



## **POOGINOOK NEWS UPDATE**

April 2008

### **Key Dates for 2008**

Enclosed is our Events Calendar for 2008 advising of the key dates for the showing and selling of Pooginook Rams:

- 18-20 July 2008 – At the Bendigo Sheep Show Pooginook will be displaying 2008 auction rams and young sires
- 30 July 2008 – Open Day at Pooginook
- 21 August 2008 - Pooginook will offer 2-3 top young sires at the Katanning Ram Sale in WA
- 30 September 2008 – Annual Pooginook Ram Sale offering 250 rams

### **Strong Results from the Mating Season**

Pooginook enjoyed 200mm of rain between November 2007 and January 2008. A good body of summer perennial grasses and the ongoing rotational grazing of the Stud sheep resulted in an excellent mating. In December, 1,900 Special Stud ewes were artificially mated or single/syndicate mated to leading proven PGK sires. The ewes are currently in 3 to 4 score condition leading up to lambing in May/June. The entire Stud scanning results this year averaged 54% twins, 41% singles and 5% dry (as a percentage of the ewes joined).

At their recent shearing, the young rams were well grown with the leading rams weighing well above 60kg. All the breeding ewes have again been shorn at 6 months. The ewes are shearing more than 10% extra wool for the year compared to one annual shearing. The lambing and joining rates have also improved.

### **Pooginook Open Day**

On the 30<sup>th</sup> July, Pooginook will host an Open Day. Industry leaders will be speaking on topics such as fertility, management and the Pooginook breeding direction. Advanced Merino ewe hoggets will be shorn and the leading 2008 auction rams and young sires will be on display. A new sheep handling area is being constructed, incorporating some of the existing yards at the Pooginook Woolshed. This new facility will enable the full implementation of electronic recording and drafting of the Stud sheep. We are looking forward to showing you through this new facility at our Open Day.

Best Wishes

The Pooginook Team

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**Pooginook Merino**

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