

# Narcoota Poll Merino Stud

Dear Fellow woolgrower,

We are pleased to extend to you an invitation to our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Ram Sale. This will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2013 at 1pm with inspection from 11.00am. Elders Roseworthy will be conducting the sale, with likely auctioneer being Matt Ward. We intend to offer 40 rams in the main auction, plus another twelve rams will be penned for sale following the auction.

We are confident that you will be able to select rams from this sale that will be a benefit to your breeding program, given your aim is to manage a self-replacing merino ewe flock producing good wool and plenty of trade lambs. We were blessed with excellent lambing conditions in early 2012, which gave us many 17 month old rams suitable for the sale team.

## Sire Information

Sires used for the 2012 drop include:

**Mernowie 518** purchased in 2010. This ram had a plain body, with a long staple of crimpy 58's wool. We are really pleased with the progeny from this ram.

**Mernowie 407** purchased in 2010. Muscular ram with nourished quality wool that tested 19.3 micron as a 2.5 year old.

**Narcoota 147** was displayed as a reserve at our ram sale in 2011. Large ram with a good fleece weight and an attractive fleece. This ram was used as a ram lamb and had progeny in last year's sale.

**Narcoota 7647** was used over our maiden ewes for this drop. He was sire to the top priced ram in 2011. He has maintained his excellent wool qualities even as an old ram.

**Narcoota 514** is a son of Narcoota 7647. This ram has his sires wool and has a stout square body. He was also displayed as a reserve in 2011.

## Mulesing

The ram details include a code indicating which rams have some bare skin in the breech area. No rams were mulesed, but they were tail stripped.



## Dual purpose and lamb survival

The rams on display this year were weighed and tested for eye muscle depth by Ian Bradtke on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Eye muscle is measured by ultrasound between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> rib. The eye muscle measurement for our rams compare admirably to merino rams in SA.

Ian Bradtke quoted 38 mm as being a good benchmark figure for this age group of rams.

Fat content was also measured and is also available on request. This has measurement has not been included as you already have a stack of figures to gaze over, let alone the sheep itself. According to Jason Trompf at an AWI update last year, "While fat is easier to gain and lose than muscle, a healthy balance is good. The sheep's ability to put reserves into fat as well as wool and muscle can be important for survival of a ewe and her lamb as some fat reserves are utilized when nutritious feed is scarce."

At Narcoota we have enjoyed a successful lambing period and hope that you too will benefit by breeding plain ewes with a good amount of muscle producing lambs with good birth weights and improved survival.

## Wool Quality

The average fibre diameter for our mature ewe flock was 20.6 microns over the last year. In the table are the average measurements of all rams in the mob when sampled.

We look forwards to seeing you on the 12<sup>th</sup> September.

From Tim, Lynn, Daniel and Nikki Grosser

Average Test Result	14 months	17 months
FD/Micron (2/7/13)	18.5	19.2
Comfort Factor %	99.6	99.6
Yield %	68	69
Body Weight - kg (5/8/13)	81	89
Eye Muscle Depth - mm	38	39