

# Top Ram sales for 2001



Four-Year-old sire P/GK Perkins sold for \$20,000 to Grant Bredhauer from Nevertire NSW. Holding Perkins is David Taylor

## P/GK Perkins sells for \$20,000 privately at the Riverina Stud Merino Field days.

A casual conversation at the Dubbo Sheep Show and Sale turned into the top ram sale for the 2001 Riverina Stud Merino Field Days. Grant Bredhauer from Berkleman Stud Ingomon Nevertire NSW and David Taylor negotiated the sale of four year old sire Pooginook Perkins 7.1 for \$20,000. (Pooginook retained full semen marketing rights)

He had been used at Pooginook for 2 artificial Breeding seasons and paddock mated for 3 seasons. Basically he had done his job at Pooginook David said. We have retained a number of his sons and daughters At the WA ram auction in 2000, 44% of the progeny were by Perkins.

Perkins was by P/GK Jim and out of leading P/GK ewe 923991.

### Pooginook Statement of Purpose

Provide advanced Merino genetics and wool marketing options for the wool industry. We want to run a profitable business while improving the natural environment, share knowledge and achieving a meaningful way of life for everyone concerned.

## Excellent WA Auction

A good sale result when 130 rams sold to a top of \$3400 and average \$964. Twice Dawson Harris paid the top price of \$3400 from Craigmores stud, Katanning. Mr Harris said it was the first time he had bought at the WA auction and he was pleased to find the local quality matched that of the sheep bred in the east. Craigmores also bought a third ram for \$800.

Major buyers were Bernie, Frank and Gerry Clune from Geraldton. They have been using P/GK rams for 12 years and it was the first time they had bought at auction. They took home 32 rams based on the decision to increase Merino ewe matings by 1500 to 1800 head. They join about 6500 ewes to Merinos.

Guest auctioneer Brian Faithful started the sale with the 1st seven lots selling over \$2000. Other major buyers and long-term P/GK purchasers were Geoff & Wendy Thorn from Kojonup, Jock Clapin from Ballochmyle Grazing Co, Cranbrook and JH Nazzari family from Tambellup who bought 12 rams.

The Pooginook WA breeding enterprise is managed by John and Sue Venemore at Shackleton. There are currently 650 breeding ewes joined this season. In April 70 rams were sent to WA from NSW to complement the ram requirements for our WA business. A total of 275 classed rams will be available for selection in the Spring.

David visited WA during December to class the breeding ewes and select the sires for joining. In January 500 ewes were Artificially Inseminated to top Pooginook sires.



David Taylor with Mark Harris from Craigmores Katanning holding the equal top price rams. With them are guest auctioneer Brian Faithful, Preston Clarke, Wesfarmers Landmark and Dawson Harris from Craigmores.

## 2002 Programme for WA

- Field Day Great Southern Districts Wickepin Showgrounds Monday August 19
- P/GK Ram sale Corrigin Showgrounds Monday September 23
- Private selection from Sept 23

## Time to Increase Merino Ewe numbers

### David Taylor Comments



The prices for wool and sheep are finally at a sustainable level. We have waited along time to say "the industry is back" Our big concern now is the continued decline of merino sheep numbers and the impact that will have on the world textile market and ultimately us - the wool grower. With other rural commodities being strong a move back into Merino Sheep will be slow.

Our decision at Pooginook has been to increase sheep numbers. We have upgraded our irrigation and increasing our ewe numbers in WA. We anticipate prices for Merino ewes in the spring to be strong.

This year we joined 6400 stud ewes and judging by pregnancy scanning we will end up with over 100% of lambs. Our season is above average for this time of year so the lambing ewes should enjoy good conditions. The Ram Weaners are the best we have had for years. They are well grown and should present well by spring selection time.

Our 2002 selling programme has been modified to include 5 selected rams for auction at the Hamilton Sheepvention on August 6 and a team of selected rams at the West Wyalong Ram Sale on September 3.

P/GK sheep will display sheep at Bendigo Sheep show, Dubbo Ram Sales and Broken Hill Ag Fair.

David

## Pooginook Tops Riverina Merino Stud Sales

Solid bidding support from five states pushed prices to \$15,000 and created a top average at the Pooginook NSW sale. There was a total clearance of 127 rams offered with 30 selling for \$2000 or higher and the average of \$1610.

Buyers came from all major wool growing areas of WA, NSW, Victoria, South Australian and Queensland. The top priced ram was bought by sheep classer Neville Kelly on behalf of Walter and Alison Brown of Kooroon, St George Qld. Kooroon is a P/GK daughter stud.

The 2-year-old son of P/GK 5.8 Jim had a micron of 18.2, SD of 3.5, CV 19.1, CF 99.5. He was used at Pooginook for the last mating season. Neville Kelly said the ram was selected for its rich pure wool, which was carried on a big upstanding ram.

The second highset price was \$4500 paid by Tony Inder from Allendale Merino stud Goolma NSW. Allendale secured 3 rams for the day. Tony said he was impressed with the rams long staple and correct conformation. He also secured two rams for \$1200 and \$800.

Kym Mosey from Twin Creek Pastoral Co Kapunda SA bought 5 rams to \$3500 and averaged \$2530. While Ian and Ruth McKellar from McKellar Pastoral Co, Grenfell secured a 20 micron ram with a CV of 18.9 and SD of 3.8 CF of 99.9 for \$3250.

Other volume buyers John and Anthea Sutherland secured 8 rams from \$1600 to \$2750. The Jose family from Meningie, took home 8 rams to a top of \$1200. Victoria buyers included the Olive family from Charlton, Mt Talbot Horsham, the Proctors from St Arnaud and Peter Sutherland from Rutherglen.



David Taylor with Neville Kelly stud classer and Queensland P/GK representative bought P/GK 1.2 for Kooroon St George Queensland for \$15,000.

### Business as Usual

Pat and Pauline Brown have moved to live in Coleambally. Pat continues as Sales Manager for Pooginook New contact details 0269544676 or fax 69544672 email: Brown4@bigpond.com.au



Pooginook manager Robert Hughes with Interim chairman Natural Instinct Wool Co Michael von Berg, David Taylor at the Ewe hogget day where Michael outlined the new company structure to PGKWI members.

## Natural Instinct Wool Company

[www.naturalinstinctwool.com](http://www.naturalinstinctwool.com) (under construction)

Pooginook Wool Initiative has taken the next stage of development and has offered shares to members in the new public unlisted company Natural Instinct Wool Co.

The formation of the company is to take further advantages that will include a capital base to underwrite financially the development of promotional, database and information systems. The continuity of business operations to secure sustainable progress and establish a board of directors and management team to further marketing options and research and development of shareholders wool.

The process included consultation with PGK WI members at 2 network sessions in Forbes NSW and Katanning WA. A business plan was done with assistance from NSW State and Regional Development. The company is now registered but has taken over 18 months to consult and set up. Independent consultant Michael von Berg from Adelaide has been assisting the group with the process and is the interim chairman. Other directors are John Sutherland 02 6895 3017, Bert Matthews 02 6993 2118, Roger Andrews 08 9833 2260, David and Gillian Taylor 0269546145.

## "The wool was exquisite" - Super wool project

For 18 months the Pooginook ram shed was converted into a fine wool sheep feeding operation. The objective- to observe how elite wool performed under control conditions and add value to excess sheep. The sheep were selected from the cull rams and ewes with wool less than 18 micron. Under shed and rug conditions they produced 14 to 16.5 micron wool with an average of 16.2.

At the wool sale in September 2001 the shedded wool sold for 2800¢/kg. Wesfarmers fine wool specialist Ted Wilson said the sale of shedded elite wool might one day open up a market for this type of wool. To date shedded wool to be viable has to be less than 14.5 micron.

Gill Taylor said the wool was exquisite with beautiful colour, crimp definition lustre and handle.



Ted Wilson Wesfarmers Fine wool specialist and Gillian Taylor.



## Pooginook Wool Initiative Update



The First Woolcare Group for wool producers for Australia and PGKWI

### 2000/2001 Achievements

- The highlight of the years work was the conclusion of the business planning process (October 2001) and the registration of a public unlisted Company Natural Instinct Wool Co in April 2002. The first Board meeting will be held in June 2002.
- The Elders price grid continues for PGKWI growers. It is updated monthly and we are continuing to encourage producers to look at the grid and select lots that fit the specifications. There are premiums for Co Efficient of Variation of Micron, strength, mid point break and Clipcare. Wool has to be delivered to an AWH depot anywhere in Australia. We urge you to consider this offer.
- The conclusion of the Breeding trial was held at Condobolin in February 2002. Final report available on request. Summary sent out to all members. This is a PIRD Woolmark funded project so the information is public domain. Dr Paul Swan was the independent scientist for the project. 45 Wool producers attended the workshop which included speaker George Last from Elders outlining the Price Grid objectives and David Chapman from Dubbo TAEFE outlining the Woolcare programme
- The First Woolcare trial workshop was done with PGKWI and TAEF Dubbo. Co ordained by Stephanie Strong from Boree Creek. 10 PGKWI businesses attended and contributed to the formation of the course. Another course will be run in WA during July. We are encouraging members to add the Woolcare Quality Control programme to their existing Care programmes. It was identified in the Business Plan that all PGKWI contributors should be part of a Wool Integrity programme (WIP). We selected Woolcare because it will eventually be the National QA process. Most processors acknowledge wool from well-bred clips. Woolcare will further differentiate the clip with an QA Brand. It also identifies that the clip preparation was independent from shearing facilities or land with exotic sheep breeds.
- Pooginook Collection. We still have some sizes and colours left from the collection. he clothing is fantastic and washes and wears very well. Discounts available to clear stock. Contact Gillian Taylor 0260234011 (school weekdays) or [www.pooginook.com](http://www.pooginook.com)

### Dates for the Diary

Mid May Return Share application for Natural Instinct Wool Co October / Nov Annual General Meeting TBA

For details on Workshops and membership or Associate membership to **Pooginook Wool Initiative** Contact

Gillian Taylor 02 69546145 or 0260234011

Email [pooginook@bigpond.com](mailto:pooginook@bigpond.com)

Pooginook Jerilderie NSW 2716

Liz Matthews Bedarbidgal Hay NSW 0269932118

New Members welcome. Two levels Pooginook full member or associate member. Membership fee \$55 Inc GST per year.



# Easy Care Merinos a now priority

"Michael Lempriere believes stud sheep breeders hold the key to arresting the shrinkage of Australian Merino flock. The wool industry has reached a critical point, he says, where the decline in sheep numbers threatens to render wool irrelevant in the global fibre market, he said.

There is enough wool scouring, combing and wool-dedicated spinning machinery in the world to process a clip considerably larger than currently exists.

But to grow more wool, producers must have confidence that wool can return better profits than other farming alternatives, such as crops, beef, lamb or even timber or vines.

Growers suggest that will only happen if processors pay more for wool, but Michael Lempriere suggests the onus lies first and foremost with stud breeders. "Sheep are considered more work and stud breeders should be producing sheep that are easier to work," he said. "We have to breed sheep that don't require drenching, don't attract flies and don't require chemical lice treatment. Wool has to earn its way and has to be interesting to produce."

Mr Lempriere said he was often asked what type of wool people should grow.

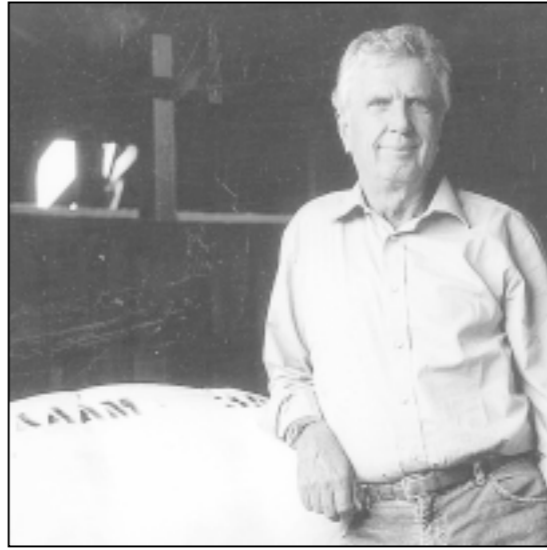
But it impossible to say if 16 or 23 micron wool were better, because a market existed for all types.

Until recently growing fine wool was a better economic proposition than now, but that has changed, The main point is to do whatever you do well, whether it is fine, course or medium, it has to be good.

Mr Lempriere said the importance of high tensile wool was increasing along with speed of modern spinning machinery. Good preparation was also crucial, to ensure toolmakers had a full range of options with a give line.

"People say topmakers mix it all up, but when you make a top, you do it to a recipe, and you must have control over the ingredients of that recipe. There is also that nebulous thing called style.

"Brightness of wool, character of wool, it is something that is difficult to quantify why but most knowledgeable processors pay good money for it".



Reprint from Stock and Land February 28 2002 Michael Lempriere says "most knowledgeable processors pay good money for style"

## Comments from P/GK Producers . . .

### Michael Kelly, Kincora Meandara Qld Emailed

"Since we have started to use Pooginook rams the quality of our wool has improved beyond all expectation. Between Nev's classing and the P/GK genetics we feel we can face the challenges for the future wool industry with confidence."

### Perry Family, Bear Lagoon VIC - 2100 ewes on dry lucerne land & improved pasture

"Since introducing rams we have retained frame size, wool cut, plainer more easy care sheep with softer wool. We have noticed an improvement in comfort factor & wool tensile strength".

Kevin O'Callaghan Oky Doky, Tabbitta NSW updated us on the Hillston Wether trial in its second year. Oky Doky flock was placed 1st in 1st year, 3rd in 2nd year and still running 1st overall. The wethers cut 7.8kg of 19.2 micron wool with an average wool value of \$40.62. The trial average was \$34.56.

## 2002 Ram Grades

Flock rams available from \$400 to \$800  
Specially Selected \$1000  
Stud rams available on request  
Ewes available from November 2002  
Semen catalogue available  
www.pooginook.com or mail on request  
All rams will be Fibre Diameter Analysis tested taken first week September 2002.  
1800 rams available from September (NSW Stud Merino Breeders Testing Accreditation)  
New Orders Welcome  
Contact Pat Brown to book a ram selection time  
Ph 02 6954 4676 or Fax 6954 4672

## Dates for the Diary

May 2 to 4	Broken Hill Agfest	Display P/GK sheep
July 19 to 22	Bendigo Sheep Show	Display P/GK sheep
August 4 to 6	Hamilton Sheepvention	Auction 5 rams
Monday August 19	P/GK WA Wickepin	Great Southern Field days
August 28 to 29	Dubbo Sheep Show/sale	Display P/GK sheep
Friday Sept 13	P/GK shearing shed	Ewe Hogget Shearing Open day
	Shearers Hall Fame Hay	Display Riverina Stud Merino Field day
Monday Sept 23	P/GK WA Corrigin	Ram Sale 140 rams
Tuesday Oct 1	P/GK Rams sale	Ram Sale 150 rams
Oct/ Nov TBA	PGK WI AGM	TBA

# Hogget Shearing an annual Event

Over 100 wool producers from NSW, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia came to the first open Pooginook ewe hogget shearing day in August last year. The day was such a success with positive feed back from growers that it will continue as an annual event combined with the Riverina Stud Merino Field days. During the day 4 shearers shored the 2000 drop ewe hoggets and the wool was tested with the fleece scan by Riverina Wool Testers. Pooginook Wool classer, Andy Waugh was also available to discuss how he had classed the wool for the best sale result, combining his classing knowledge and the statistics from Fleecescan.

The 2000-drop ewes were shorn with 10 months wool growth and averaged 18.03 micron for fleece lines. The length averaged 95 mm for 10 months growth. On Friday September 13 2002 the Woolshed will again be open to visitors to view the shearing. Stephan Read from Elders BWK will be a speaker at lunchtime. Stephan has a vast experience with topmaking and exporting and will share his knowledge with producers. The Riverina Stud Merino Field days will be held on the same day. Pooginook will have a small display at the Shearers Hall of Fame in Hay. The main field day will be on property.

Comments from Growers at the 2001 Ewe Hogget Shearing Garth Strong Acacia Narrandera NSW

"I was impressed at how much Pooginook wool had improved since changing classing practices selection. It was very interesting to see in-shed laser testing."

Kym Mossey Twin Creeks Past Co Kapunda South Australia

"Prior to the Ewe Hoggett Shearing Day I had only been to P/GK for the 2000 Ram Sale. I was happy with the rams that I bought so I

thought that the Open Day was a great way to get a real insight into the complete P/GK product.

After seeing the wool coming off the hoggets you could be nothing but impressed. Visually it was bright white with well defined deep crimp with a beautiful soft feel and then when you saw the results from the in-shed laser scan you knew Pooginook was the place to be shopping for your replacement Sires.

The day was well run with interesting hands-on activities to participate in and interesting guest speakers. I would highly recommend the day.

We mate 2300-2400 ewes in gently undulating to steep hilly country with an 18" rainfall at Kapunda which is at the base of the Mid-North and on the fringe of the Barossa Valley."



Garth Strong (left), Acacia Narrandera John Sutherland East Borambil Condobolin and Kym Mossey Kapunda SA looking at P/GK hogget fleece.

## Semen Sires

### Proven performers.

### Pooginook sheep Breed to type

Sire Evaluations: Progeny from 3 Pooginook sires will be assessed at three different locations this year.

South Australia Sire Evaluation Turretfield. **PGK Special Sire 8.1 Millennium**

Riverina Merino Sire Evaluation Conargo. **PGK Special Sire 8.14**

Macquarie Central Test Sire Evaluation. **PGK Special Sire 8,19 Boxer**

We will keep you informed.



Jewel carries highly unique wool qualities on a correct body structure. The wool is lustrous, deeply crimped to the tips and ultra soft. The surface has a mellow appearance indicating excellent nourishment. The skin is loose and pliable. Jewel has an excellent belly and good cover with crimping to the toes. Hi has a soft muzzle open horn set and is pigment free. Jewel is described as excellent "wool type" ram rarely seen in the industry. Body weight October 9 2001 112 Kg Progeny of Jewel. They have structure and correct with good body weight. The skins have silky and pliable appearance, 4 sons of Jewel are currently in our top reserve group of 42 rams

## MN2 P/GK Johnes Market Assurance Status

Pooginook consolidates its position as one of Australian major genetic sources by achieving highest sheep health status for Ovine Johnes Disease, Footrot and Brucellosis.



# Producing the Modern Merino

Pooginook offers 1800 rams annually throughout Australia and a Major Merino Semen marketer



### The Statistics that count:

Fine to Medium wool - 18 to 21 micron  
Body Weight breeding ewes - avg 65 to 70 kg  
Wool weight - 7 to 8.5 kg  
Over 100 Pooginook Wool Initiative members



150 rams for sale October 1st 2002, Pooginook Jerilderie  
140 rams for sale Monday September 23rd 2002, Corrigin WA



MAY 2002

# POOGINOOK NEWS

Also available on www.pooginook.com

Edition No. 31

Elite Wool from Unique Genetics

## POOGINOOK DIARY:

### 290 Rams for Auction

#### WA Ram Sale

Monday September 23, 2002  
Corrigin Show Ground 12.30pm  
140 Rams

#### Pooginook NSW Ram Sale

Tuesday October 1 2002 1.00pm  
150 Rams

### IN THIS EDITION:

- Michael Lempriere comments
- Ewe Hogget Day
- Breeding Trial
- Update PGKWI



"Thinking and breeding for the future"

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## Commercial trial

### -Selective mating vs. Random mating



John Sutherland and David Taylor analysing data from P/GK Wool Initiative Breeding trial

For the past 4 years Pooginook Wool Initiative has conducted a commercial trial on John & Anthea Sutherland property at Condobolin. The trial involved 3300 East Borambil breeding ewes

Generally commercial practice is joining ewes in age groups to a random group of rams. However this trial aimed to measure the difference between selective mating and random mating.

In brief: Ewes were classed in to four types. The rams were similarly graded. The best ewes were joined to the best rams and lower grade ewes to the lower grade rams in the random group there was a strata selection of A, B, C D ewes and rams.

What we observed was

1. Overall the random mated group produced an additional 6% lower grade progeny (ie culls & D grade ewes) compared to the typed mated group.
2. The random group produced more of each cull type and more tight skinned sheep.
3. No progeny from the random group were classed into the A group. This is interesting as the trial was for one year. If calculated hypothetically over several generations this could have a substantial genetic effect on a flock
4. Analysing desirable traits we found that selective mating produced more A's and few D's progeny and 4.4% fewer culls.
5. Success cannot be measured in one generation but a cumulative result of breeding progressively better progeny and increase selection pressure towards the Sutherlands goals is being achieved. There was not significant difference in wool results as the East Borambil flock had been selected mated for over 5 years

Thanks go to

- Woolmark PIRD for funding the trial
- John & Anthea Sutherland managing the trial and data
- David Taylor sheep classer
- Dr Paul Swan Independent scientist
- Ian Evans NSW Agriculture Independent observer
- Allstock assistance with data analysis (Woolpac)

Detailed reports available on request