



POLWARTH

SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

** Special Centenary Newsletter **

2019 marks the centenary year of the Polwarth Sheep Breeders Association of Australia. Today, a small group of passionate breeders, dispersed around Australia, carry on the tradition of Polwarth sheep.

In July, we were honoured to be 'feature breed' at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show held in Bendigo (Victoria). Exhibitors travelled from Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia to show a quality line up of Polwarth's across all classes. Congratulations to the Walker family from Riverview in Tasmania for taking out this year's Supreme Champion Polwarth.

We were joined by international guests, including judge Martin Paterson from Matakanui Station in New Zealand and Joaquin Martincorena, Fernando Martincorena and Alejandro Clavier from Uruguay, representing the Ideal Association of Uruguay.

An official Centenary Afternoon Tea was held on Saturday 20th July where some 90 past and current members and friends celebrated the longevity of the association.

Highlights from the afternoon tea included presentations from:

- Joaquin, Fernando and Alexander about Polwarth sheep in Uruguay known as 'Ideals'.
- Martin Paterson about Matakanui Polwarths and his involvement in the New Zealand wool industry.
- Sixth generation Dennis family brothers, Tom and Alastair Dennis from Tarndwarncoort, the association's number one flock.
- Life-membership presentations to Douglas Hopkins (Challicum) and Don Smith (Kingswood Park)

Special Thanks

We wish to acknowledge and thank Kathy Maher (friend of Peter and Hilda English) for being our photographer for this year's judging and Centenary Afternoon Tea.



Above: The centenary mug moment



Above: The silver tray from the Uruguay Ideal Association congratulating the Australian Polwarth Association on its first one hundred years.

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Centenary Afternoon Tea

The centenary afternoon tea was held in the Women of Wool reception centre at the Australia Sheep and Wool Show. The afternoon began with guests looking at a range of memorabilia including the full set of original minute books, old flock books, brochures and scrap books. At the same time, guests helped themselves to a delicious afternoon before the official presentations started.



Above: President, Greg Potter welcomed guests and introduced presenters.

Below: Joaquin Martinicorena presented a silver tray on behalf of the Uruguay Ideal Association to President, Greg Potter congratulating the association on its first 100 years.

Above: Brothers, Joaquin and Fernando Martinicorena gave the audience an insight into 'Ideals' in Uruguay, as well as, their own large scale operation which runs 20,000 Polwarths. Their property located in northern Uruguay was established by their father in 1959. To add to the scale of farming, Joaquin and Fernando also run 5800 Hereford cows and 300 horses.



Approximately 90 past and present members and friends of the Polwarth Association attended the afternoon tea.



Left and below: International judge, Martin Paterson from Matakani Station in New Zealand. Matakani was purchased in 1958 by Martin's father James Scott Paterson. Martin and wife Hilary took over in 1968. Matakani Station runs 19,200 Polwarths consisting of stud and commercial ewes plus 1000 wethers. The future vision for Matakani revolves around long term contracts; a 10 year contract has just been signed with Icebreaker through Merino New Zealand. The plan is to increase stock numbers to fill Icebreaker, Smartwool and Silere contracts. Martin and Hilary's son Andrew and wife Tracy took over in 2014 and now manage the 23,000 acre property with four full time staff plus casual teams during peak periods.



Left and below: Sixth generation Dennis brothers from the association's number one flock, Tarndwarncoort, spoke to the gathering about continuing their family's 140 year involvement with Polwarth sheep. Having taken over day to day operations from parents, David and Wendy Dennis, Alastair (left) is responsible for managing the flock of 700 ewes, including 100 naturally coloured black and brown Polwarths.



Tom (right) looks after the wool processing and yarn sales marketed as Tarndie wool. Tarndie wool is sold through their farm shop, online and at several key markets including the Australian Sheep and Wool Show. Alastair's future vision for the farm includes regenerative farming practices in terms of soil health and pasture diversity. On the other side of the enterprise Tom's vision includes catering for a growing tourism market.

Doug Hopkins Life Membership Presentation

In August 2018 following nearly 60 years of registration (1959-2018) with the Polwarth Association, flock number 125 Challicum Polwarths ended an era. Doug Hopkins hung up his day to day farming boots and leased the farm out.

The Hopkins family has been involved with wool since Doug's Great Great Grandfather (Henry Hopkins) who was the first person to export wool from Australia in the early 1800's. Doug and his father started showing sheep and fleece in the 1950's from "Wormbete" at Winchelsea. In 1960, Doug moved to "Challicum" at Buangor and has pretty much shown every year since that time. Over the decades, Doug helped out at many country shows including Stawell, Clunes, Beaufort and of course Bendigo, judging, serving on fleece committees and being an exhibitor.

In the early years the Challicum stud was built on genetics from Lariggan, Kooraweera, Turkeith and Eeyuek. In later years, there was a variety of influence from Brolga, Formosa, Mt Alma, Englewood, Wolbunya, Cairn Curran and Homeleigh.

In 2018, Doug was awarded a Life Membership and Presidents Medal from the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria (RASV). He also received a meritorious award from Ballarat Sheep Show.

Well Doug, the Polwarth Sheep Breeder's Association of Australia would also like to honour your contribution, dedication and commitment to the breed by presenting you with a Life Membership. Congratulations!



Don Smith Life Membership Presentation

Don and Sandra live near Winchelsea in Victoria (or for those not familiar, about 30 minutes from Geelong). Don established Kingswood Park Polwarths in February 1996 with the purchase of ewes from Lariggan and rams from Radstock, Lariggan and Homeleigh.

The flock hovered around 350 and a bit later there was influence from Munmunde and Mt Alma.

Don was quite active on the show circuit attending shows such as Hamilton, Ballarat, Albury, Stawell and Bendigo.

His knowledge and expertise was also well respected as he was called on to judge at Tasmania and Adelaide.

In 2007/8, Kingswood Park was dispersed, however Don has maintained a connection to the Polwarth's by being our Chief Steward at Bendigo for a number of years.

We have loved Don's friendly persona, his sense of humour, his eloquent tones on the microphone and his ability to keep the judging ticking along when everyone is trying to take photos and look at the winning sheep.

Today, Don gave back his white steward's coat for a second time. However, it can easily be washed in Napisan again Don!

It gives us great pleasure to present this Life Membership Award to Don.

Following the official presentations, it was time to catch up and have a decent natter. What a privilege it was to bring past and current members and friends together to celebrate this special occasion for the Polwarth breed.



Australian Sheep and Wool Show - 19th to 21st July 2019

Proudly representing the breed at this year's Australian Sheep and Wool Show were Kangaroo Island studs Taljade and Taljar, Tasmanian stud Riverview and Victorian studs Catherine McAuley College, Fairview, Homeleigh, Moorabbee and Rendlesham at Fairview. The Supreme Champion Polwarth was awarded to a ram owned by the Riverview stud and Walker family. The Champion Ewe was won by Taljar and the McArdle family. Special thanks to senior judge Martin Paterson for comments and feedback on this year's line up of sheep. Well done to Associate Judge, Charlotte Walker for extending your knowledge and experience in the judging ring.

Rams

Class	Description	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
PW01	Ram, over 2½ years	Riverview	Rendlesham at Fairview	Fairview
PW02	Ram, over 1½ & under 2½ years Performance class	Taljar	Moorabbee and Riverview	Riverview
PW03	Ram, over 1½ & under 2½ years March shorn	Fairview	Moorabbee	-
PW04	Ram, under 1½ years showing full mouth of milk teeth	Fairview	Taljar	Fairview
PW05	Ram, under 1½ years	Taljar	Taljar	Taljar
PW06	Ram with best head	Fairview		

Ewes

Class	Description	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
PW07	Ewe, over 2½ years	Riverview	CMC	Taljar
PW08	Ewe, over 1½ and under 2½ years	Taljar	Taljar	Riverview
PW09	Ewe, over 1½ and under 2½ years March shorn	-	-	-
PW10	Ewe, under 1½ years showing full mouth of milk teeth	Fairview	Fairview	Taljar
PW11	Ewe, under 1½ years	Taljar	Taljar	-

Groups

Class	Description	Winner
PW12	Group of 1 ram and 2 ewes over 1½ years (bred by exhibitor)	Riverview
PW13	Progeny group of 3 sheep (bred by exhibitor)	Taljar
PW14	National Polwarth pair (Ram and ewe of any age bred by exhibitor)	Riverview

Champions

Class	Description	Recipient
PW15S	Junior Champion Ram	Taljar
PW16S	Reserve Junior Champion Ram	Fairview
PW17S	Senior Champion Ram	Riverview
PW18S	Reserve Senior Champion Ram	Fairview
PW19S	Victorian Champion Ram	Fairview
PW20S	Grand Champion Ram	Riverview
PW21S	Junior Champion Ewe	Taljar
PW22S	Reserve Junior Champion Ewe	Fairview
PW23S	Senior Champion Ewe	Taljar
PW24S	Reserve Senior Champion Ewe	Riverview
PW25S	Victorian Champion Ewe	Catherine McAuley College
PW26S	Grand Champion Ewe	Taljar
PW27S	Supreme Champion Polwarth (Ewe or Ram)	Riverview (Ram)
PW28S	Most Successful Exhibitor	Taljar

Junior Section		
Class	Description	Winner
PW40	Beginner Handler	Todd White
PW43	Junior Fleece Judging	Tom Hernon
	Overall winner of Geoffrey A. Kemp Memorial Trophy	Indiana Crone

Fleece Competition	
Champion Polwarth Exhibit	Riverview
Highly Commended	Challicum
Ram fleece 1 st prize	Roxford



This year's sashes featured the Polwarth centenary logo



Wayne Walker with his Supreme Champion Polwarth ram



Perpetual trophies up for grabs



David and Jared McArdle with their Champion Ewe and sash presented by Uruguay visitors from left Alejandro Clavier, Joaquin Martinicorena and Fernando Martinicorena



Catching up: Alec Todd and Talisa McArdle and David McArdle and Kate Thornsteinsen



Looking to escape



Now that's a nice rounded back end



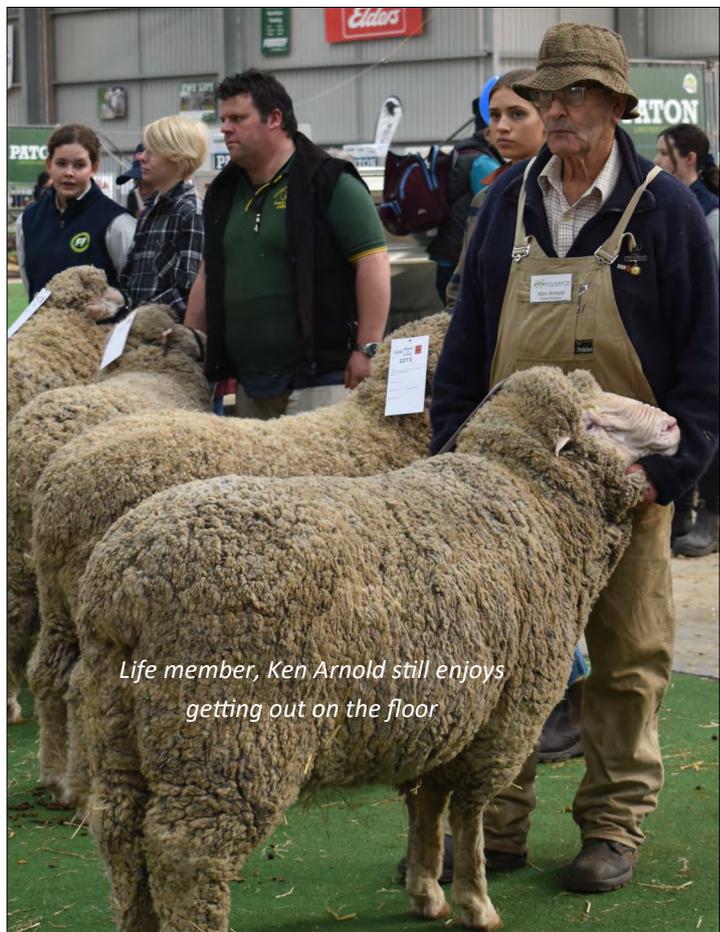
The Walker family chatting to judge Martin Paterson



Ok, let's have a look at these boys



The March Shorn class was introduced for the first time with entries from Fairview and Moorabbee



Life member, Ken Arnold still enjoys getting out on the floor



Associate judge, Charlotte Walker begins a long line of inspection



Catherine McAuley College students with their ewes and lambs



Something's funny.....from left Ross Kemp, Noel Littlejohn, Ken Arnold and Greg Potter share a light moment



Life member, Alec Todd checks out the wool on this Taljar ewe held by Jared McArdle while steward Don Smith and judge Martin Paterson catch up in between classes

Campbelltown Show - Tasmania

By Ken Arnold

The 181st Campbell Town Show was held on the 31st May and 1st June in fine, mild weather that brought record crowds. A very pleasing outcome when many country shows are battling to survive.

Unfortunately there was only one Polwarth breeder exhibiting. Wayne Walker and family from 'Riverview', Gretna had a well presented team that would stand up against competition in any line up on the show circuit. Judge was Lyall Starkey from 'Bel-Antha', South Australia. His wife, Mary accompanied him on the trip, staying over to catch up with a few people and have a look around our state before heading home.

Although there was only one exhibitor, Lyall's job was not easy as the sheep were very even, both in type and wool. A two year old ram won the Supreme Sheep. He was very well grown with white wool and beautifully crimped with just the right amount of nourishment. (A sire for the future). A small, but enthusiastic gallery were waiting to hear the end result.

Championship Polwarth fleece also went to the Walker's who were worthy winners despite a lack of competition. Congratulations, all in all, a very successful outing for them. This then was followed by outstanding success with their team at Bendigo.

A young lady from "Rokeby" house at Campbell Town, Ingrid Macaulay, purchased a small flock of wethers from 'Rendelsham'. I was present at their shearing and selected an exceptional fleece (the last one off shears) for her to enter at Campbell Town. As there was not a class for Polwarth wethers it had to be entered in the large commercial Merino section (19.8 and stronger). It scored well and was placed fifth. Some of the wool rep's suggested she then enter at Bendigo where it would be in it's own class. It won Reserve Champion Polwarth Fleece. Ingrid was delighted with her inaugural venture into exhibiting. She is a very proud Polwarth owner.



Supreme Champion went to a ram held by Wayne Walker pictured here with judge Lyall Starkey from South Australia



Reserve Champion was awarded to the ewe held by Maxine Walker

Riverview's year of sheep and fleece

Not only did the Walker family from Riverview in Tasmania win the Supreme Champion Polwarth at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show, they also won Champion Polwarth Fleece and Most Valuable Group of 5 class. They recently added to their success winning Champion Polwarth Fleece at the Royal Hobart Show. Congratulations Wayne & Maxine!



Royal Adelaide Show - 30th August 2019

It was great to have three studs represented at this year's Royal Adelaide Show. While Taljar from Kangaroo Island reigned supreme, Taljade and Narang Polwarths provided some healthy competition. In the Interbreed competition, Taljar went on to take out Reserve Champion Longwool Ram and Ewe. This caps off a most successful show season for the McArdle family where they were also Most Successful Exhibitor at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo. Congratulations David, Lynne, Jared and Talisa, Joel and Cherrie.

Sheep Classes	1st	2nd	3rd
Ram over 1.5 years and under 2.5 years	Taljar	Taljar	Narang
Ram under 1.5 years	Taljar	Taljade	Taljar
Ram shorn, any age	Taljar	Taljar	
Pair of rams under 1.5 years To be machine shorn between 15th March and 15th April	Taljar		
Champion Polwarth Ram	Taljar		
Reserve Champion Polwarth Ram	Taljar		
Pen of 3 rams under 1.5 years	Taljar		
Ewe over 2.5 years	Narang	Taljar	
Ewe under 2.5 years and over 1.5 years	Taljar	Taljade	Taljar
Ewe under 1.5 years	Narang	Taljar	Taljar
Champion Polwarth Ewe	Taljar		
Reserve Champion Polwarth Ewe	Narang		
Breeders Group	Taljar	Narang	Taljade
Most Successful Exhibitor	Taljar		



The McArdle family celebrating well deserved success at the Royal Adelaide Show

Royal Adelaide Show acknowledges Polwarth centenary

This year the Royal Adelaide Show acknowledged the centenary of the Polwarth Sheep Breeders Association by having the sheep and wool on display in prime positions. Three studs, Taljar, Taljade and Woolyana Birdwood entered a total of 15 fleeces to make up a special display of Polwarth wool. Taljade won the Champion Polwarth Ram fleece and Taljar, the Champion Polwarth Ewe fleece. Congratulations again to our Kangaroo Island studs.

Interbreed Success for Narang Polwarths

Great results for Narang Polwarths at the Murray Bridge Show in September. Five firsts, two seconds, Champion Ram, Champion Ewe, Champion Maternal Ewe, Supreme Champion Interbreed Ewe (right), Supreme Interbreed Group. Interbreed classes were against Romney, Border Leicester and Prime Samms.



Also, back in February, Caroline and Peter outshone the meat breeds at the Angaston show in South Australia where their ewe (left) won Supreme Exhibit.

Welcome to new Associate members

- Bernard, Helen, Jonathon and Andrew Hore, Holdbrook NSW
- Warwick Fisher, Carlsruhe VIC

Upcoming ewes for Sale

Due to a re-structuring of property, Bel-Antha will have ewes for sale. Please contact Lyall Starkey on 0427 682 052 for more information.

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Final frames.....
It's all about man and his sheep

