

Clippings

MOHAIR AUSTRALIA Ltd., HAGSA Ltd and
Friends

Victorian Region Newsletter

August 2022



Diary Dates for 2022

November - Christmas Party

25 February 2023 Foster Show

July 2023 Australian Sheep and Wool
Show Bendigo.

Message from the editor

Welcome to the mid winter edition of Clippings.

Since the last newsletter, the biggest threat to our livelihoods in living memory has appeared on our doorstep. Foot and Mouth Disease is something which we should all take seriously. In this newsletter, you will find links to sites where you can obtain all the information you need to be armed to against this threat.

There is also a report from the Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo thanks to Mandy Statham. It's great that shows are back, and we all hope that FMD won't put an end to the come-back of these important events.

Hope all your kids arrive safe, happy and healthy. Roll on the warmer weather which brings fresh green grass for all of our animals.

Happy reading.

Lill Roberts lill@netspace.net.au





A Message from your President Margaret Nicholls

Here we are into August, the last month of winter. The days are lengthening.

Let's hope we have warmer weather for the new kidding season. It is important that you have good shelter ready for the does and their kids. The weather is still very cold, and sheep graziers alerts are regularly issued for Victoria.

As farmers of grazing animals we come up against many health issues, so check the kids regularly.

The latest challenge which may or may not impact us is foot and mouth disease. This is extremely serious and could have a very large bearing on Australia's animal agriculture as we know it. Hopefully our authorities can put in the right measures to keep this insidious disease from our shores. However, we can't just rely on the authorities. Some responsibility lies with us, the farmers. We must be very vigilant with our farm Biosecurity. There are links in this newsletter which will assist with making sure that your farm is bio-secure.

On a happier note we have just had the Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show last month after 2 years absence. I must thank Mandy Statham for coming down from NSW with students from regional schools with their goats and fleeces. (Photos and report in this issue). Congratulations to all who were involved in this event.

We are in the midst of moving and will include photos in the next issue of Clippings. Keep well.



The return of the Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show, or the Australian Sheep and Wool Show as it is now called.

Great to see schools travelling from NSW with their angora goats to compete. Congratulations to the winners and those who took the time to be at the event.

Winners in the Paraders event.

DNA Testing of bucks has begun.

As a rare breed, the gene pool of the Heritage Angora goats which we own is very important. Inbreeding is an issue with rare breed and small gene pools. To this end, HAGSA has commenced DNA testing of bucks.

While the initial DNA profiles won't make any sense now because there are just a few, in time, as we build up profiles for larger numbers then we can use the profiles to match sires and does

There are some great possibilities that this type of testing can open.

Firstly we'll be able to confirm all heritage Angoras are pure bred. This means that should we find some 'lost' Heritage angoras, we will be able to determine if they are pure bred, or are cross bred, and contain some Heritage genes.

Also in the hopefully nearer future, the HAGSA Research Officer Bella St Clair will be able to spend time focusing on those genetic characteristics which make a Heritage Angora different from other angora goats.

At the moment testing is very expensive, but we will be setting up an account with the tester which will enable testing at a reduced price. Those interested in having a DNA profile done of your goats, please contact me.



Mohair and craft

It's easy to think of mohair as only being used to create beautiful fabric, but it can be used in very creative ways. The main market for the mohair from Heritage Angoras is the craft market. Every now and again, someone to whom we sell fleece will send us a photo of the finished product. These delightful little toys were made with Heritage Angora mohair. The lady who created them is running workshops on creating these little beauties. She is located in Western Australia, but if we have any readers who are located in WA and would like more information about the workshops, please email me and I'll pass on the details. lill@netspace.net.au



Toy goats created with Heritage Angora mohair. Photo curtesy A Guy.



Memberships are due

If you own Heritage Angoras, or would like to support the conservation work we do, you can become a financial member of HAGSA. Please email me for a membership form. \$50 per annum. If you are already a financial member, renewal payment can be made via Direct Deposit using your name as the reference. lill@netspace.net.au

Bendigo Bank BSB 633 000 Account 166 325 589 in the name of Heritage Angora Goat Society of Australia Ltd.

FMD: Foot and Mouth Disease.

It's been in the newspapers, on the telly, in the Farming media, on our newsfeeds and just about everywhere that farmers are likely to look.

There has been a huge response to the threat posed by the possible, accidental introduction of this disease into Australia.

Here are links to the many references which are available to you to keep your goats safe and well. Now is definitely the time to revisit and strengthen your bio security plans

Meat and Livestock Australia

An article about Australian and Indonesian livestock sectors work together to limit disease spread.

https://www.mla.com.au/news-and-events/industry-news/australian-and-indonesian-livestock-sectors-work-together-to-limit-disease-spread/?utm_campaign=324335_The%20Weekly%2022%20July%202022&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Meat%20%26%20Livestock%20Australia&dm_i=4PKB,6Y9B,93BR0,QTCK,1

Industry Webinar on FMD and LSD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dlxtgr62GD8>

Agriculture Victoria

Website

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/foot-and-mouth-disease>

There is plenty of information about foot and mouth disease on this site, including symptoms, biosecurity templates, practical tips and links to webinars.

Goat Veterinary Consultancies - goatvetoz

Information about taking goats to Shows

<https://www.fas.scot/article/biosecurity-for-livestock-at-shows/>

Locations of FMD in Indonesian

<https://www.facebook.com/goatvetoz/photos/a.225136677579787/5288066867953384/>

Setting up footbaths on your farm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6i39o6z3IXU>

Emergency Responses Arrangements for FMD

https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/emergency-response-arrangements/?fbclid=IwAR2qu4gMLm3YsXJ5zSivYSiJdoWZbvK36x6KKxRGm6JQ9i5nodTVGAYi_FE

Discussion paper about the impacts of a tourist ban.

https://www.beefcentral.com/news/tourism-ban-would-hinder-not-help-fmd-control-efforts/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Beef%20Central%20News%20Headlines%20July%2014%202022&utm_content=Beef%20Central%20News%20Headlines%20July%2014%202022%20CID_63218f8a1f97706995c0e9761dbc5067&utm_source=eGenerator&utm_term=Tourism%20ban%20wont%20help%20FMD%20control%20efforts%20livestock%20reps%20say&fbclid=IwAR2e_IMLSsItPlfz0RkrvMjA7T2XCp-vS6YPqiRneKsKkEWKDCdSiPPy5Y

Australian Sheep and Wool Show Bendigo 2022

Report from Mandy Statham.

After 2 years of Covid cancellations all roads led to Victoria and Bendigo for the Australian Sheep and Wool Show. On exhibition were 2000 odd sheep entries representing 26 breeds, Sheep auctions (a Collinsville Polled Merino ram made \$115,000! He was a beauty too!), Yard Dog competitions, Shearing and Wool Handling Championships, Arts and Crafts exhibitions (Wagtail Yarns had a stall and had plenty of interest), Fashion Parades, together with Angora goats and mohair all featured. The ASWS certainly was the place to be during 15th – 17th July 2022!

Thanks to the significant efforts of Tim Ferguson (Mallee Park, Hopetown, Victoria). Angora goats and Mohair were back in the 'big shed' that housed British breeds, Dorpers, Aussie Whites and the like. This location gave us inordinate exposure. The Angora goats' personality endeared them to all the onlookers who came through the shed as well as some curious sheep breeders! Thanks to the huge efforts of Bev Stent, there was information to be handed out and questions answered. Tim and his daughter Jacey were also instrumental in the organisational side, ensuring the infrastructure like tables, ribbons and Show books/schedules were supplied on time for the competition.

It was disappointing that there were not more exhibitors, including Schools present in our section. NSW school Narrandera High, under the guidance of Ag teacher Matt Shady and willing parent and teacher at St Francis Leeton Rachel McDonald, exhibited Angora goats and Mohair fleeces. Also present was Willow Glen Angoras who exhibited Mohair fleeces, competed in the events.

The Stock and Land featured all the happenings of the 2022 event in a recent paper. Rob Muirhead (Stock and Land – July 21st, 2022) stated that: "Judge Norm McCrea, Wagga Wagga, NSW said while Narrandera High School NSW was the only exhibitor showing Angora goats at this year's ASWS, the school presented some excellent goats and created an impressive competition It was good to see the kindness of the students exhibiting and taking up the challenge of showing ... Mr McCrea said he was also impressed by the Mohair fleeces shown, with some real quality in the exhibition."



Angora Goat and Mohair Young Judges Winners with Judge Norm Crea.



Left: Champion Mohair Fleece Australian Sheep and Wools Show 2022 - Willow Glen Angoras NSW



Right Narrandera High School's Mohair Fleece display

(Sheep Show report, continued from Page 5)

Results from the Show are listed below:

Angora Goats:

Champion and Reserve Champion Doe and Buck – Narrandera High School, Narrandera NSW

Grand Champion – Narrandera High School Doe

Mohair Fleeces:

Champion and Reserve Champion Mohair Fleece – Willow Glen Angoras, West Wyalong NSW

Angora Goat and Mohair Young Judges Competition:

1st Hannah McDonald 2nd Maddison Clifford

Angora Paraders Competition:

1st Natalie Clifford 2nd Sophie Clifford 3rd Clare Clifford



Narrandera High NSW students and siblings with their Grand Champion Angora Does and Champion Angora Buck with Judge Norm McCrea.

National News - Important information needed. Please fill in the survey

Below is a copy of an email received from Nick Gorrie President of Mohair Australia Ltd.

Dear Member and Mohair Grower,

Please find attached the Agrifutures Goat Fibre Industry Snapshot and Extension Questionnaire for you to complete. Do not hesitate to share this survey with your networks so we get a complete picture.

To ensure we get the highest possible response rate it has been suggested that survey responses be returned directly.

Please return the survey to Ellen Bucke (ellen.buckle@agrifutures.com.au) or Michael (details on attached survey) no later than COB Friday 19 August 2022.

Yours sincerely, Nick Gorrie
on behalf of Mohair Australia Ltd

Here is the link to the survey and we encourage all owners of angora goats to complete it.

https://mcusercontent.com/ed50d34e14daab2f439ac31f8/files/25fe9bf9-bae4-67d8-c000-e1bcc878b6e9/220729_Goat_Fibre_Extension_and_Snapshot_Consultation_Paper.pdf

Message from David Williams

The AAFL are closing the store where I rent space for classing etc. so our business of AUSTRALASIAN MOHAIR TRADING PTY LTD. is now homeless. We are looking for new store space, but this is not easy. Shipping delays and associated problems mean wool stores are absolutely bulging. The dump (where they load the containers, then vessels) are also bulging and turning away any early deliveries for shipping.

So nobody has time or the room to fit us in and in any case the rent is now out of reach for us. We are presently looking at alternative options. Please do not send in any mohair to the store at the moment as we will have not option but to turned you away.

I will advise when we are back in business and all details.



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



Kidding

How to give an intraperitoneal injection to a cold, flat kid
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30vjr-9byhA>

Impacts on kids of iodine deficiency

The main iodine deficient areas in Australia are high rainfall areas in the Great Dividing Range and Tasmania. <https://www.ils.nsw.gov.au/regions/central-tablelands/articles-and-publications/iodine-deficiency-in-sheep-and-goats>

Worms

Online training for worm control via Zoom. The next one is Sunday 14 th August. Email goatvetoz@gmail.com if interested.

Barbers Pole worm information https://www.sheepcentral.com/barbers-pole-worm-alert-sounded-in-victoria/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Sheep%20Central%20News%20Headlines%20July%2025%202022&utm_content=Sheep%20Central%20News%20Headlines%20July%2025%202022+CID_34e861cd1482a23a998719e044e64d2e&utm_source=eGenerator&utm_term=Click%20here%20for%20full%20story