



# RIDGWAY

## Poll Merino Stud

NEWSLETTER  
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The majority of the country has struggled for rainfall during the first half of 2018 and this has definitely been the case at Kulkami. Having recorded only 64mm to the end of June, this is certainly one of the driest first 6 months recorded on our property.

Supplementary feeding continues to occupy many hours of our working week, which looks likely to continue for a while longer yet. We were fortunate to have abundant hay supplies left over from 2016 and stored more grain than ever last season.

On the up side returns for both wool and meat have been exceptional with wool making in excess of \$2500 per bale and both lamb and mutton over \$150 and in some cases up to \$200 per head. With prices for mutton now over \$5.00/kg it may be tempting for some to wean lambs early and send any older ewes to market.

We would encourage you all to try and retain your core breeding ewes at your normal numbers, considering that the national flock is continuing to fall and when the season does turn around, prices for breeding ewes will likely rise to new record levels.

We believe it is economical to buy in hay and or grain to maintain your flock in good condition, considering that both wool and meat are forecast to remain at current levels or even increase further.

Wishing you all above average rainfall for the remainder of 2018.

We look forward to catching up with you throughout the ram selling season.



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## 721 SIRE EVALUATION TRIAL

Last year we mentioned how well Ridgway 721 has bred for us, his new owners and those who purchased semen. We also mentioned that we entered him in two sire evaluation trials, one at Keyneton, S.A. and the other Balmoral, Vic.

The results of the Balmoral trial have not yet been released, but the results of the Keyneton trial were unveiled at a field day in June this year and we were very happy with how well he performed.

In the objective measurements his progeny were trait leaders for Yearling Body Weight and Yearling Fibre Diameter Co-efficient of Variation, highlighting his tendency to throw wool evenness and good early growth. He also performed better than average for Yearling Fibre Diameter, Yearling Staple Length and Weaning Weight.

In the visual scores/classers grading his progeny were trait leaders for Breech Cover and Yearling Cull percentage. Obviously a low cull percentage is a very important trait to possess as we all as breeders want to be producing more keepers and less culls. A low breech cover is an essential attribute to have for anyone wanting to move to a non-mulesed enterprise. They were also better than the average for Yearling Tops and Breech Wrinkle.

When penned alongside the other trial hoggets, 721's progeny stood out visually, throwing his trade mark crimp definition, fibre density and long square bodies.

We will once again have a large offering of 721 sons in this year's sales and we wait in anticipation for the results from Balmoral.

## SALE RAMS

We have a total of 250 rams available for sale this year at the various multi-vendor sales, our on-property auction or by private selection.

Five rams will be offered at the Hamilton Sheepvention in early August and select teams offered at both the Classings Classic and Adelaide Sale in September.

Because of the evenness and depth of quality of this years team we have decided to increase our offering at our on property sale to 180 rams this year. This increase should ensure that rams will be available to accommodate the budgets of all our regular clients & any potential new ones.

### Wool Test Averages

The average wool test figures for the 250 rams are:  
FD 19.2 SD 2.8 CV 14.8 CF 99.8

## ONE TO WATCH

Former AFL players Polly Farmer, Gary Ablett Snr, James Hird, Nathan Buckley, Chris Judd and Sam Mitchell were all champions of the game and wore the number 5 guernsey.

We would like to introduce you to one of the best rams we have bred to date who also happens to don the number 5.



A massive, long bodied son of R451, with faultless conformation and huge spring of rib. His wool covering is sharp and deep crimping with excellent lock structure. Ridgway 5 has a long, soft, blemish free muzzle and he carries the PP gene.



His visual attributes are backed up by a good set of figures as you can see below:

### WOOL FIGURES

FD 20.0, SD 2.8, CV 14.0, CF 99.9

### ASVB'S

Ycfw 20, Ysl 7.3, Ywt **10.3**, Yemd 0.9, Yfat 0.7,  
MP+ **157.8**, DP+ **163.2**



## LAST YEARS SALE SUMMARY

*The following is an abbreviation of a report on our sale that appeared in the print media...*

### Big reward for Ridgway's quality

Ric, Gail, Matt and Rachel Ridgway penned an outstanding quality yarding of Poll Merino rams for competition on Monday (14th August) on property at Kulkami in the SA Mallee and were rewarded with a 22% lift in average in their main auction.

The big crowd with 48 registered bidders appreciated that quality and bid up strongly, resulting in a 98% clearance rate, reaching a top of \$5200 and averaging \$2133 in the main auction of 128 rams. That was a lift of \$600 in top price and a \$395 lift in average from last year, reflecting the increased confidence in the sheep industry at present and appreciation of the quality on offer in this sale.

The strong demand flowed onto the mini auction of 42 rams, penned to allow buyers to top up their numbers, with 35 of these clearing to \$1200 and averaging \$711.

Overall 161 rams sold which was 24 more than last year.

Duane Simon, representing McPiggery and buying through Landmark Lameroo bid up strongly on the first two lots (R129 and R355) and secured them for \$5000 each. Standouts for both phenotype and genotype, they attracted strong competition from several bidders. He added R252 at lot 12 to his buying list for \$4400, with his three top selections averaging \$4800.

He looked to have a mortgage on top price honours until well into the catalogue when lot 66 was offered. Not having quite the classic outlook, style and balance of the first couple of rams, Ridgway tag 5 was a bit of a sleeper. However it was its standout wool and carcase performance figures that attracted the competition and ultimately saw it knocked down for the sale's top price of \$5200 to regular Ridgway clients, Glen and Jeffery Hampel, GMR & J Nominees, Loxton.

The ram's wool measurement figures were 20.8 micron, 2.6 SD, 12.5 CV and 99.8 CF, being sired by R721, renowned for consistently breeding well-nourished, bold crimping and long stapled wools. Its Merino Select figures were the most impressive feature, having the highest Yearling Clean Fleece weight in the catalogue at +32, the highest Yearling Staple length of 17.9 and the third highest MP+ index of 162.4. Buying through Landmark Loxton, the Hampels purchased four rams at a \$3150 average.



*Pictured with the \$5200 top priced ram at the Ridgway sale are Landmark auctioneers Leo Redden (left) and Richard Miller (right), Matt Ridgway (holding the ram) and purchasers Jeffery and Glen Hampel, GMR & J Nominees, Loxton.*

Underbidders on the three top priced rams were Craig and Josh Graham, Glencorrie P/L, Maitland and although feeling a little like bridesmaids they were nevertheless successful on three other outstanding and high ranking rams at \$4800 and \$4600 (x2), averaging \$4667 through Wardle & Co.

Robert Stein, general manager for Tubbo Station in the Riverina and owned by Giles Pritchard-Gordon, Darlington Point added NSW to the buying list by also bidding strongly on some of the top rams early in the catalogue, before being successful on two rams at \$4200 and \$2600, buying through Elders Griffith.

Victorian buying strength has been significant for many years now, with six individual buyers from that state successful in purchasing a combined total of 28 rams. Most prominent among them were Stephen Allen, Goroke through Rodwells Horsham with six to \$3200 and averaging \$2400, and Simon and Thomas Brady, Rhymney through AWN Livestock with six to \$3400 and at a \$2333 average.

Bigger volume buyers are always an important component in making a sale with substantial numbers successful and at this sale two stood out. Rob McCarthy, Yalpara Station, Orroroo sought numbers to a budget and despite the very strong top end he was able to purchase 17 rams to \$800 and average just \$713 in extremely good value buying. Lynton Barrett for LJ & SL Barrett, through Quality Livestock purchased 11 rams, being prepared to chase to higher values, paying to \$2500 and averaging \$1809.

Kangaroo Island has been a good support region over the years with Jeff Buick, and Mitch and Ros Willson joining

this year's buying list. Both purchased through Landmark Kingscote, with Jeff selecting four rams to \$3000 and averaging \$2750, while Mitch and Ros purchased two at \$2800 and \$2000.

Bill Walker, Classings Ltd rushed back from classing in WA to purchase six rams in total for three separate clients; A/c Chalk (three), Wilkatana Station (two) and Dunn (one).

The Johnson family, Mt Boothby Pastoral, Tintinara and buying through Platinum Livestock were again strong bidders with six rams to \$2800 and averaging \$1883, while Steve Paech, SN & CA Paech through Landmark Murray Bridge also purchased six to \$2400 and at a \$1600 average.



*Matt Ridgway is with Robert Stein, Tubbo Station, via Griffith, NSW after he loaded the two rams he purchased for \$4200 and \$2600.*

Senior principal Ric Ridgway said post sale, "Naturally we are delighted with that result. It was great to get a good boost at the top end of the sale and such a solid average, but the most pleasing aspect was that all our clients here today were able to get good rams within their budget."

## THANK YOU IAN & WENDY

For the last eleven years we have been fortunate to have had the services of Ian & Wendy Turner from "Superior Selections".

They have been responsible for the majority of our promotion and advertising over this period, from constructing and producing our newsletter, to building and booking ads and negotiating the best deals with the various rural papers.

Ian has regularly attended our Annual on-property Auctions and the various multi-vendor sales in both S.A. and VIC., acting as both reporter and photographer at these events.

His experience in both the "Stud Game" and Journalism has proved to be very beneficial to us and we wish both Ian and Wendy all the best for retirement and traveling in the future.



*Ian Turner in action at our on property sale.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018

Australian Sheep & Wool Show, Bendigo - Friday 20th-Sunday 22nd July

South East Merino Field Day, Keith - Wednesday 25th July

Karoonda & Districts Merino Field Day, Murray Bridge - Friday 27th July

Hamilton Sheepvention (offering 5 rams) - Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th August

**RIDGWAY ON-PROPERTY SALE (OFFERING 180 RAMS) KULKAMI - MONDAY 13TH AUGUST**

Classings Classic, Murray Bridge - Monday 3rd September

Adelaide Royal Show Merino Ram Sale - Friday 7th September