

Mohair

News



MOHAIR
Australia Limited
ABN 40 008 585 135

August 2018

The official journal of **Mohair Australia Ltd.** serving breeders of angora goats and producers of mohair



Do you have any angora goat photos we can use?

if so please forward to the Mohair News

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August 2018

Editor’s Desk:

Requests for articles to be placed in the Mohair News are to be forwarded to email mohair@mohair.org.au

We look forward to receiving information about events etc. in your Region or Division.

Bill Smith
Editor “Mohair News”

**Membership fees for 2018
Due 31st January ---**

Please note that all fees, including membership, remain the same as 2017

Membership/Renewal forms available on the website under “forms”

Breeder	\$125	Education	\$50
Commercial	\$75	Ordinary	\$20
Trader	\$125	Junior	\$10

“Mohair News” Subscription

(Members of Mohair Australia Ltd. received a copy of “Mohair News” as part of their membership.)

Name: (Please print) _____

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Post to: The Editor, “Mohair News”,
200 Lindsay Road, NORTH ROTHBURY NSW 2335

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**ADVERTISING RATES:-
per issue**

Full Page	\$150.00
Half Page	\$ 75.00
Quarter Page	\$ 50.00
Eighth Page or Small Block.	\$30.00

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15th. of the month previous to issue.

- February;
- April;
- June;
- August;
- October;
- December.

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DISCLAIMER

All information published on the MAL website and in the Mohair News must be approved by the board. 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.

President’s Message:

Dear Members,

The new web site is progressing slowly, the board is corresponding on a weekly basis with the web designer, in an attempt to expedite its completion.

Please note that the old website is still active.

As a result of the strong criticism by some members to the Mohair Australia Limited’s board, and the fragmentation that is occurring within our Australian industry a list of your Board’s Key Policy points are published in this edition of the Mohair News.

The board has all the information from Business-Connect, and is currently evaluating the information and its outcomes.

National Annual General Meeting Notice (Page 8) and RSVP form for the AGM (see the back of the cover sheet) are in this edition.

A form for Office Bearers for your Region or Division is on the Mohair Australia website under “forms”. This should be completed and forwarded to head office.

Steve Roots
President

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Phone: 02 6366 9444

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Mohair Australia Ltd
BSB 062 583 Account 1011 0481

From the Board

The key policy points listed below are an overview from Mohair Australia Limited Board. These policy points have been drawn up because of the many varied directions that are currently being taken within the Australian mohair industry.



- Mohair Australia favours production of quality mohair.
- While it favours the Herd Book and animal registrations to support these aims, it accepts that breeders don't have to register, however those that show animals must register the animals. The board expects breeders to stay within the “purebred” population and comply with the MAL Breed Standard.
- It cares about and wishes to protect the breed from degradation by crossbreeding which will further downgrade our reputation in South Africa.
- In line with market requirements it opposes the breeding of coloured Angoras, backcrossing from milk or feral animals, poll, and the use of “heritage” animals: Coloured fibre, medulation and kemp being the big enemies of the market. These interests have been shown to be short sighted and transitory and represent a threat to the main industry.
- While Mohair Australia recognises the right for growers to send their mohair to South Africa for sale, it reminds growers of the importance of a local marketing system.
- Sale of mohair in Australia attracts a 1.5% statutory levy for R&D and seeks to have those funds spent wisely for the benefit of the industry.
- Mohair Australia recognises AMMO as the major mohair broker in Australia and wishes to continue a close relationship with AMMO to foster a strong local market.
- Mohair Australia is currently the peak body in Australia and expects all members to support it and at least accept this to the point of refraining from needless and destructive criticism. It hopes that members will work within the system for the benefit of the whole industry.
- Mohair Australia by way of its structure (Regions, Divisions and National) supports all Youth programmes.

A copy of this reply to the Victorian Division’s letter is printed for your information. This document from D L Stapleton was forwarded to all Divisions and Regions within Mohair Australia Ltd.

Why the Decline?

D L Stapleton. 28 Bowman Ave. ORANGE 2800

The collapse of the fibre market in 1988 saw the beginning of an almost continual decline in the world-wide mohair industry. With the exception of the period around 2000, mohair prices were mediocre, and this undoubtedly was the major cause. But why the ordinary prices?

Despite the really major correction triggered by the collapse of the USSR and the state-run textile processing system there, production still outstripped demand. One could argue that it was just that mohair was out of fashion, but it was more than that. On the other side of the coin synthetic yarns were much cheaper than wool and mohair and advances in yarn design and cloth performance, combined with advances in air conditioning urbanisation meant that heavy clothing were of lesser demand. Hi tech outdoor clothing also replaced heavy woollen coats in many countries.

Because wool and mohair could be stored the farming process was slow to react to falling demand. In short, the textile industry was always in a state of over-production.

In Australia the mohair industry had always been a hobby farm dominated sector. With the big boom and high animal prices of the 1970’s and early 1980’s many people were attracted to run Angoras and gain income from selling breeding animals. While upgrading allowed a cheaper entry route and the promise of eventual high returns, there was always going to be a transition from stud to fibre production. Breeders relying on high animal prices were always going to run into trouble.

In this context the importation of Texan and South African Angoras added interest but probably over extended many with high costs; and exactly then, the collapse of the mohair market hit hard. The huge efforts to import and breed undoubtedly superior mohair producing animals still failed to develop into a sustainable industry.

No doubt there will be those who claim this is an overly harsh conclusion. Some of those people would point to failure in promotion as the reason Australian mohair production has fallen from nearly 1mkg of kempy mohair to something like 50,000kg of vastly superior fibre. But it has to be noted that in the major producing countries declines in production have been of similar degrees. The Texan industry all but disappeared and South African production is likely to be barely 1mkg, down from 7mkg to less than 2mkg.

New forms of agricultural production are rare. There are many factors involved in the successful development of new industries but of course, a competitive price for the product is paramount. For Australia mohair took off in the 1970’s in response to the move from city living to a hobby farm interests outside large cities. The hippy/natural self-sustaining life style interest corresponded with a poor wool price and the knowledge that there was such a thing as mohair from Angora goats was a new and growing fad. Then followed a classic bubble as increased animal prices stimulated further breeding on small scale farmlets. While mohair production was the objective, the fleece was often seen as a by-product and insignificant compared to income from animal sales.

So, starting with an idea of a new agricultural product, there are the questions of husbandry/biology, organisation/scalability and markets. Mohair was the first of the “new” animal industries to surface during the last 40 years. It still seems to be the only one to reach full commercial farming reality. Of significance has been the regular public auction of mohair 2-4 times a year run by brokers beginning in 1980 and continuing to today. Given that there has been a tradition to fibre production (wool) the question is why has the industry failed to grow and indeed, undergone a marked decline?

Obviously, the initial group of enthusiastic “farmers” has aged and retired. There has been some transfer to a younger group, but mohair production has not attracted the attention of mainstream farming. While several studies looking at benchmarking and gross margin analysis have suggested that mohair is at least as economic as wool production, and the market is there, the interest has not been sustained.

It is of interest to ask why particular forms of farming persist and others don’t. When comparing wool production to mohair, wool production is established and well understood while mohair seems challenging and subject to price fluctuation and fraught with infighting within the participant farmers. At a bigger picture level, why do some people farm each of the mainstream products? The reason may well be that individuals do what they are used to and interested in, and that no new enterprise offers sufficient reason to make the effort to change. Maybe environmental conditions have attracted particular forms of production and change is neither without risk nor sufficiently promising in terms of additional profit.

The alpaca industry provides an interesting comparison. There is now a similar size population of alpacas to angoras. There are larger farm populations of alpacas, but there is still no clear market and no effective means of fibre handling and sale. It is likely that the same fate will flow as the innovators with alpaca reach the same retirement level as has occurred with the angora innovators.

So how do new industries actually become mainstream? Usually they don't, but commercialisation theoretically requires someone, or some small group to adapt a species and possibly select a strain to work on. Then there is an expansion and the development of a processing plant or a market. From there, either there is a co-operative of producers to scale up and retail the product, or the intervention of corporate interests who dominate the industry. But ultimately, it comes down to achieving a price, either for individual farms who can gain economies of scale, or accumulations justifying interests of either large processors or international traders. Fibre and grains of course are durable, and this aids accumulation and transport where this is not quite the case with fruit and vegetables. Meat and fish products can be frozen for transport and storage (at a cost).

I am not sure that there is a single model and it might be argued that each initiative is unique and relies on a combination of factors, people and profitability to result in success or failure. It can also be argued that we should stop worrying and let the market sort it out. It may well be that there is nothing that “they” can do, noting that the call is usually “they” should do something.

Addendum.

I have been asked “what next? Where do we go?” The answer is “I really don't know”. While ever there is some demand from textile manufacturers, there is a future. What size and at what price is the question.

My view is that there is a small group of interested farmers and we have a seriously good population of Angoras (albeit shrinking alarmingly).

The world industry desperately needs to consolidate and retain the supply of quality fibre. At present this can be done and there is a group of processors keen to continue with mohair. The trick will be holding it together under continued price pressures.

The efforts of GT Ferreira in Australia no doubt show us a way. Quality control, close contact with processors and innovative marketing relationships seem to be working better than bulk commercial auctions to undefined trader and commercial processors. This is a volatile situation and not dissimilar to what has happened in the wool industry over the last 50 years. The call for “organised marketing” had its effect from about 1970 but while still necessary it is being challenged by vertical integration, contract production and self interest (not all in the same boat or pulling in the same direction).

None of this is new but perhaps it is more serious for mohair. The really serious challenge is the problem of re-establishing fibre producing flocks. Historically this has meant upgrading from milk or feral populations but clearly this is a disastrous strategy if the market wants high quality mohair. An upgrading program takes at least 10 years and produces mainly kempy mohair during that time. Not what we want so this strategy must be resisted and prevented.

The alternative is to breed from the existing population. Classically, new Merino flocks have been established by purchasing “cast for age” ewes and producing one last drop of lambs, maybe less efficiently, and with a poorer wool clip from the ewes but still a drop or two of quality lambs to establish the breeding population on a farm. This approach is certainly possible with Angoras though may not be as dramatic or as low cost as might be desired. There may well be a need for some co-ordinated conservation of breeding animals or some co-ordinated supply of cast for age does for new entrants to the industry.

A high-tech strategy would be the use of embryo transfer to rapidly expand a flock of “pure bred” Angoras. An enterprise might still get to use feral does as recipients though handling these does is likely to be a real headache. Super ovulation and embryo transfer may well be seen as expensive, but the result is a mohair flock in 1 or 2 years as opposed to 10 to 15. And no kempy mohair. The enterprise must resist the temptation to use catch-up sires naturally mating the recipients which fail to hold the transferred embryos.

I have resisted using the term “pure bred” because the term has different connotations for different people. What needs to be understood that the Angora goat is a very distinct breed and one which is quite different to what it was in the past. And the mohair is different as well. Even over the last 20 years Australian mohair has become finer and much less kempy. The ringlet lock type has become almost universal. It is this mohair that the manufacturers want because they too have refined their product to better suit their client's requirements. We need to move forward, not backwards if mohair is to retain its market. In my terms “pure bred” means “not crossbred”. I don't mean registered animals, but I do mean that the animals come from a modern flock whose origins go back to the imported Texan and South African animals of the 1990's and at least several back crosses from the then Australian Angora population.

So, there is a need to have some sort of unity, both in breeding and in marketing our mohair. There is always a threat from fragmentation and self interest over the best interests of the industry but there is a desperate need to maintain the quality of the clip. This is something which at least needs to be agreed upon.

Two books now on discs 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) and
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 , will invoice

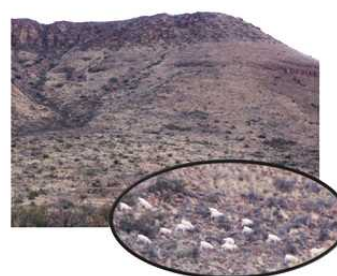
Mohair Farming, History and Biology

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- Farming in other places – 3 models
- Measurement statistics
- What you don't want to know
- Processing in South Africa

MOHAIR

Farming the Diamond Fibre

D L Stapleton



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NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is given of the Annual General Meeting of Mohair Australia Limited to be held at 1:30 pm on Saturday 24th November 2018, at the Narrandera Ex Servicemen's Club, Bolton Room, 39-41 Bolton St Narrandera NSW 2700

AGENDA

Registration of Attendees

Apologies

Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 25th November 2017

Mohair Australia Ltd Report – Presidents Report

Acceptance of the Financial Report-

Motion 1 “That the financial report be accepted”

(Requires a simple majority)

Any other business at the discretion of the chairperson

Meeting closes

Steve Roots
President

Susan Jordan
Company Secretary

August 2018

If Not the Cheap and Nasty Approach

Doug Stapleton

Former stud master and Cudal Mohair Stud and Technical Officer for National Mohair Pool
28 Bowman Ave, ORANGE NSW 2800. dougstapleton@bigpond.com

So, if upgrading is inappropriate how do you do commercial mohair production? The first thing to realise is that a serious enterprise takes some thought. The average lifetime for livestock enterprises is about 5 years (except for Merino flocks of greater than 5000 head, which require infrastructure and longer time frames to recover establishment costs and gain reputation).

In 5 years upgrading may get to the second cross with a few 3rd cross kids. There would be a lot of quite kempy mohair, even very kempy mohair. If the program lasted 10 years you might have mostly 4th and 5th cross animals which produce better mohair but still a significant amount of inferior and kempy fibre particularly in older animals (3 and 4-year-olds). Over the period, by far the majority of the mohair fleeces would be kempy and a threat to the market.

If on the other hand you started with a smaller number of Angora does, by the 10th year you might well have a similar sized flock, have learned a lot about mohair and husbandry, and have produced an, admittedly, smaller but relatively uniform quality clip.

Now here is the problem. Commercially orientated farmers won't like to begin small and buy from mostly small hobby studs; they will be opposed to the bitchy industry; and they will not like holding back the excitement the grand gesture and of seeing big changes produced in the upgrading process.

On the other hand, they may find confining and handling feral and first crosses a challenge and they will certainly underestimate the amount of protection and management required to achieve good kidding and weaning rates. An upgrading enterprise will likely turn sour before there is any good returns from mohair.

Starting small will not appeal even if it has a potentially better “flight path” and a better outcome all round. But this is reality. Angoras are a distinct breed with distinct husbandry requirements. Mohair is a quality fibre in a small esoteric market, not just a quick product to rip into on a whim.

This argument has been the problem with promoting the mohair industry. The “gung-ho” approach creates interest, but the qualification and facts hit hard and soon bring the deal unstuck. Such is the reality which promoters try to gloss over and then criticise those with knowledge for raising difficult issues. -

The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Saleyards and Depots have been finalised (Feb 2018) by the Agriculture Ministers (AGMIN).

They apply to the main commercial livestock species: cattle, goats, horses, pigs and sheep that are handled through Australian saleyards and depots.

The standards and guidelines reflect the commitment of jurisdictions to a nationally consistent approach to animal welfare. They promote humane and considerate treatment of livestock handled through Australian saleyards and depots; inform all people responsible for the care and management of livestock about their responsibilities; and set a minimum industry standard by defining acceptable livestock management practices. Development of the standards and guidelines considered current scientific knowledge, recommended industry practice and community expectations. The standards provide a basis for developing and implementing consistent legislation and enforcement across Australia, while the guidelines are a useful reference for industry, providing recommended practices to achieve desirable livestock welfare outcomes.

The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Saleyards and Depots replace the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Animals at Saleyards, SCARM report 31, CSIRO publishing, 1992.

<http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/livestock-at-saleyards-and-depots/>

For specific information and timelines for implementation within each jurisdiction please contact your relevant State or Territory Government agency.

Regards

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www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au

Livestock levies rates

The table below shows the split of livestock levies from 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018.

Commodity	MLA (R&D)	MLA (Marketing)	Animal Health Australia	National Residue Survey	Total levies [#]
Grassfed cattle	\$0.92	\$3.66	\$0.13	\$0.29	\$5.00
Grainfed cattle	\$1.50	\$3.08	\$0.13	\$0.29	\$5.00
Bobby calves	\$0.16	\$0.48	–	\$0.26	\$0.90
Sheep*	0.77% of sale price	0.87% of sale price	0.18% of sale price	0.18% of sale price	2% of sale price [†]
Lambs*	0.49% of sale price	1.20% of sale price	0.20% of sale price	0.11% of sale price	2% of sale price [‡]
Goats	\$0.167	\$0.105	\$0.045	\$0.06	\$0.377

If you have any questions about how transaction levies work, you should contact your local Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Levies office toll free on:

Central Office (Canberra)	1800 020 619
NSW/ACT	1800 625 103
QLD/NT/WA	1800 647 801
SA	1800 814 961
VIC/TAS	1800 683 839

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Levies does not hold information on how much levy a producer has paid.

[#] Per head, per transaction

^{*} Where there is a defined sale price of \$5.00 or more (no levies apply to sales of less than \$5.00)

[†] To a maximum of 20c. Where there is no defined sale price – 20c

[‡] To a maximum of \$1.50. Where there is no defined sale price – 80c

Animal welfare and biosecurity now part of LPA audits

19 June 2018

On-farm animal welfare and biosecurity management practices are now part of the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program's random audits.

These two requirements were added to the five existing requirements – property risk assessment, safe and responsible animal treatments, safe livestock feed, preparation for dispatch, and livestock transactions and movements – in October 2017, and are now being included in the 2000 audits carried out nationally each year.

AUS-MEAT auditor Brendan Ryan conducts LPA audits from Werribee in south western Victoria to Naracoorte in South Australia, and up to the NSW border. Since February, he has been covering animal welfare and biosecurity as part of the audits.

“It's not hard to meet the requirements and most farmers are on the right track,” said Brendan. “They just need to spend some more time demonstrating what they are doing. “When they are notified about an audit, my advice to producers is ‘Don't panic – just read the information pack carefully and you'll know what to do.’”

To meet the biosecurity requirements, every LPA accredited producer needs to have a Farm Biosecurity Plan in place and implement this on their farm.

“The Biosecurity Plan doesn't need to be a massive document. Producers just need to think about the things they do with regards to biosecurity on their own farm, and document it using a template” “Farmers just need to think about the things they do with regards to biosecurity on their own farm, and put this in the template. Its things farmers do every day - managing and recording the introduction and movement of livestock; controlling people, equipment and vehicles entering the property - where that's practical; and monitoring and managing the health of their livestock.”

LPA accredited producers must also be able to demonstrate that their on-farm handling of livestock is consistent with the [Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines](#). Those responsible for livestock management need to have a copy of the Standards and Guidelines, be familiar with its content, complete the LPA Learning module, and advise and oversee others handling livestock. “Producers must be able to show they have completed appropriate training in animal welfare. They need to take a look at the [LPA Learning module](#) which asks practical questions about animal care. Complete the module, print out the completion certificate, and they'll make their auditor happy,” said Brendan.

Resources are available to help producers meet LPA requirements for biosecurity and animal welfare:

- [LPA Learning](#)
- [LPA audit check list](#)
- LPA requirement #6: Biosecurity ([fact sheet](#))
- LPA requirement #6: Biosecurity ([video](#))
- LPA On-farm Biosecurity Plan ([template](#))
- LPA requirement #7: Animal welfare ([fact sheet](#))
- LPA requirement #7: Animal welfare ([video](#))
- Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for [sheep](#), [cattle](#) and [goats](#)

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David Williams on 0419 352 399

Or John Hoornweg on 0428 488 422

Email : david@amtMoh.com.au

To facilitate ease of handling, please consolidate all bags into one (or more) bag or wool pack.
Ensure all bags, bales are clearly marked.



A new version of the LPA NVD for goats is available both electronically and in printed booklets, and better reflects practices in the goat meat industry. It allows for harvested rangeland goats to be moved without a tag from the property on which they were caught to an abattoir or registered goat depot.

LPA NVD (Goats) booklets can be ordered through the [LPA Service Centre](#). The previous NVD (GO413) continues to be accepted. This version will be phased out and from 1 March 2019, only the new version (GO517) will be valid from that date onwards.

If you have any questions regarding the new goat NVD please call the helpdesk on 1800 683 111

Mohair Australia Limited Promotional Grant

A grant of \$100.00 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 News, and a report with a photo must be submitted to the Mohair News editor.

The application form will be on the web site under the “forms” section.

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**Contact: Steve Roots,
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This is a NSW Division project

President Report – NSW Division of Mohair Australia
4th August 2018

Dear NSW members,

I would firstly like to congratulate all NSW mohair producers and members on a recent great mohair sale. It has given many of us the confidence to continue to produce the best mohair possible. Drought has been declared in the state and we are in for a very tough time. Please make sure you talk to your family, friends and other mohair producers through this time to keep spirits up. I also enjoy catching up with other mohair producers and talking about things at these regional and state meetings. I can now see the role of social media helping us bridge the communication gap with distance, limited time, and keeping costs down in our small industry.

We have reported on the events of the NATS 2018 separately. I am pleased to report that now we have closed the financial books we have banked a modest profit which we plan to invest back into NSW activities over the next 2-3 years. We would like to thank the national board for their support of the South African judge with international flights and the show dinner. What eventuated is that we got most of our money back on the international airfares through travel insurance and airplane refund. Thank you to Mr David Brown (NZ) and Ms Meagan Mrowka (Associate Judge) for stepping in at very short notice and covering all their own travel costs. I have spoken to several of the major exhibitors since the event and been told of some good sales of stud stock including several to NZ.

We passed on our sympathies to Leonie, Robert, Raymond and the Scott family on the passing of Bill Scott this year.

Plans are being put together for 2019 with a discussion and review at the AGM on Sydney Royal and NATS 2019.

It is with regret that Bella St Clair has resigned as NSW division Secretary. I would like to thank her for her contribution over the last 2 years. I apologise for not giving you a full 4 weeks notice of this meeting and sending out the AGM minutes from last year. We have them available in hard copy for this meeting and will send an e copy to all NSW full breeder members.

I would like to finish by thanking all the volunteers that have helped over the year.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me on 0409 129 123 or
dularkangoras@yahoo.com.au

Best regards, Nick Gorrie

2018 Annual Tasmanian Angora Show and Sale

On February 24th and 25th 2018 the Annual Tasmanian Angora Show and Sale was held in conjunction with GoatFest all breeds field day at Launceston Show Ground. The judge this year was Mr GT Ferreira. While exhibitor numbers were down this year, the event proved to be a very positive one for Tasmanian Angora goat breeders.

Along with the usual excitement of wondering who the winners will be, the comments made by the judge are also an extremely valuable part of the event, with breeders taking note and putting the information into practice in order to take our industry forward. GT was pleased with the quality of Tasmanian goats, and encouraging of our efforts to improve the breed. His advice on how this might be done was also extremely helpful.

This year, after the judging, GT held a mini forum for breeders, giving them an opportunity to ask questions and obtain information about the future of mohair production. GT's knowledge of the science behind growing mohair was of particular interest. His advice on finding ways to assess a goat's suitability for the production of mohair that meets industry specifications, along with general tips on husbandry matters specific to Angora goats were well received.

While in Tasmania GT inspected two mobs for goats producing weaving style mohair and, much to the delight of their owners, approximately a third of each mob were found to be up to the mark. A challenge for Tasmania mohair producers will be growing the mohair to the required length, as climatic conditions here, particularly during winter, can be a barrier.

About GoatFest

The first GoatFest was held in February 2008 at Campbell Town (Tas) showgrounds and has been an annual event for the Tasmanian goat industry ever since. It was the brainchild of then Mohair Tas president Brian Smith, and Steve Baldock, president of the Dairy Goat Society of Tasmania. It was designed to cut the costs for both organisations of hiring a venue, and including husbandry demonstrations and guest speakers was seen as a way of attracting more visitors. The Boer Goat Society of Tas and the Mini Goat Society were also invited to show at the event, but as neither of these had established show judging at that time they were present with trade displays.

However GoatFest has, as one of the organising committee members recently phrased it, now taken on a life of its own. It has become a fun and informative family day out for all ages and for anyone with an interest in goats. It also has a substantial following on social media. As a consequence, talks are currently under way to move the show judging to a separate event.

A combined breeds goat show would focus essentially on the breed standards pertaining to the various goat societies, while GoatFest would take on the role of disseminating information about husbandry and giving the public an opportunity to talk to breeders about the various aspects each breed of goat.

For the success of the Tasmanian goat industry as a whole, both the breed standards and husbandry aspects are extremely important, and it is encouraging that confidence in the goat industry here is reaching a level where we are able to contemplate holding two major events.





2018 Annual Angora Goat Show and Sale

Mohair Australia Ltd Tasmanian Division

Judge: Mr GT Ferreira

Supreme Angora

Granary Lea Angoras G374 Moonshine

Champion Buck

Granary Lea Angoras P307 Victor

Reserve Champion Buck

Granary Lea Angoras Ar253 Thor

Champion Doe

Granary Lea Angoras G374 Moonshine

Reserve Champion Doe

Ranga Wagga Angoras 28 Isabella

Champion Kid

Ranga Wagga Angoras 28 Isabella

Champion Fleece

Ranga Wagga Angoras Class 11

Reserve Champion Fleece

Ranga Wagga Angoras Class 13

Most Successful Exhibitor

Granary Lea Angoras

Class 1: Buck Kid less than one year

1 st Ranga Wagga Angoras	Ranga Wagga 27 Minik
2 nd Granary Lea Angoras	Granary Lea Th381 SanDiego
3 rd Granary Lea Angoras	Granary Lea Th397 ChaCha

Class 2: Buck one year and under two years

No entries

Class 3: Buck two years and under three years

No entries

Class 4: Buck three years and over

1 st Granary Lea Angoras	Granary Lea P307 Victor
2 nd Granary Lea Angoras	Granary Lea Ar253 Thor

Class 5: Doe Kid less than one year

1 st Ranga Wagga Angoras	Ranga Wagga 28 Isabella
2 nd Ranga Wagga Angoras	Ranga Wagga 24 Pippa
3 rd Granary Lea Angoras	Granary Lea K404 AzureBlue

Class 6: Doe one year and under two years

1 st Granary Lea Angoras	Granary Lea G374 Moonshine
2 nd Granary Lea Angoras	Granary Lea C346 Adelaide
3 rd Ranga Wagga Angoras	Ranga Wagga 20 Elle-Mae

Class 7: Doe two years and under three years

1 st Ranga Wagga Angoras	Ranga Wagga 21 Teresa
2 nd Ranga Wagga Angoras	Ranga Wagga 22 Heidi
3 rd Ranga Wagga Angoras	Ranga Wagga 17 Harriette

Class 8: Doe three years and over

1 st Ranga Wagga Angoras	Ranga Wagga 13 Diana
2 nd Granary Lea Angoras	Granary Lea V318 Milly
3 rd Ranga Wagga Angoras	Ranga Wagga 14 Kate

Class 9: Breeders group of three matching animals

1 st Ranga Wagga Angoras
2 nd Granary Lea Angoras

Wether Classes 18 & 19

No entries

Class 10: Skirted fleece of kid type fibre from Angora doe or buck

1 st Granary Lea Angoras
2 nd Ranga Wagga Angoras
3 rd Granary Lea Angoras

Class 11: Skirted fleece of young goat type fibre from Angora doe

1 st Ranga Wagga Angoras
2 nd Granary Lea Angoras

Class 12: Skirted fleece of young goat type fibre from Angora buck

1 st Ranga Wagga Angoras
2 nd Granary Lea Angoras
3 rd Granary Lea Angoras

Class 13: Skirted fleece of hair type fibre from Angora doe

1 st Ranga Wagga Angoras
2 nd Granary Lea Angoras
3 rd Aspromonte Angoras

Class 14: Skirted fleece of hair type fibre from Angora buck

1 st Granary Lea Angoras

Class 15: 3 kg of skirted kid type fibre

1 st Granary Lea Angoras

Class 16: 3 kg of skirted young goat type fibre

1 st Granary Lea Angoras

Class 17: 3 kg of skirted adult hair type fibre

1 st Granary Lea Angoras

GOULBURN SHOW – SATURDAY 3 MARCH 2018

ANGORA GOAT AND MOHAIR SECTION – Judge – Norm McCrea, Associate – Eleanor Santolin

This year the Angoras made the move from Sunday to Saturday but maintained entries despite losing one exhibitor who had to work on Saturday. The Peden Pavilion is an excellent facility and this year we shared it with the Boer goats.

The mohair fleece classes comprised First Shear, Fine Kid, Kid, Young Goat and Fine Hair (Adult). All fleeces were presented to the Judge by our Steward Phillip Oliver who made the decision to move one Young Goat fleece to the Kid class. Each fleece was closely inspected by the Judge and the results were:-

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
First Shear	Winder	Winder	Winder
Fine Kid	Mundroola	Impact	Winder
Kid	Impact	Mundroola	Mundroola
Young Goat	Mundroola	Impact	Winder
Fine Hair	Winder	Impact	Mundroola

The Champion Fleece was Impact Kid which incidentally was the one which was moved and Reserve Champion was Mundroola Young Goat. The Judge commented on the high quality of the exhibits saying he was impressed by the first place winner. The Champion and Reserve both had excellent qualities including their length, handle and strength.

In the animal classes, the Buck Kid under 6 month class had good entries but the numbers in the older Buck classes were limited as their breeding season was under way.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Buck Kid under 6M	Impact Jeromy	Winder Newell	Winder Nebula
Buck 12-24M	Mundroola Galvaneo	Impact 496	Winder Missile
Buck over 36M	Winder 213		

Both the Champion and Reserve came from the 12-24 month class with Mundroola Galvaneo ahead of Impact 496. The Judge commented on the high standard of these two animals which were well grown, of good conformation and carrying excellent fleeces. The decision was a close one.

Doe classes were better supported with a greater depth of quality animals.

Champion Doe was Impact Candida from the 24-36 month class and Reserve was Impact Louisa from the 12-24 month class. The Champion was a well grown mature doe which had reared a kid and was carrying a heavy good quality fleece. The Reserve was a smaller animal which still had some growing to do and was not quite as even.

The Champion Kid was Impact Jeromy, a Buck Kid with Impact Georgia a Doe Kid in Reserve. Both were well grown with excellent quality fleeces. The Judge explained that whilst some kids had very fine fleeces with great lustre they were much smaller than the Champion.

The Champion Kid was Impact Jeromy, a Buck Kid with Impact Georgia a Doe Kid in Reserve. Both were well grown with excellent quality fleeces. The Judge explained that whilst some kids had very fine fleeces with great lustre they were much smaller than the Champion.

The only school in attendance was Bossley Park who therefore won all the school classes comprising Doe Kid, Buck Kid and Doe over 12 months.

The Schools' Champion was Bossley Park Cora (Doe over 12 M) with Delilah a Doe Kid in Reserve.

Supreme Champion was Mundroola Galvaneo, the Champion Buck.

A competition for Young Judges was held with 5 Bossley Park students asked to judge and place four animals and four fleeces and give their reasons for their placings. These were then compared with the Judge's decision on a points basis, the highest score being the winner. Two were selected to go to the State final at the Sydney Royal at the end of March.

Many thanks to the exhibitors, steward and judges.

Submitted by Reg Scott



CAMDEN SHOW – SATURDAY 17 MARCH 2018Judge – Stewart Crear

This year saw Goulburn Shown, NATS and Camden on successive weekends with Sydney Royal a matter of days after. The sheep show is now well established on the Friday before the Angoras on the Saturday, giving us more tent space particularly for the fleece and animal judging areas.

Access to the Showground was good for the 4 exhibitors consisting of Bossley Park School, Mundroola, Wilton Park (Impact) and Winder and the weather was kind to us.

The fleece classes were well supported and only one entry was moved to a different class. The Judge complimented the exhibitors on the high standard of entries.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
First Shear	Winder	Winder	
Fine Kid	Impact	Winder	Mundroola
Kid	Mundroola	Impact	Winder
Young Goat	Mundroola	Winder	Impact
Fine Hair	Mundroola	Mundroola	Impact

Champion Fleece – Mundroola young goat, Reserve Champion Fleece – Mundroola Fine Hair.

The ribbons in the Buck Classes were spread across the exhibitors with each gaining a first place.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Kid under 6M	Bossley Pk Diego	Winder Nugget	Bossley Pk Dinosaur
Kid 6 – 12 M	Impact Jeromy	Winder Norwell	Winder Nebula
Buck 12 – 24 M	Mundroola Galvaneo	Impact Kabuki	Winder Missile
Buck 36 M and over	Winder 213		

Champion Buck – Mundroola Galvaneo, Reserve – Impact Kabuki

The Judge commented on the quality of these two and how close they were.

The Doe kid and yearling classes were again well supported with quality animals.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Kid under 6 M	Impact Georgia	Winder Nutmeg	Bossley Pk Debbie
Kid 6 – 12 M	Winder Natasha	Winder Natalie	Bossley Pk Delilah
Doe 12 – 24 M	Impact Louisa	Impact Lisa	Winder Mica
Doe 24 – 36 M	Impact Candida	Bossley Pk Betty	
Doe over 36 M	Banmar 014 (Winder)		

Champion Doe – Impact Louisa, Reserve – Impact Candida

Champion Kid – Impact Georgia, Reserve – Impact Jeromy

Both were well grown carrying excellent quality fleeces.

Supreme Champion – Mundroola Galvaneo

Schools Champion – Bossley Park Cora – from the 12-24 M class.

Group Class	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Progeny – 2 kids under 12 M	Impact	Winder	Bossley Park
Progeny – 2 kids over 12 M	Winder		
Progeny – 3 animals	Winder	Bossley Park	
Doe and kid – Awarded equally to Impact, for overall quality and Winder and Bossley Park for improvement.			

The Young Judges competition was well down on entries this year following the changes to Georges River and Macarthur Anglican curriculum.

Natalie Rizkallah
 Isabella Rawlins
 Trey Allan
 Tereva Atkin-Zaldivar

Natalie and Tereva went on to Sydney Royal as Isabella and Trey had already qualified.

Congratulations to Tereva who won the State Championship at Sydney.

Thanks to our Judge, Stewart Crear and Stewards, Meagan Vella and Phillip Oliver who ensured the event ran smoothly.

Submitted by Reg Scott



TRANGIE JUNIOR JUDGING DAY

9th July, 2018

Monday the 9th July saw a winter's day, with beautiful sunshine but a very chilling wind for most of the day. Despite the wind there were 72 competitors taking part in Trangie's Junior Judging Day. These competitors judged not only Angora Goats and Mohair fleeces, but Grain, Merino's, Cotton, Wool, Meat Sheep (Dorset's & Border Lester) & Cattle. Giving the competitors an overall look at the possible farming opportunities & what makes for a better return on investment. Whilst some of the Sub Juniors are way too young to understand this, it gives them an insight and interest in the animals. Some of the Juniors fell in love with Angora's, however it didn't stop them appreciating some of the minor points of the angora's.

Senior results in Angora section for the Senior's 1st Brooke Elsley, 2nd Dakota Williams, 3rd Emma Turnbull, 4th Charlie Gillespie & 5th Grace Neeves . Junior age group 1st Thomas Rose, 2nd Sophie Maclean, 3rd Laughlin Wilshire, 4th Kyotee Williams, 5th Charlie Banks. For more Photo's got to <https://www.facebook.com/trangiejuniorjudging/>.

I would like to thank those who assisted on the day, Phillip Oliver for correlating all the results, Megan Mrowka for Over Judging the fleeces, Willean Angora Stud for supplying fleeces, Steve Roots for providing the paperwork and assisting with enquiries, Graham & Christine Sutherland for Laminating the Sub Junior encouragement awards & Leonie Scott for writing the names of the Sub Juniors on the awards. Without their assistance the day would not have been as great a success as it was.

Raymond Williams



AUSTRALIAN SHEEP AND WOOL SHOW - BENDIGO 2018



Open and Victorian State Final Young Judges winners with Judge Daryl Finch.
L to R: Sarah Morris, Molly Cattle, Judge Daryl Finch, Mick Saenyen, Jaycee Ferguson and Tsomo Lakatsang.

A full report on this event can be found on the Mohair Australia website.

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What's on:-

	Event	Location	Contact	Phone
August	31-9 Sept. Adelaide Show	Adelaide S.A.		
September	8/9 Berry Small Farms Day	Berry NSW	Reg Scott	02 4657 2293
	20 Hunter Region Meeting	Heatherbrae NSW	Sandie Smith	02 4938 7536
October	13/14 Picton Show (fleeces only)	Picton NSW	Reg Scott	02 4657 2293
November	Dandenong Show	Dandenong Vic		
	17 Hunter Region Christmas Party	Singleton NSW	Sandie Smith	02 4938 7536

2019

January	19 Albion Park Show	Albion Park NSW	Reg Scott	02 4657 2293
	Diamond Fibre Show	Bathurst NSW		
February	2 Berry Show	Berry NSW	Reg Scott	02 4657 2293
March	8-10 NATS SHOW & SALE	Goulburn	Nick Gorrie	0409 129 123

PLEASE SEND YOUR ACTIVITY DATES TO THE EDITOR FOR INCLUSION IN THIS CALENDAR.

Useful sources of information:-

Animal Health Australia

www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au
contains information about National livestock diseases and animal health issues.

Australian Government Department of Agriculture,

www.agriculture.gov.au
Contains on product integrity, animal and plant health, rural policy and innovation, food and agri-business, and **Biosecurity**

Cape Mohair and Wool South Africa

www.cmw.co.za
Meat and Livestock Australia
www.mla.com.au
Contains information relative to livestock marketing and research

AgriFutures Australia (formerly RIRDC)

www.agrifutures.com.au
Contains reports on research projects relative to our industry

Dr. Bruce McGregor

**Fibre and Animal Scientist,
Deakin University**
Tel: (+61 3) 9386 3102
Mob: 0408 138 096
Email: bmcgregor@sub.net.au

Shearers:-

The following people have indicated their willingness to shear angora goats.

Melbourne Mobile Shearing --

Phone: 0427 362 917

Bert Adams – Holbrook NSW –
02 6020 5268

Michael Brigg – Condamine QLD –
07 4627 7274

Susan Gunter - Tasmania

Mobile: 0429 705 146

Danny Horton —Leongatha VIC—

03 5668 6308

Trevor King – Omeo Vic
(will travel) 03 5159 1415

David Lillis —
Southern Tablelands NSW
Mobile: 0413 426 290

Phil Priest — Griffith NSW

02 6964 4379 (local area only)

Andrew Parkes “Backyard Shearing”

Bathurst, NSW

Will shear 1 to 1000, phone 0422 174 382

Mark Gillgren in New Zealand --

mj_gillgren@ubernet.co.nz

phone +6494339752

Mark Wilson – Tasmania

Mobile: 0418 510 878

If you have only a small number of animals to shear, coordinating shearing time with other local mohair producers will help to make it worthwhile for the shearer to travel to your area.