

Clippings



MOHAIR AUSTRALIA Ltd., HAGSA Ltd and
Friends

Victorian Region Newsletter

December 2020

Diary Dates for 2021

Berwick Show - 28 February.

The format of the Berwick Show for 2021 is not finalised yet. It is suffice to say that it will not involve the mass showing of goats in a show ring, as has been the format in the past. A 'virtual' show is an option being carefully considered and there will also be some emphasis on final products such as yarn or cloth. More details will be in the Feb 2021 edition of Clippings.

To stay up to date, visit the Berwick Show webpage.

<https://berwickshow.org.au/>

Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show - 16-18 July

Details to be finalised.

<https://www.sheepshow.com/>



Message from the editor

The year of 2020 is nearly at a close and what a year it was. I think many of us will be pleased to see it gone and we all hope for better fortune in the new year.

Thank you to everyone who has assisted in with the humble publication. Margaret for her President's report each edition, David Williams for his Market Report, the heritage angora breeders, Melissa, Angie, Bella and Stephen who generously allow me to use the photos of their goats and those other people who have contributed and given me encouragement.

I'd especially like to thank my beloved husband, Roger, who faithfully reads what I write, corrects the typos and makes sure what I've said makes sense.

In this edition there are happy snaps from the Victorian Division Christmas party, a brief look at saving genetics of a rare breed, as well as our usual round up from the web, the market report and more.

I'd like to wish everyone a very safe and Merry Christmas and a wish that 2021 is not a repeat of 2020.

Happy reading

Lill (lill@netspace.net.au)



A Message from your President Margaret Nicholls

We come to the end of a very turbulent year with all that have been happening here in Victoria. We are now all looking forward to a future where we again do the things we enjoy such as meeting together and attending shows. For many of us, being able to focus on our goats has been a saviour.

It was wonderful to see 18 friends attend the Christmas Party on 28 November. It was such a success. Some photos have been included in this edition.

In this year we also lost one of our most loved members, Mr Arthur Day. Hillary will now be lovingly helped to continue with her goats by her son and daughter in law William and Suzie. She is looking forward to working with them in the future.

Laurel Shera -Jones's granddaughter Caroline will be taking over the flock which Laurel began in the 1970s. We also look forward to Caroline's involvement in the industry and I ask all members to be available to assist her if needed.

It is indeed pleasing to be part of a small community of like minded people who are committed to keeping contact with each other and are there to assist when needed.

At this stage the Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show will be on for 2021. I am currently working on a bigger presence at the show and display for our industry which will include all aspects of goat farming. I do hope as many members as possible will be available to assist, so please put the 16-18 July in your diaries.

The Bendigo Show is followed by a ram auction and next year we are working towards having included in that auction some bucks. This will be a first.

Thanks to Lill and Roger for their work in producing Clippings every two months which keeps us up to date. It, and the Facebook page, are our main channels of communication with members and the wider goat community.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous on your farms.

Heritage or not? - Parking the AHA genes for posterity

At Oakey Range Heritage Angora Stud in NSW Bella St Clair is developing the Sapphire line goats. The purpose of this line is to make a secondary repository for AHA genes as the Banksia goats are critically endangered.

Sapphire 25 is the foundation goat for this line. She is by Della Downs Brutus, a pure bred Heritage Angora by the Banksia line, and an old Australian Doe who had good AHA traits

Sapphire 25's offspring by Croajingalong Geronimo is Sapphire 335. That means Sapphire 335 isn't a Banksia line goat, but she displays the AHA phenotype very well.

By using goats outside the Banksia line in a deliberate and managed way, Bella is creating some genetic diversity, while at the same time preserving the gene pool.

Thank you to Cynthia

A huge thank you to Cynthia McDonall for donating the beautiful statue of an AHA goat to HAGSA. The goat is named Chivo and he was a beloved pet of Cynthia's mother when she was young. Cynthia's mother made this statue.



Sapphire 335, who is three quarters Heritage and one quarter Old Australian genetics.



Double celebrations in Tyabb with Widdershins Tilly, on the left and Widdershins Phantom on the right doing some interbreed bonding. They were both born in August.
Photo curtesy Angie Denyer.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General meeting of the Heritage Angora Goat Society of Australia Ltd. Will be held via Zoom

5.30pm AEDST

Friday 11 December 2020.

Visitors and non financial members are welcome to attend.

For further details please contact Lill on lill@netspace.net.au

Weed Control and Goats.

Spring is a time when grass and weeds grow profusely. It's a time consuming job preparing properties for the up coming fire season. There have been many articles in the media about using goats to control weeds. As goats are natural browsers, rather than grazers, eating weeds, particularly woody ones comes naturally to them. A wide range of weeds also provide clean feed and are a source of the minerals which goats need in their diets.

Generally, the goats which are featured in the media are cross breeds or rangeland goats. Angora goats can also be used to assist with weed control. However there are a few things to keep in mind.

Prickly weeds.

Blackberries are very nutritious, but if the goats have long fleece there is a significant risk that either the goat will become tangled in the blackberry bush, the prickles will become lodged in the fleece, or both. The presence of blackberry thorns, or blood from a goat which has been injured trying to escape from a blackberry thicket will reduce the value of the fleece produced. Therefore it's a good idea to only allow angora goats to feed on blackberries shortly after shearing when the fleece is short and there is no chance of them becoming entangled.

Poisonous weeds

While goats are good at absorbing poisons, some plants will kill them. It's wise to know these plants. If you missed it there was a list in the October edition of Clippings.

Not too much

Some plants are quite safe for goats as long as they have other food. The danger occurs when goats are only fed one particular weed. This can cause a build up of toxins which is dangerous. Plants such as privet, cape weed and oak leaves fall into this category. With respect to privet and ivy, it is important to avoid the berries.

Here are some videos which talk about poisons and goats.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgkc3md0s3A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3mXnCz9hIY>

It is a myth that goats will instinctively know if a plant is poisonous and won't eat it.

So by all means feed you goats some unwanted weeds, but first make sure that the weeds will not injure the goats or comprise the fleece, that they are not poisonous and there is plenty of other feed for the goats to eat.

Going Into Goats

For people who are new to raising goats, there is a publication which falls under the auspices of Meat and Livestock Australia. There is a wide focus in the publication as it covers not only angora goats, but all goats currently farmed in Australia. Chapter 10 is specifically about the production of mohair.

The publication is free to download and is very comprehensive.

It can be downloaded at <https://www.mla.com.au/extension-training-and-tools/going-into-goats/the-going-into-goats-guide/>

As well as the publication, the MLA website has helpful videos and facts sheets covering a wide range of issues faced by Australian Goat Farmers.

Mohair Australia Ltd. (Victorian Division) Christmas party



There was a good attendance at the Pine Grove Hotel in Upper Beaconsfield for the MAL Victorian Division Christmas Party held on Saturday 28 November.

For many of us this was our first meal out since March. After the confusion of 'signing in' and QR codes, we were all able to sit down to two 'socially distant' tables and enjoy a chat, catch up and a good meal.

A short time was devoted to formalities with everyone raising a glass to the memory of Arthur Day who had passed away earlier in the year. Margaret Nicholls took time to thank those who had assisted her during the year with gifts and Hillary Day thanked Margaret and Doug for all the work they had done for Mohair Australia and those around the table during the year. Laurel Shera-Jones was also presented with a lovely bunch of flowers.





In a Nutshell—news and views from the internet. (Thanks to Goat Veterinary Consultancies—Goatvetoz. et.al.)

Faecal samples are used by vets to determine lots of things, but primarily they are used to do Faecal egg counts which give information about the worm burden a goat may be carrying. Here are some tips to make sure the collected sample will produce the most accurate results.

- If possible take a rectal sample over one which has been sitting on the ground and may have picked up contaminants
- Seal all edges of the sample tray and put it in a zip lock bag
- Aim to send the sample off the day it is collected
- Remember FRESH IS BEST.

Early castration and impacts on the health of bucks. A Youtube video explaining the connection between the early castration of goats and the formation of crystals in the urine at a later date. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCip3_XsgG0

Q Fever booklet for download. <https://cpb-ap-se2.wpmucdn.com/blogs.unimelb.edu.au/dist/e/360/files/2020/08/Q-Fever-Fact-Sheet-Digital-1.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3cwotBfuEQ61BCWKbZKIP7mI0MWOERI7iNwNkWrDjgnlHXzJgi0x4O47Y>

Hair loss in goats. An article which looks at the causes and some treatments of hair loss in goats. <https://neweralive.na/posts/feature-why-your-goat-loses-hair?fbclid=IwAR25QyS0F0hfYdEpksLZEgieMUN7gZHzbFFMS0DOF2jZTrb58wfuerZH3LQ>

Divided Scrotums An interesting article on the impacts of divided scrotums on fertility, (and it may not be what you think) https://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0100-736X2016000400258&nrm=iso

Dam water *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* are both found in dam water. This article discusses the impacts. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0304401720302612?dgcid=author>

Scholarships available from Agrifutures

Applications for the 2021 AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship Program are now open. Students entering their final two years of an undergraduate degree who are passionate about the future of Australian rural industries are encouraged to apply.

To be eligible to apply students must:

- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident and be studying an undergraduate degree at an Australian university
- Be entering the final two years of their degree in 2021

Applications close Friday, 15 January 2021 at midnight AEDT. For more information: www.agrifutures.com.au/horizon

Worms As usual there are many articles which deal with the cause, symptoms and treatment of intestinal worms in ruminants. It is peak worm season here in Victoria, so here are some links. Wormboss and ParaBoss are good websites to find out more. <http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/goats.php>
<https://www.paraboss.com.au/>

Information on using dewormers correctly https://thriftyhomesteader.com/using-dewormers-correctly/?fbclid=IwAR2zYeCbr48e2T9LNbvBvtYifr3yyE-fxu0Mw_ytTBPisZ8ywrS_TfYGa40 It is from the US.

Koonkie Woorun Angora Stud, Upper Beaconsfield, Vic

FOR SALE - Koonkie Woorun 1702

Sire: Champion Ancor 4428 (Registration No 193623)

Available for viewing December 2020

Contact: Hilary Day 0417 038 935 or
hmday@ozemail.com.au



Responsible Mohair Standard

After our Christmas party on 28 November, some of the Victorian Division members adjourned to Hillary Day's home for a brief meeting. At that meeting David Williams from Australian Mohair Trading, took time to brief members about the proposed Responsible Mohair Standard.

The standard comes as the mohair industry, along with many others, grapples with the issues of animal welfare, product quality, environmental concerns, and sustainability.

The mohair industry in South Africa used the standard already developed for the Australian wool industry and adjusted it for mohair use. Here in Australia we have used this standard from South Africa and are adjusting it for use here. This conversion to Australian use is still in progress and should be ready soon. It is understood that there is a person from the wool industry who was involved in RWS certification helping. There is not much we can do until this process has been completed and discussed.

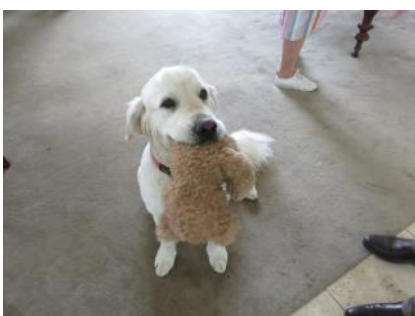
David made several points in his presentation.

The first was that the standards certification is not compulsory. There have been suggestions that those who choose not to operate to the standard will not be able to sell their mohair. This is not correct. At this stage it seems that throughout the production process, mohair will be separated into two categories RMS compliant mohair and non RMS mohair. Exactly how that will work is yet to be determined.

Secondly, it is anticipated that RMS compliant mohair may receive a premium price of about 10% over non RMS mohair. This premium would have to depend on the quality of the mohair in the lot on offer.

Thirdly, there are costs involved if producers wish to be RMS compliant. At this stage because the certification process has not been completed. These include the initial set up cost, and an ongoing annual cost. There is also more paperwork involved and the cost of an audit. These are the costs on top of what most producers already undertake to comply with the NLIS regime.

There is still much to be determined before this standard is implemented. It is only when the costs and benefits are better established will mohair producers be in a position to determine if RMS certification will be advantageous in their particular situation or not.



Millie, Hillary's dog before we all arrive



Millie when she sees us all arrive.

Market Report—David Williams

Although the Mohair industry loosely follows the wool industry regarding price and demand movements, the recent developments in China regarding blocking Aust imports etc has created an air of volatility and uncertainty in the wool industry. (China buy about 90% of our wool). Fortunately this development does not seem to be influencing the mohair industry.

Since the end of September the Rand has eased slightly (as usual) and then improved for the last sale. Demand seems to be strong with good competition from the two main buyers. The lower quality and faulty types were still neglected and passed in as they did not reach the brokers reserve. (This is also apparent in the wool industry).

Any good quality lots even for micron, length etc attract keen competition and at the last sale some fine young goats with RMS certification received a 10% premium. This indicates the importance of keeping micron and length ranges to a minimum. (Low CV). No report of finer lots receiving any premium though.

I understand business is still tough but they seem optimistic about the market demand.

The second last sale for the winter season was 24/11 and it was noted that USD prices for all qualities except strong adults are higher than this time last year.

A solid market with demand for hand knitting yarns in Northern Europe and some support from China on kids and young goats.

Kids unchanged, Young Goats 2% up, adults 2% down.

The drop in adult prices is probably due to the "fake fur" fashion which didn't take off in China as was predicted.

With the shocking wool industry season with its steep high's and chasm drop lows in mind, the mohair industry should be very pleased with the last 12 months. A few up's and down's but particularly noting the November 2019 to November



Mohair Buyers

A.M.T.

WE BUY MOHAIR DIRECT FROM THE GROWER

WE ONLY SELL TO PROCESSORS AND WORK CLOSELY WITH OVERSEAS TOP MAKERS AND MANUFACTURERS

WE OFFER:

COMPETITIVE PRICES FOR YOUR MOHAIR

PROMPT PAYMENT

SORTING REPORT (if requested)

ASSISTANCE ON PREPARATION FOR SALE

WE TAKE GREAT CARE IN CLASSING MOHAIR – NOT ONLY TO CUSTOMERS' REQUIREMENTS, BUT ALSO BY EXPLOITING THE NATURAL FEATURES OF OUR FIBRE (STYLE AND CHARACTER) TO GAIN THE MAXIMUM PRICE.

WE ARE SUPPORTING FURTHER PROCESSING OF AUSTRALIAN MOHAIR IN AUSTRALIA FOR ALL AUSTRALIAN GROWERS!

IF YOU NEED ANY ASSISTANCE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL US

David Williams Mobile: 0419 352 399

John Hoornweg Mobile: 0428 488 422

Email: david@amtMoh.com.au

AUSTRALASIAN MOHAIR TRADING PTY LTD

Unit 2, 114 Fairbairn Road, Sunshine, Vic, 3020.

To facilitate ease of handling, please consolidate all bags into one (or more) bag or wool pack. Ensure all bags, bales are clearly with your name and address and AMT address".