriedale breeders - the same text in Spanish appeared in the September issue of the local farming magazine SuperCAMPO.

As you know, a pre-Congress tour took place last March, with a large group of Uruguayan and Brazilian breeders visiting studs in Río Gallegos and Tierra del Fuego, and witnessing some auctions at the Río Gallegos and Punta Arenas farm shows. The organiser was Eng. Rafael Savino, assisted by Sandra O'Byrne (née Jamieson), acting as the tour guide. The writer of these lines, as part of his training as a junior wool buyer, began looking at Corriedale sheep far away and long ago, during the famous Pringles sheep and wool revising tour in the spring of 1959. In the lead up to the dates of this Congress, however, I was nervous, but reality surpassed my best expectations, and the Uruguayan delegation especially was much bigger than expected.

The two days of the Congress had much substance, considering the sheep judging and auction, then on the second day the technical presentations and finally, the presentations by foreign guests speaking for each of their countries.

During the Congress, I had the chance to speak with representatives from Australia, Brazil, Chile, the United States and Peru, and naturally also from Uruguay. I missed the Kiwis! The programme of the Congress started with good traditional judging in the special ground set up for that purpose, where the judges were Roberto Jamieson from Puerto Deseado in Patagonia, the Brazilian José Inacio Andrade Fleitas, and Samuel Benta from Curuzú Cuatiá as their adjudicator – although his job in that sense was not needed. This is important, because the local breeders and their Association look forward to

guidance concerning the best possible direction of the breed, keeping in mind their wish to remain both competitive and sustainable. Therefore it was very important to listen to what the visitors had to tell us, and Uruguay easily led the way. A total of 48 rams and ewes were judged, including five from Uruguay. Others were from far away in Río Gallegos, in the southern Santa Cruz province, and it was called to my attention that there were none from Corrientes and Entre Ríos, in the north, where the breed is also important.

The next part of the Congress was the technical presentations which took the whole morning of Day 2, the titles of which describe quite well what they were about. MV Sebastián Debenedetti gave a complete presentation about “Genetic improvement of Corriedale in small flocks with data gathered from La Mosqueta Coop in El Bolsón (Río Negro) and north-western Patagonia.” It is my personal opinion that this is the kind of presentation worth spreading by the Local Wool and Sheep Law and PROLANA, considering that the expansion and recovery of sheep stock in Argentina is particularly possible in the non-traditional regions where there are generally sheep flocks requiring more genetics and information about good farming practices, helped particularly by their hardiness. The purpose, of course, is achieving better prices for their wool and their lambs.

Eng. Gabriel Ciappesoni, who works at INIA Las Brujas outside Montevideo, made a very complete and technical presentation full of data under the name “Improving prolificity of Corriedales in Uruguay.”

Eng. Mauricio Alvarez who is Director of INTA Lower Valley near Viedma (Río Negro), made another presentation under the title “Improvement Indexes of Corriedales in Argentina,” which was very

interesting and in many points, absolutely complementary of the previous Uruguayan presentation. This work took very much into consideration data from the different regions where the breed is important, namely the northeast (Corrientes and Entre Ríos), the Humid Pampas around Buenos Aires Province, and finally Río Gallegos in southern Santa Cruz and the island of Tierra del Fuego. It is good to remember that Corriedales have demonstrated their flexibility, reproductive ability and ease of management in areas with very different environments and climates, as here in Argentina, throughout its geography from the high Atacama Plateau down to Tierra del Fuego.

Again a Uruguayan speaker, this time Eng. Sergio A. Fierro from SUL (Uruguayan Wool Secretariat), talked to us about the “Improvement of reproduction efficiency in Corriedale milk teeth female lambs.” The subject is also known as early mating of female lambs of six to eight months of age and its positive results in terms of advancing the breed.

Santiago López Llovet (h) talked about achievements in ‘Sausalito’, a mixed farming site of 5000 ha near Aparicio between Tres Arroyos and Dorrego, under the title “Model of sheep farm in (SE) Buenos Aires Province,” which featured lots of data and figures which will certainly be useful to other growers in the Humid Pampas for reproduction, management and marketing.

Lic. Ernesto Ambrosetti, chief economist of the SRA (Argentine Rural Society), made the presentation “International scenario and its opportunities,” centred both in wool and lamb production.

The presentations by the different country delegations were left for the second part of the afternoon of Day 2. Argentina started its presentation with an attractive video prepared by my colleagues of Patagonia Sur Sur, and then the President of the Argentine Corriedale Breeders Association Carlos Vila Moret (h), after his welcoming words for the guests from other countries, highlighted the wish of the stud breeders who are part of the Association to learn from the different data and information provided by the visitors, in search of a clear orientation for both the technical and commercial goals of the breed. The Argentine Corriedale Association mentioned in their presentation that there are 14 million sheep in Argentina, of which 60% are Corriedales. The figures published by FLA (Argentine Wool Federation) are smaller – they mention 10.25 million sheep, of which 35% are pure Corriedales. No doubt there is a discrepancy due to



Jack Allolio

different sources and compilation systems, however nobody disputes the tendencies, and especially the particular ability of the breed to adapt to very different environments and climates, as we have in our country. Possibly growing demand for lamb and sheep meat is the engine behind a re-evaluation of the breed, and this Congress is an excellent moment to take note of the new tendencies and possibilities. The Argentine Corriedale Breeders Association has about 120 members throughout the country. Their activities are well explained in an attractive Year Book and also the Congress Programme, both with very nice cover pictures of sheep flocks, taken by Luis Franke.

In Australia there are about 74 million sheep producing 330 million kg of greasy wool, with predominance of Merinos in their different varieties. Ian MacKinnon is the President of the Australian Corriedale Association, and owner of the stud farm ‘Glen Esk’ in Conara, Tasmania. There are no available figures of Corriedale sheep, but the most important thing is that they are clearly distinguishing themselves from crossbred wools – which very often have problems of coloured fibres and other defects – by using the marketing brand CD. They highlight their softness, good wrinkle, brilliant white colour and the low coloured fibre counts. Some of them are members of The Performance Corriedale Group, several of whom recently competed successfully in the Bendigo Agricultural Show in Victoria. Their achievements are clearly seen in the prices they

obtained, selling lambs for slaughter, live weight 18-20 kg at USD \$5.50/kg, ewes of live weight 18-24 kg at USD \$3.49/kg slaughtered weight, and finally replacement ewes at USD \$1.21. Concerning wool, the average prices obtained were, clean basis for fleeces: according to their average microns, 26 microns = USD \$7.10 - 28 microns = \$6.26 - 30 microns = \$5.87. I also talked with Nick Cole, owner of the well-known stud farm 'Stanbury WCH' near Camperdown, Victoria, an assiduous visitor whom I had met first back during the 2005 Congress in Montevideo. On a surface of 1,200 hectares, he keeps a stud of 6,500 sheep of the breed, whose adult fleeces average 28 microns, and their hoggets around 25 microns. His excellent carrying numbers are a consequence of average rains of 711 mm. One of the reasons for coming back again to South America and in particular Argentina is our flexibility and great adaptability of the breed in very different environments.

Elisabeth Amaral Lemos has been President of Brazil's Corriedale Association (ABC) for two years. ABC has already celebrated 50 years and their office is located in Bagé, although Elisabeth lives in the nearby city of Pelotas in the same state Rio Grande do Sul (RS). Since taking over the reins of ABC, one of her principal achievements has been to interest the commercial breeders, in this way doubling the number of members, and thus giving much more force to their legitimate requests and aspirations. In such an enormous country, with 200 million inhabitants, today Brazil has 18 million sheep, of which about 4 million are in RS. There are 27 different breeds, some of them without wool, specialising in lamb production, like for example the Santa Inês. The Corriedale type preferred in Brazil takes Uruguay as their example, giving priority to good size and conformation, which is logical considering the enormous demand for sheep meat and lambs, which is only partly served by local production, and also receiving heavy lambs from Uruguay. Even so there is scope for more imports, and we all here know well about the attractive gourmet markets in São Paulo and Porto Alegre. In the case of wool, their complaint is that they are subject to a practical monopoly of only one buyer with a combing plant in Bagé, which prefers buying wool without classing and no laboratory data (microns and yields) at only one average greasy price of USD \$2.50/kg for fleeces, and the rest (bellies and oddments) at just 25% of that value. Furthermore, there is resistance by the shearers to use the Tally Hi method, that is, without tying their legs. And they still use jute bags, instead of the low density

polyethylene bags used in Uruguay and other neighbouring countries.

Elisabeth also commented favourably on everything they saw during the pre-Congress tour at the end of the previous summer in the south of Argentina and Chile, with many Uruguayan breeders sharing the experience. Curiously, this time there were no Kiwis present. Unfortunately missing my long-time acquaintance the President of the Chilean Corriedale Association, Juan Carlos Cavada – a distinguished stud owner and very well known in the neighbouring areas in Argentina – we instead had the privilege of meeting a young delegation, and were able to chat with John Nicol, son of a deceased friend and manager of Estancia AVELINA of the Menéndez Hiriart family, who also own Estancia GLENCROSS in the Turbio area of the Río Gallegos region, southern Santa Cruz Province. John's wife works nearby at INIA Kampen Aike, whose director was recently promoted to regional minister of Agriculture and Livestock, namely MV Etel Latorre.

In southern Chile Corriedales are regaining importance, no doubt due to the growing force of sheep meat and lambs, and also stimulated by the presence and competition of some options of finer wool double purpose breeds such as MPM and Dohnes. In Peru there are today some 9 million sheep, of which 2 to 3 million are Corriedales grazing in the high altitude grasslands and meadows, especially in the south of the country. The Prime family of British origin is already 90 years in the country, and today Charles J. "Billy" Prime is not only the best known stud grower of the breed, but also an active livestock and farming leader, also breeding Hampshire Down meat sheep, and Holstein and Swiss Brown dairy cows. Billy, already seconded by his son Michael, is a regular visitor of our countries, and tells us that Corriedales were introduced to Peru for the first time in 1922, from Argentine and Chilean Patagonia. In his presentation, showing a series of pictures illustrating the gradual advances of the breed in his country, giving special importance to size and conformation, and looking particularly for what we call here "open faces", which we link to better fertility and an easier ability to look for food. Prices paid for wool in Peru, with scarce competition from just two firms today average just US\$ 1.96/kg greasy all in, whereas the price for lamb is rather better, at USD \$4.64/kg slaughtered. Prime is of course well aware that Peruvian wool is processed in Uruguay together with others from Brazil, Argentina and Chile, blended into tops with Uruguayan wool. The local buyers blend Peruvian

greasy wool into alpaca tops, thus adding better combing ability to a fibre which has less crimp and is therefore more difficult to process alone.

Eng. Salvador García Pintos, President of the Society of Corriedale Breeders in Uruguay, comes from a distinguished family which has repeatedly provided leaders in Uruguayan farming. He began his presentation by mentioning the relative small size of his country of 176,215 km² with a population of just 3,163,762 inhabitants, and the latest stock data 8.5 million sheep and 11.7 million cattle. Uruguay is a small country which has to face significant challenges to compensate for its size, and is having good success in that sense, considering that sheep farming has a good deal of local rivals such as agriculture, forestry, cattle and dairy, plus a couple of menaces such as predators (wild boar and foxes), and last but not least 'two-legged foxes,' namely rustling, the same we also suffer in rural Argentina. A great strength of the sheep and wool sector in Uruguay is provided by the high degree of involvement by different institutions such as SUL (Uruguayan Wool Secretariat), INIA (the national farming research institute) and others. Helped by a compact geography, they easily work together following different programmes and along with the growers. The main worry of growers, both of wool and also lambs, is the relative volatility of prices, because any reproductive and production effort is much more

viable if there is price stability. The presentation by Eng. García Pintos was made easier by the previous technical presentation from other Uruguayan speakers.

Dana Abbruzzese owns a small Corriedale stud in Altamont, in the state of New York in the U.S. The strength of her production lies in the ability to sell to nearby handicraft spinners and weavers, and her lamb production can also be placed at good prices at nearby abattoirs. Although she has no hard data at hand, she comments that there are Corriedale breeders throughout the U.S., as part of the whole population of 5 million sheep. She was at the recent Congress of the breed held in New Zealand, and feels very much at ease here in Argentina, where she was very well-treated as a foreign guest.

The culmination of the Congress was an auction held by respected local firm Saenz Valiente, Bullrich, and the best price, paid by a couple of Brazilian breeders, was the equivalent of USD \$7,371, obtained for the Reserve Grand Champion from Estancia CONDOR, the huge farm near Río Gallegos and owned by Benetton. Live weight 155 kg and a fleece of 33 microns. The Grand Champion from Sausalito in the south of Buenos Aires Province, with similar technical data, achieved the equivalent of USD \$3,440. The cherry on the cake was provided by a confraternity dinner.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2015	
Thursday, 26 th	Sydney Royal Easter Show, Corriedale judging day from 8am.
Friday, 27 th	Sydney Royal Easter Show, judging of supreme prime lamb dam and sire from 1pm.
MAY 2015	
Friday, 15 th	NSW Dubbo Sheep Show, Corriedale judging day.
JULY 2015	
Thursday, 16 th	ACA annual general meeting at 4pm followed by Federal Council meeting, Bendigo Showgrounds, Vic.
Saturday, 18 th	Australian Sheep & Wool Show, Bendigo, Vic., main Corriedale judging day.
AUGUST 2015	
Monday, 3 rd	Hamilton Sheepvention, Vic., Corriedale judging day.



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