



# Black Sheep Rising

The Official Newsletter of the  
**Black & Coloured Sheep Breeders Association of Australia (NSW) Inc.**

*Founded 1978 – Incorporated 1987*

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello Members,

Another year is fast slipping away with Spring just arriving. Most members will be getting ready for lambing and some organising shearing.

Our coloured sheep are becoming more popular, as is the coloured wool.

I would like to suggest that each Region host a State Sheep Show at a central venue. This would be on a rotational basis with Regions taking turns of the organisation. This, I know, has been done before but it could be a way to bring our members together in a social way. Some will show their sheep, some their craft items and some just come along to meet and greet other members. My suggestion would be to hold our show as something to launch our 30<sup>th</sup> year.

Our young member Melissa Henry has entered the Hawkesbury Showgirl Quest; I'm sure we all wish her Good Luck! Melissa and her friend, Lana Kuipers attended the *Owning Our Future* Youth forum held in conjunction with the Ekka (Brisbane Royal Show)

hosted by Queensland Rural Ambassadors. They had a very interesting time.

At this moment I am negotiating with manufacturers of drench products to obtain a discount for our members. I have come to notice a product I have not seen before. *Ewe Guard B12* is a drench and also a vaccination, all in one. The company is sending me information which I will have at our next meeting.

Picton will have a Sheep Section this year, Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> October.

Our wool is being spun at this moment in Melbourne, so it will be known very soon if indeed there will be a big order for coloured wool. It all depends on the Australian Spinning Group.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and safe festive season and look forward to the year ahead.

*Regards,  
 Elaine.*



**Baa-B Que Lamb – poddies from 200 lambs born at *Drap'hyd*, Yass.**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

delivered at the State meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at the Yass Soldiers Club, Yass, NSW.

Elaine thanked all those who took a turn on the display at the Sydney Royal Show and also those who loaned articles on short notice. She congratulated all those who were successful at Castle Hill, Hawkesbury and St. Ives Shows and those who were involved in the *Back-to-Back Wool Challenge* which was most successful. Thanks to Judy Schonkala and her helpers for their spinning demonstrations at Hawkesbury Show. Thanks also to Caroline Collerson for taking over the fleece section and also supporting the sheep section.

It's time to think about which ram we put with which ewes then wait expectantly for the results - wishing all a happy lambing season. The mulesing issue has raised its ugly head again. Mr. Brian Van Rooyen is keen to get on with solving the mulesing issue. Mulesing has many worried, but scientists and

leaders say the answer is there. Because of this issue there has been a much closer relationship between growers, processors and retailers.

On reading several articles and speaking to people involved with the wool auction system, it seems the development of a mainstream "direct to processor" selling model alongside the auction system by bulking into a couple of lines preparing wool suitable for the processor, not the traders.

Bad weeds: Fire Weed has been in the news again. The Bega Valley Fireweed Committee held a two day workshop on Fire Weed in Bega; there are no boundaries with Fire Weed.

I would like to thank you all for attending and wish you a safe journey home.

**Elaine.**

## REGIONAL REPORTS

delivered at the State meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at the Yass Soldiers Club, Yass, NSW.

### Central Tablelands

Since the last report we failed to submit, members of the Region have been quite active.

Some of the events worth a mention are:

- ✓ The Annual General Meeting. Not much change to report here. Elected were:
  - ♦ President:- Janos (John) Farkas
  - ♦ Secretary:- Bev Layton
  - ♦ Treasurer:- Ann Cassar
  - ♦ State Delegates:- J. & M. Farkas

Not long after the elections, Bev's health took a turn for the worse and Kevin Brodie agreed to step into Secretary's role until Bev feels well enough again to take it on.

- ✓ Our membership numbers remain static.

We are all guilty of taking the easy, well established and proven ways and don't go out to recruit new members. We know this to be a problem but don't seem to have the time to do something about it.

- ✓ Mudgee Show.

There was a great selection of fleeces entered into the show. Despite the drought conditions the quality was outstanding and our judge had a hard time selecting the winners. However, same as last year, Max and Robyn Northam took out the Champion Fleece Trophy again.

- ✓ Gulgong Show.

Somewhat less enthusiastically supported so Max and Robyn did not have too much to worry about. We did not have sheep entered in either shows. The opportunity is there, however our members choose to

concentrate on showing fleeces and products made of naturally coloured wool instead of the sheep itself.

- ✓ Tocal Field Days.

For the second year running we attended the Tocal Field Days. This time we hired a double site and are extremely pleased with the results. We had products for sale from eight of our members and the total turnover reached almost \$3,000. We are planning to return next year and have a larger and brighter marquee and expect to do even better as we are establishing a presence with a good reputation.

- ✓ Baling Day

was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June weekend. We put together three bales each of a different colour line. We are now looking for a buyer.

We are also busily preparing for the up-coming events:

- ✓ Mudgee Small Farm Field Days.

This is the major event in the Region. It will be held on Friday and Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of July. We set up our 9m x 9m marquee, have on show a representative variety of six to eight coloured sheep, and fill the rest of the space with fleeces and natural coloured wool products from our members. This activity has generated the major part of our income over the years.

- ✓ Mudgee Wine & Food Fair, Balmoral Beach, Sydney.

We are one of the few, selected non-food/wine organisations invited to participate in this annual event. This year it will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> August. We get a 3m x 3m market stall where we display and sell wool craft products made by our members.

*Janos (John) Farkas*

*President/State Delegate*

### Hawkesbury Region

We had a baling day at Betty Nash's on 13th April. Interestingly we are struggling to use our old fashioned baling machine and so we are on the

lookout for a "cheap" electric/hydraulic replacement. Any suggestions would be more than welcome.

There's a possibility of using the Alpaca group's baler in the meantime.

Our next MARKET DAY is to be on the first Sunday 6th July at "Virginia Farm", which is the Dunn's residence in Annangrove.

We were very active at HAWKESBURY SHOW. Everybody was involved one way or another. Especially Elaine Tracy with the sheep side of things and Ann White and team on the fleeces.

We had the first trial Judging School at Caroline Collerson's; which I thought was very well conducted by the Dunn's in particular with input from others, particularly Caroline. There was a good roll up including some keen young people and some older beginners such as me. There was good coverage of what and how to look for wool characteristics as well as animal confirmation, presentation, etiquette, etc. I'll call on Phil Dunn, who is much more knowledgeable than I, to elaborate. I understand Phil is then to link up with Broni Jekyll to co ordinate the next Judging School to be at Goulburn.

We supported the *BACK to BACK* event hosted by *Kurrajong Handspun Crafts* people who came third in the world last year. Caroline began the action by shearing the first sheep, with hand shears of course, followed by the spinners and then the knitters. They were a bit slower this year but still competitive. Not all countries had completed so we do not know final results yet. However, they did raise \$1,600 for breast cancer. Here's some trivia; the first of these events was back in 1811 and the sheep that were used were ceremoniously eaten!!!

No change of membership.

At our last ordinary meeting we resolved to recommend to "State" that Elaine Tracy be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses she incurred in relation to the B&C display at the RAS Show.

*Peter van Raalte*  
Region Group representative

## Monaro/SW Slopes Region

Considerable time has elapsed since our Region's members have congregated for anything other than a show. There have been Executive Committee meetings and members have been communicating amongst themselves and with the Committee via emails.

Anne Hazell has performed a sterling job in her position co-ordinating market and field days, which has been overshadowed by her role within the Prime Minister's Office. Murrumbateman Field Days (2007) and the Old Bus Depot Market *Celebration of Wool* day (May 2008) have traded our region into a strong financial position. Products from members covered a variety of end products from our coloured sheep – skins, raw fleeces, early stage processed fibre ready for spinning, hand and commercially spun yarn, garments and utility items and machine washable, dryer proof, woollen linings in quilts.

Since gaining our first Youth member, Jim Fletcher, at the Nimmitabel Show, we have two more new members. Lorraine Follett is a wool grower from the Cooma catchment who has a weekly stall at the Old Bus Depot markets in Canberra, whilst Lorraine

### Judging School:

Phillip reported on the trial judging school held at Hawkesbury on 11<sup>th</sup> May: The Breeder at whose home we met selected four sheep and gave a brief overview of what she felt were the criteria we needed to look at to judge them. She also gave some instructions on how to handle them while judging and the skeletal and wool points to look for.

The sheep were of varying quality and condition. The group examined the sheep, placed them in order and then individually gave their reasons for their choices. There was consensus on the first and last places but some dispute over the middle two sheep. All those attending were breeders, and there was a good discussion afterwards on the merits of each sheep.

We then judged four fleeces, which were of different breeds and styles, and assessed them according to the score card used by Hawkesbury for the National Fleece Competition last year. The fleeces had not been weighed, so this was disregarded. The meaning of the various qualities listed had been previously explained.

Participants agreed on the best fleece, but one which was tender, was not picked up on by several people. This led to a discussion on how to handle the fleeces on display and emphasised the need for each person to have a score card and pencil and actually score the qualities of the fleece.

The session concluded with a talk on judging protocol - including such topics as punctuality, commenting on exhibits to the stewards, whether and when exhibits should be moved to different classes, and the desirability of explaining to the public the reasons for the placings as an educational tool.

The event took about two hours, but as there were only eight or nine participants, it is felt that four hours should be allowed for the day at Goulburn. Our Region's members enjoyed the day and felt it was worthwhile.

Wright from Queanbeyan is our first Associate member. She is an avid craftsman using wool as often as she can. This is the lady responsible for the wonderful coloured sheep embroidery on the towel sets this Region has presented to speakers, judges and winners of championships.

As a result of the meetings held at the University of New England in Armidale, a major breakthrough within the genetics of black and coloured sheep has been made. Until recently, Malcolm Fleet, Belinda Norris and Deb Maxwell have believed the incidence of Reverse Badger Merinos had declined to a non-existent status. We are happy to say that two members of this region have been able to provide evidence of one ram lamb, and two ewes that are definitely Reverse Badgers and one wether that is a possible. Blood sampling and DNA analysis is currently underway. The ram (from Ruth Bosma) is a different bloodline to the ewes (dam and ewe lamb), so a breeding program will be commenced at *Drap'hyd* using him and also the sire of the ewe lamb.



Ruth Bosma and I have been putting our heads together over a project for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association. What we propose is to gather together and make available for all, the complete set of newsletters, *Black Sheep Rising*. This has had a wonderful kick start from Eric Sykes who sent me a copy of Number 1 newsletter last month. Ruth has amassed a wide collection of issues (many thanks to all the previous newsletter editors) and shortly we will announce the issues that we are missing. If anyone has a copy of any of these and can either send them or copies to me, they will be faithfully reproduced and CD-Roms will be produced for members to have. This is the Monaro/SW Slopes contribution to this year's milestone, so I particularly request Regional members to help in this project. We are the youngest Regional branch and I regard this project as a recognition of the ordeals and triumphs of all the committees and members who have gone before us to set up an Association that facilitates the

camaraderie of other breeders of black and coloured sheep.

Coming events include:

✓ Meetings:

The region's next ordinary and AGM are listed for Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2008, to be held at *Drap'hyd*, Dick's Creek via Murrumbateman.

✓ Holbrook Sheep & Wool Fair, 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> June

✓ Australian Sheep & Wool Show, Bendigo, Victoria, 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2008

✓ 2009 is International Year of Natural Fibres

Should we be thinking of planning a committee?

Terri said she thought that Christine Parkes had a complete set of *Black Sheep Rising*.

*Broni Jekyll,  
Regional President.*

## Northern Region

Broni reported on behalf of Veronica Taylor that she is keen to catch up with the new members in her region.

## South Coast & Southern Tablelands Region

Terri reported that their Region's General Meeting was due to be held this morning - the Region has not held a meeting since February.

The Wool Fest was held at Robertson on 19 April and went off very well despite the bad weather.

Our group of associate members, the "yarn spinners" meet up at the Mittagong RSL every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. Last month we had three new visitors join our little group. This is a very active group within our region; even though very few of them own and breed coloured sheep, they are the end users of our

products and we are fortunate to have them in our region.

The next event to happen in our region will be the Picton Show in October. Our group will liaise with the President, Elaine Tracey to see how this is coming along and we wish to invite other Regional members to show their sheep.

This Region is a strong and active group and we look forward to the rest of the years activities.

*Terri Barrell  
Secretary.*

## DIARY DATES 2008/09

Date	Event	Region
15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> November 2008	Queanbeyan Show – Fleece, sheep and handicraft classes. Contact Mrs Dawn Mayne, P O Box 31 QUEANBEYAN 2620 Tel: (02) 6297 3324, Fax: (02) 6297 1294 Email: <a href="mailto:queanbeyanshow@yahoo.com.au">queanbeyanshow@yahoo.com.au</a>	Monaro/S.W Slopes
6th December 2008	Mittagong RSL - Sth Coast & Southern Tablelands Regional Meeting commencing at 10.00AM	Sth Coast and Southern Tablelands
6th December 2008	Mittagong RSL – NSW State Meeting 12.00 lunch, meeting starting at 1.00PM	NSW State
25 <sup>th</sup> January 2009	Bungendore Show – Sheep classes	Monaro/S.W Slopes
31 <sup>st</sup> January 2009	Nimmitabel Show – Sheep classes.	Monaro/SW Slopes
6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2009	Mudgee Show	Central Tablelands
14 <sup>th</sup> March 2009	Cooma Show	Sth Coast and Southern Tablelands
20 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2009	Castle Hill Show	Hawkesbury
28 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2009	Yass Show – Sheep and fleece classes. Contacts: (Sheep) Broni Jekyll, Tel: 6227 1432 - (Fleece) Anne Hazell, Tel: 6227 5878	Monaro/SW Slopes
2nd May 2009	Richmond TAFE - one day course for Basic Sheep Husbandry. Call Richmond TAFE direct or Terri and Ron Barrell 4884 2085	Sth Coast and Southern Tablelands
4 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> September 2009	The World Congress of Natural Coloured Sheep and their Products in Brazil. So far we know of six people who are planning to attend.	International

To have your local show, meeting or **Christmas** event listed here, please contact the Editor by the 14<sup>th</sup> December.



## FOR SALE!

**Four Corriedale cross - 2 wethers and 2 ewes.**

**2 & 4 years old in full wool.**

**2yr olds wool is dark brown - 4yr olds wool is silver to darker grey.**

**Cost: \$77 each.**

**Contact: Sue Ford**

**Located: 'Amber Park'**

**Binnaway, NSW 2395**

**Tel: 02 6842 3085**



Sue Burford with her winning baby shawl, ribbon and the Elizabeth Granger Memorial Trophy

## Report from South Coast and Southern Tablelands Region

The Picton show was held Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October. The craft section (spinning and weaving products) was of a very high standard this year and the Elizabeth Granger Memorial trophy was won for the second time by Sue Burford, for a beautiful baby shawl. Sue started with a fine wool Merino fleece that she hand dyed then spun into a very fine soft yarn, then knitted the shawl using a feather and fan pattern. Well done Sue!

The sheep section had four exhibitors including Elizabeth Macarthur College, who went on to win the Best school exhibit trophy donated by Delco Stud, Bargo.

Once again Broni and Mac's 'The General' looked magnificent.

More news from our region, with the help of Terri and Ron Barrell, Richmond TAFE is offering a one day course for Basic Sheep Husbandry. It will be held at Richmond TAFE campus on Saturday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2009. Anyone thinking of getting started on keeping sheep this could be the course you need. Anyone interested can call Richmond TAFE direct or Terri or Ron Barrell 4884 2085.

The next South Coast and Southern Tablelands Region meeting will be at 10.00AM, 6th December at the Mittagong RSL, prior to the NSW State meeting.

<b>Meat Sheep</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>
Ram 2 T and Over	Elizabeth Macarthur High School		
Ewe 2 T and Over	Elizabeth Macarthur High School	Elizabeth Macarthur High School	Elizabeth Macarthur High School
<b>Coloured Sheep</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>
Ewe or Ram Lamb	Drap'hyd Merino Stud, Ram	Delco Stud, Ewe	Delco Stud, Ewe
Ram 2 T and Over	Drap'hyd Merino Stud	Drap'hyd Merino Stud	Delco Stud
Fine Ewe 2 T & Over	Drap'hyd Merino Stud	Drap'hyd Merino Stud	Drap'hyd Merino Stud
Med Ewe 2 T & Over	Melissa Henry	Melissa Henry	Melissa Henry
Strong wool Ewe 2 T & Over	Delco Stud	Delco Stud	Delco Stud
Pen of Three Sheep	Delco Stud	Drap'hyd Merino Stud	Drap'hyd Merino Stud
<b>Champion Meat Sheep</b>	Ewe 2 T and Over - Elizabeth Macarthur High School		<b>Judge:</b> Ms Melissa Henry
<b>Champion B&amp;C Sheep</b>	Ram Lamb - Drap'hyd Merino Stud		<b>Judges:</b> Ms Jess Valentine and Ms Sam Wan
<b>Interbreed Grand Champion</b>	B&C, Ram Lamb - Drap'hyd Merino Stud		<b>Combined Judges</b>

## Minutes of Black and Coloured Sheep Breeders Association of Australia (NSW) Inc.

Held 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 at Yass Soldiers Club, Yass, NSW.

### Meeting:

Opened at 1.20pm by the President, Elaine Tracey.

### Present:

Robert Munday, Terri Barrell, Broni Jekyll, Mac Macdonald, Elaine Tracey, Janos Farkas, Wendy Van Raalte, Peter Van Raalte, Phillip Dunn.

### Apologies:

Ruth Bosma, Anne Hazell, Noelene Saunders, Melissa Henry, Caroline Collerson, Betty Nash, Christine Parkes, Denise Munday, Ann Anderson, Kath Wood, Audrey Bird, Christopher Bird, Jenny Dunn, Wendy Norris, Marianne Farkas.

### Visitors:

Ron Barrell.

### Minutes:

Minutes of previous meeting of 9 February 2008 at Armidale taken as read (Munday/Dunn).

**Amended** that Christine Parkes reported current newsletter volume number is incorrect (Jekyll/Dunn).

Minutes **accepted** (Munday/Dunn).

### Business arising:

*Insurance:* done. Noted that some market stalls require wording, not just cover sheet. Broni to distribute copy of wording to all Regional Presidents and Secretaries. Phillip Dunn is contact for insurance queries/issues.

*Name badges:* done. Janos reported has sent four to new Members. Can be ordered from Janos, cost \$10.

*Website:* Ron reported that our membership looks small since very few Members have indicated they want to be listed by ticking the box on the membership application form. Discussion - suggested there be a reminder in next newsletter. Broni proposed vote of thanks to Ron for managing the website - **carried**.

*Judging School:* report in Hawkesbury Region report, page 3.

*Supreme Exhibit ribbons:* Phillip has obtained 50 at cost of \$5.25 each (up from \$3.80) plus approx \$12 postage.

Suggested Regions pay \$6 each, **Meeting agreed**. Available from Janos.

Broni has amended newsletter volume number back by one so series now consecutive, but may confuse some (serious) librarians in the future.

Matter of Kath Woods re membership and receipt of *BSR* has now been resolved.

Correspondence inwards/outwards: none to report.

### Treasurer's Report:

Janos reported that financially the Association is in a fairly strong position with a bank balance just over \$1,700. Unfortunately, our membership figures are not so encouraging. As of the 4<sup>th</sup> of June we have a total of 71 members registered in the Association. Of these 35 are full members, six Double (partners/spouses of full members), 17 Associate, one Youth and 12 Life members. This looks good compared to last year when we only had 65 members on record, but looks poor when we look back to 2004 (the last records Janos has) when we had 95 members on our books. Janos suggested that more active recruitment of new or rejoining members should be on everyone's agenda.

Financial details for the State were presented.

*Record keeping:* Janos has prepared a spreadsheet that would meet the legal recording requirements for the Association. The spreadsheet may be used directly on a computer that has Microsoft Excel from version 97 upwards, printed out it can be used for manual record keeping, or alternately the column headings can be entered into practically any commercially available accounting program (Quicken, MYOB, Ms Money, etc) as the 'Chart of Accounts' or 'Categories'. Janos has supplied the package on DVD to the Treasurer of each Region.

Janos **moved** his reported be accepted (sec. Terri) - **carried**.

### President's Report:

Refer to page 2.

### Reports from Regions:

Refer to pages 2-4.

**Moved** that all Region Reports be accepted (Peter/Broni) - **carried**.



Newsletter Editor's Report:

Broni asked for feedback on her first newsletter - general feeling was that it was good.

Broni requested re-imbursement for printing costs - **approved**.

It was noted that Ruth Bosma had never been re-imbursed for producing the 2007 issues.

Broni **moved** that Ruth be given \$100 to cover some of her costs in producing the 2007 newsletter (sec. Terri) - **carried**.

Phillip queried why meat sheep results from Hawkesbury were in the newsletter. Response – the article was submitted to the editor to recognise coloured sheep exhibitors, particularly schools.

Robert said he had sent photographs from Back-to-Back that were not included. Response – electronic document size can become critical, so photographs need to be clear but not include too many pixels/cm, say less than 100. Some discussion followed, Meeting agreed that Editor had some discretion about what suits the current issue.

Broni sought approval from the Meeting to use the Association's email list to disseminate appropriate news items to members in a more timely way than waiting for the next issue of the BSR - **approved**.

General business:

1. Peter **moved** that Elaine be reimbursed an amount to be discussed for her expenses incurred in exhibiting sheep at Sydney Royal Show (sec. Wendy). Discussion, in particular Janos confirmed that re-imbursement of such expenses is normal. Elaine itemised her expenses, totalling \$272.81.

Broni moved an **amendment** that the "amount to be discussed" be \$272.81 (sec. Terri), accepted Peter/Wendy - **amendment carried. Motion put and carried**.

2. Elaine reported she had had contact from a Mr. Singh re supplying wool to Australian Country Spinners, initially a small test quantity but possibility of large quantities later. Meeting agreed worth following up.

Phillip **moved** that Elaine follow up on behalf of the Association (sec. Peter) - **carried**.

3. Discussion concerning a questionnaire to obtain flock information from Members, Meeting felt could be useful.

Janos **moved** that such a questionnaire be included in the BSR (sec. Robert) - **carried**.

4. Elaine reported she had received a letter requesting assistance from Clare and Russel Roach whose sister's cattle had had to be put down by the RSPCA - details available from Elaine.

5. Robert reported on behalf of Christine Parkes that Elaine had handed out Hawkesbury Region membership forms at the Sydney Royal Show rather than NSW Association ones. Elaine responded that they were the only ones available to her at the time. Meeting considered it not too serious a transgression under the circumstances.

6. Ron reported that the website members fees have been paid.

7. Janos reported that he had obtained two tear-drop publicity flags at \$400 each.

Next Meeting: Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at Bargo Sports Club, 12 noon for 1pm start.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: On the 13th July, Terri sent notification that Bargo Sports Club was booked out due to Christmas and the venue is now the Mittagong RSL.**

Closed: 4:00pm.

*Mac Macdonald,*

*Acting Minutes Secretary.*

**Action:**

- ✓ Broni to distribute copy of wording of insurance policy to all Regional Presidents and Secretaries.
- ✓ Broni to include a reminder in next newsletter re Members listing on website.
- ✓ Broni to include a questionnaire re Members' flock information in newsletter.
- ✓ Elaine to follow up contact with Mr. Singh.
- ✓ Janos to pay Ruth Bosma \$100 to cover some of her costs in producing the 2007 newsletter.
- ✓ Terri to book venue next meeting.

**For the December State meeting, South Coast and Southern Tablelands Region has organised a guest speaker for 3 o'clock, from the *Highland Veterinary Group* (Kevin and Bob) to give a timely, quick update on internal parasites and drench resistance. This is extremely pertinent due to the warm, moist weather most areas have been experiencing. Some members have already felt the effects of the Barbers Pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*). Make sure you do not miss this vital information! Be at the meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Mittagong RSL.**



# AUSTRALIAN SHEEP AND WOOL SHOW, BENDIGO

## 18<sup>TH</sup> – 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2008

**Judge:** Mr Roger Wilkinson

<b>Extra Fine Wool 64s &amp; finer</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Entries</b>
Ram, 1 or 2 teeth	Drap'hyd Merino Stud, NSW			1
Ram, more than 2t	J. Taylor, Lynview, Vic	Drap'hyd Merino Stud, NSW		2
Ewe, more than 2t	Drap'hyd Merino Stud, NSW	Drap'hyd Merino Stud, NSW	H. Wright, Kan-B Colours, Vic	5
Ram Lamb	Drap'hyd Merino Stud, NSW	J. Taylor, Lynview, Vic	H. Wright, Kan-B Colours, Vic	3
Ewe Lamb	H. Wright, Kan-B Colours, Vic	Horsham College, Vic		2
<b>Fine Wool 58s to 62s</b>				
Ram, 1 or 2 teeth	E. Ogilvie, Bears Delight, Vic			1
Ram, more than 2t	R & J Brown, Jarob Farm, Vic	H. Wright, Kan-B Colours, Vic	Elisabeth Murdoch College, Vic	4
Ewe, 1 or 2 teeth	H. Wright, Kan-B Colours, Vic	E. Ogilvie, Bears Delight, Vic	Elisabeth Murdoch College, Vic	5
Ewe Lamb	H. Wright, Kan-B Colours, Vic	Elisabeth Murdoch College, Vic	J. Taylor, Lynview, Vic	3
<b>Medium Wool 50s to 56s</b>				
Ram, 1 or 2 teeth	Elisabeth Murdoch College, Vic			1
Ram, more than 2t	R & J Brown, Jarob Farm, Vic	E. Ogilvie, Bears Delight, Vic		2
Ewe, 1 or 2 teeth	Elisabeth Murdoch College, Vic	R & J Brown, Jarob Farm, Vic		2
Ewe, more than 2t	Elisabeth Murdoch College, Vic	Elisabeth Murdoch College, Vic	Elisabeth Murdoch College, Vic	8
<b>Strong/Rug Wool 48s and stronger</b>				
Ram, more than 2t	R & J Brown, Jarob Farm, Vic	J. Taylor, Lynview, Vic	E. Ogilvie, Bears Delight, Vic	3
Ewe, more than 2t	J. Taylor, Lynview, Vic			1
<b>Sire's Progeny - Group of Three</b>	Drap'hyd Merino Stud, NSW	Elisabeth Murdoch College, Vic	H. Wright, Kan-B Colours, Vic	5
<b>Breeder's Group of Three</b>	Elisabeth Murdoch College, Vic	Drap'hyd Merino Stud, NSW	E. Ogilvie, Bears Delight, Vic	4
<b>Pair of Ewes</b>	Drap'hyd Merino Stud, NSW	Elisabeth Murdoch College, Vic	Elisabeth Murdoch College, Vic	4

**CHAMPION EXTRA FINE RAM**

**CHAMPION EXTRA FINE EWE**

**CHAMPION FINE RAM**

**CHAMPION FINE EWE**

**CHAMPION MEDIUM RAM**

**CHAMPION MEDIUM EWE**

**CHAMPION STRONG RAM**

**CHAMPION STRONG EWE**

**GRAND CHAMPION LAMB**

**GRAND CHAMPION EWE**

**RESERVE CHAMPION EWE**

**GRAND CHAMPION RAM**

**RESERVE CHAMPION RAM**

**MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR**

**Drap'hyd Merino Stud, NSW (2t)**

**Drap'hyd Merino Stud, NSW (more than 2t)**

**R & J Brown, Jarob Farm, Vic (more than 2t)**

**H. Wright, Kan-B Colours, Vic (more than 2t)**

**R & J Brown, Jarob Farm, Vic (more than 2t)**

**Elisabeth Murdoch College, Vic (more than 2t)**

**R & J Brown, Jarob Farm, Vic (more than 2t)**

**J. Taylor, Lynview, Vic (more than 2t)**

**Drap'hyd Merino Stud, NSW (Extra Fine Ram Lamb)**

**H. Wright, Kan-B Colours, Vic (Fine Ewe more than 2t)**

**Drap'hyd Merino Stud, NSW (Extra Fine Ewe more than 2t)**

**Drap'hyd Merino Stud, NSW (Extra Fine Ram 2t)**

**R & J Brown, Jarob Farm, Vic (Strong Ram more than 2t)**

**Elisabeth Murdoch College, Vic**

### Judge's Report:

One of the things I like about judging B&C Sheep is that every class is like an interbreed. This show was no exception.

I had a wide variety of excellent sheep to assess. There were top sheep in all wool qualities. I was surprised how well the sheep had come through the dry conditions. They are obviously well looked after. If I had to nominate a supreme champion sheep it would have been the fine ewe, for the superb handle of her wool. I noticed that many



of the sheep had a large patch of bare skin over their backsides, this is a good thing as it makes them easier to care for.

Thank you for the opportunity to judge.

Roger Wilkinson

### Fleece Results

**Judge:** Ms Marree Vinnicombe

	First	Second	Third	Entries
<b>Fine Ewe or Wether 22.1µm – 26.0µm</b>	W. Dennis, Tarndwarncourt, Vic	H. Wright, Kan-B Colours, Vic	R & J Brown, Jarob Farm, Vic	4
<b>Medium Ewe or Wether 26.1µm – 30.0µm</b>	R & J Brown, Jarob Farm, Vic	H. Wright, Kan-B Colours, Vic		2
<b>Strong Ewe or Wether 30.1µm – 36.0µm</b>	R & J Brown, Jarob Farm, Vic	G. George, Parrindi, Vic		2

**CHAMPION**

**FLEECE**

W. Dennis, Tarndwarncourt, Vic (Fine E/W)

**RESERVE CHAMPION FLEECE**

R & J Brown, Jarob Farm, Vic (Strong E/W)

### Judge's Report:

Many fleeces had much more vegetable matter in them than expected. Whilst last year had been exceptionally dry and harsh, show fleeces should have little vegetable matter in them.

The top fleece had beautiful handle, style and length.

The reserve fleece showed some great lustre and character for a strong wool fleece.

Again weights let some fleeces down and often made the difference between first and second.

Marree Vinnicombe



The following article was sent in by Janos Farkas, Central Tablelands. The article was not attributed to a particular author. Your editor did some research and found in Vol 19:1 pp11-13 this very article raised a lot of comment...I believe it was written by Russell and Clare Roach. Read it and see what you think, bearing in mind one keyword in its title, GUIDELINES. Ed.

## Guidelines for breeders

### Introduction

These guidelines are designed to assist breeders of coloured sheep reach a standard of excellence in their flocks, and to appreciate what qualities a judge will be looking for when sheep are presented in a show ring.

**To achieve this, it is important to set ourselves a high standard when we begin breeding, and to have a clear vision of what we are aiming for.**

### What are we aiming for?

1. To show sheep (and fleeces) which are of a high standard, and possess winning potential.
2. To show sheep and fleeces which, when sold, will benefit the buyer and not reflect badly on us, the producers.
3. To enhance the reputation of the coloured sheep industry by presenting such good quality sheep that when white sheep breeders see them on exhibition at shows, etc., they will recognise, (even if somewhat reluctantly), that they are worthy to be there. It is only when we pay attention to good breeding that we will make any real progress.
4. Financial profit.

### How to achieve this

1. Perhaps an important point to remember is to be one's own hardest critic, and to keep sentimentality to a minimum when assessing our sheep.
2. Unless breeding for the skin trade, avoid the short wool meat sheep breeds such as the Dorset, Southdown or Suffolk... they are **not** wool growers.

3. Use the very best ram possible for sires, preferably pure bred rams. It is more important to have a good ram and maybe a mediocre ewe than vice versa, although it is important that ewes are structurally sound. Too many crosses of breed in the one sheep and in-breeding will ultimately produce inferior stock, with the high likelihood of conformation and wool faults.
4. Keep it firmly in mind that to grow a top quality fleece, it is necessary to have a top quality sheep on which to grow it, and that the main market outlet is the handcraft trade.

### Benefits of showing

1. To evaluate one's sheep by competing with other breeders.
2. To learn.
3. To advertise.
4. To win ... hopefully.

### Sheep classes

These need to reflect as far as possible, the breeds and cross breeds represented on the day. A line up which has a degree of uniformity looks more professional and is easier for judging.

For example: ...

*Fine:* 64's and finer ... merino sheep only

*Medium fine:* 58's to 60's ... comeback, Polwarth, fine Corriedale

*Medium:* 50's to 56's ... strong Corriedale, cross breeds, etc.

*Strong:* Border Leicester, Romney, etc.

### Health

No evidence of internal/external parasites, injuries, or illnesses, past or present.

It is important that the sheep are in good condition, but not over fat; underfed sheep never present well at a show.

*Note:* Equal emphasis on conformation and wool.

### Conformation – 50%

*Back line:* straight, with no evidence of goose-rump, devil's grip, or faulty shoulders etc., good body length.

*Head:* soft texture of face, ears and nose, ideally, no wool on nose. Alert, clear, bright eyes, sound mouth/teeth for age; no jaw defects, eg. undershot/overshot, no evidence of a chewing problem.

*Legs/feet:* stands up well on all four, no limp, correct on pasterns. No abnormalities such as cow-hock, bow legs, or knock knees.

*Underneath:* a ram must have two sound testicles and a ewe must have two good teats.

### Wool – 50%

Sheep present best when carrying close to twelve months growth, but no more.

Sheep present better when not fully crutched and wigged, as this spoils the overall appearance and line of the sheep. Just a light trim around tail/pizzle to alleviate stain, and around the eyes to avoid wool blindness.

With the exception of strong wool sheep, eg. Border Leicester, a sheep that can grow wool to its feet will produce a better yielding fleece of greater financial value than a sheep of similar type that can not. It is important for the sheep to have a good belly-wool covering.

### Qualities of the wool

*Length:* for breed type.

*Evenness:* of character throughout the fleece, and no hairy breech.

*Softness:* for breed type.

*Cleanliness:* minimum of dirt/vegetable matter, free of cross fibres.

*Lustre:* this refers only to the types of sheep which display lustre in the wool, ie British long wools, Polwarths and crossbreds, the latter usually composing the majority of coloured sheep in a show.

*Colour:* is strictly a personal thing with craft people and can reflect the fashion demands of the day. Variation of colour should not be deemed a fault. Black pointed, and sheep with only odd patches of colour are not desirable, otherwise all colours are acceptable and useful within the craft trade. To be classified 'coloured' a sheep must have at least 50% colour in its fleece.

*Soundness:* it is most difficult to determine if a fleece is sound while still on the sheep's back, hence judges will not look for this.

**Summary** - A sheep that will catch the eye of a judge is one that is in good health and condition, free of obvious defects, displays good conformation, has trueness of type and breed, and carries an attractive, lustrous, clean, and bulky fleece.

## The Judges' Score card

**Entries:** Any colour except all white is acceptable, but fleeces must be at least 50% coloured.

**Weight:** As per weight system used.

**Handle:** Soft to handle, according to breed type. As clean and free of foreign matter as possible with no hard, greasy, or brittle tips.

**Length:** Twelve month's growth, but no more. Trueness to type of breed, good staple length throughout. With the end product in mind, it is important to consider that short stapled wool when carded, will pill more easily.

**Character:** Stylish, attractive appearance with lustre and plenty of well defined crimp. Evenness of crimp throughout the fleece.

**Soundness:** Tenderness (fibre weakness) will be deemed a fault. If there is no evidence of tenderness, a fleece should score full mark for soundness.

**Evenness:** This refers to evenness of character (crimp) and not colour. A fleece should be as even as possible throughout, with no hairy breech and no cross fibres.

**Density:** This refers to the number of wool fibres to a defined area. A very dense fleece may have shorter than desired staple length, but density without excess grease enhances yield.

**Cleanliness:** Well skirted with no stains or sweat dags, no second cuts, pieces of skin, dermatitis, etc. As clean as possible with a minimum of dirt or vegetable matter. Excess yolk (or condition) spoils the overall attractiveness of the fleece, but will wash out.

**Usefulness to the handcraft trade:** The handcraft trade includes hand spinners, weavers, felters, and rug makers. Craft people use natural coloured wool to create a unique range of fashion clothing as well as wall hangings, lamp shades, curtains, lounge covers, bed covers, wool pictures and toys, including doll's wigs. This section needs to be judged in conjunction with cleanliness, as a dirty fleece or badly skirted, or very greasy on the tip, necessitates more preparation by the user, and results in more waste. Hand spinners prefer thick staples, long and free for quick, easy spinning and minimum waste. (ie. a fleece that seems to say "spin me!").

Colour preference is very much a personal thing, and can vary with the fashion demands of the day. Variation of colour throughout a fleece need not be considered a fault. Very dark, almost jet black fleeces are fairly rare, and in popular demand.

Banding across staples, caused by change of feed or a mineral deficiency is not desirable, but with the exception of very dark wool does not effect the colour pattern when spun.

When exhibiting fleeces remove any foreign material (grass, burrs, etc), and make sure your fleece is well skirted. This is a balancing act, because if you over skirt you will lose point for weight.



## Internet Membership

For some years now, Ron Barrell has been managing our web page at <http://www.blacksheep.org.au>

Although anyone can access the site, either via your own personal computer at home/work or using a public computer at your local library or internet cafe, only subscribers can freely list their own businesses online.

There are numerous sections to the website. The Home page gives an outline of Black and Coloured sheep; the Members page provides the names and contacts of individual enterprises with a map showing the Regional areas within NSW; the Calendar page provides an opportunity to get your occassion out to others who may be interested and the For Sale page is a great, low cost support feature to any advertisements that are listed in the newsletter.

To be a financial subscriber to the website, the princely fee of \$2 is all you have to pay. That's right! Just \$2!! This is a 'once only' fee and your business could reach people all over the world. This will add your name and business contacts to the members page, where anyone searching for products like yours may find you. Think of the extra sales! Just recently, Drap'hyd Merino Stud used this facility to allow interested clients in Italy to view photographs of two of our Merinos. Clients from Victoria also found us via the internet and attending shows.

When you renew your membership in January 2009, why not add \$2 extra and tick the box for Web Membership. You might be surprised how far it could take your coloured wool, garments or seed stock.





**BLACK & COLOURED SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (NSW) INC.**

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MEMBERSHIP of the Association is open to any person interested in coloured sheep, their breeding, use or promotion of their products.

The 2008 membership subscription is \$35 per annum for Full membership, \$55 for Double membership (2 votes, 1 magazine & notices), \$30 per annum for Associate membership (no voting right); \$15 for Youth members, 25 years or under. Membership is payable per calendar year and due in January. Cheques should be sent to the Membership Officer at the address given above.

"Black Sheep Rising" is the newsletter of the Association and views expressed by advertisers or contributors are not necessarily those of its Officers or Members. The newsletter is published before General Meetings and contains minutes of the previous General Meeting.

ADVERTISING is available in "Black Sheep Rising" for Full page \$30 (members \$25); Half page \$18 (members \$15); Quarter page \$12 (members \$10). Advertising invoices will be sent with the newsletter.

Web membership (\$2) Annual Website advertising is also available - contact the Webmaster.

## MEMBER'S INFORMATION

If you would like to improve communication between members, please complete this short questionnaire, print and/or tear off and return to the State Membership Officer (Janos Farkas), address page 12.

Member's name	.....	
Trading as	.....	
Number of coloured sheep owned:	Pure bred -	
	Crossbred -	
Number of heterozygous sheep owned	Pure bred -	
	Crossbred -	
Breed of coloured sheep owned:	Pure bred -	
	Crossbred -	
Breed of heterozygous sheep owned	Pure bred -	
	Crossbred -	
Number of classes of sheep owned	Pure bred Rams -	
	Crossbred Rams -	
	Pure bred Ewes -	
	Crossbred Ewes -	
	Pure bred Wethers -	
	Crossbred Wethers -	
If you have rams, what month do you join?		
Do you breed seed stock?	Rams - Yes/No	Ewes - Yes/No
Do you sell seed stock?	Rams - Yes/No	Ewes - Yes/No
What is the quality number/micron range of your flock?	Minimum..... Maximum .....	
Do you shear all your sheep as a mob?	Yes/No	
If so, what month do you shear?		
Are your sheep rugged?	Yes/No/Some	
Are your sheep crutched within 3 months before shearing?	Yes/No	
Do you exhibit your sheep at shows?	Yes/No/Some	
Do you exhibit your fleeces at shows ?	Yes/No/Some	
Do you value-add your clip?	Yes/No/Some	
If so, do you use all your early stage processed fibre yourself or do you sell?	Yes/No/Some Details: .....	
Do you make craft items?	Yes/No Details: .....	
Do you sell craft items at Field Days?	Yes/No	
Do you exhibit your craft at shows ?	Yes/No	
If you do not value-add, how do you dispose of your wool clip?		
Do you wish to network more closely with other B&C sheep breeders?	Yes/No Details: .....	
Please number the following activities / subjects/services in order of importance to you (1 = most important, 10 = least)	Social interaction with members.....    Publicity of show results..... Breeding & management info.....    Promotion of members' products..... Generic promotion of the Assoc.....    Wool buying service..... Promote members' register.....    Organise shows..... Outlets for members' products.....    Wool pooling for members.....	
Are you a subscriber to the Association's online Members Page?	Yes/No	

**Thank you for your time and assistance.**

*"Black Sheep Rising"* is published by the Black and Coloured Sheep Breeders Association of Australia (NSW) Inc.

*If undelivered, please return to:*

The Editor,  
Drap'hyd Merino Stud,  
P O Box 6181,  
Queanbeyan East, NSW 2620

## **'Black Sheep Rising'**

Closing date for reports and articles, show results, upcoming events and any other gossip you wish to share in the **Christmas** issue of 'Black Sheep Rising'

**14<sup>th</sup> December, 2008**

Please forward to The Editor, postal address at top of this page. Preference is given to soft copy but hard copy will be keyed in if time allows.

**NEXT STATE MEETING HOSTED BY:**

**South Coast and Southern Tablelands Region**

**Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

**at Mittagong RSL**

**12 noon for 1pm start.**

**REMEMBER:**

**Membership renewals are due 1st January, 2009**

**Don't forget your internet membership of \$2 ('once only' payment) if you have not already subscribed.**