



# JULY 2013 NEWSLETTER EDITION 42

POOGINOOK

**P/GK**

Merino and Poll

founded 1913

Thinking and breeding for the future

## POOGINOOK CONTINUES TO RE-ENGINEER THE MERINO

One of Pooginook's keys to success is consistency in direction and client communication.

Three generations of the Taylor family have been at the helm spanning over a century – the only studmasters involved.

When Paraway Pastoral Company purchased Pooginook in 2007, studmaster David Taylor was retained as a sheep consultant, advisor and classer ensuring the stud's foundation and history were not lost.

Pooginook's pursuit of a dual purpose Merino for the Australian climate has gained momentum this year with 200 day eye muscle area and fat depth measurements taken on single mate ram weaners as part of the stud's comprehensive program to embrace the latest technology and industry research.

Parentage verification using Pedigree Matchmaker will increase the accuracy of breeding values in the progeny of single sire matings – this year involving 1600 ewes.

Australian Sheep Breeding Value accuracies have also been enhanced by the stud's participation in a DNA blood testing pilot commercialisation program. Partly funded by the Sheep Co-operative Research Centre, the project has involved the testing of 102 ram weaners on Pooginook.

Breech wrinkle scoring of single mate sheep was undertaken at lamb marking

to provide direction on breeding a plainer breech on Pooginook rams – whilst maintaining wool cut and quality.

External linkages to industry benchmarking through sire evaluation and wether trials continues to strengthen the stud's genetic position.

Four Bred Well Fed Well workshops were facilitated by Pooginook this year to increase the use of objective measurement and visual assessment by ram buyers.

Last year, the stud sold 1232 poll and Merino rams, cementing its position as one of the state's leading suppliers of Merino genetics.

The stud joined 2480 ewes to poll rams this year – 1100 artificially inseminated – and 3340 ewes were joined to Merino rams. This increased the number of ewes joined by approximately 400 head. Poll ram numbers will increase to 43 per cent of the drop next year.

As one of the nation's biggest on-property Merino ram auctions, the Pooginook sale on October 1 will catalogue 250 poll and Merino rams.

The stud will also offer 1500 flock rams for sale this year from mid-September, with 33 per cent bred by poll sires.

**John Sutherland**  
Pooginook Manager

## POOGINOOK DIARY

- Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo - July 19-21
- South West Slopes Merino field day, Clements Monastery, Galong - September 5
- Pooginook sponsored Bred Well Fed Well education days, Frogmore Hall, via Boorowa, NSW - July 12
- St Arnaud Showground, Victoria - July 25
- On-property sale - October 1

## IN THIS EDITION

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Visit [www.pooginook.com](http://www.pooginook.com) for the latest news and our e-catalogue pre-sale.



# What's happening at PGK

Breeding a highly productive dual purpose Merino comes down to a mix of modern science and old-fashioned stock skills at Pooginook.

The stud has embraced a range of tools to deliver superior seedstock, including:

- benchmarking
- sire evaluation
- progeny testing
- parentage identification
- genomic testing
- ultrasound carcass measurements

This use of advanced genomic technology with proven visual classing methods is fast tracking genetic gain.

Pooginook is one of 12 producers taking part in a large-scale DNA testing trial conducted by the Sheep CRC as part of a genomics pilot project.

Genomics is being used to predict a range of breeding values to combine with visual selection for elite rams.

Phenotypic data collected will be used to truth-up the results on rams for growth, micron, wool cut and carcass traits.



Collecting wool data and 300 day body weight on ram weaners

A total of 102 rams have been genotyped to gather data on parentage, identify carriers of the poll gene, and to increase understanding of the flock's genetic makeup.

Pooginook introduced Pedigree Matchmaker in 2012, using the program to capture maternal pedigree information on 1400 single mated progeny and enhance breeding value accuracies.

## Well presented Pooginook lines draw praise



Demand was strong at recent Melbourne wool sales for the Pooginook lines.

Pooginook assistant manager Sean Carroll teamed up with his father Dennis and uncle Fred Tuddenham, both of Geelong, to travel to Melbourne to see the Pooginook ram weaner wool sold.

Offered in the Fox and Lillie Rural sale 47 catalogue in Melbourne,

Dennis Carroll and wool classer Fred Tuddenham, both of Geelong, with Pooginook assistant manager Sean Carroll, inspect the Pooginook at the Melbourne wool sale.

the wool received tremendous competition, according to Fox and Lillie technical and marketing manager Eamon Timms.

"Although shorn early as a management decision, the returns were not at much discount to full length fleece lines offered on the same day," Mr Timms said.

The wool tested at 17.2 micron, had a staple length of 59mm, staple strength of 55 Newtons per kilotex, and sold for 756 c/kg. The ram weaners grew 3.5kg of wool in the six months.

The result followed a Clip of the Month award for Pooginook ewe wool sold by Elders on May 9. This line of wool now enters the Elders Clip of the Year to be announced in August.

Clip preparation at Pooginook is carried out by classer Christine Hall and Vic McCallman Shearing from Deniliquin.

# Frazier outclasses rivals in sire evaluation

Pooginook stud sire Frazier has stamped his dominance as a complete package with the release of central test sire evaluation results.

The Bluechip Livestock Young Sire program is independently testing 10 NSW and Western Australian Merino rams by artificial insemination across 400 Poll Merino ewes with the progeny assessed for fleece, carcass and structural traits.

Pooginook Frazier, a 2009-drop ram, has emerged as the trait leader for the Merino Production Plus Index (which

is based on a balanced wool and meat production system where surplus progeny are sold as hoggets) after the first assessment of the 2012 drop progeny.

A new initiative in sire evaluation, the Bluechip Young Sire program retains the male progeny as rams, enabling them to be part of the Sheep CRC Genomic pilot project.

Pooginook Frazier was a standout in the classer's "tops by cull grade" with 51 per cent of "tops", compared to the program's average of 23 per cent.

Ranked as the top sire for clean fleece weight, staple length, resistance to fleece rot, greasy wool whiteness, body weight and reduced fibre pigmentation.

The progeny were assessed at 10 months of age with 10 months of wool growth.

The program is run under the support of the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association at Temora, in southern NSW.

## Producers gain valuable skills from educational

Merino producers from New South Wales and Victoria are benefiting from practical skills learnt at Pooginook sponsored workshops. Bred Well Fed Well workshops held at West Wyalong and Warren have been delivered by Jason Trompf, Sally Martin and Geoff Duddy.

Topics included improving ewe nutrition, developing a breeding goal, feed budgets and breeding more productive ewes.

Southern NSW sheep and grain producer Drew Vidler attended the West Wyalong workshop with the aim of "getting more lambs on the ground".

A Pooginook client for 15 years, Mr Vidler has introduced poll rams to his 1500 ewe flock at Corobimilla.

"The workshop was very informative and kept us riveted," he said. "We will definitely changing our practices, including the mob sizes at lambing and reintroducing pregnancy scanning."

Mr Vidler said the cropping enterprise made paddock allocation difficult but he planned to run the sheep in mobs related to condition score rather than age to increase management outcomes.

Tony Hill, who runs 4500 Merino ewes in southern NSW at Cootamundra,

attended the West Wyalong workshop with his son Alex.

"I got a real buzz out of it...I especially enjoyed the interaction between the people who went," Tony said.

He likes to benchmark his flock and used the workshop to confirm his sheep breeding objectives and practices.

"I am always interested to see what other stud masters are doing - I keep my book open - what I learnt from talking to John Sutherland was fantastic," Tony said.

"The key message for me was positive genetic fat on the ewes. But, the most important thing was seeing my son and his mate absolutely jumping over the moon with the information they learnt.

"There is not enough of these educational days for the younger generation - I thought the quality of the presenters was outstanding."

Manager of Paraway Pastoral's Condobolin property, Borambil,



Matt Browning, found the depth of information provided useful for both his staff and himself.

He said the presenters imparted practical skills in an easily understood format. "The main thing was having all our staff on the same wavelength," Mr Browning said.

"We will also be lambing our multiple bearing ewes in smaller mobs to increase lambing percentages."

250 stud and selected Merino and Poll Merino rams for auction at Pooginook at 12.30pm Tuesday October 1 2013

Catalogue available at [www.pooginook.com](http://www.pooginook.com) from mid September

- celebrating 100 years of breeding ■ wool quality
- fertility and growth ■ ASBVs ■ benchmarked

## Sire Watch Flock Code: 500788 • latest micron test October 19, 2012

### Pooginook Ranger son of PGK Diamond

FID 82065 (born June 2008)

Fibre: FD 18.5 SD 2.9 CV 15.6 CF 99.5  
 Ranger continues as a leading sire at Pooginook. Ranger was the leading ram for clean fleecweight and the Merino Production Plus AMSEA index value in the 2011 Victorian Sire Evaluation trial at Balmoral

### Pooginook Pearl son of PGK Ranger

FID 103073 born June 2010

Fibre: FD 19.9 SD 3.0 CV 15 CF 99.5  
 Single mated to special stud ewes in 2012. Entered in Trangie Central Test Sire Evaluation program in 2013.

### Pooginook Frazier son of PGK 73802

FID 090494 (born June 2009)  
 Fibre: FD 20.1 SD 2.3 CV 11.4 CF 99.7  
 Frazier continues to be a leading sire at Pooginook while providing important linkages to industry through sire evaluation results. Single mated to special stud ewes in 2012. Entered in the Blue Chip Livestock Young Sire Evaluation program in 2012 and the

Trangie Central Test Sire Evaluation program in 2012 and 2013. Sons of Frazier are available for sale in 2013.

### Pooginook son of PGK Frazier

FID 112111 (born June 2011)  
 Fibre: FD 19.9 SD 2.6 CV 13.0 CF 99.8  
 Single mated to special stud ewes in 2012.

Semen packages are available upon request

Please find PGK sires current Merino Select ASBVs at [www.sheepgenetics.org.au/SGSEARCH/](http://www.sheepgenetics.org.au/SGSEARCH/)



## Flock Rams Available in 2013

Pooginook will have a selection of well grown flock rams available for private sale.

- 250 Merino and Poll Merino rams offered at the Top of the Drop on-property sale.
- More than 1500 selected and flock MERINO AND POLL MERINO rams will be available in grades from \$600.

Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) and micron data will be available to assist with ram selection.

Enquiries are always welcome.  
 Contact Pat Brown Pooginook Stud Sales Manager on 0427 546 151.

Over 80% of rams are sold by private selection from mid-September onwards