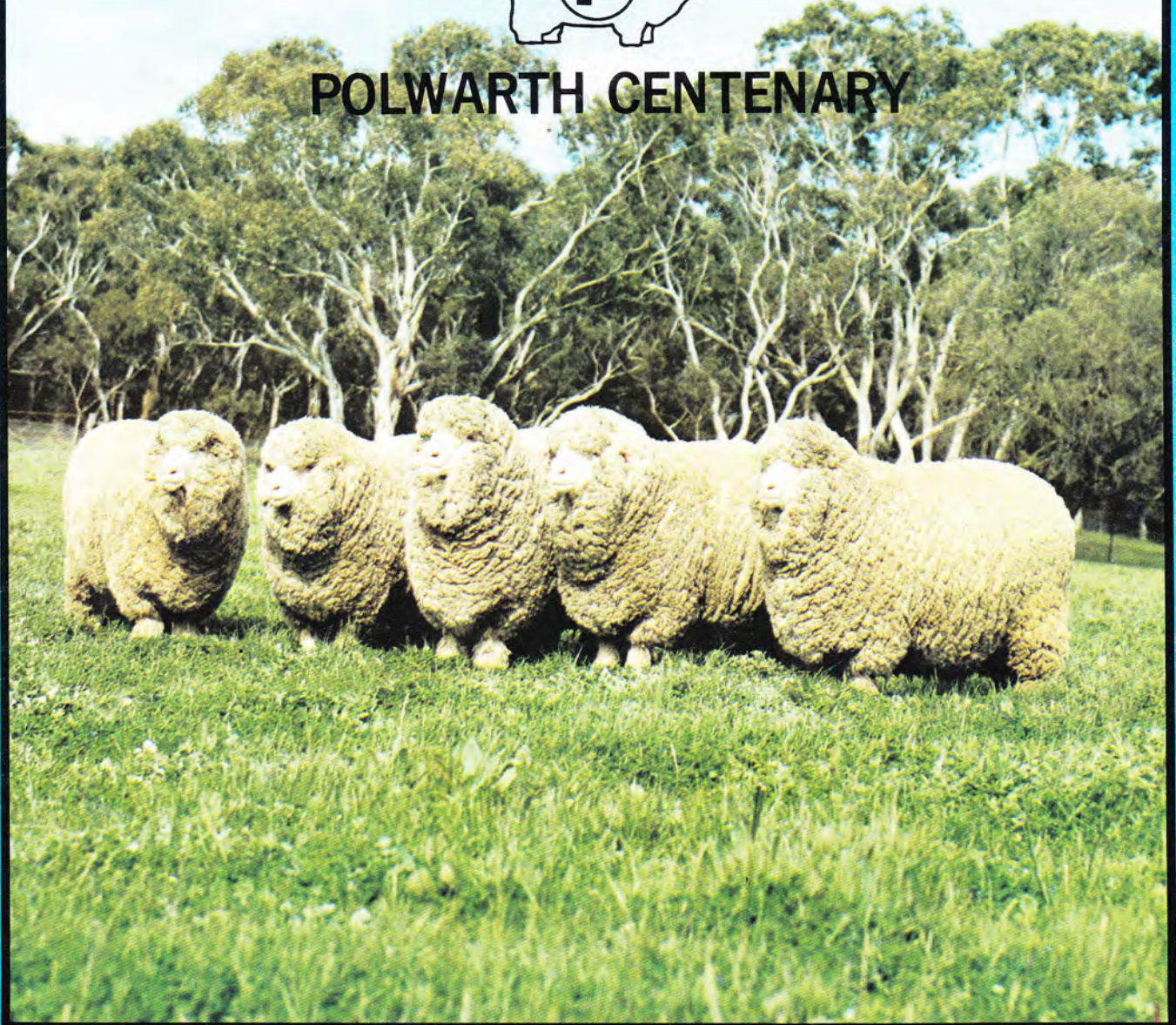


1880



1980

## POLWARTH CENTENARY



1½ year old stud Polwarth rams

## POLWARTH CENTENARY SOUVENIR PUBLICATION

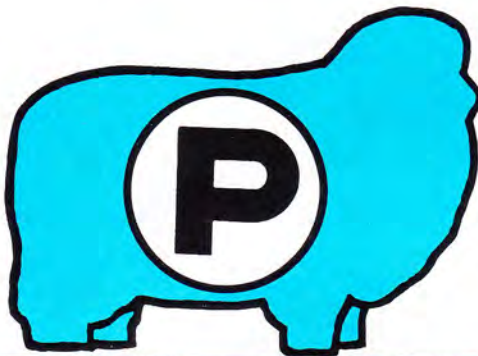
*This cover is sponsored by*



Insert to Stock and Land, July 3, 1980.



1880



1980

# POLWARTH CENTENARY

## THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN DUAL PURPOSE BREED

• WOOL

• MUTTON

• PRIME LAMBS



The Polwarth is a versatile, dual purpose sheep which produces a heavy cutting, high yielding, soft handling fleece on a good trade carcass. It has developed into one of Australia's most important breeds and is also making its mark overseas. The breed's development has gone hand in hand with present day trends in sheep breeding where more and more emphasis is placed on returns per acre.

**Inquiries to The Polwarth Sheepbreeders' Association of Australia**  
**Federal Secretary, P.O. Box 158, Eltham, Vic. 3095. (03) 439 7212**

\* VICTORIA  
 P.O. Box 350,  
 Ballarat, 3350.  
 (053) 31 4244

\* SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
 C/- Showgrounds,  
 Wayville, 5034  
 (08) 51 4951

\* NEW SOUTH WALES  
 P.O. Box 171,  
 Wagga Wagga, 2650  
 (069) 21 1253

\* TASMANIA  
 P.O. Box 405,  
 Launceston, 7250.  
 (003) 31 2411

\* WESTERN  
 AUSTRALIA  
 P.O. Box 135  
 Claremont, 6010  
 (09) 384 1933





# POLWARTHS 100 years on

This feature marks the centenary of the foundation of the Polwarth breed of sheep in 1880.

Included are various articles on the breed, the breeders, the uses of the wool, and value of Polwarths to Australia.

Most of the three million Polwarths in Australia today have some connection to at least one of the first three flocks established — Tarndwarncourt, Eeyeuk and Carr's Plains.

While it was originally bred as a wool-growing breed suited to the Western District environment, the Polwarth has become increasingly popular as a dual purpose sheep, producing a heavy-cutting, high-yielding, stylish wool on a good trade carcase.

In the last 20 years, Polwarths have made enormous strides in size and wool cuts per head, without losing wool quality.

They have proved to be admirable fat lamb mothers when crossed with the British Breeds or Poll Dorsets, and in recent times have been found to be ideal for the wether export trade.

Their value to other countries, however, was recognised well before the days of live sheep carriers. South American breeders, in particular, have been steadily importing stud Polwarth rams since early this century, while in New Zealand and many countries throughout Africa, Europe and Asia, thousands of flocks have been established on this Australian sheep.

Although the Polwarths were developed

in Victoria, Tasmania has by far the greatest percentage of their numbers. The breed was introduced on agistment to that State during the great drought of 1902, and the Tasmanian woolgrowers were so impressed with them that many were sold there.

Today, about 50 per cent of the Tasmanian sheep flock comprises Polwarths.

To celebrate the centenary of the breed, the Polwarth Sheepbreeders' Association of Australia is sponsoring a feature show at the 102nd Melbourne Sheep Show, with judging on July 21 and sales on July 23.

Over \$5000 in trophies and prizemoney will be distributed to successful Polwarth exhibitors.

Three major social functions are being arranged by the association. On the evening of July 21, members will be guests of the AWC; on the evening of July 22, the Polwarth centenary dinner will be held at the Hilton Hotel; and on Wednesday, July 23, members and visitors will be entertained by State Government officials at Parliament House.

A 22-day tour of Polwarth studs starts on July 4 at Sydney and covers NSW, Tasmania, SA and Victoria, culminating with the Melbourne Sheep Show.

Special features at sheep shows and functions of various types are being conducted in all states by the association's various branches.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Feature stories inside this special Polwarth centenary feature include:

- History; Message from the president — page 5.
- Uses of Polwarth wool — page 7.
- Polwarth wool Ideal at Mohair Farm — page 9.
- Polwarths on the Falkland Islands — page 11.
- Romania an important market — page 13.
- Sheep meat trends favor the Polwarths — page 15.
- Shipping problems led to poll Polwarths — page 17.
- Around the studs — page 19.
- Wolbunya Polwarths eye South America — page 21.
- Around the studs — page 23.
- Polwarths suit commercial breeders — page 25.



Four fine examples of Polwarth rams, showing well the dual purpose qualities of the breed.



# BROLGA

## • BREEDER OF STUD SHEEP:-



Brolga's eight class winners at 1977 ASBA show, Melbourne.

- 1977 ASBA SHOW: Supreme, Senior, Junior, Reserve Senior and Junior Champion Rams, Junior Champion and Reserve Senior Champion Ewes.
  - 1978 ASBA SHOW: Junior Champion Ram.
  - 1979 ASBA SHOW: Junior Champion Ram and Senior Champion Ewe, Supreme and Senior Champion Ram sired by Brolga ram.
- Montevideo International show, Uruguay: Senior Champion Ram and Ewe sired by Brolga ram.

### LEFT: BROLGA YURI 5 (ORBIT)

- Grand Champion Fleece of Victoria 1976 98/100 points with maximum points for weight and yield.
- Sire of 1977 Senior and Junior Champion Rams and Junior Champion Ewe at Melbourne 1977 Junior Champion Ram 1978 and 1979 and Senior Champion Ewe 1979.
- Cut 25½ lb as 3-year-old and 26¼ lb as 4-year-old.

### RIGHT: BROLGA ROCKET

- Supreme Champion and Senior Champion Ram, Melbourne 1977.
- Reserve Champion (to Brolga Lad 7th) Ram, National Polwarth Fair 1977.
- Champion Polwarth Ram, Hamilton 1977.
- Victorian Champion Polwarth Ram's Fleece 1977. 96½/100 points with maximum points for weight and yield.
- Grand Champion Fleece of Show, Ballarat Show Fleece Competition 1977.



### SON and GRANDSON OF BROLGA YURI 3rd

- Senior Champion Ram, Melbourne Sheep Show 1967.
- Grand Champion Fleece of Victoria 1967, 98 points.
- Grand Champion Fleece of Commonwealth 1968, 98 points.

## • BREEDER OF COMMERCIAL SHEEP:-

- 1978 and 1979 topped its section for the series at Geelong wool sales.

- 1979 State finalist in Elders Flock competition. State champions, Fernleigh, used Brolga rams in its comeback breeding program.
- 1979 In 1st year of Lismore wether trial comprising 35 entries from leading Merino, Polwarth, Corriedale and comeback strains.

Brolga wethers were:

7th in fleece value — averaging \$19  
3rd in cut per head — averaging 6.2 kg

2nd in yield — averaging 79.3%  
averaging 25.9 microns.

## • FOR TOP BREEDING STOCK:-

*Inquiries to:*

**NOEL DENNIS PAST. CO.**

BROLGA, WARNCOORT, Victoria, 3242. Phone: (052) 33 6242





# Birth at Colac a century ago

The Polwarth breed, now 100 years old, takes its name from that area of the Western District of Victoria stretching from Warrnambool to Geelong, and having Colac — where it was founded — as its approximate centre.

This is appropriate, as it is the very nature of that country around Colac — climatically extreme and wet underfoot for much of the year — which prompted Richard V. Dennis to cross a Lincoln ram with his Merino ewes in the first place.

This was in the late 1870s. By that time, the Dennis family was well-established on its property Tarndwarncourt, Richard V. Dennis' father, Alexander Dennis, having taken up the run soon after his emmigration from England in 1840.

Richard Dennis wanted a large-framed sheep that could cope with the cold, wet climate where he was farming.

He decided to put a Lincoln ram with his Merino ewes, then cross the progeny back to the Merino, thus increasing the size and hardening the constitution of his flock without any dramatic loss in wool fineness.

Encouraged by the results of the breeding program, and by the appreciative comments from buyers and brokers at a Geelong wool sale on the length and quality of the staple of his wool, Mr Dennis determined to establish the comeback at Tarndwarncourt as a fixed breed.

He inbred the comeback progeny of his

making in 1880, and for many years the flock was developed within itself by selection.

The only infusion was in 1895, when a Eeyeuk Polwarth ram was bought from Richard Dennis' brother, Alexander, for the then good price of 100 guineas.

Alexander Dennis had been a breeder of Lincolns, but almost simultaneously with his brother had proceeded to transform his sheep into a comeback flock.

Farming at Terang, about 70 km west of Tarndwarncourt, his decision was based on the same climatic factors as his brother's.

Mr Richard Dennis had used Carr's Plains Merino rams to mate with his first cross Merino-Lincoln ewes, and Alexander Dennis ran rams from the same property with his Lincoln ewes.

At the same time, an equal number of Langerenong Merino ewes were mated with Eeyeuk Lincoln rams, and after the second cross of the Merino on the progeny, this flock was bred entirely within itself until 1916, when some of the old comebacks bred at Tarndwarncourt were added.

Carr's Plains was the third original flock

which completes the foundation of the Polwarth sheep today.

It was founded in 1887 by Holford H. Wettenhall, who bred his fixed comeback type from pure Lincoln rams mated to Carr's Plains Merino ewes, the progeny being mated back to the same line of Merino rams. (Carr's Plains Merinos were founded on the famous Ercildoune blood, which at that time cut the finest wool in Australia).

Ideals was the name Mr Wettenhall gave to his sheep when he had established their type firmly. Prior to the 1914-18 war, he was exporting them to Argentina and Uruguay, where today Polwarths are extremely popular, and are known and registered as Ideals.

Other Polwarth flocks were soon registered in Australia, and all, with one exception, were assisted in their establishment by infusion of blood from one of the three foundation flocks.

The only flock of entirely independent origin is Mooleric, which was founded by the late Major R.A. Ramsey in 1912, by crossing Baker's Lincoln rams on Carngham Merino ewes.

## POLWARTH'S BIG DEVELOPMENT

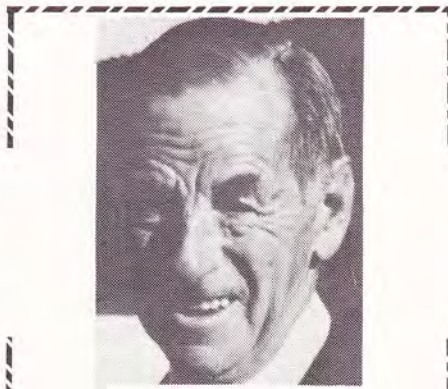
There is an old but very true saying that a lifetime is too short for a stud sheep breeder to accomplish what he has set out to do.

If one compares the old photographs of the best Polwarth sheep of the latter part of the last century with a visual appraisal of the top sheep of today, one will notice that all component parts are still there just the same.

But from the tip of his nose to his modern "mulesed" rear end, he has developed tremendously in size and conformation, and has probably increased his annual wool production three-fold, with a much lighter quality fleece.

This progress to the present high standard has taken years, but thanks to the skill, diligence and dedication of our studmasters in the Polwarth — our own Australian breed — this improvement is continuing, and will continue in the future. And it is the future, not the past, that should occupy our thoughts.

We, the Polwarth breeders of Australia, firmly believe we have bred and are breeding a type of dual purpose sheep that is capable of increasing the income of many



By KEN BRYANT, Federal President, Polwarth Sheep-breeders' Association of Australia.

farmers and graziers in this country, and that is what good management is all about.

Some of the advantages are that a Polwarth flock produces a high yielding soft wool of 58's-60's quality, now accepted by the industry as a speciality type

for spinning into the finished article, as distinct from other comeback types.

Polwarths will thrive and produce well in a large variety of rainfall areas, partly because in the wetter areas it is fleece-rot resistant.

It also in-crosses well with the other wool-producing breeds, because of its original infusion of Merino and Lincoln. The in-cross is not causing a violent change.

Polwarths also in-cross satisfactorily with the various prime lamb breeds for a quick cash return.

There are virtually two ways to manage and run a flock. One is to buy and sell continually, and the other is to breed your own and sell your surplus. The latter is the safest and surest, and your surplus stock are keenly sought, either by the live sheep or meat exporters, or by others seeking replacements.

To those who read this article in the Centenary year of our breed, and are not satisfied with their flocks, I hope I have provided some information and food for thought and action, so that you may derive some benefit and upgrade your wool producers.



# HOMELEIGH POLWARTHS

Flock No. P213

## "Champions Breed On"

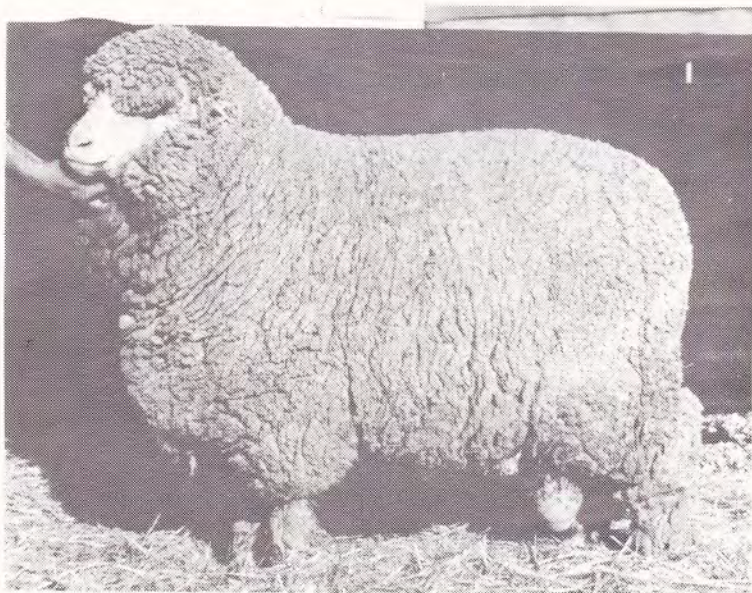
\* *FIVE SONS OF CARL WORKING IN TASMANIA.*

\* *ONE SON OF CARL WORKING IN BRAZIL.*

\* *ONE SON OF CARL WORKING IN URAGUAY.*

\* *THREE SONS OF CARL IN NSW.*

\* *TWO SONS OF CARL IN WA.*



*CARL — Grand champion, Campbell Town, Tas. 1973; Champion ram and supreme sheep, Melbourne 1973; Senior champion, Albury, 1973; Senior champion, Stawell, 1973. 45 lambs by him this year as a 10-year-old.*

## E. A. KEMP

Homeleigh,

HEATHCOTE

Phone (03) 33 2080



*CARL 65 — Top price all breeds, Melbourne ram sales 1979 — record auction price for Polwarths ever. Grand champion Polwarth ram Albury 1979.*





# Polwarths meet new demand

The unique physical features of Polwarth wool have been recognised since the earliest days of the breed, though the way in which the textile industry has used their special characteristics has varied over time.

In the days when the Noble comb was supreme and Bradford the centre of the world wool textile industry, Polwarth types were prized for the strength of their fibre, and for their wonderful long "shafty" staple. This was in the days when anything below three inches was "short" in combing terms.

As the Noble comb disappeared and the faster and more efficient French combs were adopted, demand for the shafty qualities of Polwarth wool diminished.

In today's market, these wools are sought for their freedom from vegetable fault and for the particular spongy handle that is so characteristic of Polwarth wool.

But perhaps most important is the color — the whiteness which is both genetic and climatic in origin and enables the wool to be used in the production of fabrics that will be dyed to the most delicate pastel shades.

For some specialist end use areas, the very free nature of the wool allows it to be carded and combed with a minimum of damage to the fibre, essential in the manufacture of some textile products such as hosiery yarns. In other market areas, the particular Polwarth handle is turned to advantage.

Italy, for instance, is one of the largest buyers of the many specialty comeback lines that are marketed in Australia each year. In these wools, handle and color are all important, and are translated into specific



This picture shows well the brightness and long staples of a Polwarth fleece. The wool is stylish, very easy to class (usually only two lines required) and high yielding.

In high rainfall or often misty areas, many woolgrowers find the lustrous nature of Polwarth wool enables it to dry quickly, thereby eliminating problems such as fleece rot.

Dust and other farm matter is also readily shed, accounting for its clean qualities.

qualities in the fabrics produced.

One Italian mill uses these specialty Polwarth lines to manufacture a top quality range of fabrics which are then made into an exclusive — and expensive — range of men's sports jackets and slacks, the entire production of which commands a ready market in West Germany.

The less stylish types and those carrying more vegetable fault, however, are equally important to, and hence sought by, the textile industry.

In this market area, countries of East Europe are very large purchasers, though much of what they do buy is subsequently blended with other wool types from Australia and wools from South America and South Africa.

Products made from these blends include the massive amounts of worsted fabric consumed in such products as men's and women's suitings, jackets and slacks, and in top-coat fabrics that are such an important market segment in colder climatic zones.

## Overseas garments in display

As part of the Polwarth centenary celebrations, garments woven or knitted overseas in various traditional styles from Australian-grown Polwarth wool will be exhibited in Melbourne from July 7 to July 17.

The wool was sent to New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and North America by Mrs Wendy Dennis (pictured below), of Tarndwarncourt, Warncoort.

It will be shown in the Commonwealth Development Bank building, Collins St.

Mrs Dennis, incidentally, has developed a Polwarth/Border Leicester cross flock to obtain hand spinning wool.

The combined qualities of the two wools give a long-stapled, lustrous fibre of about 46-50's quality.

Having both softness and strength, it is suitable for clothing as well as such things as carpets and curtains.



Mrs Dennis spinning some of her Polwarth/Border Leicester wool.



# CHALLICUM

ASBA Melbourne 1979

- SENIOR CHAMPION RAM
- SUPREME CHAMPION POLWARTH

Royal Melbourne Show 1979  
Victorian Championships

- \* CHAMPION FLEECE OF VICTORIA — 96½ pts.
- \* CHAMPION RAM'S FLEECE — 96½ pts. (Both won by the fleece from the ASBA champion, Challicum Chief).

Australasian Lamb's Wool Championships

- \* BEST LAMB'S WOOL OF SHOW — 95½ pts.
- \* CHAMPION POLWARTH LAMB'S LAMB — 94½ pts.
- \* CHAMPION COMEBACK LAMB'S WOOL — 95½ pts.
- \* CHAMPION CROSSBRED LAMB'S WOOL — 93½ pts.
- \* Most Successful Exhibitor.



*At the 1979 ASBA Show, Mr Jaime Araujo, one of the group of visitors and buyers from Brazil, places the sash on the senior and supreme champion Polwarth ram, Challicum Chief, held by breeder and exhibitor Mr Douglas Hopkins. Opening its exceptional fleece is the judge, Mr R. Cumming.*



*Mr Tom Harmsworth of the Melbourne College of Textiles, and Mrs Bernard Caillard of Challicum Partnership, inspecting the champion fleece of Victoria 1979.*

Challicum has been the Most Successful Exhibitor at Royal Melbourne each year since 1969. Challicum has won the Australia Polwarth Lamb's Wool Championships and the Australasian Comeback Lamb's Wool Championships each year for the past 10 years.

## CHALLICUM PARTNERSHIP

BUANGOR, Vic, 3375  
(053) 54 4238





# POLWARTH IDEAL AT MOHAIR FARM

Polwarth wool plays a significant part at Australia's first and only mohair mill, The Mohair Farm, 15 km south-west of Bendigo.

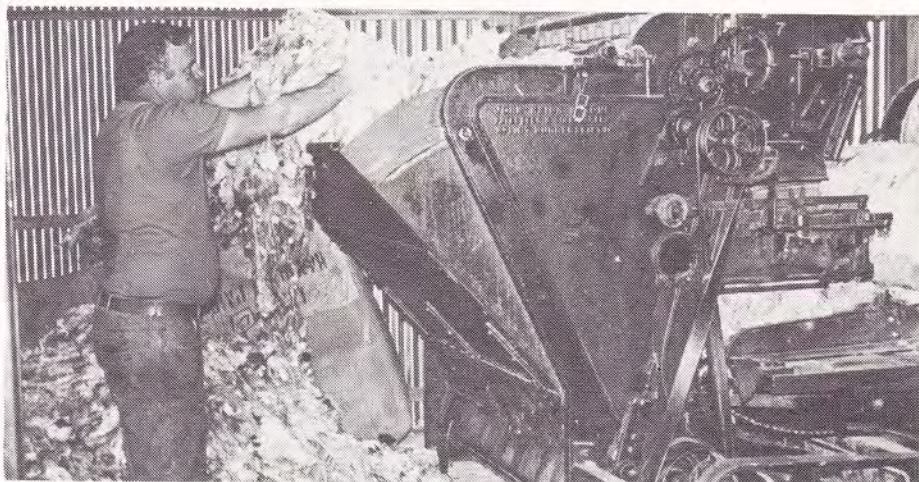
Eighty-five per cent of the considerable amount of wool — as opposed to mohair — used at the mill is Polwarth — called the Ideal in South America — the balance being mainly colored wool.

The proprietors of the mill, Mr and Mrs Peter Temple and their son, John, had several reasons for choosing Polwarth wool for their operations.

A Polwarth type wool had good handle and character, they said. It had more lustre than a finer wool, but not the harsh touch of coarser wools.

Although a Merino wool with a similar count could have been used, they chose Polwarth because it was easily obtainable, had more consistent lustre, and a longer staple.

Then they wanted a wool which was



Loading mohair, Polwarth and colored wool into the ancient carding machine at The Mohair Farm.

burr-free — a characteristic of most Polwarth wool because it is usually grown in "clean" areas.

The wool must be burr-free, said Mr Peter Temple, because they did not want it to be carbonised. They believed this damaged the fibre, causing it to lose many of its inherent qualities.

The Temples are, in fact, striving to produce fabrics and yarns as natural as possible. No synthetics or dyes are used in the mill. To get different colors, they blend fibres.

Apart from mohair and Polwarth wool, they use Persian lambs wool, imported from South Africa; Alpaca, from Peru; and Cashmere.

Mr Temple said they intended to buy silk and other fibres from China in the future.

Most of the mohair is also imported, but a small portion, along with some Cashmere, comes from the 250 Angora and Cashmere goats running on the 180 ha property which comprises The Mohair Farm.

Situated on a portion of the Alexander Reef gold mine at Lockwood, the property covered only 14 ha when the Temples moved to the district from Melbourne five years ago.

In addition to the goats, the Temples plan to establish a Polwarth flock within the next few years.

The mill has expanded at an even greater rate than the land area. From a small family hobby, it has developed into a lucrative decentralised industry, employing 22 people full-time and attracting large number of tourists.

Apart from being the only mohair mill in Australia, the main attraction at The Mohair Farm is the traditional machinery used.

Most of the machines were bought from

woollen mills in Melbourne, Geelong and Ballarat which were either closing down or changing over to modern equipment.

A retired engineer, Mr Peter Temple, assisted by his son, restored and modified the machines to process mohair instead of wool.

One of these, a carding machine, was built in 1903 by Platt Brothers, in Oldham, Lancashire.

Another, a spinning frame with 220 ends, was built in 1926, also in Oldham.

Even the few modern machines in the factory had to be modified to handle mohair, including the electronically-controlled Italian loom.

Mr Temple said although the old machinery, which cost just a few thousand dollars, needed more care and constant attendance, it produced a better standard fabric.

He hopes to continue rehabilitating this superceded equipment, and intends to build a workshop to design and build what they can't buy.

Another tourist incentive at the farm is the showroom, where over 90 per cent of the finished products are sold. About 60 per cent are bought by overseas visitors.

Apart from yarn and fabrics, a wide range of garments, mostly manufactured in Melbourne, are available. These range from pure mohair shawls and pullovers to sports coats with between 50 and 80 per cent wool content.

Although mohair has a much smoother surface and is easier to keep clean than wool, the Temples combine wool because of its own desirable qualities and relative cheapness.

"With a wool combination, you get a more stable garment which holds its shape", said Mr Temple.



The wool and mohair halfway through the carding process.



# WOLBUNYA

**Flock No. 124. Founded 52 years ago  
and still with the same studmaster**



Mr Peter Lillie holds a 3-year-old ram for show and sale at 1980 Melbourne Sheep Show and Mr Rod Lillie, the foundation studmaster, holds a 2-year-old ram for show only.

**W. R. LILLIE & SON, Wolbunya, CAMPERDOWN, Vic. (055) 97 0234 or 97 0240**

# CAIRN CURRAN

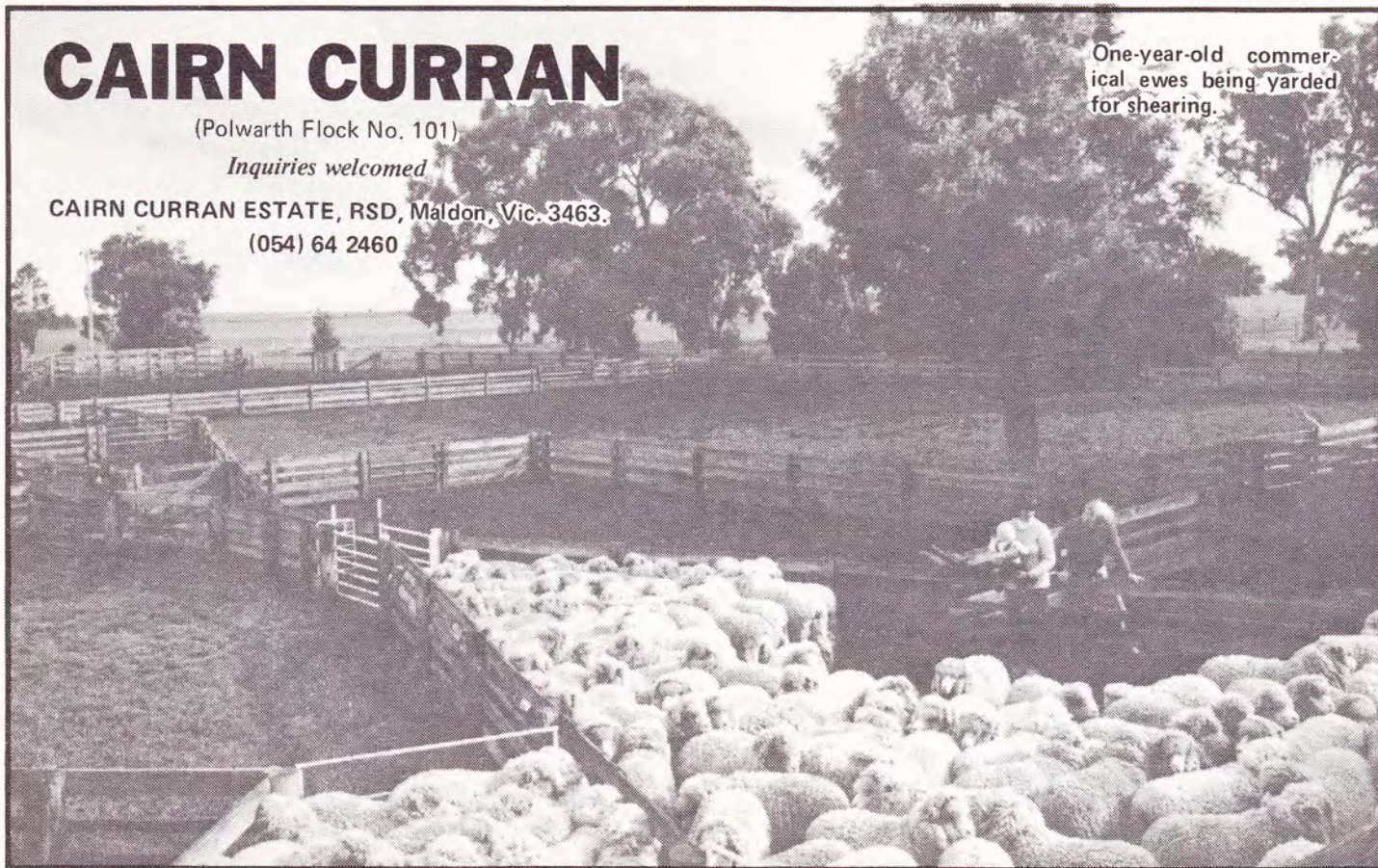
(Polwarth Flock No. 101)

*Inquiries welcomed*

**CAIRN CURRAN ESTATE, RSD, Maldon, Vic. 3463.**

**(054) 64 2460**

One-year-old commercial ewes being yarded for shearing.







# Falklands literally ride on sheep's back

By DON STORY

They say Australia rides on the sheep's back, but for a group of islands in the South Atlantic, this is even more true.

The Falkland Islands, off the southern tip of South America, has just one industry — wool.

The population of this 4600 square-mile British Crown Colony is only 1900.

And there are only 26 farms or "camps", as the Falkland Islander calls them.

Mr Bill Luxton and his wife, Pat, recently toured Polwarth studs in Tasmania looking for rams to improve the growing numbers of these sheep in the Falklands.

Running about 27,000 Polwarths on their 150,000 "very poor" acres, called Chatres, the Luxtons have changed their flock structure from English Romneys to Tasmanian Polwarths.

The reason is because they get more for their wool.

About 15 years ago, only 15 per cent of their hogget clip was classed A. Now, about 85 per cent of the hogget clip is classed A, and this has been due to the influence of the Polwarth.

In that area, with a low rainfall of about 26 inches, and howling winds coming up from the Antarctic, the Polwarths perform exceptionally well.

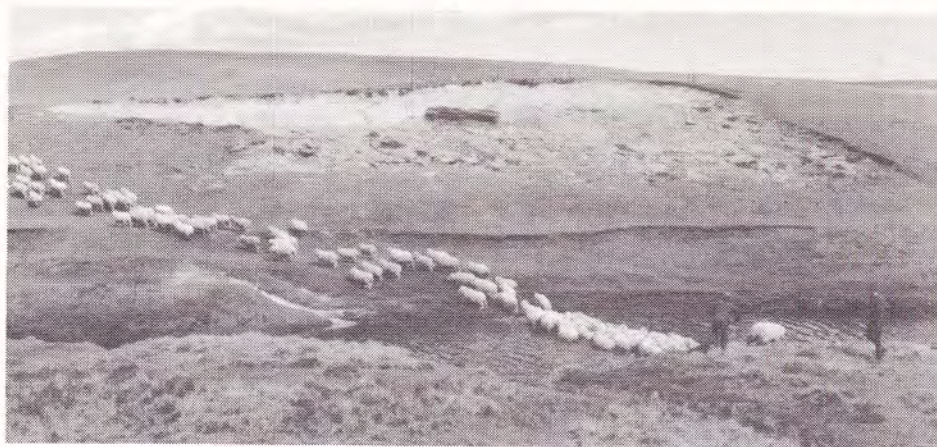
Chatres has been consistently Polwarth since 1966, when Mr Luxton took over from his father, who preferred Romneys.

But there have been camps that have been Polwarth for some years, he said.

The first importations were in 1935, with a number of rams from Dennistoun, near Bothwell, in Tasmania.

The last Polwarth importations from Australia were in 1966.

Now, there are about 100,000 Polwarths



Rounding up a few of the 27,000 Polwarths on Chatre.

in the Falkland Islands, gaining quickly on the Corriedales and Romneys, the other sheep breeds on the islands.

Originally, the French sold the Falkland Islands to the Spanish, but they were used only by whalers and sealers until the British moved in around 1833.

Since then, it has been a crown colony.

Over the years, there have been claims from Argentina that the islands belong to them, but so far the British have not given them up.

The Falkland Islands exports just over two million kg of wool a year. It is sold by phone to the Bradford Mills in the UK at an average price of around 260c a kg.

There are very low selling and transport costs. These are around 20c a kg, with a

small ship servicing the island four times a year.

Mr Luxton said the camps are basically set-stocked, and the ranching was extensive — about three acres to the sheep.

A lot of the island has been resown, and what trees there are have all been planted, mainly cyprus.

The maximum temperature in summer is around 70 degrees, and in the middle of summer, it is as bright as day at three in the morning.

In the middle of winter, there are about seven hours daylight.

Mr Luxton explained that, although everyone lived off the sheep's back on the Falklands, there was potential for a live sheep trade with Chile.

With about half a million sheep in the Falklands, they would be able to supply quite a few.

In the past, cast-for-age sheep had just been slaughtered and dumped.

But there will be big changes in the Falkland Islands in the future. The tourist trade is just beginning; the live sheep trade got under way last year; and the knitting mills are promoting Falkland Island wool on the same scale as Shetland Island wool, mainly in men's woollen garments.

To many, the Falkland Islands sound like a paradise.

But Bill and Pat Luxton point out that it is a lonely existence. The nearest neighbor is 25 miles away, there is no TV and little things like fruit are a luxury.

The Falkland Islanders have to grow everything themselves.



Aerial view of the homestead area, fronting an inlet, on Chatre, Falkland Islands.



# FORMOSA

## POLL POLWARTH STUD

Stud started 1906

At the 1980 Campbell Town Sheep Show in the Polwarth centenary year, Formosa exhibited.

- **CHAMPION RAM**      • **RESERVE CHAMPION RAM**
- **GRAND CHAMPION RAM**
- **CHAMPION EWE**      • **RESERVE CHAMPION EWE**

1st over 2½ years, 1st and 2nd ram 1½-2½ years, 1st unshedded ram over 2½ years, 1st ewe over 2½ years, 1st and 2nd ewe 1½-2½ years, 2nd and 3rd unshedded ewe four-tooth, 1st and 2nd ewe under 1½ years, 1st Thibenzole trophy for best group of three rams and two ewes.

Look at the performance of the ram **PURPLE PARA**, who has never been beaten in his class.

1978 — 1st champion and grand champion at Campbell Town, champion and supreme champion Melbourne ASBA.

1979 — 1st unshedded over 2½ years at Campbell Town, 1st unshedded over 2½ years Melbourne ASBA.

1980 — 1st unshedded over 2½ years at Campbell Town.

*In 1979, Formosa secured 11 major prizes, including grand champion ram, reserve champion ram, junior champion ewe, champion ewe, and grand champion fleece at the show at Campbell Town.*

*Formosa once again had a very good year with sales of stud and flock rams the latest being the sale of a top stud ram to the Falkland Islands for \$4000.*



Formosa has entered five rams (pictured) and three ewes at the Melbourne ASBA show in July and four rams are for sale on July 23.

Formosa has recorded very good commercial sales during the year at Cressy sheep sales with top price of \$45 for Border cross ewe lambs, six months old, 500 averaged \$43, with wethers averaging \$31.95. This shows that the Polwarth ewe makes a good fat lamb mother.

We have been using fleece measurement at Formosa for 22 years as a guide to selection. Cuts per head over the past five years averaged 5.68 kgs (12 lb 5 oz).

*Inquiries welcome to*

**G. L. LAWRENCE**

FORMOSA, CRESSY, Tas., 7302  
Telephone: Cressy (003) 97 6143





# Romania an important ewe market

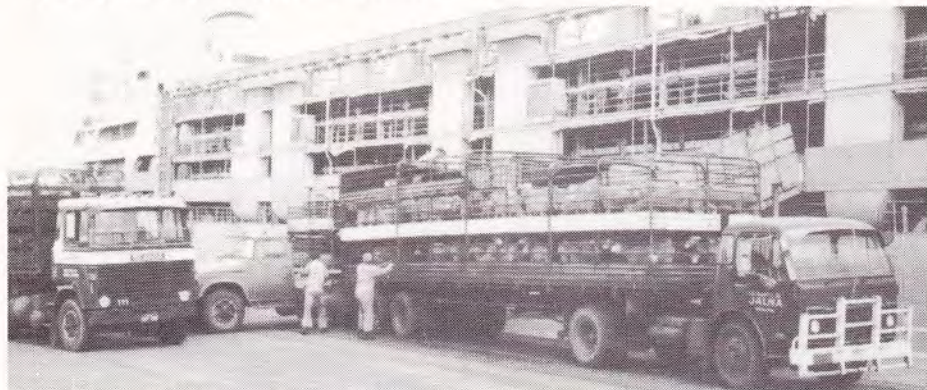
Polwarths have more than held their place as a breed to win valuable export earnings for Australia.

As a recognised dual purpose sheep, the Polwarth has alerted many countries throughout the world to its value as a producer of wool, mutton and prime lamb.

A steady flow of pedigreed and commer-

cial sheep have been exported over the years, particularly to South American countries.

In 1966 and 1967, consignments of Polwarths were bought by China, and it is over 25 years since the breed was introduced to the foothills of the Himalayas in India.



Some of the Polwarth breeding ewes destined for Romania being loaded last month on to the sheep carrier.

Two important trade contracts highlight the Polwarths contribution to Australian foreign income.

The first is the Middle East trade, which has received large quantities of Polwarth wethers over the years.

The other valuable market is the Balkan country of Romania.

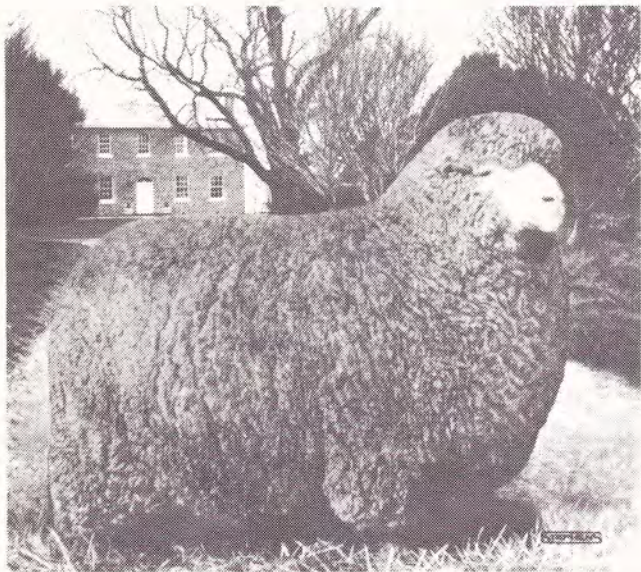
With a sheep population of some 15 million, Romania runs mostly indigenous sheep. It supplies live sheep for slaughter to North Africa.

To improve the quality of their sheep, the Romanians are buying breeding ewes from Australia. Already, three shipments of 32,000 head have been despatched, with Polwarths comprising about a third of the total purchase.

The Romanians have their own ship for transporting the sheep from Australia to Constanta, their principal unloading port.

Before leaving Australia, the sheep are shorn and run with rams, although no guarantee is given that they will be in-lamb upon their arrival in Romania.

## Fairfield POLWARTHS



BRED ON SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### SALES INCLUDE

#### *Two Australian Records*

1967 — 5M.15 Purdey for \$4000.

1979 — 7M.8 Dunce for \$10,000.

#### *Recent Show Results*

- Junior champion ram at Campbell Town June 1980 was 9M.5, a great grandson of Purdey.
- Grand Champion Fleece (all breeds) Campbell Town June 1980.
- Champion Polwarth Fleece National Fleece competition, Perth, September, 1979.

**TWO STUD RAMS FOR SALE at  
1980 MELBOURNE RAM SALES**

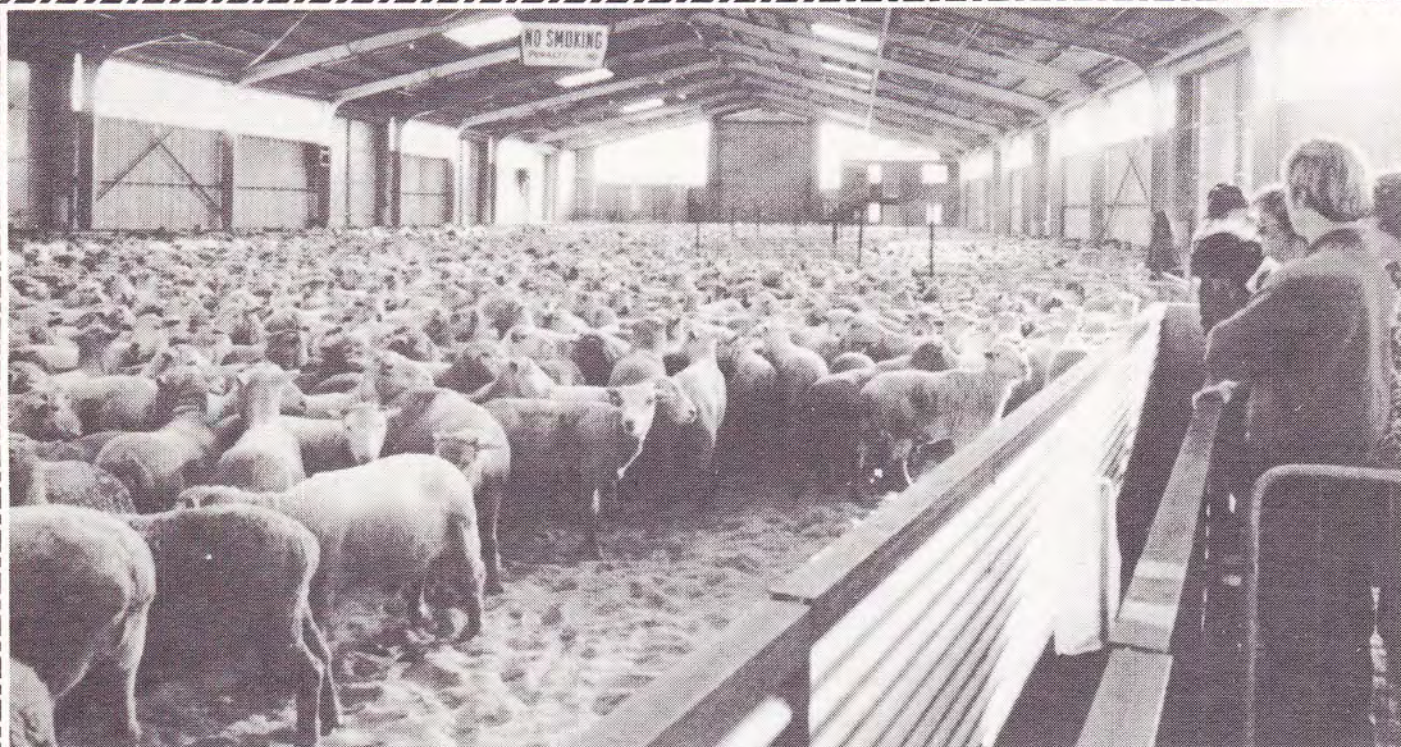
**J. M. YOUL & CO.**

Fairfield, Epping Forest, Tasmania.

Classer T.V. Heggaton. Phone: (003) 91 5526

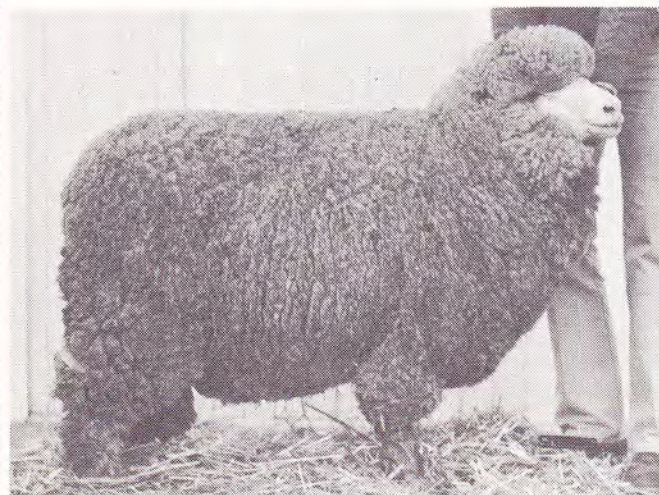
*Inspections most welcome*





A recent consignment of wethers, mostly Polwarths, before being loaded on to a Middle East-bound sheep carrier.

# SWEET WATTLE *(Breeding Polwarths for 33 years)*



*This Sweet Wattle ram was:—*

## • **GRAND CHAMPION SYDNEY 1980**

Sweet Wattle exhibited the grand champion ram and ewe at Sydney in 1979 and 1980.

Most Successful Exhibitor, Sydney 1978, Most Successful Ram Exhibitor, Sydney 1978 and 1979.

*Inquiries welcomed.*

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(063) 36 3517**





# SHEEP MEATS TRENDS FAVOR THE POLWARTH

The trend in the sheep meats industry in recent years toward a lean type carcass has favored the Polwarth. The Middle East export market, in particular, has received large consignments of Polwarth wethers.

Also, when crossed with suitable prime lamb sires, the Polwarth ewe produces a lamb with length and depth of carcass, and an excellent ratio of lean muscle to fat.

In the light of changing market requirements, it is appropriate to review the place of the Polwarth in the sheep meats industry.

If we go back to the 1880s, when the Polwarth was evolved, we find the situation was that various crossbred types were developed by crossing with the established Merino to provide sheep suitable for Australian conditions.

The breed used to produce the Polwarth was the Lincoln, at that time a huge animal. Records of the breed in England early in the 19th century are quoted in Youatt's "Sheep, Their Breeds, Management and Diseases".

Wethers had a dressed weight of up to 261 lb, the hindquarters each being 57½ lb, and the forequarters 73 lb.

If such carcasses seem to be unbelievably large, a clue to their condition is given when it is disclosed that the thickness of fat over the ribs was 9 inches. How times have changed! No longer is this type of carcass required.

Fortunately for those handling the sheep, some size was lost in the next decades following the introduction of the Lincoln into Australia. The main reason for this was simply that the pastures were not good enough to support the Lincoln in the manner to which it had been accustomed.

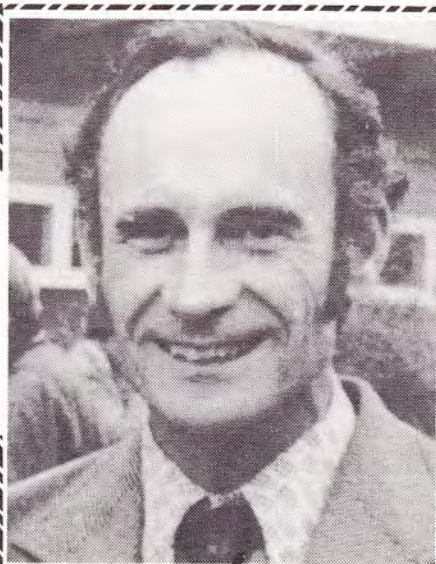
This illustrates very well the typical evolution of a type of sheep to suit an environment and particular market requirements.

It is widely known that the Polwarth was evolved as one-quarter Lincoln and three-quarter Merino in wet country around Colac — country that is wet underfoot rather than in terms of total precipitation.

The pasture growth in this region is luxuriant in the spring and is not handled well by the Merino, being regarded as more suitable for cattle feed than for sheep.

As a pure breed, the Polwarth spread throughout similar country is western Victoria and, in Tasmania, it eventually became the dominant breed.

The Polwarth versatility allowed it to thrive also in drier localities, particularly those cropping districts where there was a



By MURRAY ELLIOT, Sheep and Wool Adviser, Department of Agriculture, Bairnsdale.

need for a sheep which matured more quickly than the Merino, and was more capable of handling the lush growth of the improved pastures and crops of these areas.

As a purebred, the Polwarth retains a good balance between meat and production in self-replacing flocks. Its quick maturity enables the wether portion to be turned over at a fairly young age, either for export or the local market.

Other advantages of the breed are that the ewes will join at most times of the year, which means lambing can take place at any desired time, even to the extent of having two lambings within the one year, if conditions permit.

The ewes are productive up to a ripe old age. Eleven-year-old ewes in the Colac district last year reared over 100 per cent lambs. To do this, conditions for the flock must be better than average.



The Polwarth will produce top quality lambs when joined to prime lamb sires of either the longwood (Border Leicester) or downs type (Dorset) sires.

However, the most promising development for the Polwarth in meat production may lie in crossing with the Merino.

Although the policy of crossing the Polwarth with the Merino is not new, especially in areas marginal for Merinos, renewed interest in improving the carcass qualities of the Merino by using the Polwarth has come about because of export wether requirements.

The main assets of the Polwarth in these crosses is the extra spring of rib and deep body, improved hindquarters, conformation and the long bright, staple of wool.

For the cross to be successful, the Merino must be a long-bodied animal with good bone, carrying a long-stapled fleece of reasonable density and soft-handle.

The combination of these features produces a very even line, with excellent conformation with a long-stapled fleece of improved density.

A degree of hybrid vigor may also be present, as some crosses are superior to either parent, especially in wool production. Growth rate and fertility also appear to improve.

For successful results, though, the Merino must be a long-bodied rather than a short-coupled animal, and long-stapled rather than short-stapled. Otherwise, the results will be most disappointing, as too many of the progeny will throw back to the unwanted Merino characteristics.

The value of this cross was well demonstrated in November 1979, at the state field day on the property of the winning flock in the Elders' Commercial Flock of the Year Award, the Cuming family's Fernleigh property at Glenthompson.

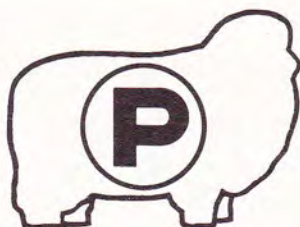
This success followed on the previous year, when another Polwarth-Merino cross flock was runner-up in the same competition — the flock of Aitken Bros, Bundoran, Glenthompson.

Another finalist in this competition in 1979 was Noel Dennis' flock of Polwarths at Brolga, Warncoort.

In all cases, the stocking rates on these properties was particularly high.

With an increasing proportion of income from sheep coming from sheep sales, the versatility of the Polwarth, either as a purebred or in crosses with the Merino, is well illustrated.





# POLWARTH

***Specially Selected Hand Spinning Wool from  
The Original Home of Australia's First Breed of Sheep***

- SOFT HANDLING • LONG and THICK STAPLE • HIGH YIELDING • BRIGHT and STYLISH
- LUSTROUS WITH CHARACTER • 58s-60s WOOL COUNT • EXCELLENT SPINNABILITY
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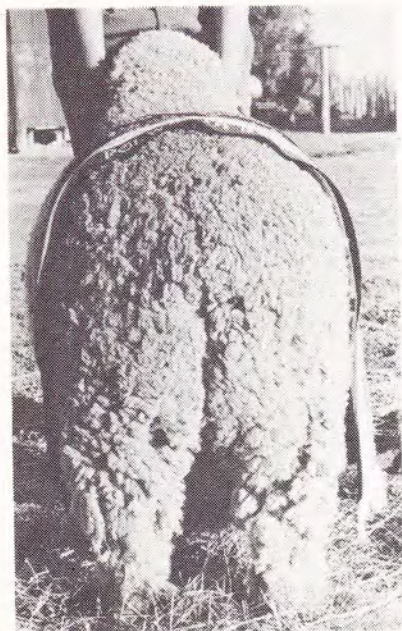
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**Mrs W.S. DENNIS, Tarndwarncoort, WARNCOORT 3243, Vic.**

Telephone: (052) 33 6241

## DURRAWEEEN DOWNS

*NOTED FOR THEIR TRUE DUAL PURPOSE*



**Champion Ram Dubbo Show 1980  
(Milk Tooth)**

Plain bodies, reducing incidence of fly strike  
Robust with size and strong constitution  
Of multiple births and high lambing percentages  
Fleece weight and character  
Ideal foragers  
Trade carcase

Durraween Downs founded on Glenwood (founded in 1937 on Turkeith). Following the father stud, an additional ram was purchased from Euyeuk in 1969 and rams from Turkeith.

Durraween Downs rams are sought after for mating with Merinos and crossbreds, producing a very suitable ewe with a square frame, a fleece that sells well and a good milk producer to mate with British breed rams.

Polwarths have adapted themselves well at Riversdale Parc, which is situated in the Central Western Slopes of NSW, the sheep giving a good return for wool and mutton and are noted for their intensive breeding of multiple births.

The wool is bulky, bright soft handling 58s to 60s.

After 12 years of non-show competition Durraween Downs made a strong come back at the Bathurst Show 1978 winning the Group Trophy with only two milk tooth rams and two milk tooth ewes both winning their milk tooth classes.

*Good selection of Stud and Flock Rams*

**Apply: J.J. and B.R. RUSS, Durraween Downs Poll Polwarth Stud (Flock No. 465)  
Riversdale Parc, DUBBO, 2830, NSW. Phone: (068) 88 5137**





# Shipping problems led to poll Polwarths

By JAMIE BELL

Many of Australia's oldest Polwarth studs were established with horned sheep, but were later transformed into polled flocks.

One reason for this was the large exports of Polwarths to South America early this century . . . because of the difficulties in shipping horned sheep, polled animals were preferred.

In later years, the general move within the sheep industry towards polled flocks saw the evolution of two distinct strains of Polwarths, horned and polled. The intermediate weak-horned, or semi-horned, Polwarths are slowly being eliminated.

Mr Noel Dennis, manager of the noted Brolga poll Polwarth stud at Warncoort, swung over to a polled flock in the 1950's when he found the greatest demand from breeders was for polled sheep.

"At that time, many of us thought horned sheep had better fleeces and retained wool quality with age better. But modern trends decided the issue, and in the late 1950's rams bred from the polled stud were used to poll the horned flock," Mr Dennis said.

His career with Polwarths began as stud master on Tardwarncoort in 1946. When the partnership of Dennis Brothers, comprising the late Alexander Dennis and his three sons, Norman, Robert and Noel, was dissolved in 1951, Noel obtained the horned portion of the flock and 215 ha (530 acres) of basalt plains country on the northern end of the property.

The land has, over the years, been increased to about 1380 ha (3400 acres), running 4000 Polwarths, and part of the flock of 400 stud ewes are descended from those original horned sheep.

In 1954, with the purchase of five Winston blood ewes from Mr N.B. Thomson's Kooraweera stud at Camperdown, and some Larrigan Stud rams and ewes, the Brolga poll stud was founded.

Two of the Kooraweera ewes died in the first spring, but the other three were sent to a Larrigan ram for service.

The ewes were run with this ram, Larrigan Bolte, for several successive years, and each of them bred a champion ram — one a Melbourne champion and two Albury champions.

Of these three rams, one was sold to a breeder in South America, while the other two were used in the Brolga stud, where their influence still continues.

"The ancestry of every polled sheep on the property can be traced back to those two rams, Brolga Ambassador and Brolga Bolwin," said Mr Dennis.

Great emphasis is placed on genetics at Brolga, and the policy is to line breed to proven sires; since the inception of the polled stud only three outside rams have been used, and two of these were sons of rams purchased from Brolga.

The third ram was Kooraweera Winston 3, to whom 20 ewes were sent in 1955.

To create additional families, ewes, rather than rams, have been acquired. Mr Dennis said he preferred to buy a group of ewes of one distinct line than gamble on the quality of one expensive ram.

Many breeders have "gambled" on the quality of Brolga rams, however. Having won Melbourne Sheep Show champion awards five times since 1958, and many other show championships, they have always been keenly sought, and have been sold to breeders in Uruguay, Brazil, China, India, Nepal, New Zealand and all states of Australia.

The stud has won three grand champion fleece of Victoria awards since 1957, and in 1968 exhibited the grand champion fleece of the Commonwealth.

Mr Dennis said he had always aimed to improve the style, weight and character of the wool.

"Most importantly, we are trying to grow well-marked wool, with handle and style, of a bold 58's quality, as much of it as we can get on a well-covered, shapely sheep.

"We have found that this type of wool yields up to 80 per cent and produces high cuts per head," he said.



Mr Noel Dennis with three of the Brolga stud rams.



# **LARIGGAN**

## **POLL POLWARTHS**

**A BRANCH OF THE ORIGINAL TARNDWARNCOORT FLOCK**



**TYPICAL LARIGGAN TWO-YEAR-OLD STUD SIRES.**

**PARTICULAR EMPHASIS PLACED ON:**

- FLEECE WEIGHT AND CHARACTER
- MULTIPLE BIRTHS AND HIGH LAMBING PERCENTAGES
- CARCASS QUALITY

**STUD AND FLOCK RAMS AVAILABLE ANNUALLY  
FROM THE STUD WHICH BRED "MENZIES"**

**LARIGGAN EWES HAVE FOUNDED MANY NOTABLE STUDS**

## **D. M. DENNIS**

**LARIGGAN, WARNCOORT, Vic, 3243. PHONE: (052) 33 6240**





## POLWARTH CENTENARY FEATURE



### Nant

The Nant Polwarth stud of Mr E.L. Archer, Bothwell, Tasmania, is situated in one of the coldest areas of the State, receiving regular snowfalls.

Average rainfall at Nant is 18 to 20 inches (720 to 800 mm), but over the past three years, the property has averaged only 12 inches (480 mm).

Despite this, Mr Archer has had regular lambing percentages of 100 to 110 per cent.

Last year, 700 ewes, 10 flock rams and one stud ram were exported to Romania.

### Challicum

The Challicum Polwarth stud from Buangor followed up its ram championship win at last year's Melbourne Sheep Show by exhibiting the champion fleece of Victoria at the Royal Melbourne Show in September with the fleece from the champion ram.

It scored 96½ points.

Since 1969, the Challicum partnership has been the most successful exhibitor of fleeces at the Melbourne Royal Show.

### Lariggan

The Lariggan Polwarth stud of Mrs D.M. Dennis, Warncoort, is a branch of the original Tarn-dwarncoort flock, and is conducted on part of the old Tarn-dwarncoort holding.

Between 1930 and 1948, rams from Turkeith, Jellalabad, Tarn-dwarncoort, Stoney Park East, Korongee and Kooraweera were used over Lariggan ewes.

1948 marked the birth of a ram which was to have a marked influence on the breed. He was Lariggan Menzies, the basis of many families in noted studs. He traced back to Jellalabad Mistake, one of the great Polwarth sires.

A flock of 2000 stud ewes on Lariggan are joined to rams selected from various families, with emphasis on fleece weights and character.

The stud sires carry wool of a good solid 58s quality, having a square tip to exclude dust and water as far as possible.

With the ewes, a high-yielding 58s-60s is usual. Stud rams have been sold to many countries, including New Zealand, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, U.S., China, Taiwan and India.

### Jellalabad

Jellalabad stud is conducted by Mr Hector Cumming and his son, Roger, third and fourth generation sheep breeders.

The stud was founded in 1916, and until 1952 was conducted by Dowling, Cumming & Co.

After the partnership had been dissolved, equal shares were carried by the executors of G.W. Dowling and G.D. Cumming & Son, under the Jellalabad and Old Jellalabad prefixes respectively.

In 1957, the Jellalabad flock was dispersed and Messrs Cumming bought some of the sheep. The "Old" was dropped from the prefix in 1961.

### Brie Brie

The Brie Brie Polwarth stud of Mr Ian R. Mann, Glenthompson, was founded by the late J.H. Murray in 1909, when Brie Brie stud Merino ewes were mated to Mer-rang Lincoln rams, and Merino rams bred by a 500 guinea Boonoke ram.

Peppin blood was thus introduced, and careful attention has been paid over the years to retain the softness, character and lustre of the Peppin blood sheep developed in the Riverina.

Ewes have been exported to South Korea, China, Romania, and India, and big Brie Brie wethers are regularly exported to the Middle East.

### Durraween Downs

The Durraween Downs Polwarth stud was founded on Glenwood and Turkeith ewes.

Following the father stud, an additional ram was bought from Euyek in 1969 and further rams came from Turkeith.

Rams from Durraween Downs stud are sought after to mate with Merinos and crossbreds for pro-

ducing a square-framed ewe with fleece which sells well and with good milk production to make with British bred rams.

The stud, situated on the Central Western slopes of NSW, produces sheep noted for their intensive breeding for multiple births.

The wool is bulky, bright, soft handling 58s to 60s.

# FAIRVIEW

(Flock No. P141)

FAIRVIEW 145-47

- RESERVE CHAMPION  
ALBURY 1979
- RESERVE CHAMPION  
COOTAMUNDRA 1980

Weighed 258 lb as a two-year-old in full wool.

*Inquiries welcomed.*



## B. T. & D. I. BOWYER & SON

FAIRVIEW, URANGELINE via YERONG CREEK, NSW, 2657  
(069) 20 7633 or (069) 20 5370



# WEDDIN POLWARTHS

Founded 1955

***Bred for Dual Purpose***

Weddin produces top fat lambs using Polwarth ewes with British Breed Rams, and at the same time cutting heavy saleable fleeces.

***1980 Show Results—***

SYDNEY ROYAL — Reserve Champion Ram, Reserve Champion Ewe, Junior Champion Ram.

BATHURST — Reserve Champion Ewe.

ORANGE — Champion Ram, Champion Ewe, Reserve Champion Ewe.

COOTAMUNDRA — Champion Ram, Reserve Champion Ewe.

*Flock and Stud Rams available plus a limited number of cast-for-age ewes.*

**D. A. & V. C. GOOD, Springfield, GRENFELL, NSW 2810**  
**(063) 43 8215**

# BRIE BRIE POLWARTHS

Flock Number 24

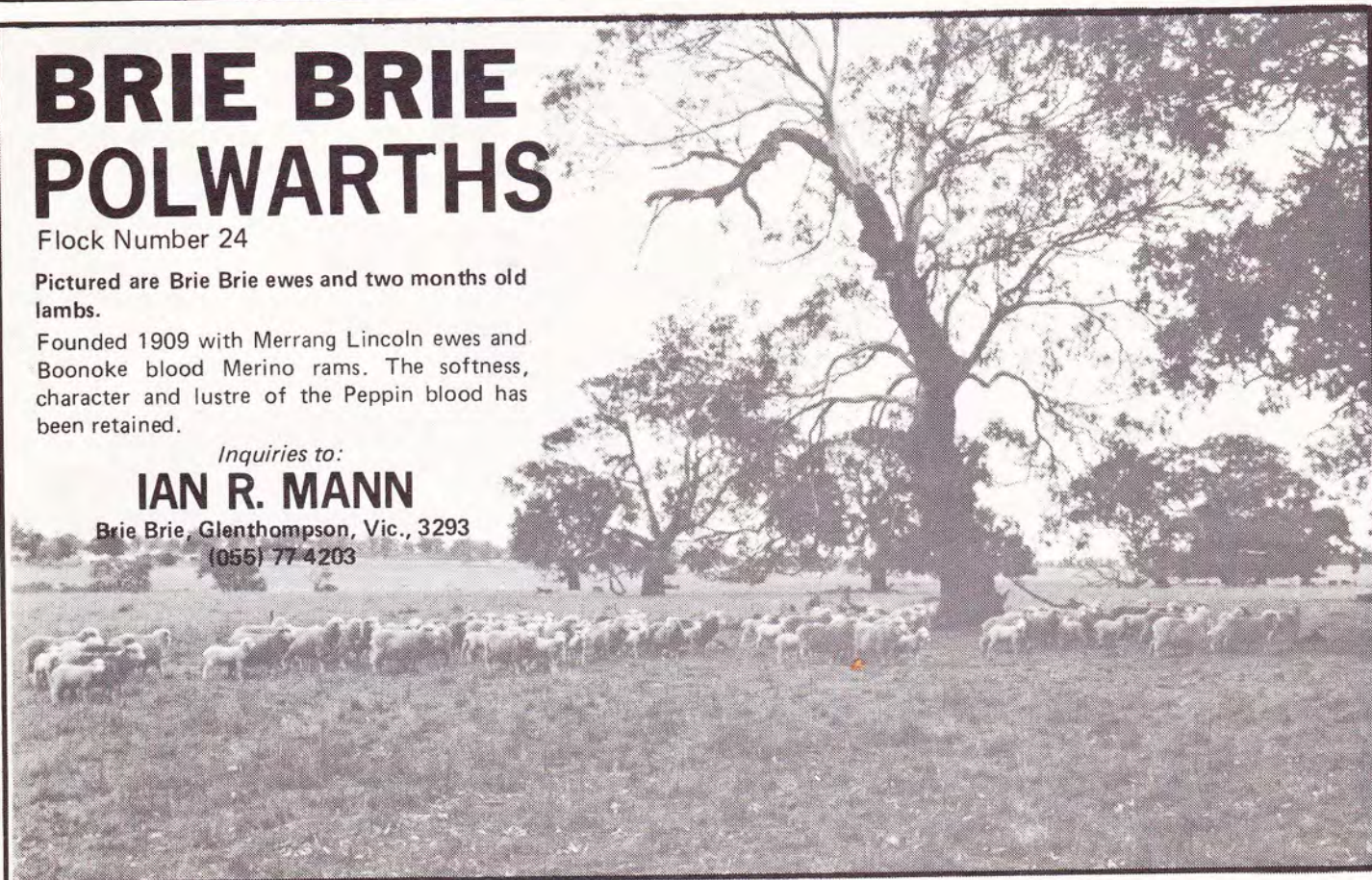
Pictured are Brie Brie ewes and two months old lambs.

Founded 1909 with Merrang Lincoln ewes and Boonoke blood Merino rams. The softness, character and lustre of the Peppin blood has been retained.

*Inquiries to:*

**IAN R. MANN**

Brie Brie, Glenthompson, Vic., 3293  
(055) 77 4203







# Wolbunya Polwarths eye S. America

By SUE NEALES

International travel is now common among Australian stud animals, and the Polwarths at Wolbunya stud, Camperdown, could well feel "blase" about their many relatives that have migrated overseas.

If they could only think like humans and know what was going on, the sheep at Wolbunya Polwarth stud would naturally hope that they, too, would one day become future sires of the sheep industry in South America.

Wolbunya is one of the leading Australian Polwarth studs, and has been selling top rams to South American buyers since 1961.

Many of these Wolbunya rams, through the use of artificial breeding (AB), have become the foundation sires of the numerous studs and flocks in South America.

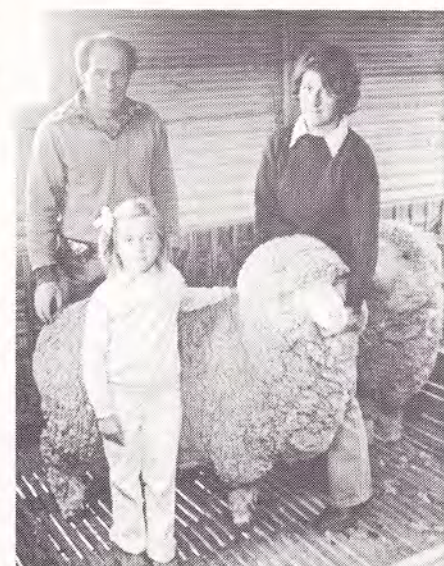
Joint owner and stud manager of Wolbunya, Mr Peter Lillie, is very proud of Wolbunya's sales record overseas.

"It all started in 1961, when we sold two of our top rams to Brazil, followed by two to Uruguay and five more to Brazil in 1963," Mr Lillie said.

"At this time, South American breeders could not buy Australian Merinos, and the best other wool sheep to suit their climates were our Polwarths.

"Between 1964 and 1976, most wool producers moved to Polwarths", explained Mr Lillie, "and now Polwarths, called Ideals, are the major breed in South America.

"The quality of Polwarths over there now is equal to that found anywhere in Australia."



Mr Peter Lillie with his wife, Pat, and eight-year-old daughter, Katie, inside Wolbunya's ram shed. Rams are shedded from March to June at times when conditions are adverse, but are never totally housed.

Since Wolbunya's first sale to South America, they have sold Polwarths to Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Peru, as well as sales to China and India in the late '60s.

Wolbunya Polwarth stud was established in 1938 by Mr Rod Lillie after the dissolution of a partnership in which he owned half the nearby Kooraweera Polwarth stud.

The Wolbunya property of 4400 acres is now jointly run by Mr Rod Lillie and his two sons, Peter and Robin.

It was started from 250 Kooraweera stud ewes, with other ewes and the stud sires soon being introduced from Jellalabad.

From this humble beginning, the Lillies have gradually built up Wolbunya, and today there are 5000 registered Polwarth ewes on the property.

The bloodlines at Wolbunya were originally based on Jellalabad sires, but there are also families of Menzies and Eeyeuk blood.

"Most of the rams used in recent years we have bred ourselves," Mr Peter Lillie said.

"But, last year, we bought the top price

ram at the Melbourne ram sales from Mr Ted Kemp of Homeleigh for \$7750 — a record auction price.

Wolbunya has an outer stud flock of over 4500 ewes and an inner stud of the top 500 ewes.

Very intense records are kept of all sheep in the inner stud, and from this group are selected the Wolbunya replacement rams and ewes, and the top rams for sale.

"I class all the sheep as one-year-olds on their weight, size and wool quantity," Mr Lillie explained.

"The top ewe and ram weaners are picked out, and these are classed again a year later on their fleece weights.

"I am aiming for a lb a month gain in fleece weight for every grown sheep here," he said.

Last year, the fleece weight gain of grown sheep averaged 5.71 kg a head, just under 12 lb.

The typical Wolbunya Polwarth is large-framed, always polled, with a dense, bold 58's wool.

Wolbunya sells about 200 flock rams every year to commercial Polwarth flocks, as well as the cream of the inner stud rams that are sold overseas or to other Australian studs.

However, the sheep that go overseas are not those exhibited at shows, as every year a buying group from South America comes to Wolbunya in November and inspects the flock privately.

Last year, Wolbunya sold seven rams and five ewes to South American studs for an average of \$2500.

"Together with Formosa, Homeleigh and Brolga, we are one of the main parent studs for the South American Polwarth."

Wolbunya shows its top 10 rams every year at the Melbourne Sheep Show, and consistently does well in both individual and group classes.

Wolbunya also sells many of its stud sheep to WA, and a number of prominent studs in that State are founded on Wolbunya lines.

But Mr Lillie emphasised that their most lucrative sales were to overseas buyers.

"We are receiving more and more inquiries every year from overseas Polwarth studs, and as some of our buyers are returning year after year, we are now keeping our best sheep for them.

"This is really a potentially very big and expanding market for Wolbunya Polwarths in the future," he added.





# NANT

Flock No. 386 — formerly Ellangowan

Founded 1964

**BRED IN THE SNOW COUNTRY  
WILL DO WELL ANYWHERE**



A group of stud rams at Nant

Nant Stud is proud to be associated with the Polwarth breed in its 100th year.

Our sheep produce finer wool than most Polwarths and are snow country bred.

They will do well anywhere

*Inquiries for rams welcomed:*

**E. L. ARCHER**

Nant, BOTHWELL, Tasmania, 7411

Telephone: (002) 59 5506

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## POLWARTH CENTENARY FEATURE



### Mt. Alma

Mr Eric Ashby, studmaster of Australia's largest stud Polwarth Flock, Mt. Alma, with 3500 stud ewes, makes no secret of the breeding policies of the stud.

"All selections are made with emphasis on production of size, pounds of wool, lamb rearing ability and wool quality," Mr Ashby said.

The stud has been most successful exhibitor at the Melbourne Sheep Show four times in the past five years.

As well as selling stud rams within Australia and overseas, around 500 flock rams are available each year, and these sell to WA, SA and Western Victoria.

An increasing number of flock rams are being sold to dry areas for use over Merino ewes to iron out wrinkles and to produce straighter bodied sheep with better carcasses, without losing fleece weights.

The users of these Polwarth rams in Merino flocks are finding they are getting export wethers a year younger than normal.

### Homeleigh

Homeleigh Polwarth stud, conducted by Mr E.A. Kemp at Heathcote, was founded with polled ewes from Kooraweera 37 years ago.

Sheep were first shown in 1960, and since then awards have been won at every major sheep show attended in the eastern states.

At five successive Australian shows, including the Melbourne Sheep Show in 1973, the Homeleigh stud won all the senior ram classes.

Last year's Melbourne Sheep

Show saw a Homeleigh ram sell for a breed auction record of \$7750, paid by the Wolbunya stud, Camperdown. The price was the highest paid for any ram at the sales.

The first exports from Homeleigh were in 1956, with 75 one-year-old ewes going to Simla, India.

Since then, both rams and ewes have been sold to Uruguay, China, Kenya, New Zealand, Brazil, Rumania and New Zealand.

### Fairfield

The Fairfield Polwarth stud of J.M. Youl and Co, Epping Forest, Tasmania, has continued to produce rams that have been in strong demand both within Australia and overseas.

In the past two years, Fairfield rams have been bought by 14 different Australian studs. Fairfield rams are noted for their wool type, body size and good constitution.

At the Campbell Town ram sales in January this year, Fairfield offered 14 selected flock rams. These sold to \$1075 — a sale record — and averaged \$485.

### Formosa

The Formosa Polwarth stud from Cressy, Tasmania, celebrated the centenary of the Polwarth breed at the 1980 Campbell Town Show by exhibiting the champion, reserve champion and grand champion rams, and the champion and reserve champion ewes.

The stud, founded in 1906, had an equally successful team at the 1979 Campbell Town Show, exhibiting the grand champion and reserve champion rams, the junior champion and champion ewes and

the grand champion fleece.

One of the most successful show sheep bred at Formosa in recent years has been Purple Para, who has never been beaten in his class in the past three years.

At Campbell Town in 1978, he was first, champion and grand champion, and at the Melbourne Sheep Show that year was champion and supreme champion Polwarth.

This year, he won the unshedded over 2½ years class at Campbell Town.

### Rockthorpe

The foundation of the Rockthorpe stud of R.E. Lawrence & Co., Cressy, Tasmania, goes back to the Carrs Plains flock in Victoria, flock no. 10 in the Polwarth Stud Book.

The bloodlines at Rockthorpe have been continuously bred by the Lawrence family since 1906.

# BOIARDO POLWARTHS

## Horned and Poll Flock No. 84



76% yield, 22.5 micron



Strong constitution



Export

## MADDEN BROS

Boiardo, CAMPERDOWN, Vic. 3260

Manager, Geoff Risbey (055) 93 8262



# ROCKTHORPE POLWARTH STUD

(Flock P379)

Rockthorpe has fleece weighed and micron and yield tested continuously for 21 years and only high yield heavy cutting rams are used.

The foundation of the stud goes back to the Carr's Plains flock in Victoria (1880). The bloodlines have been continuously bred by the Lawrence family since 1906. The last sire purchased as a stud improver cut 25 lb of high yielding true Polwarth wool.

In 1977, a ram was sold to Uruguay for \$8000, a then Australian record. In recent years many stud rams and ewes have been sold to six countries, all with repeat orders for rams.

**FLEECE AWARDS** include Australian champion fleeces with many first and second awards.

**SHEEP AWARDS** include many champion rams and ewes plus numerous minor places.

Rockthorpe rams are improvers because of long consistent breeding methods adopted.

Orders taken through agents or direct to R.E. Lawrence.

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## MERRANG POLWARTHS

STUD No. 140

### THE LARGEST POLL STUD FLOCK IN VICTORIA

Inquiries to R. HOOD, MERRANG PARTNERSHIP, HEXHAM, Vic. 3273  
Phone: (055) 99 7256







# Polwarths for all seasons:

## AT BIRREGURRA . . .

Turkeith, at Birregurra, is one of the most famous of all Polwarth properties, and for many years the Burkeith stud was among the most successful of the breed.

The stud was founded in 1903 by the late Mr Urquhart Ramsay, and today both it and the property are being carried on by his estate.

His daughter, Miss Catherine Ramsay, still lives in the old bluestone homestead.

The stud has not been very active for some years, although 20 to 30 flock poll rams are sold annually and surplus breeding ewes are in demand at local sales.

However, a large commercial poll Polwarth flock is carried on Burkeith and, according to the manager, Mr Dick Radcliffe-Smith, these sheep suit the often harsh environment of the 2190-ha (5400-acre) property very well.

"They are easy-care sheep, good forages and hardy in times of drought," he said.

About 9500 sheep, including lambs, will be shorn on Burkeith this spring.

The 3000 or so breeding ewes are joined in mid-December for a mid-May lambing. Ewes are kept in the breeding flock until they are seven-years-old, when the soundest ones only are rejoined.

The Burkeith sheep are classed by Mr Rob Ramsay, of nearby Mooleric, who is a trustee of the estate.

The biggest of the ewe weaners are joined at 1½ years to lamb when they are two, but the smaller ones are kept for an extra year before their initial joining.

The wethers are kept as woolcutters, until they are four years old, when they are generally sold to the Middle East live sheep trade.

Mr Radcliffe-Smith said he was concerned over the future of this trade, but was sure Polwarth wethers could participate in it.

"Our wethers make the minimum 50 kg live weight quite satisfactorily by the time they are four," he said.

Romanian buyers are interested in surplus young ewes from Burkeith.

"If they give us the best price, we will sell to them," said Mr Radcliffe-Smith.

However, he does not agree with the Romanians' policy of buying surplus stock, and believes that this is not the best way to go about starting a sheep breeding industry.

Mr Radcliffe-Smith said there were no lambing problems with the Burkeith ewes, and they were excellent mothers. Lambing percentages of between 80 and 90 per cent were achieved throughout the breeding flock.

Wool quality of the Burkeith Polwarths is generally 23 to 25 microns. The ewes, which are given the best available feed, cut around 10 lb a head, while the wether cut varies from 11.8 lb to 13.8 lb a head, depending on the season.

Mr Radcliffe-Smith is working towards rebuilding and rejuvenating the stud. There are some very good ewes, and top quality rams have been introduced from the Brolga and Poll Fairfield studs to provide fresh blood.

He said he expected to be able to offer some "very saleable rams" shortly, and that the policy of paddock rearing all sale sheep would continue.

Like the commercial operation, management of the stud is soundly based on good producing sheep and proven bloodlines.

Burkeith comprises flat to undulating opens plains country in a 610-mm (24-inch) rainfall area, with about half the soils heavy types and the other half light.

## WINCHELSEA

Commercial Polwarths have been run on N.R. Craig & Son's property Rocklea, near Winchelsea, since 1906 — the year the property was bought.

Rams were originally bought from Tarndwarncourt, but in more recent years have come from the Brolga and The Falls studs.

Mr Don Craig, the present principal of Rocklea, said Polwarths were chosen because they were a dual-purpose sheep. The fine wool Merinos of the day were not considered big enough for mutton production.

"Also, they suit this rather high rainfall country very well," he said.

About 2500 grown sheep are carried on Rocklea at present. The property comprises about 405 ha (1000 acres).

Mr Craig reported a good lambing in 1980 from the 900 or so breeding ewes, and said total sheep numbers would soon rise to about 3000.

All the replacement ewes for Rocklea are bred on the property. They are run in a weaner and young ewe flock for two years, and then those to go into the breeding flock are selected.

In previous ewes, the initial joining of maiden ewes was at three years. Now, however, they are being joined a year earlier.

Mr Craig explained that this was because sheep numbers on Rocklea were dropping, largely because of the cricket problem.

Maiden ewes are sometimes joined initially with Southdown rams to give easier births for their first lambs. Mr Craig regards this practice as being desirable in his particular case, even if not strictly necessary.

He finds a ready outlet for his wethers to the live sheep trade for the Middle East, regards its continuation as vital the Australian sheep industry.

Mr Craig has found Polwarths to be easy-care sheep, but he believes in feeding them well. He drenches his younger sheep regularly, but finds they don't need as much drench as they get older.

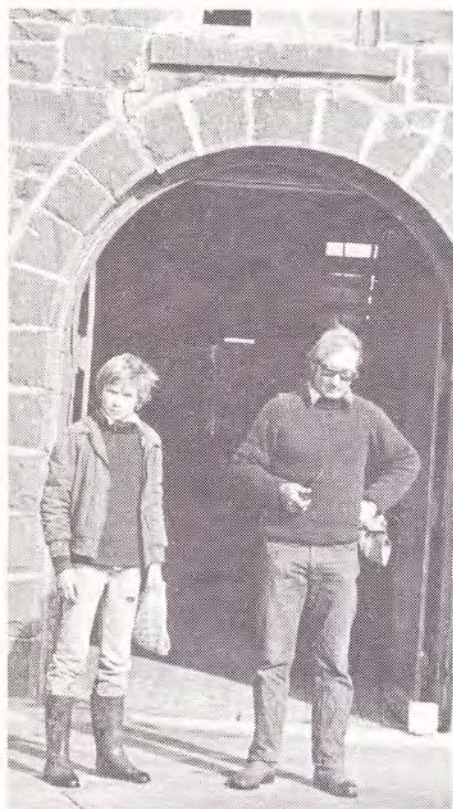
There are no foot problems on Rocklea. The country is stony — which helps — and well drained.

As a commercial breeder of poll Polwarths, Mr Craig believes that stud breeders have generally satisfied requirements over the years.

However, he would like to see more emphasis being placed on the production of big, robust rams carrying fleeces of 23 microns quality.

"This sort of ram will improve the size and stamina of the sheep," he said.

He doesn't mind the slightly stronger wool, as long as size and constitution are maintained.



The manager of Burkeith, Mr Dick Radcliffe-Smith, and his son, Robert, standing outside the original bluestone woolshed on the Western District property.



Proud to be associated with the Polwarth  
breed in its 100th year

Jellalabad is carried on by a  
family with four successive  
generations of sheepbreeders

# JELLALABAD

## POLWARTH STUD

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**H. D. Cumming, Jellalabad, Darlington, Vic.**

Inquiries to (055) 97 9241

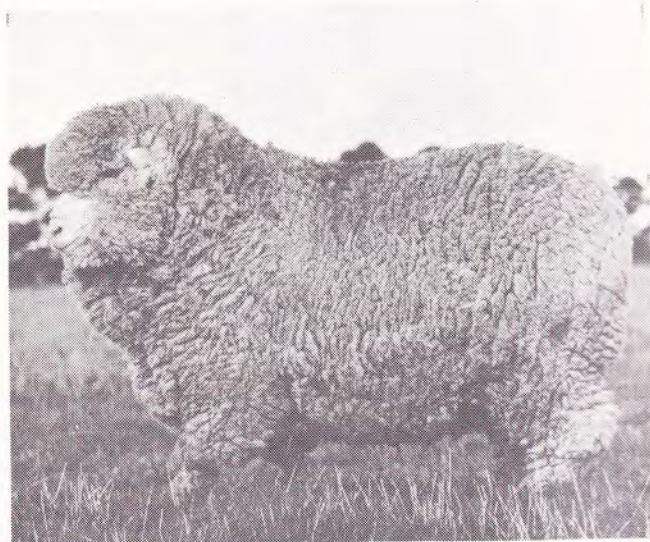
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# POLWARTH CENTENARY

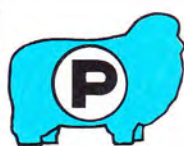


1880  
to  
1980

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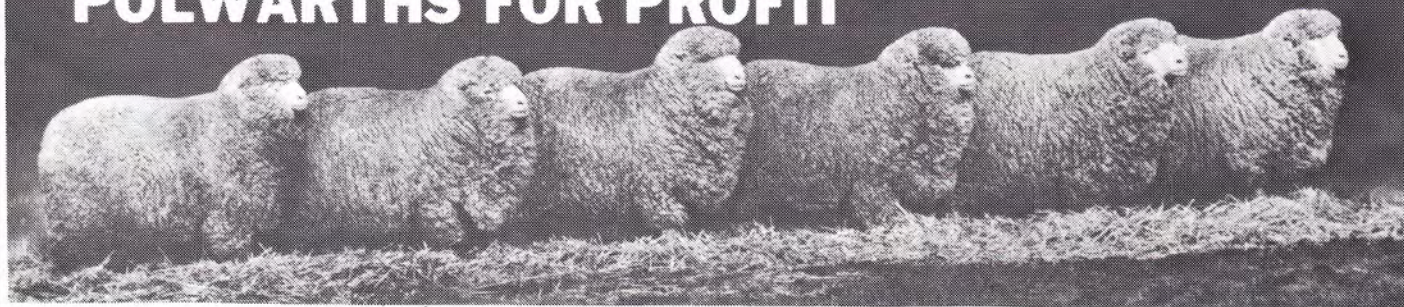
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