



POLWARTH

SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Newsletter

March 2018

President's Piece

2018 is off to a flying start and I hope you and your sheep have come through the summer conditions and are looking forward to the change of season. At Fairview, we hope the autumn break comes early as it's been many weeks since we've had decent rain.

New Polwarth website launched

During January and February, Kaye put in many hours with our webhost Biz Boost, to upgrade the Polwarth website.

Go to www.polwarth.com.au to check out the new site and features which have been included.

You will notice one of the new features is a Members Portal. Attached to the newsletter is your own log-in for the portal. The members portal will contain files such as Minutes, logo files and other documentation.

Moving forward Kaye will be responsible for updating the website with Biz Boost providing technical support.

Optimising website performance—to optimise the website's performance we will list the site on a number of internet directories. We also need to encourage other sites which are relevant to us to link to our site.

Please forward suggestions for links to Kaye.

Regular updating important—updating the site regularly helps it to perform well in search engines. I therefore need members to send in Show Results and pictures.

Sponsorship of SA Sheep Expo

The complimentary pen enclosed with the flock book is part of our sponsorship for the South Australian Sheep Expo (18-20 April). The pens will go into the promotional bags to be distributed to the 12-23 year old expo participants.

New display cabinet for Polwarth trophies and memorabilia

In late January, Dani Hogan organised the purchase of a new glass display cabinet to hold the Polwarth trophies and memorabilia. The cabinet will be housed at Catherine McAuley College and members will be able to see it at this year's AGM in July. Special thanks to Dani and Gaye Whitehead for researching and organising the purchase of the cabinet.

Condolences to the English family

On behalf of the association, I wish to pass on condolences to Peter and Hilda and family on the recent passing of Peter's mother.

Get well Geoff

A big shout out to Geoff Kemp who has been unwell recently. We are thinking of you and hope you are feeling better soon.

Polwarth Get-Together

Arrangements for the Polwarth Get-Together to be held in South Australia on the weekend of 20-22 April 2018 are detailed on the next page. Please let Kaye know if you are coming so that numbers can be confirmed for the Saturday evening dinner. secretary@polwarth.com.au 0429 002 442.

Office Bearers

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Polwarth Get-Together (20th to 22nd April 2018)

Day 1: Friday 20th April - Arrive

(Optional) Attend final day of South Australian Sheep Expo where Bel-Antha sheep will be representing the Polwarth breed. The venue is Adelaide Showgrounds, Wayville, South Australia. Parking—it is anticipated there will be free parking available on-site in Leader Street Car Park 1 (closest to the railway line).

Day 2: Saturday 21st April—Stud visits

10.00am Mount Crawford (Kate Thorsteinsen and Sheila Gordon)

'Wirreanda', 80 Gordon Road, Mt Crawford, SA 5251

Kate—0402 046 370

Late morning Bel-Antha (Lyll, Mary and Kayla Starkey)

'Braemore', 893 Cromer Road, Mt Pleasant, SA 5235

Lyll—0427 682 052; Kayla—0421 328 590

Lunch Starkeys will supply BBQ meat
Visitors to bring a salad to share

After lunch Narang (Peter Williams and Caroline Sanders)

Lucas Road, Mt Torrens, SA 5244

Peter—0423 171 950

Afternoon tea Woolyana Birdwood (Birdwood High School—Lauren Smith)

Shannon Street, Birdwood, SA 5234

Lauren—0413 728 334

Dinner Mt Pleasant Hotel Motel (for the locals, was the Talunga Pub)

43 Melrose Street, Mt Pleasant, SA 5235

6.30—7.00pm

Day 3: Sunday 22nd April - Association General Meeting

10.00am General Meeting - to be held at Bel-Antha or Mt Crawford

Departure

Accommodation options

Mt Pleasant Hotel Motel

43 Melrose Street, Mt Pleasant, SA 5235 Ph: 08 8568 2015

6 rooms some of which have a double bed at \$108/night or a double and single bed for \$118/night.

Birdwood Motel (only 5km from Mt Pleasant)

17 Shannon Street, Birdwood, SA 5234 Ph: 08 8568 5608

bookings@birdwoodmotel.com.au

www.birdwoodmotel.com.au

5 couple rooms available; 3 trundle beds available; Sun-Thu \$140/night; Fri-Sat \$155/night. Rooms with large balcony \$155 Sun-Thu and \$175 Fri-Sat. Birdwood Cottage, sleeps 6 available.

The Riverview Polwarths story.....

My dream was to own a Polwarth sheep stud by the age of thirty. This dream came true in January 1998 when I purchased 1x ram and 30x ewes from Pleasant Place with advice from Dean Zantuck. As we grew in size we purchased rams from Andrew Nicolson—Streanshalh, Tasmania and also Geoff Kemp—Homeleigh, Victoria and still do every second year.

I have two blocks of land where I run sheep. One block is 8 acres and I can run 100 stud sheep all year round and cut lucerne and hay. This block is irrigated all summer because we are situated just above the Derwent River in the Central Highlands. The other block of land we have just purchased is 50 acres and also in the Central Highlands. With this block we rely on underground springs and a creek. Each year we try and increase our flock numbers.

Where our stud is situated in the Central Highlands we find that the Polwarth is the best breed to have. They don't suffer any foot problems in winter especially when it's wet. They don't suffer from wool rot due to wet conditions and hardly ever get fly strike. We find that they are good foragers in bush blocks, make good mothers and are quite self sufficient.

It has been a long run to get the type and style of wool I've wanted. I now have good length and staple, the strength of the wool is 10/10 and it is also a bright white with good crimp. At this year's shearing our averages were up; the ewes averaged 6.8kg in wool and the rams averaged 8.5kg. The micron was 20-21. Not bad for a drought season. We had a good lambing season this year. Even though we were in a drought area, our lambing percentage was 124%.

For the first time this year we entered two fleeces in the Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo and won Champion Polwarth fleece. We also entered in the Royal Hobart Show and also won Champion Polwarth fleece. The biggest thing we are now working on is getting size into our ram. This has been a very slow process; however we are starting to see signs of taller, longer and deep structure rams.

I would like to thank all breeders for their help over the years with advice and sharing their knowledge with us.

Wayne and Maxine Walker
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(Editor's note: Thank you to Wayne who wrote this piece some time ago. Your desire to improve your Polwarth flock is evident and I think all of us can identify with the ongoing journey of improving our own flocks. There is no easy quick fix in this game).



Polwarth Sheep Breeders Association of Australia Inc.

Notice of General Meeting

Sunday 22nd April 2018

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Present and Apologies
3. Minutes of previous meeting—to be confirmed at July meeting in Bendigo
4. General Business
 - Debrief on South Australian Sheep Expo
 - 100 year anniversary of Polwarth Association in 2019
 - Recording of stud sires
 - Increasing association membership via commercial flocks
 - Show results for website
 - Certificate of Recognition/Life Membership for members
 - Other business—please email secretary prior to meeting

Polwarths on Show

The 2018 show season has kicked off with Narang and Bel-Antha attending the Angaston Show in South Australia. Thanks to Peter Williams for sending through a pic of his champion ewe who also won the Champion Longwool Ewe at the Strathalbyn Show in 2017.



Don't forget to like us on Facebook

