

Black Sheep Rising



Page 2

www.blacksheep.20m.com

OCTOBER, 2004

Next State Meeting

- SUNDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2004
- 12 NOON—LUNCH
- 1 PM—MEETING
- VENUE—WINDSOR R.S.L. CLUB,
- ARGYLE ST, WINDSOR

Diary Dates

- **October 9**—Illabo Show
- **October 10** Corowa Show
- **October**—16/17th Murrumbateman Field Days
- **October 24th**—Hawkesbury Scarecrow Festival.
- **November 4/6th**—Holbrook Sheep & Wool Show
- **November 20/21st**—Queanbeyan Show
- **November 12/17th**—6th World Congress on Coloured Sheep—N.Z.
- Email: fbmaknox@atrix.gen.nz for information
- **2005, March 19th**—18th National Coloured Fleece Comp. S.A.

What's in this Issue

President's Message	1
National Fleece Comp.	3
Newsletters Reviewed	4
Husbandry Notes	5
Minutes & Notices	6/7
Around the Regions	8
Drench gun maint'nce	9
Show Results	10
Focus on B/Leicester	11
Crafter's Corner	11

FROM THE PRESIDENT -

I feel the beginning of that 'silly' time of year, when Field Days, Agriculture Shows and markets swing into action. As if there is not enough to do with lambmarking, weaning, shearing, pasture/water management for the oncoming summer, and packing for the Congress in NZ ... it is now also time to collect all those wonderful items of clothing and craft carefully assembled during the year, the balls of woollen yarn spun up, the fleeces flying over the classing table and those elegantly correct ovine specimens cruising the paddocks, and critically sort through them all to find the best ones you can muster to take along to 'Show and Sell'. I know a few poddy lambs that have also gone along to Year 1 'Show and Tell'!

It is a very important time of year however, as it is during all those activities we can really promote our products and our Association. In the latest Victorian Newsletter there is an interesting article about their promotion activities. I have also been keenly watching the white wool industry's debate on how their promotion needs to be handled. Lynn Brown in her article sums up the problem accurately with:

Promoting Black and Coloured is a difficult task simply because the goals and expectations of members differ so broadly.

When I first became president of the Monaro/SW Slopes Region, a past member took me aside and instructed me on how I should shape the group to satisfy all members' needs. Although I agree with the sentiment, within our group at the time, we covered all wool

types from Ultrafine Merino to Rug wool. Over the years, some of the similar micron producers have banded together, and developed their own promotional package, still coming and sharing their experiences and knowledge with the region as a whole. Looking at the NSW and Victorian scenarios, there is no great variation in evolution and occurrences. I wondered however, if the problems of quantity and distance could ever be surmounted and the two States could one day combine to form a creditable force in coloured wool production.

Now I have sat here too long pondering ... to all travelling over the waters to New Zealand for Congress, I wish you Bon Voyage! and come home with copious things to read and discuss. Please set a little time aside to plan a report for your Regional group when you return, so those unable to participate may learn from your participation in this wonderful event. For those remaining at home, but working hard at readying for the shows and markets (or by the time of reading, participating in these days), I wish you all the greatest success. Remember, you are all ambassadors of your product, your group and your State Association. I look forward to hearing of some wonderful successes and probably some experiences to learn from! Keep us all informed and send your stories to our BSR Editor.

See you when we next muster!

Broni.

REFERENCES

Brown, L. (2004) Promotion Report, Black and Coloured Sheep Breeders' Association of Australia (Victoria) Inc., Newsletter, Vol9 No 3.

Published by: **Black & Coloured Sheep Breeders Association of Australia (NSW) Inc.**

Founded 1978 - Incorporated 1987

Newsletter Correspondence to: *Jenny Dunn (Editor) 122 Annangrove Road, Annangrove 2156*
(woolfarm@hawknet.com.au)

President	Broni Jekyll, 473 Bouchers Drive, Murrumbateman 62 27 1432 draphyd@apex.net.au
Secretary	Elaine Tracey, 789 Sackville Road, Ebenezer 2756. Phone/Fax 45 79 9436
Treasurer	Tanya Watson "Rosedena", Cowra Road, Grenfell 2810. 63 43 1166 0428 975 130 rosedena@dodo.com.au
Vice Presidents (2)	Phillip Dunn, 122 Annangrove Road, Annangrove 2156 9654 1069 Robert Munday, PO Box 1002 Goulburn 2580 48 29 2314
Public Officer	Phillip Dunn (see above)

Regional Branches & Branch Secretaries

Northern	Veronica Taylor 67 83 0146 vat@northnnet.com.au
Central Tablelands	Kevin Brodie 63 73 8522 pineview6373@aol.com
Hawkesbury	Jenny Dunn 9654 1069 woolfarm@hawknet.com.au
Sth Coast & Southern Tablelands	Jacki Waugh 48 29 8157 pjwaugh@ozemail.com.au
Monaro-S.W. Slopes	Mac Macdonald 62 27 1432 draphyd@apex.net.au

Life Members of the Association:

Mrs J Baker; Mr. M. Glennies-holmes; Mr. P. Hodann;
Mrs. M. Morris; Mr. A.R. Roach, Mrs. G. Suttor;
Mr. E.Sykes; Mr. N. Symmonds; Mrs Mitchell;

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

The 2004 membership subscription is \$35 per annum for full membership, \$25 per annum for Associate membership (no voting right); \$10 for juniors under 16.

Membership is payable per calendar year and should be sent **to the Treasurer** at the address given above.

"Black Sheep Rising" is the newsletter of the Association and views expressed by advertisers or authors of articles are not necessarily those of its Officers or Members. The newsletter is published 3 times per year prior to the General Meeting and contains the 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)

Who said there's no money in Black Sheep?

I recently looked hard at an aged First X wether, who must weigh 90 Kilos at least, and has been the bane of my existence for about 8 years. He opened gates, led the flock in the wrong direction, trod on my feet, and was always first at the feed through shoving the lambs out of the way.

Decision made, off to the livestock auctions to get rid of him—probably worth \$30 and at least he would be out of my hair!

D-day came and off he went—after I finally wrestled him onto the trailer. We parted company at the sheep

yards and I returned home to await my cheque.

10 days later the paperwork arrived, including cheque neatly folded in the envelope. My first glance showed \$8 and I felt a little disgruntled as I had hoped to at least cover the petrol for taking him to market.

Then I unfolded the cheque, not \$8, but \$88.

How I wish I had a few more mean, ornery old black wethers, but I hope someone has strong teeth!

Phillip Dunn

18th NATIONAL COLOURED FLEECE COMPETITION 2005

News has come in from Alwyn Dolling, the Convenor, about next year's National Comp. which is being organised in conjunction with Mt. Pleasant, S.A. Show on Saturday 19th March 2005.

She says:

"it seems to be early days for thinking about this event, but not for the Convenors and the Mount Pleasant Committee. Their schedule goes to the printers in November 04 and with the S.A. Royal in September and the N.Z. World Congress in November, this event must be addressed and the pre-planning done well beforehand.

"SACSOS will be **looking for sponsors** for trophies and prize money for the classes. The schedule will be our normal Mt. Pleasant one with the rams, ewes and wethers having separate classes.

"It is hoped we will receive support from breeders in N.S.W., Victoria and the Green Triangle in recognition of the support we have given the National when it has been based interstate.

"No decision has yet been made as to which system will be used for assessing fleece weight points. We trialed the 2003 Bendigo one at the Mt. Pleasant Show this year but found it no more successful in satisfying competitors than the S.A. Class Average System and some were not happy with either system! The top quality fleeces do come to the top no matter what system is used provided the judges are well experienced and professionally disciplined."

"We look forward to hearing from breeders offering support. Your contributions can then be acknowledged in the Schedule."

Reprinted from SACSOS newsletter July 2004.

*Alwyn Dolling (SACSOS Secretary) may be contacted at Box 74 McLaren Vale, S.A. 5171 or by phone 08 83 86 2237 if members would like to offer sponsorship. **Fleece entries close on 1st March 2005.** Exhibits to be at the Secretary's Office, Mt. Pleasant Showground, P.O. Box 141, Mt. Pleasant, S.A. 5235 by Friday 11th March and schedules are available from the **Secretary's office (08 85 65 2303)***



The perennial debate on scoring, particularly points for weight, seems to surface regularly and particularly when the National Fleece Competition is coming up! However, if these Eastern States competitions are to continue it is important that prizemoney is sufficiently attractive to justify the expense of posting fleeces interstate—hence the request for sponsorship. By rotation it will be NSW's turn in 2006 and if we are to offer hosting, then we should be thinking about a suitable venue and an existing event on which to 'peg' the Competition.

The long lasting drought in NSW over the past 6 months has brought two potential husbandry problems to breeders' attention and Page 5 gives further information on these.

The last State meeting again considered constitutional matters for the Association—particularly relating to membership fees and categories—and details of the proposed changes to be put to a Special General Meeting in November are given on Page 7.

Could I ask members to let me have articles, show results, notices and items for discussion for the next issue of B.S.R. which should be out in December with your annual membership renewal forms.

Jenny

Janos Farkas has reviewed some articles printed in the current "Black Sheep" Newsletters received from England and the U.S.

Coloured Sheep News (*Newsletter of the British Coloured Sheep Breeders Association Autumn 2004.*)

A sign of the times: The editor asks contributors to start the subject line of their contributions with 'BCSBA' when sent by e-mail. This way he can separate the real contributions from the vast amounts of spam he receives. The joys of the Internet!

The BCSBA is seeking a change to their Constitution to eliminate the need to have a minimum of three meetings per year. They feel that travel times and costs are too much of a burden on the Committee members and the same end results can be achieved by meetings/discussions via the Internet or telephone.

Pat Regardsoe, the Chairman of the BCSBA (apparently they don't use the politically correct term) writes about 'What the BCSBA can do for you'. She lists four points that in her opinion places the BCSBA in a unique position.

1. The only organisation directly linking those who produce the fleece and those who use it. "Membership can, in this way be justified by both the breeders and crafts people" she writes.
2. The only sheep breeders organisation that provides opportunities to sell products from their sheep be it fleece, skins or other finished product as well as helping to sell livestock via organised events and the Association web site.
3. The only organisation that can provide members with contact across the range of coloured sheep and their product.
4. Can present the views of the small breeders at wider country forums such as dealing with animal health issues.

She also notes the importance of 'the friendship network' the organisation promotes and appeals for more volunteers.

The European Wool Group is organising a Wool Conference in the Czech Republic in October. The agenda includes reports on sheep breeding and wool processing across Europe, the importance of training in shearing and wool handling. There will be an exhibition showing 60 European breeds of sheep mainly by photographs, felting workshops and a shearing course.

Black Sheep Newsletter (USA) *A Magazine for Shepherds and Fiber Enthusiasts – Summer 2004.*

The magazine devotes two pages to coming events. The interesting part is the variety of the events that includes things like *Alpaca Country Faire in Oregon*, *The California Wool and Fibre Festival*, *Fiber, Craft and Textile Artists Tour of England*, *21st Annual Wool Arts Tour* in New Hampshire, *Vermont Fibre Retreat* and of course the main event of the year *Black Sheep Gathering 2005* in Eugene, Oregon.

As usual for the **Black Sheep Newsletter** it focuses on people and leads off with an article by Liz Hubbard titled *My Friend Sharon Allen* complete with some good photos. She introduces her as "Mother, grandmother, spinner, weaver, knitter, artist, sheep herdess, sheep shearer and chocolate connoisseur." It is a most interesting story of a person's dedication and commitment to a lifestyle. I know a few people in our organisation just like her.

Another article titled **In from the Out Back** (News from Central and Eastern Oregon) by Ann Snyder really struck a chord with me. The subtitle is "How Ponds Can Change the Feel of a Place". She describes how they built three ponds on their 380 acre ranch, planted some shrubs and how that brought birds and a host of small wildlife to the area. My envy level really increased when she described how they struck an underground spring while digging the first dam and here I am looking at the deep cracks at the bottom of my empty dam. Come on rain!

An article by Dick Regnery titled **Why do You Raise Sheep?** Gives a good insight into some of the reasons we all do it. An interesting point he raises on the topic of some of his customers failing to pay or taking a very long time to send the money for fleeces bought. He says: "The customers about whom I fuss probably have no sense that paying for their fleece order is at all similar to their receiving a regular paycheque. In addition there seems to be no pride in their own honesty or dependability." He goes on about the personal satisfaction you derive from a successful season, the love of a rural lifestyle, a bonding with the sheep you raise even as the numbers exceed a hundred. Below is an excerpt from an article **Chrissie on Line** by Jean Reid from South Africa. Has anyone heard of this?

"Many hundreds of years ago there was a very ancient counting system in England. It was based not on our decimal or the old duodecimal system, nor the binomial one, but on the number five. The idea was that a shepherd would corner his flock and

counting on one hand, using his seven foot crook in the other, he would separate his sheep, one at a time, counting as he went something like “yan, tiyan, tethera, methera, dik,

yanadik, tyanadik” and so on. This system did exist and perhaps someone might try to trace archival references to it. I would be very interested to learn if someone did manage to turn up some information on this old system.”

In **On the Homestead** section Alexandra Petrowski deals with safe storage of hay and spontaneous combustion and hay fires. She quotes from an Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food article: “A hay crop that is placed too wet into a mow will heat rapidly. If the mow is so large that heat loss is restricted, the internal temperature will rise. As the temperature rises above 130Deg F (55Deg C), a chemical reaction occurs and may sustain itself. This reaction does not require oxygen, but the flammable gases produced are at a temperature above their ignition point. These gases will ignite when they come into contact with the air.”

Food for thought?

^^^^^^^^

A Word of Caution on Wheat and Sheep.....

This grain along with others such as barley and oats are often used in drought feeding programs. While they are high in energy producing components which are satisfactory for adult dry sheep, their micro-nutrient content is not well balanced. So if they are to be fed for prolonged periods, this should be considered. Common salt can be added up to 1% of the feed dry matter (which is usually about 90% for grains) and added calcium is needed to keep the ratio of calcium and phosphorus in the range of 1:1 to 2:1. There are endless possibilities of ways that this can be achieved. Small amount of calcium carbonate can be added to the mix at an appropriate proportion depending on the level in the grain. Small amounts of a legume (which are high in calcium) can be added to achieve this balance. Another way is to supply a propriety commercial ‘calcium block’ to allow the animals to do their own balancing.

Anne White

Pinkeye (contagious ophthalmia) in sheep is common throughout Australia and most outbreaks occur during summer when dry dusty conditions favour its spread.

It is caused by the microscopic organism *Rickettsia conjunctivae*, and the first signs are inflammation of the eye membranes and the production of clear watery tears which often run and drip down the cheek.

As the infection continues the cornea develops a blue haze and over a few days the haze becomes more opaque and turns white in colour. Shallow ulcers develop on the surface of the cornea. A sheep with pinkeye cannot see from an eye that is hazy or opaque and if both eyes are affected the sheep is blind and will rapidly lose weight or die from thirst.

Recovery will occur without treatment in 2—3 weeks provided ulcerous infection has not penetrated the eyeball. However the problem is highly infectious and outbreaks are common where sheep are being supplementary fed and are in close proximity at feed sites

Treatment for small flocks is usually application of an antibiotic eye ointment daily and isolation away from dust, bright sunlight and other sheep. Aerosol sprays and dusting powders are of little use as tears wash the treatment out of the eyes.

From A. Brightling's "Sheep Diseases"

FOR SALE

2 Wethers—Superfine Merino 2002 drop (1 Black & White with Tan spots.)
1 Texel Wether—2003 drop
1 Wether—Corriedale X, dark grey, 2003 drop
Ewes and wethers—2003 drop Corriedale/Polwarth, brown, black, fawn, grey

Contact: Elaine Tracey on 45 79 9436.

MURRUMBATEMAN FIELD DAYS 16/17th OCTOBER

Monaro/S-W Slopes Region will be having a BSCBAA stall selling fleeces and equipment. Further entries, particularly finished goods or yarn, welcome. Contact Anne Hazell on 02 62 275878

MINUTES OF THE BLACK & COLOURED SHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (NSW) INC.
MEETING HELD 27th JUNE 2004 AT YOUNG SERVICES CLUB, YOUNG.

MEETING opened at 1:04 pm. With the President welcoming all present and thanking Tanya Watson for arranging the use of the Club's room. **PRESENT:** Broni Jekyll (in the chair), Elaine Tracey, Phillip Dunn, Jenny Dunn, Janos Farkas, Tanya Watson, Anne Hazell, Bob Munday, Marianne Farkas, Mac MacDonald.

APOLOGIES were received from: Steve Everdell, Veronica Taylor, Denise Munday, Robert & Margaret Brown. It was moved E. Tracey, seconded J. Farkas, that apologies be accepted. Carried.

MINUTES. It was moved T. Watson, seconded B. Munday that the minutes of meeting held 15th February 2004 at Goulburn, having been circulated in B.S.R., be taken as read. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES. The only business arising from the minutes concerned the Constitution and it was agreed to leave this to General Business. It was moved A. Hazell, seconded T. Watson, that the minutes be confirmed. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE; Inwards—From Mrs Terri Barrell re her membership (formerly Terri O'Rourke); Notice regarding Murrumbateman Field Days. **Outwards**—Letter to Young Services Club re room hire; Mrs Joy Rae in reply to her letter of 2/2/2004

It was moved M. Farkas, seconded J. Dunn that the correspondence be received. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tanya Watson circulated a copy of the Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$2210.44. The following accounts were submitted for payment: Rebates to Regions \$262, BSR printing and postage \$107.10, travel expenses \$74.05. It was moved Mac McDonald, seconded J. Farkas, that the Treasurer's report be accepted and the accounts for payment be passed. Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Broni Jekyll reported she had spoken to Mike Byron re the website as Gina was away. She brought notice that the BSR was being sent electronically where possible.. She advised that Uni had finished and that she and Mac had almost finished moving to their new property. She would be taking some time off from Uni and would like to visit Regions and meet members. A discussion followed the President's Report on the newsletter and the website and it was felt that material was not getting through and it was pointed out that editors or webmasters cannot do their jobs without information. It was suggested by Phillip Dunn that each Region forward material to be published on a regular basis. It was moved T. Watson, seconded B. Munday that the President's Report be accepted. Carried.

REPORTS FROM REGIONS—Southern Tablelands: Mr. Munday reported that Goulburn Show had been held and 45 fleeces were entered by 7 exhibitors—results were in B.S.R. Robertson Wool Day was held on 30th April with a very good attendance resulting in the sale of 34 fleeces from the 68 on offer. This year 12 traders attended also and helped cover the cost of hall hire. A small profit of \$15 was made on the day. The Region's A.G.M. was held in May with only one change of officers—one vice president. The Region decided to reduce meetings to 3 per year instead of 4.

Northern N.S.W.: Veronica Taylor reported by phone and said things are still very quiet in the Region. She also sent her apology for the meeting.

Monaro: - See report on page 8.

Central Tablelands - See report on page 8.

Hawkesbury: - E. Tracey reported that members had been involved in Castle Hill Show in March and Hawkesbury Show in April. The Region had a baling day in May and is working on a display at the Scarecrow Festival in October.

It was moved J. Dunn, seconded A. Hazell, that all reports be accepted. Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

J. Dunn, as editor of "Black Sheep Rising" reported she had sent out the newsletter by email where an address had been provided, however some ISPs had rejected them. She had also sent some of the overseas and interstate ones that way. She asked that people submitting photos for B.S.R. try to have a main subject without a lot of fine details as cluttered photos do not reproduce well by photocopying.

Broni Jekyll reported Victoria B.C.S.B.A.A. are doing a special Newsletter to go to the World Congress for advertising. Following a discussion, it was suggested that we do extra copies of the next B.S.R. for distribution at the Congress and Mr. Munday offered to take same to New Zealand with him.

Mr. Munday spoke in relation to notice of meetings. He reminded members that notice should be given 21 days before the meeting date.

Tanya Watson raised the point that we have no information on our members' sheep, e.g. what breed and if any are for sale. It was moved T. Watson, seconded A. Hazell, that a register be started with this information and members be asked to write to the Treasurer (Mrs. T. Watson, "Rosedena", Cowra Rd, Grenfell or email to rosedena@dodo.com.au) giving their details before the November meeting. Motion carried.

Mrs Watson stated she was unsure of the position regarding commission on sales—does the commission go to the selling Region or to the State? J. Dunn stated that currently commissions go to the Regions and in the case of the Craft Group

Minutes of meeting (continued)....

members belonging to Hawkesbury Region, there was no commission involved but a reciprocal arrangement whereby goods for sale were welcome at either's events. A discussion followed on insurance issues and Associate Members who belong to craft groups using BCSBA for umbrella insurance therefore commissions should be retained by the State to offset insurance costs. It was moved E. Tracey, seconded M. Farkas, that commission go to the Regions at present with further discussion at a future meeting. Carried.

Constitutional matters. It was suggested by Monaro Region that Junior membership be changed to 25 years and after discussion it was moved A. Haxell, seconded J. Dunn, that a suggested change to **Item 3.1 ©** be from Junior membership to Youth Membership aged 25 years and under. Mr Munday spoke against the motion, a vote followed and the motion was carried 9-1.

It was moved B. Munday, seconded E. Tracey, that **clause 3.1(a)** be amended from "Individual membership—any person interested in black & coloured sheep" to "Full membership—any person interested in black & coloured sheep shall be entitled to receive all notices and attend and vote at all A.G.M.s and general meetings of the Association and all meetings of the Regional Group as nominated on application form.

It was moved J. Farkas, seconded Mac McDonald, that Clause 3.1 (b) be changed from "Family Membership to "Group Membership. Carried.

It was moved by J. Farkas, seconded T. Watson, that an additional **clause 3.1(f)** be added to the constitution as follows: 3.1(f) "Double membership. This to be the equivalent of 2 full memberships with voting rights but will only receive one copy of B.S.R. and any notices to one nominated address." Carried.

It was moved P. Dunn, seconded A. Hazell, that Clause 20 (a) have the following added "or by electronic means with read receipt" Carried.

It was moved P. Dunn, seconded A. Hazell, that a quorum for Regions' meetings be a decision for individual Regions. Following discussion, Mr. Dunn moved a rescission motion.

It was moved Mac McDonald, seconded M. Farkas, that these suggested amendments be published in "Black Sheep Rising" and a Special Meeting to approve the amendments be held in conjunction with the next State meeting. Carried.

Next State Meeting to be held Sunday 28th November 2004 in Hawkesbury Region at Windsor R.S.L. Club, Cnr Argyle and Mileham Streets, South Windsor. There being no further business the meeting closed at 3:45 p.m.



NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GENERAL MEETING OF 28TH NOVEMBER 2004.

At the last state meeting of the Association held at Young on Sunday 27th June 2004, it was moved by Mac MacDonald, seconded M. Farkas, that a special meeting be convened prior to the General Meeting to approve amendments to the Constitution, as follows:

Clause 3. MEMBERSHIP. Membership will be divided into the following categories:

3.1 (a) **Full Membership**—any person interested in black & coloured sheep shall be entitled to receive all notices and attend and vote at all general meetings, special meetings and annual general meetings of the Association and all meetings of the Regional group as nominated on their application form.

3.1 (b) **Group Membership**—a company, partnership, stud or family which shall elect one person as its representative. This representative shall be deemed to hold the qualification of member for purposes of election of office bearers, and shall be entitled to receive all notices to which such member as an individual would be entitled, and to attend and vote in the name and on behalf of his company, partnership, stud or family.

3.1 © **Youth Membership**—any person aged **25 years** or under.

3.1 (d) **Honorary Life Membership**—**unchanged**.

3.1 (e) **Associate Membership**—**unchanged**

3.1 (f) **new .. Double Membership**—This to be the equivalent of 2 full memberships with voting rights but only to receive one copy of "Black Sheep Rising" and any notices to one nominated address.

Clause 20 NOTICES

(a) A notice may be served by the Association upon any member either personally or by sending it through the post in a pre-paid envelope or wrapper addressed to such member at his address as recorded in the register of members (**new**) or by electronic means with read receipt.



AROUND THE REGIONS

MONARO SW SLOPES REGION REPORT, 27/6/2004.

The Monaro SW Slopes Region has participated in successful shows at Yass & Gunning. At the forthcoming Illabo Show one of our members has obtained \$300 sponsorship for sheep events.

It has also been a busy time for individual members with hand feeding stock, and several moving and/or rebuilding.

One of our members has recently become an accredited stud in the Victorian flock book, the first in some years. Another member is also considering doing so.

Our Region has discussed marketing issues at some length, and we note that there is now more demand for processed wool rather than raw product - our next link in the chain is the processor rather than hand spinners - quality factors are now more about spinability rather than suitability for handicraft.

We also need to consider setting shearing dates for show sheep.

Murrumbateman Field Day is coming up (16th & 17th October) - members of other regions are invited to sell wool and handicraft products - contact Anne Hazell for details.

Mac Macdonald, Secretary.



HAWKESBURY HAPPENINGS—OCTOBER 2004

Most of us have finished the lambing and are now thinking of shearing before the heat of summer hits. The last couple of weeks in September have brought welcome rain and pastures are starting to green up quickly with the Spring sunshine.

Plans were made at our August meeting for a display and information stand at the annual Kurrajong Scarecrow Festival and we will be having sheep there, blade shearing demonstrations and, of course, spinning demonstrations as well as handmade goods for sale. We are also currently investigating the costs of a promotional stand at the Hawkesbury Small Farms Expo in November which is sponsored by the Land Newspaper. Elaine Tracey represented us there last year on a cost free basis and we are now looking to expand our presence in the area.

Our region is currently investigating the purchase of a reliable set of clockface scales to be used for fleece weighing at Shows, and also some good reference books on sheep health and husbandry for the use of members.

We have had a successful “baling” enterprise this year and cleared members stockpiled fleeces which were not sold to spinners, so we plan to look at our fleece situation next year when shearing is completed and probably go through the exercise again. Next year will also bring our local Show circuit which is a busy but enjoyable time.

Jenny Dunn, Secretary.



CENTRAL TABLELANDS REGIONAL REPORT—26/6/2004

After the initial turmoil at the beginning of the year, the Region settled back into steady activity, mainly focused on the commercial aspect of our hobby. In March we had the Mudgee Show where we had some coloured sheep on display in the animal nursery and a few fleeces in the Main Pavilion. Unfortunately none of our members were able to put up a good show but at least we waved the flag and received recognition from the Show Society for our efforts.

On the last Saturday of May we organised the 19th Wool & Natural Fibre Muster in Mudgee with very pleasing results. The feature of the Muster was the “great Western Beanie Challenge”. We received over 70 entries from all over the State and from as far as Western Australia and Tasmania. The majority of the entries were donated to the Oncology Department of the Sydney Adventist Hospital for use by cancer patients. We sold over 40 trading sites and managed to secure a \$1000 grant from Mudgee Council for the promotion of the Muster. We had great newspaper, radio and TV coverage and consider the Muster to have been a resounding success.

Next we prepared for the Mudgee Small Farms Field days where we will again have our marquee erected with a display of coloured sheep, fleeces and natural coloured wool products for sale.

Central Tablelands Regional Report—continued

In August we have been invited again by the Mudgee Wine Grape Growers Association to the Wine & Food Fair at Balmoral Beach in Sydney to sell our woollen products. We are the only non food/wine group who received an invitation thanks to our very prominent promotion of the Association. This is going to be the third year of our participation and it has been a tremendous success on previous occasions, both financially and as promotion. Our membership numbers remain healthy and we look forward to another successful year.

Janos Farkas, President

HANDY CONTACTS

Shearers:

Don Swanston (Penrith) 02 47 36 2952
Terry O'Sheedy (Gosford area) 02 43 88 1586
Caroline Collerson (Wilberforce) 02 45 76 1513 (blades)

Washing & Carding of individual fleeces:
L & L Tompkins (Grafton) 02 66 45 2083

Chemical Safety Course for accreditation under the NSW Pesticides Act to purchase and use agricultural and veterinary chemicals—contact your nearest TAFE college

Portable sheep yards and handling equipment—contact Arrow Farmquip on 1800 814 107

Please forward other contacts to the Editor for inclusion in future issues of B.S.R.

Our member hits the local news!



Miss Hawkesbury Showgirl Quest

Ewe can bet Melissa has a rural edge

RICHMOND'S Melissa Henry is a self-confessed "aggie" and hopes to use her knowledge in her quest to be crowned Miss Hawkesbury Showgirl.

A friend urged Melissa to enter the annual competition, and after some encouragement from her Hawkesbury Show Junior Subcommittee colleagues, she decided to give it a go.

Melissa, 19, is a life-long resident of Richmond, and is currently completing her HSC at Richmond High School.

"My impression of the showgirl quest is that it's for someone agricultural," Melissa says. "That's certainly something I have a great interest in."

For the past four years Melissa has shown cattle, beef and sheep at agricultural shows from Toowoomba to Canberra, and plans to study animal science at university next year. She sees her professional future in livestock production.

Melissa says she's passionate about local issues, such as the plan to mine the Richmond lowlands and the problems facing the Hawkesbury River.

While she has no previous knowledge of the procedures of the showgirl quest,

Melissa says a discussion with show president Garry Hudson has given her an idea of what's required.

"I'm expecting it to be a lot of fun, and a good way to promote the junior subcommittee," Melissa says.

"The more I hear about the showgirl quest, the bigger and better it sounds."

Miss Hawkesbury Showgirl 2005 will be announced at the show ball on Saturday, September 25.

• Melissa Henry and three-year-old pregnant coloured sheep 'Baabra' discuss the Miss Hawkesbury Showgirl quest.

Hawkesbury Region member, Melissa Henry, has been nominated for Miss Hawkesbury Show Girl 2005, we congratulate her and wish her every success.

IS YOUR DRENCH GUN AS GOOD AS THE DRENCH YOU'RE USING?

It is surprising how often drenching failures are due to a faulty drench gun!

A common problem is a blockage in the inlet valve which prevents it from closing properly. Fragments of plastic from the drench container are often the cause. To check the inlet valve, block the nozzle with a finger and squeeze the trigger. The trigger should not move even with a fairly strong force applied. If it does, either the piston seal is faulty, allowing the drench to leak out of the cylinder, or the inlet valve is not closing properly. If blocked, dismantle and clean the gun.

Most drench guns have calibration marks to indicate the dose, but they are not always accurate. Check by squirting a few doses into a measuring cylinder before starting to drench.

Air bubbles can occur due to an imperfect seal at the discharge valve or around the piston, an air leak around the inlet connection, or by inverting the backpack when bending over, so that air on top of the drench gets into the supply line. Any air bubbles in the gun affect the dose given, and must be corrected immediately.

If air is getting into the gun, the tubing should be refitted and tightened, or the discharge valve and piston cleaned and adjusted. Air getting into the supply line through a backpack can be prevented by positioning the drench low on the back or by attaching it to a wire running above the race.

Weaners sheep are the most susceptible to worms as they have yet to develop a strong immunity. All lambs should be drenched at weaning and moved to a paddock with minimal contamination. A paddock should be selected early in the year ready for weaning months later and, while there are probably no "worm free" paddocks, spelling and sunlight will greatly reduce the worm population and give your Spring lambs a good start in life.



REGIONAL SHOW RESULTS

GUNNING SHOW (7/8th Feb)—Fleeces (Results received after last B.S.R.)

Class 1—Ram fleece X-fine:	1st, & 2nd Audrey Bird
Class 2—Ewe/Wether X-fine	1st C. Parkes, 2nd A. Bird,
Class 3— Ram fleece—fine	1st & 2nd A. Bird
Class 4—Ewe/Wether—fine	1st C. Parkes, 2nd A. Bird
Class 5—Ram fleece—Med.	1st & 2nd C. Parkes
Class 6—Ewe/Wether – Med	1st & 2nd Heather Dunn
Class 7—Ram fleece—strong	1st & 2nd C. Parkes
Class 8—Ewe/Wether—strong	1st & 2nd C. Parkes
Class 9—Ram fleece—rug wool	1st & 2nd C. Parkes
Class 10—Ewe/Wether—rug wool	1st & 2nd C. Parkes
Supreme Champion Fleece	Heather Dunn
Reserve Champion Fleece	Audrey Bird
Best Fleece for Handicraft	Anne Hazell

YASS SHOW (20/21st March) - Fleeces (results received after last B.S.R.)

Class 1—Ram fleece X-fine	1st Audrey Bird
Class 2—Ewe/Wether X-fine	1st C. Parkes, 2nd A. Bird
Class 2A—Ewe/Wether Ultra fine	1st A. Bird
Class 3—Ram fleece—fine	1st C. Parkes, 2nd A. Bird
Class 4—Ewe/Wether—fine	1st & 2nd C. Parkes
Class 5 - no entries	
Class 6—Ewe/Wether—med.	1st A. Hazell, 2nd C. Parkes
Class 7 - no entries	
Class 8—Ewe/Wether—strong	1st & 2nd C. Parkes
Class 9—Ram fleece—rug wool	1st C. Parkes
Class 10—Ewe/Wether—rug wool	1st & 2nd C. Parkes
Supreme Champion Fleece	Anne Hazell
Reserve Champion Fleece	Audrey Bird
Best Fleece for Handicraft	Christine Parkes

Editor's note: if your group would like show results published, then please let me have them after the show.

SOME WOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

(SCHOOL HOLIDAY BOREDOM BUSTERS)

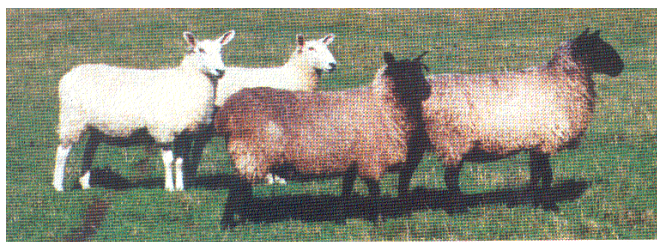
DYEING WITH JELLY CRYSTALS

You need: small skein of white wool (about 50 gms)
 dessertspoon of white vinegar
 teaspoon of salt
 Pkt of jelly in colour of your choice (low calorie jelly avoids dealing with sugar crystals.)

Dissolve jelly in small quantity of boiling water in a saucepan then add cold water to level required to cover the wool. Add salt and stir, then add pre wetted wool. Bring to the boil and simmer 15 minutes. Add vinegar and simmer further 5—10 minutes until all colour has left the water and gone into the wool. Allow to cool and then rinse till water runs clear. Hang in shade to dry. Gives pretty pastel colour which is quite permanent. Use 2 or more jellies for more wool or to get stronger colour.

MAKE A FELT BALL

Take a length of fine wool sliver (Merino works best) about 30 cms long and roll it into a tight ball. Get a bowl of warm soapy water, wet your hands and rub them with soap then put the ball in the palm of your hand and rub steadily, turning it over and over. When it has turned to a small hard lump about golf ball size, wrap it with more dry sliver and repeat, building up layers and felting each one on. When the ball is big enough, decorate the top layer with coloured yarn and either work it to felt in or place in an old stocking foot and put in the washing machine with a load of washing. It will take days to dry thoroughly, then can be used safely for toddlers or in the house. without cracking a window!.



Focus on Border Leicester

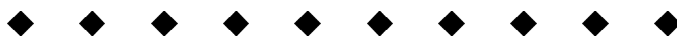
Leicester sheep derive their name from Leicestershire, England, where they have been bred for centuries. Robert Bakewell (18th century) is given credit for the improvement of the breed and today there are 2 types commonly found in Australia—the Border and the English Leicester.

The Border Leicester breed was founded in 1767 but not firmly established until 1850 and today is accepted as a dual-purpose breed and widely used with Merino to produce First Cross lambs.

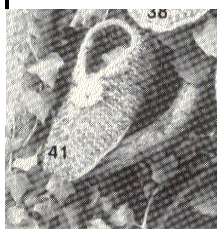
They are an easily recognizable breed with large frame and a distinctive Roman nose. Their ears are long and erect and they have no wool on their face or legs. Neither sex has horns and their wool hangs in long rather shiny locks. The fleece separates easily into individual staples which end in a slight curl. Though traditionally white, Border Leicesters are found in many natural colours ranging from silver grey to rich brown. The fleece is open and has a low grease content usually giving about a 70% yield.

The length and strength of the fibre makes it commercially useful for worsted yarns such as are used in upholstery fabric and heavier clothing. For handspinning the fibre has lustre and is easy to spin because of its length. It drum cards well or wool combs can be used for its preparation. Knitted into an outer garment or work jumper it will wear forever and resist pilling.

The other useful attribute of Border Leicesters is their ability to forage when feed is short and their ease of lambing—often resulting in twins or even triplets. Generally, an aristocratic looking and useful breed!



CRAFTER'S CORNER



Knitted Slippers with sheepskin soles

Size 26 cms (10 inches)
Materials: sheepskin pieces with 7 cm fleece.
4 x 6.00 mm needles
yarn equivalent to 14 ply.

Cast on 13 sts and knit 38 rows
Knit 2 tog. at beginning of next and every 4th row until 5 sts remain. Knit 6 rows.
Now pick up and knit a stitch where you knitted 2 tog. And continue every 4th row until you have 13 sts again Then knit 38 rows. Join at back of heel by grafting or sewing.
Cut a sole from tanned sheepskin and working with slipper inside out, thread a piece of fleece the thickness of spun wool (from the sole) through a wool needle and pass through the knitted upper: take another piece of fleece and tie the 2 very firmly in a reef knot. Continue evenly around the sole, then dab a little latex solution on each knot. Turn slipper to outside and crochet around top and decorate with pom pom. Repeat for the other slipper.

	METRIC	BRITISH	U.S.A.
Comparative Knitting Needle Sizes	2.00 mm	14	00
	2.25	13	0
	2.75	12	1
	3.00	11	2
	3.25	10	3
	3.75	9	4
	4.00	8	5
	4.50	7	6
	5.00	6	7
	5.50	5	8
	6.00	4	9
	6.50	3	10
	7.00	2	10.5
	7.50	1	11
	8.00	0	
	9.00	00	13