



POLWARTH

SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Season Wrap Around

What a pleasure it was to ring around the states to talk to some of our members about how their sheep and season are going.

Clifton Polwarths - Albury and Tamworth, NSW

Kel Thomas has a small group of Polwarths at his place in Albury while dad Norm has the main flock at Tamworth. When I asked how the season was going, Kel replied, "absolutely stunning." The rains have come just at the right time and while it is a bit wet underfoot at the moment they are well set up for an excellent spring and summer. Kel mentioned they didn't get the big frosts this year which can do a lot of damage to the sub-species. However, good conditions can have their downside and Kel thinks they will need to be on the lookout for feet and fly issues.

Mt Crawford Polwarths - Adelaide Hills, SA

At Mt Crawford Polwarths, Kate Thornsteinsen said they have had so much rain, water is oozing out of the hills and they are nearly floating away. The property was just starting to dry up when they got another 2 inches recently.

We swapped stories about dirty muddy sheep and yet somehow come late October, November, with sunshine and spring feed on board, the sheep return to the yards different animals.

Kate, Dave and family recently participated in their first Royal Adelaide Show which according to Kate was a great learning curve. Kate's father, David Gordon was a stalwart of the show ring for many years, showing in both South Australia and Victoria.

Roxford Polwarths—Westbury, TAS

Located in the north central part of Tasmania, Simon Gatenby runs 1800 Polwarth ewes and 90 head of Angus cattle. Simon reported its been a tough year with a dry Autumn, followed by a dry winter and some 'cracking' frosts in June and July. Fortunately, a good supply of silage, meant for the cattle, was able to be fed to the sheep. Well above average rainfall fell during August, taking it to the other extreme. *Continued page 2*



Top: Happy lambs at Clifton Polwarths in Albury, NSW

Above: Mt Crawford's 1½-2½ year show rams at home.

Below: Roxford, an 8 month hogget ewe fleece, 80mm.



Season Wrap Around continued

The adult ewes are due to start lambing on 20th September with the maiden ewes starting ten days later. While most breeders around the country deal with predators of some sort at lambing, Simon has a different problem. Their property is located 2km from town where ex-domestic cats find food and shelter in the natural bush and pine trees on and adjacent to Simon's property. Ewes, particularly maidens, are susceptible to a condition called Toxoplasmosis caused by grazing grasses infected with cats faeces. Simon is dealing with an abortion rate of 30% in his maidens which is soul destroying. Efforts to reduce the cat population is ongoing and has minimal impact.

On a positive note, Simon is shearing his 450 hogget ewes three times in the first two years due to their wool growth. The beautiful wool pictured on page one is 80mm in length and an example of what Simon is putting into the press.

Jellalabad Polwarths — Darlington, VIC

At Darlington in south-west Victoria, David Farnhill reports that it's pretty wet, although the grass and vines are growing. David's small flock of Polwarths, who have just finished lambing, are secondary to his main enterprise of grape growing wine making. David has 20 acres of vines at Darlington and 80 acres at Swanhill. The sheep graze between the vines when they are dormant.

David purchased the Darlington property and sheep from Roger Cumming who was flock no. 267. The last entry for flock no. 267 was in the 1990 stud book. David re-registered Jellalabad with the association in 2007.

As I rang off from David, not wanting to take up too much of his time, I had so many more questions, the main one being, what is the name of his wine label.

Fairview fill-in - Barongarook, VIC

This spot was for a member who has had a crazy few days and hasn't been able to get back to me. Adding up the Fairview rainfall chart we are up to 650mm so far and well on the way to our annual average of 850-900mm. The paddocks are sodden however some warm windy days will soon dry the surface up.



Campbell Town Show, TAS

Riverview represented the breed at the Campbell Town Show in Tasmania in early June.

Judge, Michelle Walker awarded Supreme Champion to the young ewe pictured above with Wayne and Charlotte Walker.

Michelle loved the wool with crimp that went from the skin right to the tip. 'A true Polwarth' according to Michelle. And it was soft. The young ewe stood well and had excellent wool coverage extending down her legs. The ewe also big soft ears which Michelle felt was a good sign that she would grow into a big sheep.

The young ewe also took the eye of judge, Kayla Starkey at the ASWS in July where she awarded her Junior Champion ewe.

Office Bearers

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ASWS Results

Following a two year hiatus, due to Covid-19, the Australian Sheep and Wool Show went ahead in July in Bendigo.

While numbers were down on previous years, studs Riverview and Fairview were delighted to be back in the show ring.

Prior to the show, the patience of Wayne and Maxine Walker was tested to the limit, trying to secure a birth on the Spirit of Tasmania. The Spirit was booked solid with caravaners heading

over to the main land. A last minute cancellation provided a spot for Wayne & Maxine. It was third time lucky for judge, Kayla Starkey from Bel-Antha, SA. We hope we provided some brow scratching moments for Kayla as she worked through the classes. Kayla awarded Supreme Champion to Riverview's senior ram describing him as a 'bale buster'. He certainly was a big boy with plenty of presence. Special thanks to life members Ken Arnold and Don Smith who took on the roles of Inspector and Chief Steward respectively. We are very lucky to have Ken and Don's knowledge, experience and friendship at the show.



Above left: Riverview's Wayne Walker with his Grand Champion Ram who went on to win the Supreme Champion Polwarth. Above right: Grand Champion Ewe was won by Fairview's ewe over 2½ years. She is being held by a Catherine McAuley College student.

Rams	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Ram, over 2½ years	Riverview	Fairview	Fairview
Ram, under 1½ years showing full mouth of milk teeth	Fairview	Fairview	Fairview
Ram, under 1½ years with 2 permanent teeth	Fairview		
Ram, under 1½ years March Shorn	Fairview		
Ram with Best Head	Riverview	Fairview	
Ewes	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Ewe, over 2½ years	Fairview	Fairview	Fairview
Ewe, over 1½ and under 2½ years	Fairview	Riverview	
Ewe, under 1½ years showing full mouth of milk teeth	Riverview	Fairview	Fairview
Groups	Winner		
Group of 1 ram and 2 ewes over 1½ years (bred by exhibitor)	Fairview		
Group of 1 ram & 2 ewes under 1½ years (bred by exhibitor)	Fairview		
National Polwarth pair (Ram and ewe of any age bred by exhibitor)	Fairview		
Champions	Winner		
Junior Champion Ram	Fairview		
Reserve Junior Champion Ram	Fairview		
Senior Champion Ram	Riverview		
Reserve Senior Champion Ram	Riverview		
Grand Champion Ram	Riverview		
Junior Champion Ewe	Riverview		
Senior Champion Ewe	Fairview		
Reserve Senior Champion Ewe	Fairview		
Grand Champion Ewe	Fairview		
Supreme Champion Polwarth (Ewe or Ram)	Riverview (Ram)		
Most Successful Exhibitor	Fairview		

ASWS Fleece Competition

Riverview added to their accolades in the show ring, taking out the Champion and Reserve Champion fleece, making a successful campaign for the Tassie stud.



21st Australian Fleece Competition		Nutrien Ag Solutions	
Australian Sheep and Wool Show Bendigo, Victoria July 2022		286	
Editor: Riverview Wayne Walker CMC Inc, TAS	Section: Polwarth	Class 30 Polwarth Stud Ewe or Wether	
Competition Results		Wool Grower Profile	
Micro: 23.2 micron	Greasy Fleece Weight: 8.69kg	TAS	
Std Deviation: 3.6 microns	Yield: 78.7%	Stud or Property: Riverview	AWEX
CVD: 16.2%	Clear Fleece Weight: 5.4kg	Bleedline: None	Average Mean Micro: 25.5 micron
Comfort Factor: 66.6%	Commercial Value for Breed: 13.5	Flock Size: 250	Average Rainfall: 450 mm
Curvature: 94.3 degrees/m	Uniformity to Length: 3.0	Woolmark Value	
CV Length: 8%	Soundness: 19.0	AWEX ID: 262E	Clear Price: 1218 cents/kg
Staple Length: 116mm	Evenness: 6.0	Greasy Price: 586 cents/kg	Fleece Value: \$85.77
Staple Strength: 52N/Min	Handle: 5.5	<small>* Prices are subject to change. For more information on wool prices, visit the AWEX website at www.awex.com.au</small>	
Tip: 3%	Colour: 6.9		
Middle: 27%	Style/Character: 10.8		
Base: 78%	Total Score: 92.60		
Vegetable Matter: 1.0%	Place in Class: 1st		

Class	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Class 29 – Polwarth Stud Ram	Riverview Reserve Champion Polwarth Fleece	Riverview	Moorabbee
Class 30 – Polwarth Stud Ewe or Wether	Riverview Champion Polwarth Fleece	Riverview	Fairview
Class 31 – School Polwarth Ewe or Wether	Catherine McAuley College		

ASWS Junior Competition

Junior Handler

For the first time this year, the Junior Handler class was incorporated into the senior judging. Approximately, twelve Catherine McAuley College (CMC) students received instruction from Sam Potter and Ken Arnold before working in pairs to bring sheep to and from the judging mat. The breeders were close-by to help with wayward sheep and lambs and to provide mentoring. The students were so focussed on the task at hand they were unaware of Maxine Walker who was judging their skills.



Fleece Competition

A quick round-up of four different Polwarth fleeces by Peter English set up a successful competition. Greg Potter provided students with some basic knowledge before they set about scoring the fleeces.

Special thanks to Catherine McAuley College teacher, Scott Vaughan for preparing the students in advance for the day. The students were well presented, interested, focussed and a joy to work with.

Above: CMC students with teacher, Scott Vaughan in the middle celebrate their success in the Junior Competition.

Right: Lanae Goldsmith from Ballarat won the fleece competition and overall Junior Section winner.



Class	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Junior Fleece Judging	Lanae Goldsmith	Lucy Wilkinson	Tom Day	Thomas Miller
Junior Handler	Lillian Brown	Lanae Goldsmith	Thomas Miller	Lucy Wilkinson
Junior Section Overall Winner (Geoffrey A. Kemp Memorial Trophy)	Lanae Goldsmith			

Royal Adelaide Show Results

Three studs represented the Polwarth breed at this year's Royal Adelaide Show. Regulars Taljar and Taljade were joined by Mt Crawford, showing for the first time in many years.

It was a dominant performance by Taljar as judge, Eric Ashby from Mt Alma Dohne's awarded Taljar the Champion Ram and Champion Ewe. Both animals then competed in the Longwool Interbreed with the ewe catching the judges ewe and taking out Reserve Champion Longwool.

In the fleece competition, Bel-Antha won the Champion Ram and Champion Ewe fleece classes.



Above left: Taljar's, David McArdle with his Champion Ram.

Above right: A super cute photo of David McArdle with his five grandies (peas in a pod) and the Champion Ewe and Reserve Champion Longwool.

Right: Mt Crawford's Steve Thornsteinsen in the ram 1½-2½ years class, with Laece Amundsen centre and Joel Kerr right.

Rams	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Ram over 2½ years	Taljar	Taljar	Mt Crawford
Ram over 1½ and under 2½ years	Taljar	Taljade	Mt Crawford
Ram under 1½ years	Taljar	Taljar	Mt Crawford
Ram shorn, any age	Taljar	Taljar	Taljade
Pair of Rams under 1½ years. Machine shorn between 15th March and 15th April	Taljar	Taljade	
Champion Polwarth Ram	Taljar		
Reserve Champion Polwarth Ram	Taljar		
Pen of Three Rams under 1½ years	Taljar	Taljade	
Ewes	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Ewe over 1½ and under 2½ years	Taljar	Taljar	
Ewe under 1½ years	Taljar	Taljar	Taljade
Champion Polwarth Ewe	Taljar		
Reserve Champion Polwarth Ewe	Taljar		
Groups	1 st		
Group of 2 rams and 2 ewes, any age	Mt Crawford		
Breeders' Group	Taljar		
Most Successful Polwarth Exhibitor	Taljar		
Fleece Competition	1 st		
Polwarth Wool, fleece from ram, under 1½ years	Bel-Antha		
Polwarth Wool, fleece from ewe, under 1½ years	Bel-Antha		
Champion Polwarth Ram Fleece	Bel-Antha		
Champion Polwarth Ewe Fleece	Bel-Antha		

Unexpected Surprise!

At the recent Royal Adelaide Show, judging of the Interbreed Ram class was hijacked by a surprise presentation for Taljar's, David McArdle.

In a most thoughtful gesture, the show committee had reprinted all of the broad ribbons won by Taljar since 2017. This follows the loss of David and Lynne's house and possessions as a result of the fires on Kangaroo Island in January 2020.

Pictured right, Talisa and Jared look on as Andrew Duncan, wool section organiser, presents David with the new broad ribbons to replace those lost in the fire.



Encouragement & Opportunity

Two young teenagers from non-farming backgrounds participated in the Polwarth judging at the recent Royal Adelaide Show.

Saje Keenan (pictured fourth from left) and Laece Amunsden (pictured below left) have been generously welcomed into the Mt Crawford stud fold by Kate and Dave Thornsteinsen. Both Saje and Laece spend time at Mt Crawford helping with tasks and building their skills.



At the show, Saje also participated in the Junior Handler class, winning a blue ribbon. Saje credits his Birdwood High School teacher, Lauren Smith with getting him into the industry. It was the school program and Woolyana Birdwood Polwarth stud where he got a taste for agriculture and sheep showing.

Another familiar face in the picture with Saje is Sam Edwards (first on left) from Murrawooda Polwarths who was a judge for the Junior Handler class.

ADVANCED NOTICE

2023 - Royal Adelaide Show

Feature Breeds: Polwarth & Corriedale

Dates: 2-10 September 2023

Shearing date: on or after 31st August

A meeting of the Past and Present

One of the enjoyable tasks as secretary of the association is the opportunity to stay in touch with members via phone calls, emails and text messages. And then every so often we get a chance to meet up.

In early June, I met Bettyanne McFarland from Durraween Downs, Dubbo, NSW and cousin Angus when they flew into Melbourne to visit a cousin of theirs.

It was definitely a meeting of the past and present in regard to the Polwarth association. Amongst other things, Bettyanne was heavily involved in the centennial celebrations of the breed held back in 1980.



Above: From right, secretary Kaye Potter, middle, Bettyanne McFarland (Durraween Downs) and left, Bettyanne's cousin Angus.



Clockwise: 1. Moorabee, Peter English - the ever vigilant mid-wives on duty during lambing.



2. Rainbow, Ellis Jelbart - if you love an old shearing shed, this one is a

beauty. Built out of bush poles by Ellis' father and Italian prisoners of war in 1940's.



3. Fairview—Sam Potter's daughter Peggy has slept through hours of sheep work in the last 8 months.

4. Murrawooda, Sam Edwards and Josh Wiltshire - twin lambs doing well in the Adelaide Hills, SA.




STOCKSCAN



Elders



5th on Property Sale Wednesday 12th October

60 High Quality Dual Purpose Paddock Reared Rams Available

55 Taljar Rams 5 Taljade Rams

11am Inspections 1pm Start

1812 East West One Hwy Parndana Kangaroo Island





Light Luncheon Supplied

Contact: David McArdle 0498 632 042 Jared: 0427 753 447 Talisa 0428 667 587

Paul Jardine Landmark: 0427 975 718 Greg Downing: 0427 974 440 Email: taljadepolwarths@hotmail.com MNSV BRUCELLOSIS ACCREDITED SA1342

Find us on Facebook Taljar or Taljade Polwarths www.taljarpolwarths.com.au

Mt Crawford

Polwarths

OPEN DAY

MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER

10AM — 2PM

10 RAMS

FOR PRIVATE SALE

Born June 2021

Shorn end March '22

For more information contact

Kate Thornsteinsen

0402 046 370

Refreshments provided

PADDOCK REARED

NON-MULESED

PERFORMANCE RECORDED

20-24 MICRON





FAIRVIEW POLWARTH'S

2022 RAM SALE

21ST OCTOBER 2022 | SALE STARTS 12:30PM


AuctionsPlus[®]
 ONLINE SIMULTANEOUS
 BIDDING

30 RAMS

BORN JUNE 2021

SHORN 07/04/2022

INSPECTION DAY
 21ST OCTOBER 2022 | 10AM - 12:30PM



SELLING AGENT
 Peter McConachy
 Ph: 0408 522 678




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 Email: info@fairviewpolwarths.com.au
www.fairviewpolwarths.com.au




Riverview

Polwarths

RAM SALE

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

20 RAMS

Born September 2021

Shorn 3/9/22

For more information contact

Wayne Walker

0417 326 135