



POLWARTH

SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

A pretty good season so far.....

A ring around the states indicate members are pretty happy with the season so far.

In **NSW**, **Ellis Jelbart** who lives at Pleasant Hills in the Riverina district is having a season which Ellis described as, "good as it gets". 50ml of rain fell in the first week of September. While some dams have filled others still need heavier rain and more run-off to fill. The district's wheat and canola crops are looking good. Ellis is about 2/3 of the way through lambing 1400 ewes. There are plenty of twins and triplets which he's pleased with. However, the wool prices are not as healthy as he would like. The ewes were shorn in June and for the moment Ellis is going to hang on to his wool.

North to **Roma in QLD** where **Alan Aisthorpe** and family live. It's starting to get a bit dry and 3-4" would be good although Alan said it could be a lot worse. And it is in terms of wild dogs and foxes. Alan has lost well over 60 head of sheep in the last few weeks from wild dogs and fox attacks. He has had limited success destroying the predators who are cunning and evasive. He hopes the purchase of a thermal scope combined with a baiting program can bring an end to the attacks. Alan has a team of donkeys who are most effective in protecting the sheep in smaller paddocks, however the attacks have been occurring in the larger outlying paddocks on Alan's property.

Over to the **Adelaide Hills in SA** where **Kayla Starkey** reports that the feed is starting to get away and its looking good for hay and silage paddocks. Back in July, Kayla said their place was water logged and she got bogged in the paddocks. It's been drier in recent weeks and some more rain now would be most welcome according to Kayla. They have just finished lambing and are marking mobs on the weekends in-between work commitments.

Down to **Gretna in Tasmania** where **Maxine Walker** said its certainly better than the previous 2-3 seasons. They have had some rain and the paddocks are green. Maxine and Wayne are half way through lambing, have had minimal losses so far and a fairly even split between ram and ewe lambs. They are looking forward to the Hobart Show which is scheduled to go ahead on 20th October.

Near **Bendigo in Victoria**, **Peter English** reports that its been a very good year for rainfall in northern Victoria. In excess of 50ml in both January and March provided good self sown/volunteer growth in cereal stubbles and sub soil moisture. April rainfall was basically non-existent but 31ml in May, 71ml in June and 16ml in August has led to a great season. 22ml in the first week of September has set us nicely for a strong finish. Crops and pasture are looking great. We'll take 2021 every year, thank you!

Australian Sheep & Wool Show Fleece Competition

This year's fleece competition was very well supported by members with a total of 18 fleeces entered from Fairview, Mingara, Moorabbee, Riverview and Roxford. Unfortunately we did not get to see the winning fleeces with their ribbons due to the cancellation of the show.

Congratulations to Warwick Fisher from Mingara near Bendigo for his winning entry. Warwick's fleece also went on to win the Royal Melbourne Show fleece competition. Congratulations to Wayne and Maxine Walker from Riverview in Tasmania for their runners-up placing.

Below: Mingara's winning entry at the ASWS.

20th Australian Fleece Competition			Nutrien
Australian Sheep and Wool Show			Ag Solutions*
Bendigo, Victoria			
July 2021			
331			
Exhibitor	Section	Class 30	
Mingara Warwick L Fisher CARLSRUHE, Vic	Polwarth	Polwarth Stud Ewe or Wether	
Competition Results		Score Max	Wool Grower Profile
Micron:	22.6micron	Greasy Fleece Weight: 6.7Kg	VIC
Std Deviation:	4.2microns	Yield: 83.6%	
CVD:	18.6%	Clean Fleece Weight: 5.6Kg	
Comfort Factor:	95.1%	Commercial Value for Breed: 13.0	
Curvature:	56.9degrees/mm	Conformity to Length: 6.5	
CV Length:	14%	Soundness: 7.5	
Staple Length:	132mm	Evenness: 6.5	
Staple Strength:	30 N/tex	Handle: 5.5	
Tip:	93%	Colour: 5.5	
Middle:	7%	Style/Character: 8.5	
Vegetable Matter:	1.0%	Total Score	87.90
Place in Class:		01	
Wool Grower Profile Stud or Property: Warwick L Fisher Bloodline: Fairview Average Mean Micron: 23.5 micron Flock Size: 8 Average Rainfall: 700 mm Implied Value AWEX ID: XF4E Clean Price: 1113 cents/Kg Greasy Price: 930 cents/Kg Fleece Value: \$62.33 (for information only) <small>* Prices are in Australian dollars. All prices are based on the 2021/22 season. All prices are based on the 2021/22 season. All prices are based on the 2021/22 season.</small>			



The shows were back!

Australian Sheep and Wool Show - 16 to 18 July Cancelled

Unfortunately, the executive committee of The Australian Sheep and Wool Show were forced to cancel the show at the 11th hour as Victoria headed into another covid lockdown.

Seven studs, including Catherine McAuley College, Fairview, Moorabbee, Rendlesham at Fairview, Riverview, Taljade and Taljar had all arrived in Bendigo by Wednesday 14th July.

On Thursday morning we were in good spirits catching up with each other and doing last minute trimming and washing of faces. The Polwarth banners were erected ready to draw visitor's attention to the breed. However, as the day wore on the probability of lockdown and therefore cancellation of the show became imminent.

Inspector, Ken Arnold checked all 47 sheep. Sheep entered in the Performance classes were scanned and had wool samples taken. By lunchtime Ken's family had managed to get him a flight home to Tasmania and Greg Potter drove Ken to Tullamarine in the early afternoon.

Our judge-to-be Kayla Starkey, drove all day Thursday from South Australia, arriving minutes before the show was officially cancelled. After a short break, Kayla drove straight back to get over the VIC/SA border before it closed at midnight.

Stewards, Noel and Jos Littlejohn flew in from Tasmania arriving at their hotel late in the day on Thursday. They were only there a short time when news came through of the show's cancellation. Fortunately, they managed to get a flight home to Tassie on Friday evening.

Wayne and Maxine Walker managed to get a booking on the Spirit of Tasmania on Friday evening, amid some drama. At first, only the sheep were allowed to go, then only Wayne and Maxine were allowed to go and the sheep had to stay and finally common sense prevailed and they were all allowed to get on the boat.

Last to leave Bendigo was David and Jared McArdle from Kangaroo Island. Unfortunately, they had to wait at Bendigo while a strong weather system passed over Kangaroo Island. The gale force winds forced the cancellation of the ferry for three days. David and Jared finally left Bendigo on Sunday morning arriving home on Kangaroo Island on Monday.

All interstate members were required to isolate for 14 days and have coronavirus tests.

Special thanks to Peter English who is Treasurer of the Australian Sheep Breeders Association. Peter and the ASBA committee put in a massive effort in the lead-up to the show to ensure it could go ahead in a covid safe way. One of Peter's tasks was to put electrical tape crosses at 1.5m spacings on all of the spectator grandstands. Peter spent a number of hours completing this task. It goes without saying that Peter never wants to see another roll of electrical tape!



Top right: Wayne Walker and Ken Arnold share a light hearted moment while the sheep are scanned for the Performance Class.

Middle right: David and Jared McArdle trimming after the long trip over from Kangaroo Island.

Bottom right: Ken Arnold (trimmer extraordinaire) working on the Moorabbee sheep.

Bottom left: Sam Potter washing faces in preparation for judging on Friday morning.





Top left: Ken Arnold inspected all sheep.

Middle top: Taljar and Taljade ewes looking neat and tidy after their trim.

Top right: The Polwarth banners stand out in the big shed.



Middle left: Taljar 'Ike' was an impressive sight in his pen. Weighing in at 152kg, he's slightly bigger than his grandfather 'Tiny Tim'.

Middle right: Excuse me, have you seen Peter Englishhe hasn't been to see us for hours.

Below: On Friday morning we put on a happy face for this pic but really we were feeling disappointed and flat following the cancellation of show. For some, there was also the worry about catching planes and boats and ferry's to get home again not to mention border permits and extra paperwork. However, we were lucky to have 24 hours together and vowed we would be back bigger and better in 2022!



From left to right: Quinn Hogan, Dani Hogan, Jared McArdle, Maxine Walker, Kaye Potter, Wayne Walker, Dulcie Dickson, Sam Potter, Peter English, Greg Potter and David McArdle.

Dark and Medullated Fibre (DMF) Testing

Following our meeting held on 3rd August, the association wants to gather information on the degree of Dark and Medullated Fibre in Polwarth flocks around the country.

When next selling your wool clip, whether it is sold as Polwarth or Merino, please request a DMF test through your classer or broker.

The results will come back as very low, low, medium or high.

Please forward a copy of your results to secretary Kaye Potter on 0429 002 442 or email, secretary@polwarth.com.au

If you have any questions, please give Kaye a call on 0429 002 442.

We look forward to gathering this information during the next 12 months.

Upcoming Ram Sales

Taljar Polwarths

Kangaroo Island, SA

13th October 2021

50 rams

www.taljarpolwarths.com.au

Fairview Polwarths

Colac, VIC

Inspection Day — 12th October

Sale - 26th October 2021

30 rams

www.fairviewpolwarths.com.au

Coming up in the next Newsletter

A special feature article on

Tarndwarncourt - 5th Generation

Left and below left: Runner-up in the ASWS Fleece Competition was Riverview from Tasmania with their stud ram fleece. Congratulations Wayne and Maxine!

Below right: The small flock at Mingara near Bendigo, belonging to Warwick Fisher have just had their annual pedicure.

20th Australian Fleece Competition Nutrien Ag Solutions*			
Australian Sheep and Wool Show Bendigo, Victoria July 2021		324	
Exhibitor	Section	Class 29 Polwarth Stud Ram	
Riverview Wayne & Maxine Walker GREYTA, Tas	Polwarth		
Competition Results		Score	Max
Micron:	22.4 micron	7.5	38
Std Deviation:	3.6 microns	80.6%	
CVD:	16.2%		
Comfort Factor:	97.5%		
Curvature:	56.5 degrees/mm		
CV Length:	10%		
Staple Length:	119mm		
Staple Strength:	48 N/tex		
Tip:	0%		
Middle:	83%		
Base:	17%		
Vegetable Matter:	1.0%		
Place in Class:		01	
Wool Grower Profile		TAS	
Stud or Property:		Wayne & Maxine Walker	
Bloodlines:		Riverview	
Average Mean Micron:		21.0 micron	
Flock Size:		152	
Average Rainfall:		450 mm	
Insured Value		X	
ANEX ID:		XF4E	
Clean Price:		1159 cents/Kg	
Greasy Price:		868 cents/Kg	
Fleece Value:		\$71.34 (at 2000mm length)	



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