



Australian Corriedale Newsletter

Summer Edition February 2019



Welcome from our President

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Australian Corriedale Association Message from the President - February 2019

Happy New Year to you all and may it be a happy and successful year ahead for all our members!

At the end of each year I like to reflect on our achievements and the events that have shaped the last 12 months in our breed. Since being appointed as President in September, I'd like to share with you some of the key things that I have reflected on as 2018 drew to a close, and inform you of some changes on the horizon.

Rainfall and the seasons were varied, with one of the worst droughts in history continuing to impact on many farmers. There have been fluctuations across livestock markets, but in general Corriedale ram sales performed better than last year, with clearance rates and average prices increasing in many cases.

For me, a highlight of the last six months was being invited to speak at the Victorian Corriedale Youth Committee's Education Day on 1 December, held at the Dandenong Showgrounds. The purpose of the Youth Day was to help educate our young stud masters about animal husbandry, stud breeding and showing. I spoke about how to select and prepare sheep for shows.

Other Corriedale members, including Bruce Hamblin, Jim Venters, Ronelle Welton, Grace Calder, Kate Methven, Tess Runting and Daniel Mosele, as well as Vern Bowles from Melbourne University, also led sessions on the day. They presented on a range of topics, including genetics, sheep health, feed and nutrition, wool classing, EID tagging, vendor declarations and health statements, junior judging and spinning Corriedale wool. More than 50 young people participated in the program.

The day concluded with an auction of four Corriedale ewe weaner lambs kindly donated by Bruce Hamblin, with the proceeds of \$850 donated to Dolly's Dream. Dolly's Dream is a foundation established in memory of Amy 'Dolly' Everett, aged 14, who tragically took her own life after an extended period of bullying and cyberbullying.

I congratulate Kate Methven, Tess Runting, Daniel Mosele and their team who organised this great event and ensured the day provided something of interest for all who attended. As a breed, we are very fortunate to have these dedicated and enthusiastic young people involved – they are the Corriedale and agriculture's future!

Since our last meeting in September, Federal Council and the Executive have been involved in regular teleconferences as a review of the Corriedale Secretariat Services was completed. Following this review and an interview process, I am pleased to announce that Liz Russell has been appointed as our new Federal Secretary. Liz is a farmer, business woman and stud sheep breeder of many years, and has been the ACA Victorian State Committee Secretary and Treasurer since 2017. The transition from the current Secretary, Rural Services, will be effective from 1 February 2019. We welcome Liz on board and look forward to working with her.

As we commence the new year, I feel positive that we can work together to continue to promote the breed and secure its future. Here's hoping for a solid autumn break, strong markets and high lambing percentages!

Bron Ellis
ACA Federal President

Young Ambassador NZ Tour



In November I was fortunate enough to tour New Zealand as the Young Ambassador for the Australian Corriedale Association. My tour lasted almost three weeks and started in Christchurch at the New Zealand Agricultural Show. This was a great opportunity to meet everyone before heading out to visit them.

Following the show, I went to John Booker's where I was able to see the effects of the Kaikoura earthquakes on the region and on his farm. Looking through John's rams was great as I had previously used one of his rams in an AI program.

From here I went to James and Maria Hoban's where I spent a fair bit of time doing farm work. This was a good chance to catch up with James and discuss where he sees the future of the breed in New Zealand. Whilst I was with the Hobans, I went to their friend's property to do some cattle work in their hill country which was great to see as it was more like pastoral areas in Australia with a feed base of grass, shrubs and bushes. I then spent a short amount of time at Sidey's where I learnt all about the history of their flock, the breed and the change in the region.

Tom and Fiona Burrows took me in and showed me around their property and all their enterprises. Whilst I was there, they were having a brilliant year and were growing an incredible amount of feed, a stark contrast to things in Australia at the time.

Wilson's were next and I got a good chance at seeing how their system works as we went through their sale rams in the yards. I enjoyed looking at their footrot resistance scores and how they market rams with that information. Studholmes were the last visit on the tour and provided another great visit. Alistair took time to highlight the changes occurring on his place, including the increase in irrigation area and the use of a drone to muster his stock. The tour was a fantastic experience as all farms had undergone some aspect of significant change in recent times and were enthusiastic about the future. The obvious change is the Canterbury plains moving from sheep country to dairy country, this left only hill country mostly available for sheep. The increase in wool prices will really help with their competition with Romneys and halfbreds.

I'd like to thank the Australian and New Zealand Corriedale Associations for allowing me to have this fantastic experience. I found the trip very encouraging and I look forward to seeing how I can build on this experience in future.

Royce Pitchford

Young Ambassador

Corriedale Lamb Trial



240 lambs have been marked from 14 sires represented from studs throughout New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania (30 more lambs than year 1).

At this stage lambs are very even, born Mid to Late September 2018. I was very happy no birth tags lost from birth to lamb marking when an EID tag was added.

The lambs are fresh with feed in front of them, ewes are milking well and in good condition.

Fodder crops were drilled early October and are up, so will have fattening paddocks for lambs in summer after weaning, if we snag a few more rains. (We are looking okay at the moment).

Weaning will take place in early 2019 and weighing, scanning for muscle/fat depth will take place at this time.

Please keep in mind nominations were called for year 3 in December 2018. If you have rams collected and/or considering collecting, please collect some extra semen for this very important trial for the Corriedale breed.

Peter Blackwood

2019 Corriedale Shows

Where can you see Corriedale judging in 2019



Hillsdale NSW Sheep Show Dubbo Feature Breed

This year, Corriedale is the feature breed at the Hillsdale NSW Sheep Show Dubbo, which is the biggest sheep show in NSW. It will be held on 24 - 26 May at the Dubbo Showgrounds.

Almost 100 Corriedales are expected to be on show this year. John and Tom Burrows from 'Eudunda Corriedales', Rangiora NZ, will be judging.

For the schools and novice breeders, there is a Novice section for you to enter, where the winner goes into the Open section. The Goongunyah Shield is the main event for the schools, with more than 20 schools competing for the trophy.

For breeders wishing to attend, I suggest booking accommodation early. Most of the breeders stay at The Palms Motel Dubbo (02) 6881 8155. On the Saturday night, we have the NSW Corriedale Dinner, where presentations are made.

For further information, email corriedalensw@gmail.com

There are quite a few shows between February to April in NSW and Victoria, with good numbers of sheep to look at.

2019 Show Dates



Victorian Shows

Korumburra Show	9 February
Berwick Show	23 February
Pakenham Show	9 March
Bunyip Show	24 March
ASBA Bendigo	19 - 21 July
Ballarat Sheep Show	July
Hamilton Sheepvention	5 - 6 August
Royal Melbourne Show	21 September - 1 October
Royal Geelong Show	17 - 18 October

NSW Shows

Royal Canberra Show	22 - 24 February
Royal Easter Show Sydney	19 - 22 April
Royal Bathurst Show	3 May
NSW Dubbo Sheep Show	24 - 26 May
Holbrook Sheep Show	June

South Australian Shows

Royal Adelaide Show	30 August - 8 September
Mt Gambier Show	18 - 19 October

Tasmanian Shows

Campbell Town Show	31 May - 1 June
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2018 Victorian Corriedale Education Day



On 1 December 2018, Victorian Corriedale Youth had the inaugural Education Day at the Dandenong Showgrounds with approximately 50 young people attending on the day. The day was very successful with many different sessions throughout the day targeted towards different age groups with different experience levels.

The sessions included feed and nutrition, breeding and genetics, sheep health, show preparation, junior judging and wool classing. There was lots for the participants to get involved in, including a spinning group and leathercraft exhibit in attendance on the day. Everyone was kept very busy throughout the day as they were given the chance to interact with the sessions and the presenters that generously donated their time to this group of young people.

At the end of the sessions, we held a sale of four Corriedale ewe weaner lambs that were donated by Bruce Hamblin with all proceeds going towards Dolly's Dream, a foundation that raises awareness about Mental Health. Dolly's Dream was founded in memory of Amy 'Dolly' Everett, who took her own life at the age of 14 after being bullied. This charity was chosen as it is a relevant topic for the group that attended the education day.

On behalf of Victorian Corriedale Youth, we would like to thank Bron Ellis, Bruce Hamblin, Jim Venters, Grace Calder, Zoe Carter from Young Aussie Farmers and Vern Bowles from Melbourne University for giving up their time to help educate the next generation of young people entering the sheep industry.

Congratulations also go to Daniel Mosele and Tess Runting for the time and work put into such a successful day.

Kate Methven



Corriedale Centurians



Mr W. Turnbull (left) and his three sons, Messrs. C. Turnbull, K. Turnbull, and A. Turnbull.

Flock 46, Walter Turnbull and Sons, Woodhall, Wedderburn, Victoria. Woodhall was a family farm selected in the Victorian North Central area by Walter Turnbull in 1869. His son, Walter, established a Corriedale Stud in 1915 with sheep from the New Zealand studs, the Ensor's Flock 8 and 7, and the Evans Flock 29. Later Bushy Park sheep were introduced.

The stud and flock grew quickly with the huge demand at the time for meat and Corriedale wool. This was in conjunction with a cereal cropping program.

The pattern of agriculture in the 1930s and 40s saw a large reliance on the sheep. By then, young Walter's three sons, Keith, who became a Victorian stud inspector, and Alan and Colin, who became renowned Corriedale judges, prepared their own sheep wonderfully well for the show circuit.

The Woodhall Stud became a parent stud to a large number of flocks within the Corriedale family and had a great effect on the Breed's growth at that time.

Colin became a life member of the Association. His son, Colin Graham, also known as Graham, carried on the tradition in the show ring and then was well known for years as a sheep steward in Melbourne and serving on the Corriedale Committee in Victoria resulting in a life membership.

Before he died, he wrote in a short history for the family that, *"I still remember what the program involved. Shedding the show team for most of the previous 12 months, ordering*

either a sheep or cattle rail truck on a goods train, loading at Wedderburn Junction, segregating the ewes and rams, sufficient feed and water, arranging with agents to unload in Melbourne and set the sheep up in Dalgety's wool store at Newmarket (now a supermarket) where the ASBA show was held. We would take the steam passenger train to Melbourne the following day and catch up with the sheep and prepare them for the show."

Six generations of Turnbolls at Woodhall Wedderburn have produced wonderful Corriedales on the one property for 104 years. As 2019 starts, Cameron Turnbull continues as Stud Master, helped by his son Finn.

Richard and Jane Carter



Tasmanian Ram Sales 2019



**Blackwood *52 of 55 sold to \$3,200,
av \$1,408**

**Quamby Plains *41 of 50 sold to \$2,800,
av \$1,400**

The annual sales of Tasmanian Corriedale studs, Blackwood and Quamby Plains, saw a total of 105 offered and 93 sold.

Peter and Claire Blackwood sold rams to a top of \$3,200. The top lot was Blackwood-170193 - a ram with a 24.8 micron fleece, number of lambs weaned (NLW) 11 percent and post weaning eye muscle depth (PEMD) of 1.8mm.

Buyer was mainland buyer Philip Gough, Salamanka Pastoral, Hamilton. Mr Gough also bought lot 16 for \$2,000. This lot was a 24.3 micron ram with PEMD of 1.7mm, and NLW of 14 percent. Mr Gough took a third ram back to Victoria paying \$1,000.

The second top price was \$1,900 paid for lot 45 - a 24.5 micron ram with NLW of 10 percent. The buyer, Ian Green, Kangaroo Island, South Australia, bought a total of four rams.

Volume buyer of the Blackwood catalogue was Cullenswood Estate, St Marys, Tasmania, buying 15 rams to a top of \$1,700 (on numerous occasions).

The Quamby Plains catalogue of Richard and Victoria Archer topped at \$2,800 for lot 3. Bought by Boosey Creek Partnership, the ram was a 26.5 micron, PEMD of 1.2mm and NLW of 10 percent.

RK Payne, King Island, Tasmania, bought three rams to a top of \$2,600 - a 26.2 micron ram with NLW of 14 percent.

Andrew Calvert, Wool Solutions Tasmania, put together a draft of rams paying to \$2,600 for various mainland clients.

Roberts and Co stud stock manager, Jock Gibson, said both studs recorded increases in average prices. He said there were also more rams offered than 2017, which sold at a higher average.

Interest from mainland buyers was the main reason for the rise in prices. There were 29 rams - double the 2017 figure - from Blackwood heading to the mainland, while 12 of the Quamby Plains rams were headed across Bass Strait.

It was a credit to the Tasmanian Corriedale studs to attract the interest, he said.

Credit: Stock & Land

Sale Calendar 2019

Upcoming Ram and Ewe sales



Billigaboo open day

September
Narrandera NSW

Corriedale Hills

October
Inman Valley SA

Mooralea private sales

Inspections October
Macarthur VIC

Gambier View & Compton House

November
Derrinallum VIC

Croydon

November
Condah VIC

Blackwood

November
Evansdale TAS

Glen Esk Open Day

October
Rydal NSW

Quamby Plains

November
Hagley TAS

Roseville Ram Sale

October
Kingsvale NSW

Blue Ribbon Ewe Sale

January 2019
TAS

Blue Ribbon Multi-Vendor Sale

November
Ballarat Showgrounds
Ballarat VIC

Corriedale Ewes Reach \$305 at Turnbridge

**Highlights:**

- Kuranda 1-year Corriedale ewes Top Price \$305/head Average for 588 ewes @ \$269/head - July shorn
- Glen Morey 1-year Corriedale ewes Top Price \$275/head Average for 432 ewes @ \$231/head - August shorn
- Leamington 1-year Corriedale ewes Top Price \$195/head Average for 390 ewes @ \$179/head - November shorn

5-year Corriedale ewes top price \$160/head average \$143/head

Local and Victorian competition on all ewes. Sale conducted by Robert's Ltd and Elders.

First photo: 1 year ewes; second photo: 5 year ewes



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