

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

ABN 40 008 585 135



MOHAIR
Australia Limited



**December
2020
Mohair
News**



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Editor's Notes

I am back at the Desk after some months of disruptions. There's no need to say it has been an awful year all round, particularly with the restrictions which have been in place due to Covid-19. Hopefully, we are getting back to some kind of sensibility with the new "Covid Normal".

The main focus of the Board over the past year has been on Sustainability issues, with the Australian Sustainable Goat Fibre Guidelines having been completed. The other big issue of note is the Responsible Mohair Standards (RMS) accreditation process set out by International Textile Exchange.

We were fortunate to have Sylvia Poel Sietsema from Control Union give a presentation on the RMS at the AGM. Nick has forwarded the presentation on to the Division Presidents, hopefully they will be circulated to members in their Divisions. For more information, see: www.controlunion.com

The Hand Book for the RMS accreditation process can be downloaded from the International Textile Exchange website www.internationaltextileexchange.com.

In this issue we have included an article by Geoff Murray-Prior about the importation of Angora goats in the early '80's. While older breeders are familiar with the history, a number of our newer members are not. Our Mohair industry would not be where it is today without the passion, foresight and commitment of the dedicated breeders involved in the importation of live animals into Australia. We all owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

The Membership Form for New & Renewing Members is on the back of the address sheet in this issue. Payments should be made by 31st of January, as per the Company's M & A's. Please note: Ordinary Membership fee has been increased to \$50.

...and THE SHOW MUST GO ON. Show Societies in NSW have indicated many of the shows will be happening this year, although restrictions on attendance numbers will most likely be in place. Check out Coming Events.

Whilst four of the Board Members are based in NSW, Mohair Australia does cover the entire country. The Board needs input from the other States, and invites State Division Presidents to let the Board know what is happening in their State so the information can be included in the Newsletter, and posted on the web page. Shows, Field Days, Educational Days, we cannot adequately promote the our industry if we do not know what all the States are doing, so please please let the Board know what is happening in your State.

As this is the last newsletter for the year, The National Board wishes you all a Safe and Happy Christmas, and Best Wishes for the New Year.

Kimberly



DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed within these pages of Mohair News are not necessarily those of the editor or those of Mohair Australia Limited. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy of material, Mohair Australia Ltd. accepts no responsibility should the same be proven false.

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	\$50
Junior	\$10

Membership fees are due
1st January, 2021

For Renewal/Membership, please visit the
Mohair Australia website
www.mohair.com.au

FRONT COVER

Close up of Dulark Kirby's (RIP in 2020) fleece as a yearling buck at Cooma Show in 2014. Margaret Nicholls judging the section and opening up the fleece.



MAL Website Progress

The website upgrade is progressing at a steady state. Phase 1 has been completed with the addition of functionality around the following:

- generate a herd book certificate as a pdf.
- produce a membership list which can be selected by region or division.

Megan Mrowka has been co-opted to take responsibility for the updating of the website content and will work together with the board in generating appropriate content for the website. Megan's role will also include restructure of the website other than the herd book, which remains with Doug Stapleton.

The board has approved an initial draft content structure and the implementation of this proposal commenced during September.

There are two opportunities for members to get involved in this process:

1. Selecting website colours. (Megan has commenced this communication.)
2. Sending in appropriate photos, from which we will select for inclusion within website content.

RMS Next Steps

MAL has investigated and researched options for members to become RMS accredited. To this end, Sylvia Poels-Zietsema was invited to the AGM to present the RMS accreditation journey and options.

In Summary:

1. RMS accreditation is voluntary.
2. Producers can choose to either obtain individual farm accreditation or group accreditation.
3. Costs and affordability will need to be considered by producers in their decisions.
4. Textile Exchange has listed a number of independent parties which they have approved to conduct accreditation.

There are indications that a price premium could be associated with the sale of RMS certified mohair in the future.

Responsible Mohair Standards (RMS) accreditation process set out by Textile Exchange.

Refer to downloadable documents:

- **Responsible Mohair Standards**

- **RMS User Manual**

Grant Forsdick

National Presidents Letter

The recent AGM was a great event because we had a good turnout from NSW and several interstate members connected by Zoom. Our guest speakers really added value to the meeting and the feedback from them has been positive. We had some good robust discussion about Mohair Australia Ltd and the mohair industry. Motion 1 and 2 were accepted with the following amendments:

Financial Review amendment

1) The revenue line - memberships was not the correct amount at \$10,116.71 should be \$11,326.71. The total is correct. Below is the detail from MYOB.

Income		Total
4-1000	MEMBERSHIPS	11,326.71
4-3000	BANK INTEREST	29.58
4-4000	SHARE DIVIDENDS	18,809.98
4-5000	HERD BOOK REGISTRATION/FEES	2,453.00
4-6000	ADVERTISING	200.00
4-9500	PRODUCT SALES	33.00
Total Income		32,852.27

2) Query relating to Virgin Shares. Response from Morgans - They certainly do belong to Mohair Australia. Please note this split out of National Australia Bank on the 8th of February 2016. Even though the primary business is in the UK (hence its classification as a global equity) it is tradeable on the ASX, so it can be sold at any time.

In summary this is how the following motions were dealt with at the meeting:

Motion 3. *"I support the inclusion of POLL Angora Goats onto the Herd book of Mohair Australia Ltd. They would be included in the current Herd book with a capital P"*

Moved Nick Gorrie

Seconded Darryl Finch

Carried

Doug Stapleton and Darryl Finch both provided some background to 'polled' goats. Queried how they should be shown in the Herdbook. Felt that the "P" should not be part of the Herd book number but in the name. There was a query as to why some of the other 'types' could not be included as well. This issue was parked because outside of the current motion.



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Motion 4. *I support Mohair Australia Ltd merging all non-functional or non-operating regions with their respective neighbouring active or state regions.*

Moved Nick Gorrie

Seconded Grant Forsdick

Carried

Some concerns over how mergers would affect some regions and their actives in NSW. How many regions are active in Victoria? This motion will not affect the other states as mergers have already occurred.

Motion 5. *I support Mohair Australia Ltd helping to re-establish a new founding board of Australian Premier Mohair Company (APMC) to help drive the growth of the Australian mohair industry.*

Moved Nick Gorrie

Seconded Grant Forsdick

Carried

This motion will involve revisiting the APMC Constitution drawn up in 2014/15. APMC will be established as an advisory board to Agrifutures. Voting rights of members is proposed to be based on mohair production and levies paid moving forward. I.e. 1000 goats = 1000 votes.

Motion 6. *Withdrawn*

There was some other business

- Sue Bell asked about the possible development of 'starter packs'.
- The word 'Australia' has been added to the Sustainable Fibre Production Guidelines project completed by Peter Schuster.
- The MAL board will look to action the motions carried, through project teams/sub committees. This will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Thank you for those that came to the meeting and voted either way, sent their proxies or sent their apologies. We have some work in front of us, there is an opportunity for ALL of us to be more involved in the outcomes.

I wanted to make members aware of the recent uplift in rangeland (red or black) goats particularly active in North West NSW and South East Queensland which is a group of smart people re-branding the kalahari red / boer goat. I wanted to reassure you that these goats sound like a great idea however they are difficult to keep in and are not compatible with producing pure mohair because of the potential issue of colour fibre contamination.

On behalf of the board have a great Christmas and New Year. Remember to take some time out over this time to enjoy a better season and look back on some photos from last year. What a difference a year can make!

Yours sincerely, Nick Gorrie

A Look Back to Past Times

When I look at current happenings in the mohair industry I see, among some long-time participants, many new names, and faces. It occurred to me that, along the lines of that famous quote "*Those who cannot remember the past are bound to repeat it*"¹, many people may be unaware of the activities and achievements of our organisation in days gone by.

Looking at pictures of Australian angoras today, and comparing them to pictures of angoras taken, say, forty years ago, the improvement in breed quality is starkly evident. Undoubtedly most of this improvement is due to the introduction of overseas genetics. However, bringing these genetics to Australia was to prove to be more than just a matter of ringing an agent and placing an order.

Some thirty or so years ago some AMBA members (as MAL was known in those days) wanted access to South African genetics. Sounded like a good idea so after some discussion the AMBA Board decided we should contact our South African counterparts and get the wheels in motion.

Our then CEO, Lin Dudley, wrote to the South African Mohair Board (our equivalent body in South Africa) initially to make contact but ultimately to develop a strong relationship to assist importations. Unfortunately, even after a couple of letters, we did not get a response.

In those days, the AMBA head office was in Canberra. Many questioned the logic of having a head office in a city removed from the overwhelming number of members, but almost all national organisations have their head office in Canberra, and for those of us familiar with that city, the reasons are obvious. It is the easiest place to lobby politicians and senior public servants.

Lin Dudley was at a function and met Jacob Smit. Jacob was Agricultural Attaché at the South African Embassy. Lin promptly arranged for a meeting, and Lin and I had dinner with Jacob at the Canberra Club. As an aside, there was some angst within the AMBA Board when Lin's expenses were submitted, as that venue's charges are somewhat higher than a non-city dweller may normally expect. We told Jacob that our attempts to establish contact with our South African counterparts had failed. Jacob, in true diplomatic

fashion, told us that he had no authority regarding that organisation, but he would see what he could do.

About three weeks later we received a letter from the South Africans expressing deep regrets for not responding and hoping we were not offended, and, yes, of course our two organisations should work closely together. That meal was starting to look like good value!

Around this time AMBA was in contact with the then Minister for Agriculture, John Kerin, and I was on good terms with some of his staff. This contact was to prove of great assistance in this case and in relation to the introduction of the mohair levy, the provision of funding for research, and the formation of the Goat Industry Council of Australia (GICA). So, without further ado, Lin and I drafted a submission to Minister Kerin seeking approval to import Angora goats from South Africa.

So far, so good. Then the first obstacle arose – scrapie². Minister Kerin informed us that he had been advised (apparently by representatives of the wool industry) that scrapie existed in South Africa, and since it was reportedly transmittable from goats to sheep, the importation could not be approved. This was disputed by the South Africans, who claimed that scrapie had been eliminated in South Africa, but the wool industry was all-powerful in Australia in those days.

But we pressed on. Minister Kerin was proving to be supportive, and after some further discussions with his staff, he passed our initial submission to an Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) for consideration. One role of an IDC is to review and assess a proposal, and make recommendations to the relevant Minister/s. The core membership of this IDC consisted of public servants from within the Departments of Agriculture, Trade, and Foreign Affairs; no doubt other Departments were also represented.

Then I then got a phone call from within a meeting of that Committee with a pile of questions. These were mainly about whether we were proposing that AMBA be the importer, issues around scrapie and quarantine, and how did we see this helping the Australian industry, particularly in relation to exports. Later in the day I got a call from the Ag guys, who told me that the proposition had been agreed in principle, and their relevant Ministers would be advised that a Cabinet

¹ George Santayana, *The Life of Reason, Volume 1, 1905*

² Scrapie is a fatal, progressive, degenerative disease of the central nervous system of sheep and goats. Source <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/scrapie>



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submission was being prepared by the mohair industry. But - and there is always a 'But' in such cases - they raised yet another hurdle.

At that time there was an embargo on trade with South Africa because of their policy of apartheid; Prime Minister Bob Hawke was passionately opposed to apartheid and was a strong supporter of the embargo. Having the Prime Minister ideologically opposed to your proposition is not a good start.

This specific embargo was designed to change South Africa's behaviour - that is, abandon their policy of apartheid - rather than permanently damage the country. We had to develop a strategy to overcome the embargo. We needed in-depth knowledge of the terms of the embargo; this required further discussions with Minister Kerin's office. At this point we had to consider just what obstacles lay in our way, and what were the supporting factors we could use, and, indeed, should we even continue.

Our major obstacles now were:

1. We had to overcome the embargo restrictions;
2. We could not use the embargo as a vehicle to displace South Africa from the mohair industry internationally once the embargo was lifted;
3. The prospect of introducing a new disease was an issue;
4. Since we were claiming that we could not achieve our long-term breed goals without South African genetics, we had to specifically justify our need for those genetics;
5. As the basis of our submission was to improve the Australian herd - and thus both the quality and quantity of the Australian clip - we had to demonstrate how we could ensure the genetic quality of imported stock;
6. South Africa became less supportive as they felt Australia's large farm sector could diminish their influence in the international sphere; and
7. The Prime Minister was a vocal supporter of the embargo on trade with South Africa.

The key things in our favour were:

1. At that time, the International Mohair Association (IMA)

was making somewhat extravagant claims about the world demand for mohair and the shortfall in existing production; and

2. Minister Kerin appeared to be supportive of our proposal, as were the Agriculture Department people we were dealing with.

This did not look like an even fight, but Lin and I pushed on.

After some robust discussions within the AMBA Board, Lin and I were given the green light to draft a submission, so we proceeded to develop an outline and address the key arguments to overcome the perceived obstacles. **In general terms, we came up with the following points:**

1. The embargo - generally the Australian public was aware of the embargo but were not fully aware of its fine print. We discovered that the embargo excluded raw, unprocessed items and livestock met this exclusion criterion;
2. Post-embargo co-existence - the quite extravagant IMA reports and predictions would demonstrate that even a significant and rapid increase in Australian output added to stronger South African output would still not meet the IMA demand predictions;
3. Disease - we would suggest that the Department of Agriculture develop a quarantine protocol as this was their area of expertise;
4. Need for South African genetics - this took some research but ultimately we decided to define our breed objectives within the submission to mirror that of South African angoras, so that, ipso facto, only South African genetics could meet our breed objectives;
5. Ensuring the quality of imported animals - we restricted our proposal to seeking importation approval only for livestock registered with the South African Herd Book. In other words, we were seeking to import the world's best breeding stock. Wethers and unregistered animals were excluded from our proposal;
6. South African support - Lin kept in contact with them to try to allay their fears; and
7. Politically - we decided to leave those issues to Minister Kerin.

We developed what we thought was a strong submission and after some further robust discussions within the AMBA Board (some members felt that we were wasting our time) I advised Minister Kerin's office that we had a draft submission for consideration. Again, we had strong support from the Minister's office, and after a few tweaks the submission was re-submitted to the IDC.

The departments responsible for issues around the embargo were Trade, and Foreign Affairs. The IDC proposed that the relevant Ministers - Peter Cook (Trade) and Gareth Evans (Foreign Affairs) - would sponsor the submission and it would be supported by Minister Kerin. This gave a lot of weight to the submission, and, importantly, it also helped nullify any factional issues within the Cabinet.

Then the IDC threw up yet another hurdle.

Both Ministers had to sign-off the submission. I was informed that Minister Cook would not turn the page, whereas Minister Evans felt that any submission of less than about fifty pages was not properly developed and just conceptual. Therefore the submission had to be re-drafted such that the critical points, and conclusion, were definitively covered on page one,

and the document filled out with extensive detail, IMA press releases, and anything else we thought plausibly relevant, so the submission would meet the 'thickness test'.

Fortunately, both Ministers, and Minister Kerin, were satisfied and our submission duly went to Cabinet, and was approved by Cabinet. Cabinet meetings are confidential, but some matters do get out; apparently the only person to speak against our submission was Prime Minister Hawke.

Ultimately this approval lay in abeyance for many years. The first importation of South African genetics did not meet the registration criterion and apparently were transported to Zimbabwe before export to Australia.

I should add that Minister Kerin was a strong supporter of the goat industry and apart from his support for this importation proposal, provided much of the impetus behind the formation of GICA, and the passing of legislation around the mohair levy and research funding.

Geoff Murray-Priorⁱ

ⁱ Geoff Murray-Prior is an Honorary Life Member of MAL and was a Vice - President of AMBA during this period. He and his wife, Gillian, had a farm just outside Canberra and he worked as a consultant in Canberra.

National Angora Trophy Show and Sale 2021

Confirmed dates - 12, 13 and 14 March 2021 – Peden Pavilion Goulburn.

- Invites will be sent out in early Jan 2021 and nats facebook page updated in Dec 2020
 - 10 kg commercial matched kid class (upgraded from last years 5kg class)
 - Schools Wether challenge with shearing and benchmarking of performance
 - Open Invitation for Stud Sale in 2021
 - Good support from sponsors with product & cash prizes
 - Best Western Goulburn confirmed for show dinner on Saturday night

For more information or to register your interest please contact Nick Gorrie 0409 129 123 on behalf of NSW division.



At the recent MAL AGM life membership were awarded to: Bill Smith and Sandie Smith

Bill registered Inwood Stud in 1986 and has been a leader in the Hunter Region of New South Wales ever since. With Sandie he has filled the positions on the Regional committee. Recognising the number of small holdings and so small flocks Bill came up with a novel co-operative membership, Hunter Mohair Incorporated (HMI) allowing the sharing of membership, registration fees and husbandry materials.

As President of the Hunter Region Bill fostered local shows and exhibits at the Tocal Field Days as well as highlighting the Angora Breed as special Feature show events. As the Hunter Regional representative on the NSW division Bill's activities reached to Division President.

Bill and Sandie extended their farm activities by manufacturing electric spinning wheels and carding equipment under the Inwood Smith brand. Not only did Sandie fill the position of Treasurer both the Hunter Region and the NSW Division but also worked with Steve Roots to run the NATS office over the years. Sandie also produced the Hunter New Letter.

Following the events of the 2008 National AGM, Bill (and Sandie) made up part of the administrative Board lending accounting, secretarial experience and planning skills to support Steve Roots in operating the national office of Mohair Australia. In later

elections Bill and Sandie became a full Board member and have been re-elected on each occasion and only now relinquished the positions.

In 2010 Bill took over as editor of the Mohair Newsletter, a position maintained till 2020. The newsletter was enhanced by Bill's photographic skills. There was rarely a mohair event that did not see Bill working hard to record activities.

For their dedication, persistence, and staunch support on the Mohair Australia Limited Board over the 11 years, Bill and Sandie are nominated to become a Life Members.



Bill and Sandie taking out the Most Successful Exhibitor award at the Special Gresford show, with judge Doug Stapleton

Steve (Steven) Roots.

Steve came forward at the turn of the century first joining Mohair Australia in 2000 with the registration of the stud name 'Rosmark'. Being a long-term member of NSW Farmers Association gave him a special perspective and he soon took up a Board position.

Steve has been involved at all levels of the industry, holding positions in the Western and then the Central Western Regions of NSW, the NSW Division and the National Board.

At a local level Steve has held positions, including President and Secretary/Treasurer for the Western Region. He continued in executive positions following the amalgamation with the Central

Region. He was always keen to promote the mohair industry. For many years he organised or helped with displays/stalls at Mudgee Small Farm Field Days and the local show at Dubbo. He was involved in educational activities including the shearing school in Dubbo in 2011 and recently the Judging schools at Trangie. Steve has also supported local breeders by judging shows including the Diamond Fibre at Bathurst.

In 2005, (with Doug Stapleton), Steve worked to set up the new on-line Herd Book Recording System taking over the large data base from ABRI at the University of New England. In 2008 he was part of a group who took the initiative to down-size the administration of Mohair Australia and so limit expenditure which was seriously draining reserves that had been built up during earlier times.

Following the 2008 AGM, this group (becoming the new Board) set to work to re-establish an administration headed by Steve as President and Administrator based at his property, Cardui, at Molong. Steve continued as president until the end of 2019. The change was undoubtedly an audacious step but one which seems to have saved the day for the company.

At a Division level Steve was the Western Region delegate to the NSW Division, again taking on committee roles and becoming Secretary. Not long after joining the industry he volunteered for the NATS Committee and ran the NATS office with Sandie Smith. Rosmark also provided sponsorship for a class. In the Buck Trails run at Cudal, Steve gave very practical help around the yards weighing animals and, in the shearing shed, helping with sampling.

Over the period of his presidency there were some major events in which Steve participated. The first was the 2009 World Expo in South Africa where Steve was involved in the development of Mohair Australia's display and helped man the booth at Graaff-Reinet. This was a major display and placed Australia in the world Mohair industry.

The development of NERIA (New and Emerging Rural Industries of Australia) organised by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) saw two national conferences (in Qld and Vic) with Mohair Australia displays. These were designed to place our industry within the political framework of this organisation in Australia. Steve worked on these with others and if this was not enough, for several years he singlehandedly worked with the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW to display mohair and Angoras in the context of natural fibre production displays.

Not only did Steve take charge of Mohair Australia but he also took on the role as chairman of the Goat Industry Council (GICA). This was a challenging role balancing the interests of the fibre industry and the rapidly developing western Rangeland goat meat industry. He relinquished this role in 2013.

Behind the scenes Steve has kept track of efforts by Animal Health Australia (AHA) to rationalise the approach to Johnes Disease, exotic disease awareness and Bio Security promotion. In more recent times he has been involved with AgriFutures Australia (formally RIRDC) in developing the Responsible Goat Fibre Production guidelines which will be essential for future mohair production and international sales.

For a period, Steve took a seat on the AMMO Board and undertook the task of further rationalisation of the industry with the promotion of an overarching structure for the industry (APMC) and /or a possible merger between Mohair Australia and AMMO. This involved considerable consultation but failed to eventuate, most likely because of the disparate views within the industry.

Steve Roots has become the longest serving President of Mohair Australia (eleven years) during the rather turbulent period for the Australian mohair industry and must be congratulated for his efforts and perseverance. Life Membership is well deserved.



Reg Scott presenting Life membership to Sandie and Bill Smith with Steve Roots at the Hunter Region Christmas Party.



Steve Roots accepting his award.

If you have new life membership nominations please start planning for 2021 submissions.



Mohair Australia NSW Division - Coming Events for 2021

Jan 16/17	Albion Park Field Day	Albion Park	Steve Smith	02 4448 6112
Jan 30	Berry Show	Berry	Steve Smith	02 4448 6112
Feb 5	NSW Division	Goulburn	Jenny Readford	0458 264 672
Feb 21	Diamond Fibre	Bathurst	Craig Richards	02 6366 3652
Mar 6	Goulburn Show	Goulburn	Reg Scott	02 4657 2293
Mar12/14	NATS - Peden Pavilion	Goulburn	Nick Gorrie	0409 129 123
Mar 20	Camden Show	Camden	Reg Scott	02 4657 2293
Apr 1/12	Sydney Royal Show	Sydney	Rowan Ross	0467 816 178

AMMO Market Report

Globally we are all facing very extraordinary times as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Very difficult times often bring new challenges.

AMMO's 2nd auction was held Friday the 11th of September 2020. The day in question created a couple of firsts

1. This AMMO auction was the first time AMT (Australasian Mohair Trading) did not have a physical presence at our Auction, this was due to Covid 19 enforced Boarder restrictions. This meant AMT principal Mr David Williams bought there lots via telephone hook-up.

2. The other first for AMMO was the live streaming of the auction via our face book page. AS the live streaming feature appeared to be well received, this may well continue to be utilised into the future. Next time the auction is live streamed there will be a copy of our catalogue included to enable producers to look at their own auction catalogue.

Overview of the auction when considering the difficulties of trading and the problems created by the current pandemic. The result at our auction was pleasing to see. The prices received at our auction compared to the Cape auction held the same week i.e 8-9-2020

Were generally very favourable. In general terms AMMO's kid prices were firm to marginally less than the Cape. AMMO'S Young goat and fine adult prices were on average marginally better than those received in the cape. It is always pleasing to see a 100% clearance.

Kind regards Craig

--

Craig Clancy

Assoc. Dip. Ap. Sc. (Wool and Fibre Marketing)

Warehouse Manager

Ph: 02 6959 2988 Mob: 0474 911 155

AMMO Market Report continued..

Sale Date 11 September 2020

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B2020 AUCTION CATALOGUE

114 Bales in 33 Lots

LOT No	DESC	PRICE c/kg	MEAN DIAM	YIELD %	NETT KGS	BALES
1	BSFFK	3950	24.8	81.1	187.0	1
2	CFFK	3840	23.9	81.4	398.0	3
3	BFK	3570	27.0	0.0	105.0	1
4	CFK	3540	26.2	79.4	277.0	2
5	DFK	3200	24.7	79.6	543.0	3
6	EFK	1570	24.8	81.1	156.0	1
7	CK	3100	27.5	79.4	464.0	3
8	CFKSDY	2480	23.4	75.7	379.0	2
9	CFFYG	1995	29.6	78.7	376.0	2
10	BFYG	1770	31.2	77.9	199.0	1
11	CFYG	1840	30.9	80.0	1524.0	8
12	DSYG	1680	29.1	78.4	197.0	1
13	DYG	1740	28.9	80.8	1117.0	6
14	EYG	95	27.3	77.6	192.0	1
15	CFYGSYD	1535	27.2	76.8	202.0	1
16	BFFH	1680	31.3	77.3	364.0	2
17	CFFH	1600	31.9	80.5	1788.0	10
18	DSFFH	1500	30.5	78.1	559.0	3
19	DFFH	1410	31.7	80.0	2221.0	12
20	EFFH	970	31.6	80.7	295.0	2
21	BFH	1400	33.8	80.0	137.0	1
22	CFH	1320	33.9	83.4	904.0	5
23	DFH	1090	33.3	80.9	1245.0	8
24	CXFH	750	32.8	84.7	325.0	2
25	CFHSDY	1040	30.5	72.8	430.0	3
26	CH	1135	37.2	81.2	140.0	1
27	FCOT	2900	26.3	74.3	234.0	2
28	SCOT	1370	32.0	78.2	1022.0	6
29	FSTN	2440	27.2	78.4	604.0	3
30	LOX	300	31.4	68.6	1029.0	6
31	DSTN	300	29.5	77.9	399.0	2
32	DLOX	215	29.8	0.0	111.0	1
33	STN	1160	31.5	81.0	1526.0	9
				KEY	19649.0	114
		Grower lots		Sale Ave	\$17.97	100% Clearance

BALES SOLD

Stucken 30

Suedwolle 39

Australasian Mohair Trading 45



International News – South African Angora Buck/Ram Sales

The Angora Ram Breeders' Society held its first sale of the season in Somerset East yesterday, and saw some strong competitions among buyers for top quality rams.

The most expensive ram of the day came from Van Hasselt Farming. Barnard and Collin Goosen, from Somerset East, paid R34 000 to take this exceptional ram home.

Besides a collection of great rams, the sale also had 354 ewes available to bolster the buyers' breeding stock. The highest price was a flock of 90 ewes that sold for R1 750 each.

We would also like to thank the Bosch family for hosting the event, and congratulate them on the way the rams were prepared and presented.

The averages on the day were as follows:

Stud rams	R22, 800
Select flock rams	R13, 800
Flock rams	R6, 400
Ewes	R1 ,483



Picture above from left: Cassie Carsten (field officer), Jordi van Hasselt (seller), Collin Goosen (buyer), Johannes de Jager (field officer), Jakkie Nel (auctioneer)

Breaking News – Graaff Reinet World Record Price

The Graaff-Reinet Angora Rams sale took place and resulted in a lot of excitement when a world record price of R155 000 was set for an Angora ram.

The world record ram was purchased by Marwyk Angora Stud. The seller of this exceptional ram was Fairview Angora Stud.



The sale was successfully hosted by the House of Fibre. André van Zyl was the auctioneer on the day.

Excellent average prices were achieved on the sale:

Stud rams	R51,900
Select flock rams	R13,400
Flock rams	R5,800



Picture above From Left: Petrie Marié (House of Fibre: Animal Genetics and Development), Andr é van Zyl (auctioneer), Peter and Angen é Marx (buyers), Chris Curtain (House of Fibre field officer), Jannie and Leon Lategan (sellers)



Goats: “Making a buck in a different enterprise”

By Hamish Cooke, Analyst, AuctionsPlus Market Insights

Australian goatmeat may not be a household product you are familiar with however that is a different story for the likes of the Middle East & South East Asia. These cultures are much more accustomed to goatmeat as a source of protein in their diet, in 2019 Australia Exported 21,200 Tonnes of goatmeat - primarily as frozen whole carcasses. This volume accounts for 98% of production, hence why it is unlikely you have seen it at your domestic supermarket or local butchers' shelves.

Interestingly, the US is by far and away the biggest importer of Australian goatmeat and has been for decades. This is due to the cultural shifts that are changing the ethnic makeup of the US, emigration from the Middle East & South East Asia has brought the demand for goat meat with them.

Driven by demand from the market, goat sales quickly became an established weekly online market since 2019, and in the same year AuctionsPlus offered 17,000 head across a variety of stock categories & breeds. 2020 YTD there has been 52,000 head offered online, a 306% increase. Not only has supply increased, but the demand has also followed & the number of buyers has quadrupled year on year to 101 unique purchasers and averaging 91% clearance in the 2020 YTD.

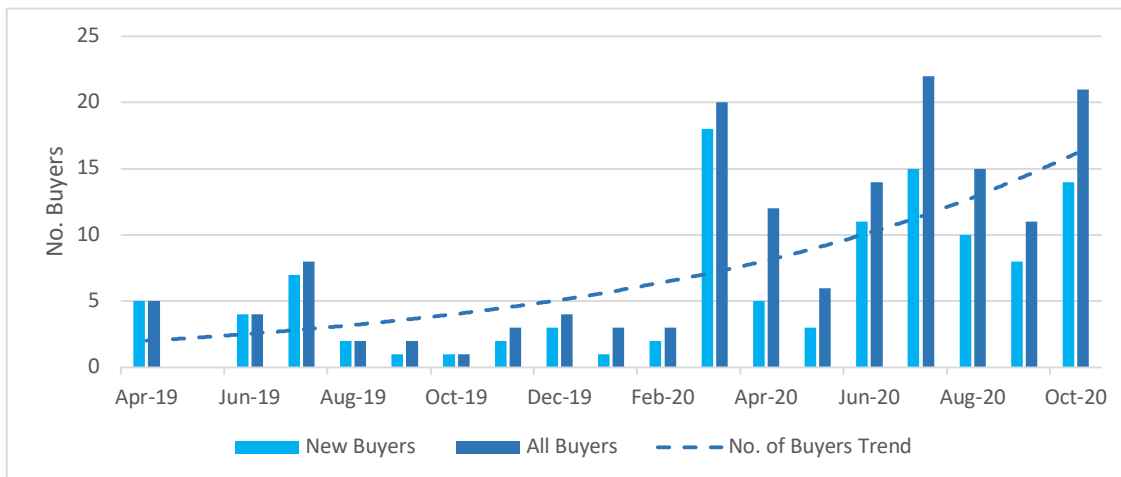


Figure 1. The number of total buyers each month compared with how many of these are new successful buyers.

The goat supply chain is typically direct, approximately 70% of producers in the industry are a “harvest” enterprise where goats are mustered once or twice a year & drafted into kill (>25+kg lwt) or backgrounding weights. Rather than return light goats to feed, “harvest” enterprise farms can currently trade their lighter animals on a high value market and achieve a significantly better returns that further feed investment. There is significant demand for young goats from new and existing



Want to know more?
Contact: Hamish Cooke
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AuctionsPlus
Market Insights

producers who are diversifying enterprises or expanding existing capacity, particularly on the back of the recently broken drought. AuctionsPlus has situated itself as an option for buyers to source young & light goats at those background weights to grow out to processing weights. The average Rangeland or Rangeland Cross goat for sale on AuctionsPlus weighs 22.7kgs lwt.

Export demand & depressed supply during the drought in 2019 drove record over-the-hook prices to highs of 940 c/kg cwt, and averaging 790 c/kg, nearly double year on year numbers. Buyers & sellers alike wanted a piece of the market. The trend continues in 2020 with OTH prices up 30c to 820c/kg cwt this year.

Looking at strictly Rangeland & Rangeland Cross animals online, there has been significant growth in number of head offered, particularly in the last 6 months. Not dissimilar to the OTH market, the lwt price of trade goats has been steadily increasing from an average of 452c/kg in 2019 to 617c/kg so far in 2020.

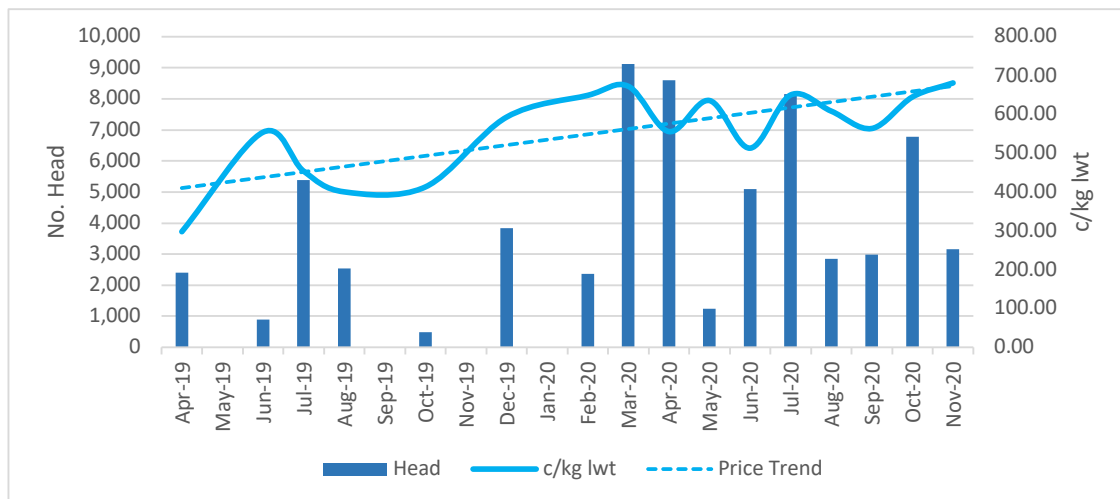


Figure 2. Price trends & throughput of Rangeland & Rangeland Cross goats on AuctionsPlus since 2019 through to November 2020.

Moving into a new livestock enterprise may not be as formidable as it sounds, goats will typically run in the same or similar infrastructure as sheep or weaner cattle. What this means is that you can transition enterprises with a low-cost outlay. Some costs may include exclusion fencing, securing internal paddock fencing, and minor modification to sheep yards.

Grazing and agriculture in general is a volatile market, all successful operators must be risk adverse and have action plans against events like drought and extended market volatility. As a long term, high demand product being sold into relatively safe markets, and with such low input costs, grazing goats is an opportunity to hedge against risk. Particularly over the last 2 years, agriculture has



Want to know more?

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experienced one of the worst droughts in decades, and as the drought broke over most of the country, the Australian Wool Market had slumped to 10-year lows during by June. If the last 12 months is something to go by, this may be the year to crunch the numbers at look to diversify revenue streams on farm.

How do I do it? Buying goats online is as easy as logging into the National Goat Sale on a Tuesday at 12:30pm NSW time, you can bid under your normal AuctionsPlus livestock buyer account. Don't have an account? Go to auctionsplus.com.au & "Sign Up", follow the prompts to "request approval to buy" and have your Personal Details & PIC number handy to complete your profile. After completing a short quiz on your responsibilities as a buyer, you will be ready to go.

If you currently stock goats or are looking to harvest rangeland goats on your property and want to trade on AuctionsPlus, get in touch with an accredited AuctionsPlus assessor near you and they will arrange to assess your animals, ready to be advertised on our catalogues, averaging approximately 3,500 views/week.

Want to know more?

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GIGA Update

Normally GIGA would have a face-to-face meeting and one had been scheduled for May. Due to Corvid-19 that meeting was cancelled and consequently teleconference meetings have been held fortnightly over the past few months.

Over this time, we have looked at --

An update of **MLA projects**

- 1) Sustainable internal parasite control in goats: Effective and safe anthelmintic use (CSU)
Internal parasites are a major problem for goat producers. There are few effective anthelmintic products registered, a high degree of resistance already present and producers are incorrectly using products off label. This project will generate data for vets to provide better advice and give producers confidence that they are supplying products without violative residues that would be a risk to the goatmeat markets. (could also affect the mohair fibre – development)
- 2) Response of Rangeland goats to supplementation and development of least- cost supplement calculator (UQ) - webinar 24/9
Although discussing groups of rangeland goats in particular – the initial results could apply to angoras as well.
- 3) Reducing Kid loss – Select and Protect; phase 1 (DPI – NSW)
This project will investigate the baseline level of reproductive wastage in Australian goat production systems and examine how management changes could minimise losses. On farm impact and adoption are built into the project through a budget allowance for pregnancy scanning.

Animal Health Australia

- i) Updating the GoatMAP - pending
- ii) Australian Industry Welfare Standards and Guidelines for goats including an industry Animal Welfare Policy/Statement
- iii) Sheep and Goat Standards
- iv) Registration of pain relieve medication for goats
- v) Q-fever action - project

LPA/NVD

- i) Stand by what you see Webinar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbfYj4NI8MM&feature=youtu.be>
- ii) Review of the NLIS Goat Standards
- iii) Transaction Levies
The levy is payable of each transaction where ownership of a goat changes from one person to another. This amount is 37.7 cents per goat, and is payable annually September/October
New NVDs' have been developed and are to be used from January 2021.

GICA Strategic Plan – ongoing

As part of the plan, GICA needs to cover --

- Consumer and Community Support
- Market Growth and diversification
- Supply Chain efficiency and integrity
- Productivity and profitability
- Leadership and collaborative culture

Additional activities

- 1) Leg banding in Dairy Goats and the development of an educational package
- 2) Policy development - including one on Board Code of Conduct and Ethics

Susan Jordan

GICA representative

NVD/LPA accreditation

You need to have new NVD books or access on-line to complete animal movements

You need a Property Identification Code(s) - if you own more than 1 property

An NVD is required whenever you move animals

You need to complete (or renew) your LPA every 3 years

You need to keep clear records of what you do with your animals

(you are going to have to do that for your Sustainability Mohair Certificate)

You need a Vet. Certificate if you use off-label products

GICA REMINDER

As of January 1 2021, the NVD that you are currently using is out of date AND you need to get a new book – version 0720 for goats.

You need to use an NVD whenever you are moving goats – be it to a friend down the road or to slaughter.

You need to pay the goat transaction levy of 37.7 cents per animal. This levy is payable to MLA annually.



Moral fibre - 24.11.20

Australia's mohair industry is a small player compared to the likes of wool but it's still looking to kick major goals on the sustainable playing field.

A mohair suit isn't cheap. At a cost of around \$4,000, it's a celebration suit and one a buyer expects to last for more than a season. Increasingly, too, those buyers want to know the story behind that beautiful shine and to be assured the animals, farms and workers involved in the suit's journey were all kindly and sustainably cared for.

South Africa, the world's largest mohair producer, has established a framework of sustainability benchmarks so they can provide those assurances. As a result, Australia is making sure it won't be left behind with ambitious plans to ensure it meets customer demands by following sustainability standards, whether national or international, "by the end of the next clip".

Mohair in Australia is a minnow compared to the whale that is wool. Few farmers have more than 1000 goats and the industry only produces 50 – 60 tonnes of mohair a year. However, says Nick Gorrie, President of Mohair Australia Ltd, who runs 700 animals on his 375-acre stud in the Hills of Hall region just outside the ACT border, it's a market that can grow.

"We have an ageing farmer population in the angora goat business and this new approach will help us explain to younger farmers why they may be well suited to angoras, especially on those intergenerational mixed farms with four or five children taking over different parts of the enterprise. It will provide them with a valuable framework in which to do business."

It's not just the ethics that will appeal, he continues, showing the international markets that Australian mohair is produced in a sustainable manner can boost premiums by up to 15 per cent. Recently, adds Nick, a German buyer bought mohair at three times the normal price. "It was superior mohair, but we leveraged the new SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) as part of the sale."

Potentials and pitfalls

That's why he's feeling excited as the industry begins working through the AgriFutures Australia commissioned report Australian Sustainable Goat Fibre Production: Guidelines and begins discussions on potential benchmarks.

"The fashion brands and mohair buyers do want a level of certification, so we need to think about how to provide that," explains Nick. "But first we need a base framework, which these guidelines provide."

The report was produced by Schuster Consulting Group. Angela and Peter Schuster have spent the past ten years working in the SDGs space and are clear about the potentials and pitfalls.

"The United Nations SDGs do seem to be the way the world is moving and it's important not to get left behind," says Angela. "However, I would like to see more qualification around some of the demand we're hearing about from customers."

In part, Australian mohair already has that driver. South Africa is our biggest mohair market and since adopting their own sustainability program only want to buy fibre from those with similar programs in place. However, because the Australian industry is comparatively small it must be smart, advises Peter. "Mohair producers have to work out the cost of the next steps and clearly define the market opportunity and the driver for it."

Peter says, given the Australian mohair industry is already in the LPA (Livestock Production Assurance) program and NLIS (National Livestock Identification System), it may be that the Australian industry is already doing what is required by the market in terms of SDGs.

If, however, the market requires more, such as third party specifications or adherence to specific standards, establishing these standards and then auditing them is likely to be expensive and growers will have to do a cost benefit analysis.

Weighing up the balance

"As an example, if mohair sells for \$40 a kilo if you're part of a program and \$20 if you're not, but it costs \$30 a kilo to be part of the program, you're arguably better off not being in the program," says Peter. "However, if you don't have a market because you aren't in a program, then you may have to go down this pathway."

"The mohair industry will need to get together to work out what's best for their members and not just a minority of large growers. It will need more research."

Angela has worked with the beef industry which, along with the dairy industry, has put in formal frameworks for SDGs.

Encouragingly, the experience taught her that reporting doesn't need to be onerous. Red tape is a major gripe for farmers and the beef industry endeavoured not to create too much of it.

"A lot of people think SDGs will create extra work or programming," she adds, "but as the AgriFutures Australia's United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Telling Australia's Rural Industries Story report demonstrated, many industries are already doing work that could be reported, they just don't do it through the SDG lens."

Mohair moves on to the next step

Meanwhile Nick is preparing to meet with his fellow growers and encourage them into likeminded groups to discuss the next steps. The Schusters' report already puts them in a good position, he says.

The guidelines it proposes on issues such as animal welfare and land care can be put in place instantly and they have a valuable tool to help develop the standards, rules and answers to questions a responsible mohair industry will need to provide. He likes the idea of a Pure Australian Mohair label which helps provide the provenance message consistently recommended by AgriFutures Australia.

"I'm glad we did this because the market has started to shift in terms of demanding sustainability credentials in the past six months. So if we hadn't started the process we'd have been left behind," says Nick

"The fashion brands and mohair buyers do want a level of certification so we have to think how to get to that next level and to decide if we want our own standard or to comply with international standards."

He thinks the latter is achievable in as little as a year but agrees: "We've got to understand what the buyers and customers want rather than just producing what we think is good."

Development goals

The Australian Sustainable Goat Fibre Production Guidelines aim to enable producers to meet the highest standards across the board, including those areas covered by the UN SDGs, this includes:

- Animal welfare: appropriate infrastructure, nutrition and grazing, handling, fibre harvesting, management, and transport
- Economic resilience: sustainable productivity and profitability.
- Environmental stewardship: land management to improve or maintain soil, water, vegetation and biodiversity values.
- Employment: fair, safe and equitable employment conditions.

Learn more about the SDGs and how they can apply to your industry.



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From Lil Roberts – Clippings Oct 2020

Australian Sustainable Goat Fibre Guidelines

These much-awaited guidelines are now available from the AgriFutures website. Publication can be downloaded at <https://www.agrifutures.com.au/product/sustainablegoat-fibre-production-guidelines/>

To quote part of the Executive Summary,

The Guidelines cover the following outcomes and principles:

1. Animal health and welfare Outcome: The wellbeing and health of animals is paramount for producers and the broader goat fibre industry.

Principles:

- Infrastructure - Infrastructure and equipment are designed, constructed and maintained to safeguard animal welfare.
- Nutrition - Goats have access to adequate feed and water to meet their needs to maintain normal growth, development and health, and to prevent prolonged hunger, thirst, malnutrition or dehydration.
- Handling - Goats are handled in a way that reduces the risk of stress and injury.
- Management - Goats are managed to ensure good health and quality fibre production.
- Transport - Goats are transported to reduce stress and injury.

2. Economic resilience Outcome: Improving productivity and profitability ensures the economic resilience of producers.

Principles:

- Sustainable productivity and profitability - Long-term profitability underpinned by measurable productivity gains helps ensure economic resilience and guarantee long-term supply of quality product.

3. Environmental stewardship Outcome: Producers are committed to maintaining a healthy natural environment, including soil, water, air and a thriving natural ecosystem.

Principles:

- Land management - Grazing land is managed to improve or maintain soil, water, vegetation and biodiversity values.
- Chemicals - Chemicals are handled, used and stored in a way that prevents environmental damage and limits exposure to people and animals.
- Climate variability - Action is taken to adapt to increased climate variability.

4. People and community Outcome: A safe, healthy and capable workforce, together with the provision of a safe product to our customers is essential to the sustainability of the goat fibre industry.

Principles:

- Employment - Employment conditions are fair and equitable.
- Work health and safety - Work practices, facilities and equipment are safe.
- Communities - The production of goat fibre ensures the provision of a safe product to customers.

5. Management system Outcome: Producers comply with legal and other requirements and continually improve their performance.

Principles:

- Compliance and improvement - Goat fibre producers maintain a management system to demonstrate compliance with legal and other requirements and allows for continual improvement of performance.

Guidelines are provided to assist in the attainment of each principle and ultimately, each outcome.

Implications for relevant stakeholders The Sustainable goat fibre production:

Guidelines can assist producers seeking to:

- Adopt good and responsible practices on-farm in relation to animal health and welfare, economic resilience, social welfare and environmental stewardship.
- Drive improvement in animal care, economic resilience, environmental management and social welfare where needed.
- Demonstrate to their customers that they are able to meet domestic and international requirements for sustainable goat fibre production.

The Guidelines may be used by producers to provide verification that their practices align with international customer requirements. however, it is important to consider that such requirements vary market by market and customer by customer. As such producers, are encouraged to familiarise themselves with their customers' expectations in comparison with these Guidelines.

It is clear that these guidelines are comprehensive. On first glance, there do not appear to be any conflicts between these guidelines and those which are mandated by Meat and Livestock Australia as part of the NLIS. It is important to remember that, at this stage these guidelines are not mandatory.

Clippings will do its best to keep readers up to date with any developments with respect to the implementation and or/ trials of these guidelines.

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