

The official journal of  
Mohair Australia Ltd. Serving  
breeders of angora goats &  
producers of mohair

ABN 40 008 585 135



May  
2020  
**Mohair  
News**



# Mohair Australia Ltd. Mohair News

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## Editor's Notes

**UNPRECEDENTED TIMES!** Who would have thought the World would be in such a mess in 2020. While drought, bushfires, and flood are not unusual environmental challenges here in Australia, they pale into insignificance compared to the havoc Covid-19 is causing across the entire world, to human lives and the global economy.

A number of earlier Shows on the east coast were cancelled due to bushfires in January however we were fortunate to get four Shows in before LOCKDOWN. The results for the Diamond Fibre, Berwick & Goulburn Shows, plus NATS are included in this issue.

The LOCKDOWN, for which we have no definite end date, has resulted in the cancellation of everything until further notice. The "What's On" section has been omitted from the Newsletter until this crisis is over.

The rules around social distancing & gatherings of people is also impacting our livestock industries. You can keep up to date on these changes on the web. Meat and Livestock, Animal Health Australia, NSW DPI all have current information relating to the news rules & regulations now in place for dealing with stopping the spread of Covid-19.

One of the ramifications of these national lockdowns is also the impact it is having on the movement of wool & mohair overseas. Wool prices here are on the decline as China is the main imported and processor of our wool.

As most of our mohair goes to South Africa, it's worth noting the South African went into total lockdown from 26th March to 16th April. This lockdown has now been extended from 1st May for an indefinite period. Wool and Mohair sales are to recommence from May 19th.

Shearing is considered an Essential Service, however there are now rules applying to the workplace which shearers & shed hands must abide by. Some members will have received a copy of these rules via email. If you didn't get the info, you can find it on the NSW DPI website.

On the subject of shearing, there seems to be a shortage of people willing to shear goats. The List of Shearers which usually on the last page of the Newsletter has deliberately been omitted from this issue as it urgently needs updating. If you have a shearer who is willing to shear goats, could you please share their contact details for inclusion in the next Newsletter.

That's it, a bit longer than anticipated. Stay Home, Keep Safe

**Kimberly**

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**REPRINTS of articles from "Mohair News" are welcome, provided the Editor receives courtesy communication and the "Mohair News" is acknowledged.**

### Current Membership fees

Please note that all fees include a copy of this quarterly "Mohair News"

Breeder	\$130
Commercial	\$80
Trader	\$130
Education	\$55
Ordinary	\$30
Junior	\$10

Membership fees are due 1st January, 2020

Renewal/Membership form on reverse of the cover sheet, or on the Mohair Australia website

### FRONT COVER

Jordi Van Hasselt

David Williams

Michael Mrowka and

Craig Clancy judging the 5kg commercial matched kid Mohair class at NATS 2020



## National President Report

Hello all, since our last communication the world is changing however farmers are in a pretty good position. Rain is more widespread. I have had more rain this year than the last 2 years! Agriculture production is classed as an essential industry under the COVID 19 government regulations so we can continue working within our businesses. In recent times mohair prices seem to be particularly good and clearances are excellent however I think we are moving into a time with more uncertainty and we need to prepare ourselves for changes in the international market demand and price for the luxury fashion fibre mohair.

With the COVID 19 situation we need to ensure we comply to the government regulations. In particular non-essential travel should be cancelled, group meetings (i.e. regions or divisions) and face to face meetings should be changed and done remotely by phone, internet video conferencing or email, and any major events should be postponed.

We were lucky to get NATS in before the COVID-19 government regulations changes occurred. I think on reflection it was a very successful event and it is reported separately. We must all remember (including me) that Goat shows are only one part of the mix we must put together to grow the industry. Just like Price is only one part of the Marketing Mix (Price, Product, Position and Place). We cannot rely on them to grow the industry nor measure the success of a show on how many new growers we get. There is no doubt we need to do more to hear the commercial voice and complete the commercial package to better sell our industry.

The board has put in place an approval process on expenditure with regions and divisions. This is not to take the activities away from regions or divisions but to put in place a procedure (common set of rules) which we all follow and where approval from the board must be obtained before spending large amounts of money (\$250 for regions and \$750 for divisions). All companies I have worked for have procedures like this in place which helps clarify expectations and works well if you plan out your activities. In deciding to spend money, it is important to consider the return on investment. The criteria for Return On Investment (ROI) should include the following:

- **How is this investment going to grow the industry membership, and**
- **How is this investment going to increase the profile of mohair production in Australia, and**
- **How is this investment going to assist in attracting producers into the industry.**

In assessing ROI, some things may need to be altered or changed so we have more money for key activities that can help the total industry.

Peter Schuster has included an update on the Goat fibre sustainability project, and this is included in the newsletter. In parallel we are also planning to follow up our discussions with Agrifutures about building a project case for industry development.

Grant Forsdick is heading up the website update and refresh project. We have had a very disrupted start to the year with bushfires, floods and COVID 19 however we have been working in the background and we should see some positive changes completed in the coming weeks.

Our breeder and grower discussions have been delayed however NATS proved to be a good opportunity for board members to interact with members and the industry.

On a lighter note Kate has been practicing for a 30 km walk with her sisters called Sydney Coast-trek (which has now been postponed due to COVID-19) and has been looking for the best socks for long distance walking and running. Guess what is the top recommendation from the professionals! Jogging Socks made by Balega Yarns and Technology that are all blended with mohair. Mohair wickers the sweat away from the skin and prevents friction on the skin. Look them up by googling Balega socks.

We need to realise things are different and we need to be kind to ourselves and each other through this time. Stay safe and healthy.

**Best regards, Nick Gorrie**

## Update: Website & Communication

### Website

The board has decided to proceed with Chris to complete the following in order of priority:

- **Complete the 6 Herd Book production modules. This is happening and are being tested on the new website.**
- **Modify the look and feel of the new website.**
- **Obtain a quote for the MYOB integration.**
- **Review the need to update the remaining 7 Herd Book modules.**

### Industry Unification

This is one of the strategic initiatives that emerged from the member survey and subsequent discussions are still in the process of consulting members. The Board recognizes the need to consult widely on this matter and to this point, Nick and I are still in the process of consulting members. Our initial plans were to visit members but this has been disrupted by the social distancing laws currently in place. We will continue this process by video or telephone linkup.

One point that comes through clearly is the urgent need to develop a growth strategy for the industry, however there is also acknowledgement that it will be difficult to grow an industry that remains fragmented and fraught by internal politics. We are considering workshopping the way forward, and the format of this process is currently being worked through. We hope to have some clarity as to the direction before the next AGM so that a strategy can be presented to members.

### Communication

The board would like to co-opt someone to assist with member and industry communication. This role will include taking responsibility for currency of the website. I shall be making a few phone calls within the membership, but would appreciate any volunteers contacting me directly if there is any interest among members.

**Grant Forsdick**



## NATS Youth Show 2020

On the Friday the NATS had a great atmosphere with the shed buzzing with activity and enthusiasm and it was great to have the schools, children, teachers and parents involved in 2020. We had a good program of classes and Sarah Hanlon was our chief steward for the event. In total we had 5 schools enter the competitions. In the youth judging competition the winner was Claire Miller from Molong Central High School, this was a big win given the number of competitors in the event this year. Thank you to Lynne and Don Carter for sponsoring this class with a beautiful angora skin presented to the winner. Thank you to Phillip Oliver and Mandy Statham for running the judging competition.

We plan to continue this youth show format and will seriously consider adding some educational sessions. Narrandera High School has started a stud called Illoura by adding some stud does to their program and competed against Molong Central and West Wyalong High School.

On the Sunday the Youth Paraders winner was Sarah Morris from West Wyalong High School. The full results are below for the youth show classes:



**Pictured (from left)** is Jordi Van Hasselt, Toby Mails, Lynn Carter, Clarie Miller, Michael Mrowka, Makayla Townsend, Reagan Quinn, Jacey Ferguson and Sarah Morris after the Youth Judging competition on Friday at the NATS.

Class A – Schools Doe Kid under 12 months		
1st	2	Illoura Angora Stud Jessica
2nd	4	Molong Central Alexia
3rd	5	Molong Central Georgia

Class B – School Buck Kid under 12 months		
1st	12	Illoura Angora Stud Tunsy
2nd	15	Willow Glen Kirrilshand-Piero
3rd	14	Willow Glen Kanmonell-Pip

Class C – Team Led Wether Competition (Animals)	
1st	Queanbeyan HS
2nd	Narrandera HS
3rd	Goulburn HS

Class D – Individual Led Wether Competition (Animal)	
1st	Queanbeyan HS
2nd	Queanbeyan HS
3rd	Queanbeyan HS
4th	Narrandera HS

#### Class E -Led Wethers Paraders Competition

Junior		
1st	Rose C	Queanbeyan HS
2nd	Jasmine W	West Wyalong HS
3rd	Andrew T	Queanbeyan HS

Year 10-12		
1st	Rachael Scattergood	Queanbeyan HS
2nd	Tobie M	Queanbeyan HS
3rd	Chloe Worner	West Wyalong HS

Year 9		
1st	Cassie F	Queanbeyan HS
2nd	Ava H	Queanbeyan HS
3rd	George B	Molong HS

Final		
1st	Rachael Scattergood	Queanbeyan HS
2nd	Chloe Worner	West Wyalong HS
3rd	Tobie M	Queanbeyan HS
4th	George B	Molong HS

Youth Judging Competition		
1st	Claire Miller	Molong Central HS
2nd	Makayla Townsend	Molong Central HS
3rd	Tobie Mails	Queanbeyan HS
4th	Sara Morris	West Wyalong HS
5th	Reagan Quinn	Molong Central HS



## National Angora Trophy Show Report 2020

NATS was a great success this year and we would like to thank everyone for attending. We had 20 exhibitors which included 5 schools. In particular, I would like to thank a few people that I missed thanking over the weekend:

Justine Hall is one of them. She wanted us to revisit the commercial fleece classes and suggested the partnership with David Williams & John Hoornweg at AMT. At first we thought we would get no entries, testing thru AWTA would not work however the class was a success with 7 entries and we would like to make it bigger in 2021. Thank you Justine for helping us to focus more on the commercial mohair section.

The schools, students, parents and teachers for making Friday a great success. We have had some great feedback about how the shed was buzzing with activity on Friday.

Reg & Gill Scott for coordinating the show sponsorship of cash prizes and product. A really big and detailed job. Thank you for assisting Sue.

Sue Bell for taking on the task of Nats office all weekend. Doug Stapleton for photos and donating his publications to the school champion. Courtney Nelson for posting on facebook all day and night!

Sarah Hanlon for ring stewarding all day on Friday with the schools and being our MC on Saturday in the main ring. Also the sweets at the office were from Sarah's sister!

John Brennan for shearing the mohair production team.

Meagan Mrowka for running both fleeces and animals as chief steward, the buck stopped with her all weekend and she handled the challenge with total professionalism.

Also Thank you to Dale and Kelly Jackson for hosting Jordi before the event in Sydney and attending all weekend. We really did appreciate you bringing him back and forth from the hotel to the showground each day.

Rowan Ross for doing the majority of the setting up and packing up all day Thursday and most of Sunday. Lisa for letting us have him. Brian Ross at the age of 80 helping us set up and pack up. For how many years now???

Debbie, James, Jasmine, Courtney, Sarah, Val and Craig Richards for packing away all the extra pens. Craig & Sue thank you for the basket for the raffle.

Terry Cummins for helping us take everything back to the container at the end when we were starting to run out of steam. And finally for Kate, my wife for catering the stewards

lunch, looking after our two children and putting up with me, like driving home at 4.30am in the morning on Saturday to feed goats.

We also wanted to personally thank the people that came to the Saturday night dinner. We had a great turn out of 61 people. Some wanted to catch up with old friends, some wanted to pay tribute to Jordi's Dad Clive, some the filters came off after 4 wines however all in all it was a good night.

I thought the words spoken by our international judge Mr Jordi Van Hasselt at the dinner where good and important to reframe/rephrase for all of us. In short -

"We all need to find / take some commercial mohair growers under our wings and care for them / mentor them so the industry does not die out". Plus don't overwash your goats!!!

Before we get into the results of the show I wanted to finish off on saying showing is a difficult thing because you only end up with one winner. It is important to see what is happening across the total event, talk to people involved about current opportunities and problems, see with your own eyes and hands the progress made by individual studs and take the chance to catch up and talk about things.

Thank you to the NATS committee, NSW division and National board for making it possible. If we were 1 week later it would not have gone ahead in 2020 with the coronavirus lockdown.

- **Supreme Champion – Cullbookie Yellena**
- Junior Champion – Cullbookie Yellena
- Reserve Champion Junior – Cullbookie Finley
- Champion Doe – Cullbookie Avrille
- Reserve Champion Doe – Koorana 1003
- Champion Buck – Tagora 3029
- Reserve Champion Buck – Tagora 3027
- School Champion – Narrandera High School – Illoura Angora Stud
- Most Successful Exhibitor (animals) - Cullbookie
- Champion Fleece - Cullbookie
- Reserve Champion Fleece - Cullbookie
- Champion 5kg Commercial Kid Fleece – Lynndon Grove
- Most Successful Exhibitor (fleeces) - Cullbookie
- Mohair Production Championship - Cullbookie
- Kamrock Breeders Trophy - Cullbookie

**Class 1 – Novice Doe kid under 12 months**

1st	6	Rosa Ruby
2nd	2	Brindella Rose
3rd	8	Windy Reefs Kylie

**Class 2 – Novice Yearling Doe**

1st	11	Windy Reefs Jemma
2nd	10	Windy Reefs Jane
3rd	9	Brindella Qi

**Class 3A Under 6 months doe kid**

1st	1	Rosa Ruby
2nd	12	Cullbookie Tessey
3rd	21	Mallee Park 327

**Class 3B – 6-12 months doe kid**

1st	29	Cullbookie Yellena
2nd	41	Cullbookie Tamilla
3rd	40	Windy Reefs Kylie

**Class 4 Yearling Doe****Fine**

1st	70	Cullbookie Avrille
2nd	72	Cullbookie Fanfare
3rd	73	Cullbookie Knore
4th	86	Koorana 1135
5th	90	Lynndon Grove Viola

**Medium**

1st	87	Koorana 1003
2nd	112	Windy Reefs Jemma
3rd	69	Brindella Qi
4th	85	Koorana 1125
5th	88	Lynndon Grove Verice

**Class 5 – Intermediate Doe**

1st	113	Cullbookie Yasmeen
2nd	118	Koorana H083
3rd	116	Impact Georgie

**Class 6 – Senior Doe**

1st	129	Lynndon Grove Tabia
2nd	125	Cullbooke Yeleena
3rd	127	Koorana F109

**Class 7 – Veteran Doe**

1st	133	Cullbookie Flossie
2nd	134	Koorana W125
3rd	135	Mallee Park 55-19



## Class 8

8A Under 6 months buck kid		
1st	51	Mallee Park 351
2nd	49	Koorana J252
3rd	205	Mallee Park 399
4th	60	Koorana 1254

8B 6 – 12 months buck kid		
1st	58	Cullbookie Finley
2nd	59	Cullbookie William
3rd	64	Lynndon Grove 2794
4th	66	Lynndon Grove 2811

## Class 9 Yearling Buck

Fine		
1st	166	Tagora 3027
2nd	167	Tagora 3028
3rd	150	Koorana 1226
4th	41	Cullbookie Festival
5th	148	Koorana 1018

Medium		
1st	168	Tagora 3029
2nd	162	Sunny Ridge Captains Golaith
3rd	165	Sunny Ridge Southern Lad
4th	156	Mallee Park 509
5th	149	Koorana 1071

Class 10 – Intermediate Buck		
1st	172	Dulark Noss
2nd	174	Lynndon Grove Usher
3rd	171	Cullbookie Bert
4th	173	Koorana H398

Class 11 – Senior Buck		
1st	181	Impact Kabuki
2nd	180	Tagora Conquistador
3rd	179	Koorana F106

Class 12 – Kamrock Breeders Group	
1st	Cullbookie
2nd	Koorana
3rd	Koorana
4th	Tagora

Class 13 – Mohair Production Championship	
	<b>Total from 2 kids and 2 yearlings</b>
Koorana	<b>\$493.18</b>
Cullbookie	<b>\$560.44</b>
Dulark	<b>\$452.48</b>

Mohair Fleeces		1st	2nd	3rd
14	Skirted First Shearing Kid Fleece	Cullbookie	Cullbookie	Winder
15	Skirted Fine Kid Fleece	Cullbookie	Cullbookie	Cullbookie
16	Skirted Kid Fleece	Cullbookie	Cullbookie	Windy Reefs
17	Skirted Strong Kid Fleece	Dulark	Willow Glen	Cullbookie
18	Skirted Young Goat Fleece	Cullbookie	Willow Glen	Dulark
19	Skirted Fine Hair	Cullbookie	Cullbookie	Sunny Ridge
20	Keith McKenzie Trophy	Cullbookie	-	-
21	5 x Individually bagged kid fleeces	Willow Glen	Lynndon Grove	-
22	5 x Individually bagged strong kid fleeces	No entries	-	-
23	New 5kg commercial matched kid mohair	Lynndon Grove	Cawoodholme Australia & Yallatup Angoras	Cawoodholme Australia & Yallatup Angoras





# NATS 2020



**SMART FARMER** Thursday April 16, 2020

**GOATS**

**WINNERS:** Champion Buck by Teyore Angora Stud with Steve Paterson, Supreme Champion and Champion Doe by Cullowee Angora Stud with Debbie Scattergood.

**FUTURE:** Jord van Hasselt (judge) and Michael Mrozka (assistant judge) presented the ribbons for the Youth Judging competition.

**QUALITY:** Some of the 180 animals from 20 different exhibitors in the year's National Angora Trophy Show.

**LEARNING:** Students and Michael Mrozka (assistant judge) lined up after the winners of the Youth Parading competition.

**Top quality Angora on show**

THE National Angora Trophy Show enjoyed another successful year with 180 quality goats on display. The animals were shown by 20 exhibitors from across Australia, including five schools.

Held on March 13 to 15, in Gosford, NSW, the show attracted 450 visitors for the mohair competition.

Angora stud, Dungenby, the kid also claimed the Champion Doe award at week.

Mohair Australia Limited president Nick Gartin was very pleased with the quality of the event.

"The Nationals was a great success this year and given the change in situation with 180 animals of quality, it was a very satisfying outcome for the breed."

"This year we had a special judge, Jord Van Hasselt from New Zealand Farming Press Albert, Eastern Cape, South Africa, and the associate judge was Michael Mrozka from New Zealand, 2019."

"Both judges were pleased with the quality of goats shown, as Angora's job is to produce mohair so this is the high priority."

"However like all farming animals, they need have also great contribution and be respectfully correct so they can work to enter and follow effectively in the paddock."

"When looking at the fleece, the judge looks primarily for ability of staple, amount of staple, volume of staple which is a very good result."

"The two other teams consisted of two kids and two yearlings, most to weaners or shorn, were shown on the day and the scores were expected. Independent by by Craig Chaney of the Australian Mohair Marketing Organisation," Mr Gartin said.

"Catie associated their son, James of two kids and two yearlings, most to weaners or shorn, were shown on the day and the scores were expected. Independent by by Craig Chaney of the Australian Mohair Marketing Organisation," Mr Gartin said.

"The new five kilogram class of commercial kid two-bait, judged by a panel of five people, was a great success with seven entries."







# NATS 2020



## Diamond Fibre Show - Bathurst February 23, 2020

The Diamond Fibre Show was held at the Bathurst Showground in Feb. We had fantastic support this year with 8 studs attending entering 37 fleeces, 39 animals along with 2 Wether teams, Paraders, and Young Judges making for a busy day for Judge Eleanor Santolin. I would like to thank all for attending as I know some travelled a considerable distance, it made for a great day and hopefully we'll see you all back next year.

### Craig Richards

#### Champion Fleece: Willow Glen (YG)

Reserve Champion Fleece: Winder (YG)

#### Champion Kid: Winder Radiant (Doe)

Reserve Champion Kid: Windy Reefs Kash (Buck)

#### Champion Doe: Willean Alex

Reserve Champion Doe: Willean Tibbicha

#### Champion Buck: Willean Tyler

Reserve Champion Buck: Winder Nebua

#### Grand Champion: Willean Tyler

### Most Successful Exhibitor - Windy Reefs

**Team of 3 Wethers (School)** - 1- Molong Central A:  
2 - Molong Central B

**Junior Paraders** - 1 - Chloe Worner: 2 - George Betts:  
3 - Rowan Miller: 4 - Olivia Morris

**Junior Judging** - 1 - Chloe Worner: 2 - Olivia Morris:  
3 - Bronte Chown: 4 - Claire Miller: 5 - George Betts

**Doe Under 12 Month:** 1 - Winder Radiant: 2 - Windy Reefs  
Katie: 3 - Windy Reefs Kylie: 4 - Winder Realm

**Doe 12 -24 Months:** 1 - Willean Alex: 2 - Willean Tibbicha:  
3 - Winder Passion

**Doe 24 - 36 Months:** 1 - Kimba 4034: 2 - Kimba 4152

**Doe 36 Months & Over:** 1 - Windy Reefs Gabby:  
2 - Impact Camille (Molong Central School)

**Buck Under 12 Months:** 1 - Windy Reefs Kash:  
2 - Winder Radar: 3 - Armond Simon

**Buck 12 - 24 Months:** 1 - Willean Tyler: 2 - Willean Harry:  
3 - Winder Paragon

**Buck 24 - 36 Months:** 1 - Winder Nebula: 2 - Windy Reefs Ivan

**Buck 36 Months & Over:** 1 - Windy Reefs Harvey:  
2 - Armond 23

**Sire's Progeny Under 12 Months:** 1- Winder: 2 - Winder:  
3 - Armond

**Sire's Progeny Over 12 Months:** 1 - Willean: 2 - Winder

**Fine Kid Fleece:** 1 - Windy Reefs: 2 - Willow Glen:  
3 - Willow Glen: 4 - Sunhill

**Kid Fleece:** 1 - Windy Reefs: 2 - Willow Glen:  
3 - Molong Central

**Young Goat Fleece:** 1 - Willow Glen: 2 - Winder:  
3 - Windy Reefs

**Fine Hair Fleece:** 1 - Windy Reefs: 2 - Willow Glen:  
3 - Windy Reefs



Supreme champion was exhibited by Willean



Leone Scott (Willean) and Doug Stapleton (Central Western Region President) presenting the shield for the 38th Supreme Champion Angora for the Diamond Fibre Show



## AMMO A2020 sale

### D Stapleton

Independent report on the AMMO A2020 sale held on Friday 6th March.

AMMO presented some 24,200 kg of mohair in 39 lots (134 bales). Three mills were represented with two buyers operating for Stuckens, Sudwalle and AMT (presumably SAMIL).

Bidding was energetic with prices reported to be similar to the South African sale held earlier in the week. A complete clearance was achieved after negotiations on 7 lots.

The quality of the offering was considered very good with most lots edging on the longer edge of the coded descriptions. The mohair again reflected the finer trend of Australian mohair in recent offerings. Again, the quantity of very short mohair was of concern.

A complete summary of test results and prices is attached. Prices were again strong with a 25.2um lot of 272kg of BSFK reaching \$48.15/kg greasy, 139kg of BSK (28.5um) bringing \$42.60, a 207kg lot of BSFFYG (29.3um) bringing \$35.00, a 226kg bale of BFYG bringing \$30.10, an 11 bale lot of CFH (32.4um) bringing \$24.20 and a 5 bale lot of CFH (34.7um) bringing \$20.00. Outsorts generally sold well with CXFH (kempy adult) bringing \$12.80, 8 bales of SCOT \$24.95 and STN (light stains) \$20.30.

Some concern is expressed at the size of the offering given that no sale was held in November 2019. Prices for mohair would seem conducive to increased production but it is recognised that drought and high meat prices present potential growers with impediments to increasing stock numbers. Not to mention the time required to grow numbers by normal reproductive means.

### The mohair on display, discussion with buyers, and the auction in progress.



## Our Story: The Journey to Currajong Common

### CURRAJONG COMMON

— Angora Goat Farm —

#### Introduction and Background

Grant and Jenny Forsdick together with our two daughters Megan and Lara relocated from South Africa to Sydney during July 1999. We had been living in the historic town of Stellenbosch which provided us with a country lifestyle, within easy commute to Cape Town and the wonderful beaches of the Cape Peninsula.

Grant's family fruit farm was acquired by the South African Government in 1986, the year we were married. This was a very traumatic period for our family and ever since it has been our dream to set up a country lifestyle. This is a difficult process in a new country! We had to first re-established our careers in Sydney and then after Megan and Lara had left home, we were finally able to commence the search for a property. We had a long list of selection criteria; close to the sea, mountains, river, regional airport and the opportunity to develop the property further. It took five years until we eventually came across Currajong Common and after a lengthy negotiation, finally took ownership in July 2017.

We immediately saw the opportunity when we visited Currajong Common for the first time. Biodiversity of native species, hand built mud brick character home and excellent fit to our property selection criteria made the property ideal for our desired future lifestyle.

During the first year we renovated the homestead, modernizing but retaining the unique character of the home, upgraded the solar energy system that provided electricity and hot water, and replaced the diesel powered water pump with a solar powered pump. The diesel powered mono pump has been converted into a backup portable pumping solution.

The shearing shed and yards have been expanded and redesigned to better cater for an increase in animal numbers and the stone kidding shed has been converted into the 'Stone Cottage' for guest accommodation.

#### Why Angoras?

Very simple – they came with the property. We had not made a decision on an enterprise before we were presented with the Angora opportunity. What could we lose? Give it a go for a year and review after that.

It did not take long for us to fall in love with the animals; they are smart, have a wonderful temperament and we saw the opportunity to develop a high quality commercial mohair operation.

The first year's strategy was to understand the key ingredients required to produce high quality mohair, including the commercial aspects of running a mob. Our first hurdle was to overcome an intestinal worm challenge. We commenced with regular FEC and a strict drenching regime, in close consultation with our vet. This remains a key and fundamental aspect of our farming strategy.

We immediately started to apply regenerative farming principles with the aim of increasing the carrying capacity of the property. My simple interpretation of this strategy was that we are actually grass farmers, and healthy soils produce nutritionally dense plant matter, which in turn produces a healthy animal, and a healthy animal has the potential to produce high quality mohair.

We understood the challenge of generating a retirement income from a 100 acre property, so optimizing returns and minimizing input costs were key commercial elements of our strategy. We added natural methods to reduce worm burden through rotational grazing – short intensive grazing periods, followed by long recovery periods. Not only did this provide the grass time to recover, but it also made a positive impact on worm burden by naturally breaking the worm cycle.

We divided the farm into 20 paddocks of approximately five acres each, and applied a rigorous rotational grazing strategy. This provided us with the additional grass required to increase the size of the mob. Over two years we were able to grow the mob to 400 animals.....until the recent drought required a reduction of 100 animals.

During our second year we acquired a stud buck as a key initiative to improve the quality of mohair. This was an excellent investment as our average price of the clip increase by over 25% for our second year clip.

The past year has been focused on improving nutrition and animal health, and Ross Waller did an excellent job in formulating a dry lick to suit our environment. There is a noticeable difference in size of the kids from the 2019 drop compared to previous years, and the results of the first clip will tell the story of improved mohair quality!

#### The Future?

On the farming front our next initiative will be the establishment of a suitable cover crop to further increase the carrying capacity, increase the nutritional value of pastures and further reduce our use of drenches for intestinal worm management. We will also be fine tuning farming infrastructure to make farming easier.



## Mohair Australia Ltd. Mohair News

Our next challenge on our journey is to combine the mohair enterprise with a tourism enterprise to generate multiple streams of income. The Sapphire Coast is being developed into a tourist destination and we are in a prime position to benefit from these developments provided we develop appropriate and unique products.

During 2019, we developed and tested two tourism products; one for local day trips and the other to target the growing cruise ship industry. Feedback has been extremely positive on the inclusion of shearing shed tour, 'meet the goats' and a discussion of the mohair value chain, regenerative farming practices and farming angora goats.

We are extremely proud of our latest enterprise which is the establishment of a glamping retreat 'Currajong Retreat'. This will be a signature retreat, catering for couples looking for 'emersion in nature', 'agri-tourism', 'unconnected escapes' combined with absolute luxury. We are more than half way through this development and hope to launch by the end of March 2020. The recent fire emergency, floods and COVID-19 caused significant delays to the construction phase of this development. It is hoped to be able to launch this product as soon as travel restrictions are lifted.

This development is proudly supported by the NSW government's tourism and major events agency Destination NSW, through the 2019 – 2020 Regional Tourism Fund.

In summary, we have embarked on a very exciting journey of establishing combined enterprises of premium quality mohair and tourism, which we believe will provide a comfortable and secure lifestyle for our family for generations to come.

Grant will continue with his involvement in the advisory business 'Polaris and Partners', based primarily in Sydney.

We are excited about the prospects of growing our mohair enterprise and it is with this positive sentiment that I agreed to the nomination to the board of Mohair Australia. Nick Gorrie and myself have an active strategy to meet mohair growers and listen to their ideas regarding the future of the industry. It is clear from input to date that a growing industry will benefit all members, and for this to materialize there will need to be significant promotion of the industry, and in particular

demonstrating the commercial benefits for new entrants. I personally have generated interest from three potential farmers to date. I am, however, genuinely concerned about the current industry fragmentation, and fear that this will possibly be the biggest factor that will weigh against attracting new entrants.

### Grant Forsdick



## Goat Fibre Sustainability Project - update

The AgriFutures Goat Fibre Program aims to direct targeted research, development and extension (RD&E) which contributes to the profitability, sustainability and productivity of the goat fibre industry. The need for the goat fibre production sector to be able to demonstrate its sustainability credentials and to promote production systems which meet domestic and international expectations was identified as a priority.

In November 2019, AgriFutures engaged Schuster Consulting Group (SCG) to develop Goat Fibre Sustainability Guidelines and a Production Manual for use by the fibre goat industry. These resources are to be developed such that they may at some stage in the future form the basis of an auditable quality management system, although this is beyond the scope of the current research. The fibre production guidelines will be based on best practice and existing legislative requirements. The production manual will support the adoption and implementation of the guidelines on farm.

An industry meeting was held on 8th November 2019 to commence the project. This included the formation of an industry reference group and the identification of key stakeholders who will be consulted throughout the development process. This group includes representatives of the mohair and cashmere production sectors as well as buyers and processors.

Since this meeting, SCG has conducted a global scan of relevant programs, resources and legislation. Importantly, this has included the international Responsible Mohair Standard which is currently under development. The international standard is sufficiently progressed (and publicly available) to ensure duplication is avoided and complementarity is optimised. The draft has been reviewed and the Goat Fibre Production and Production Manual will be developed to help the Australian industry demonstrate conformance with this international standard when it is delivered later in 2020.

The next phase of the research which has just commenced involves industry consultation to ensure all aspects of the production supply chain are considered in the guidelines and manual.

The guidelines and the manual are scheduled to be delivered in June 2020. While current travel and meeting restrictions will disrupt consultation and delivery, the project team remains committed to delivering within the agreed timeframe.

**Peter Schuster**  
**Schuster Consulting Group Pty Limited**

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## Mohair Australia Ltd. Mohair News

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### Mohair Australia Ltd

#### Promotional Grant

A grant of \$100 can be applied for by Regions & Divisions, to assist with the cost of promotional events such as Field Days, etc. This event should be promoting Mohair Australia Ltd, and Angora Goats and Mohair within Australia.

To qualify for the grant the event must be pre-advertised in the Mohair Newsletter, and a report with a photo must be submitted to the Mohair Newsletter Editor. The application form is on the website under the "forms" section.

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## GICA Report

### **Mohair Australia Ltd applied and was accepted as a voting member of GICA. Sue Jordan is our delegate and Nick Gorrie is alternative delegate.**

The Goat Industry Council of Australia (GICA) is the peak national body representing the interests of goat producers. GICA's objective and purpose is to represent and promote the national interests of Australian goatmeat, fibre and dairy producers. GICA is a designated Commodity Council of the Federation, and works with government, industry bodies, producers and other peak industry councils to develop goat industry policy for all breeds of goats. GICA is responsible for the distribution of income received through the goat transaction levy (37.7 cents per head).

The current division of this levy to relevant levy funded organisations is as follows:

- Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) marketing: 10.5 cents
- MLA research and development: 16.7 cents (which is matched with Australian Federal Government funds)
- Animal Health Australia (AHA): 4.5 cents
- National Residue Survey (NRS): 6 cents

A goat fibre levy is also collected and is matched by federal funding and provides Agrifutures with funding to promote fibre research.

The 2019 AGM and Council Meeting was held in Adelaide at the end of November. The meeting was attended by representatives from the state farmers organisation (NSW, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia) as well as representatives of the commodity organizations namely the dairy goat, fibre and rangeland goats.

Along with reports and policy matters the meeting was attended by representative from the four organisations to whom the goat levy gets paid.

Some of the points raised/discussed –

#### **MLA – Des Rinehart and Emily Litzow**

Des introduced Emily who will be replacing Julia Petty while she is on secondment within MLA. Emily will be developing a Goat Disease Handbook funded by FMD Ready (SA).  
Levy update – MLA are expecting similar numbers for 2020 – although the drought might have a greater bearing on goat slaughter.

Research and development  
Numerous projects are being undertaken – those of that might interest angora/mohair producers include -

- Goats on the Move
- National Goat Roadshow/Expo
- Response of rangeland goats to supplementation
- Productivity and profitability webinar series
- Goat levy, industry and producer performances indicators
- Reducing kid loss – select and protect'
- Sustainable internal parasite control in goats
- Goat meat quality – pathway to the future

#### **AHA – Kelly Wall and Bree Beattie**

- goat levy investments
- goat production conditions AHA is continuing work on developing a multi-disease assurance program (FMD, CAE and JD) for goats through GoatMAP review working group. Next meeting 10th December 2019.
- NLIS - The NLIS Business Rules for sheep and goats are being translated into Sheep and Goat Standards.
- Pain relief – husbandry practices.
- Development of a GICA Welfare Policy/Statement for Goats

#### **NRS – David Papdula**

DP provided the Council with an overview of NRS activities and monitoring in relation to the goat industry. This included testing and monitoring of goats through the meat works, LPA auditing, residue testing. Milk contaminants and fibre testing seems to be lacking.

The meeting also spent time discussing such things as the GICA website, strategic plan, policies, communication and an induction program for new members (including deputies). One thing I had trouble getting my head around were the number of acronyms used (thought we were bad enough in the medical scene!).

Since the face to face meeting we have had a teleconference relating to 'tagging' and a reminder that there are changes to the NVD coming!

#### **Sue Jordan**



## Changes to the NVD are coming

The changes come into effect from July, 2020. The changes include updated NVD versions, and the release of a new electronic National Vendor Declaration (eNVD) system.

Please go to [www.integritysystems.com.au](http://www.integritysystems.com.au) to access all current information relating to NVD, LPA & NLIS

## Some Snippets from Clippings

Dr Sandra Blaxendell has a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com.goatvetoz> which is well worth "liking" to keep goat breeders up to date with the latest "all things goat" related. Sandra is a retired Vet who specializes in goats. She has written a numerous articles, published mostly in the Veterinary Manuals for Vets. She continues to research and publish information via Facebook & Instagram.

A few updates from March/April are worthy a 'look'. A recent study on using Copper Sulphate to reduce intestinal worm burdens dispels the "myth".

Trimming Goat Hooves can be found in a post from 7th March. There is a link to the website of a video showing how to give subcutaneous injection from 6th March.

Also from Clippings: Is a link to MLA website re: lice and mites. <https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/parasites/identification/lice/>

Clippings is the Victorian Division News sheet put together by Lill Roberts, available as a download. If you would like to receive copies via email, Lill's contact is [lill@netspace.net.au](mailto:lill@netspace.net.au)

**Thanks, Lill, for permission to use your links.**

### MOHAIR PUBLICATIONS

Two Books now on disc in PDF format \$15 each including postage.

**Mohair: Farming the Diamond Fibre** (D L Stapleton 2017)  
250 pages in colour (hard copy \$120 including postage)

**Australian Handbook of Angora Goats and Mohair Production**  
(D L Stapleton & D G Cunningham 2007)  
180 pages in colour (hard copy \$60 including postage)  
Order from [dougstapleton@bigpond.com](mailto:dougstapleton@bigpond.com) - will invoice

### MOHAIR FARMING THE DIAMOND FIBRE

#### Mohair Farming, History and Biology

Topics include: Farming goats, Biology And Behaviour; From 1970 to now; Early research; Concepts of Quality; Developing the Market; Imports and Exports; The Buck Trials; Responses to Selection; Farming in other places - 3 models; Measurement statistics; What you don't want to know; Processing in South Africa.

## Berwick Show



The winners line up. Reserve Champion buck—Erin Angoras, Champion Buck— Mallee park, Champion kid—Mallee Park, Judge Dale Jackson (without a ribbon) Reserve Champion doe—Koonkie Woorun, Champion doe— Koonkie Woorun. Photo Kelly Jackson.

## GOULBURN SHOW – 7 MARCH 2020

### ANGORA GOATS

**Judge: Doug Stapleton**

**Steward: Meagan Vella**

This year Goulburn was the only Angora goat show in the NSW Eastern Region to survive the fires with Albion Park and Berry cancelled and Camden subsequently succumbing to the virus.

It is good to have a Show in a substantial building with the pens already set up and a spacious show ring and good access.

Four exhibitors presented 28 fleeces and 32 animals for judging. Rowan Ross exhibiting as his new Rosa stud for the first time.

The fleece classes were evenly supported with 5-6 entries in each class, only one fleece being moved by the Judge from Young Goat to Kid. Windy Reefs dominated this section winning four out of the five classes and Champion Fleece from the First Shear class. Reserve Champion was the Winder fleece in the same class.

Buck kid classes were competitive with Rosa dominating the under 6 months class, but the older classes were less well supported. Both Champion and Reserve Buck came from 12-24 months with Impact Nathan and Winder Paragon.

Doe kid classes were strong with Ruby Rosa (6-12m) taking Champion Kid ahead of Winder Radar (6-12m buck). The strongest class of the day was the 12-24 does won by Impact Midora ahead of Windy Reefs. Interestingly they didn't feature in the Champion line up as Impact Georgia (24-36m) and Impact Dorothea (24m +) were Champion and Reserve.

Supreme Champion was Impact Nathan (yearling buck)

Many thanks go to Goulburn Show for hosting us, Doug Stapleton as Judge, Meagan Vella, Steward and the exhibitors for their support. Also, Fife's Stockfeeds, Goulburn who sponsored our four Champions

#### Reg Scott



## Useful sources of information

### **Animal Health Australia**

[www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au) contains information about National livestock diseases and animal health issues

### **Australian Government Department of Agriculture**

[www.agriculture.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.gov.au)  
Contains on product integrity, animal and plant health, rural policy and innovation, food and agri-business, and Biosecurity

### **Meat and Livestock Australia**

[www.mla.com.au](http://www.mla.com.au)  
Contains information relative to livestock marketing and research

### **Goat Industry Council of Australia**

[www.goatindustry.council.com.au](http://www.goatindustry.council.com.au)

### **AgriFutures Australia (formerly RIRDC)**

[www.agrifutures.com.au](http://www.agrifutures.com.au)  
Contains reports on research projects relative to our industry

## **Mohair Australia Limited**

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