

JULY 2017

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HADDONRIG

2017 CALENDAR:

JULY

Friday 14th - Sunday 16th

Bendigo Sheep Show,
North Bendigo VIC

Wednesday 26th

Dubbo Mid-State Merino Field
Day, Dubbo TAFE Rural Campus

AUGUST

Saturday 5th

AGL 2017 Nyngan Ag Expo,
Nyngan Showground

Tuesday 22nd - Thursday 24th

Dubbo National Sheep Show,
Dubbo Showground

Thursday 31st

South West Slopes Merino
Breeders Annual Field Day,
Harden Showground

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 7th

Haddon Rig On-Property
2-Tooth Sale and Auction,
Haddon Rig Warren

www.haddonrig.com.au

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news and to download
upcoming ram sale catalogues.



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Haddon Rig Poll and Merino Stud



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Dear Industry Leader,

We hope you are enjoying the benefits of breeding sound, productive sheep in a year of excellent returns for sheep, meat and wool. It is undoubtedly due to the hard work and enthusiasm of our Stud Manager Andy Maclean and the team that 2016/17 has been a great year for Haddon Rig Merino Stud.

INNOVATION IN WOOL AND LAMB

Earlier this year, I visited the Woolmark/AWI headquarters in Kowloon, Hong Kong where I learnt one of the driving forces behind the renewed demand for wool and increase in prices has been the Chinese government's initiative to renew all civil servant uniforms. It was also fascinating to see the new and extremely innovative woollen products AWI/Woolmark is developing;

- Shoes - manufactured wool in the lining for breathability and odour control.
- Fabrics with water-repellent and light-reflective capability.
- A new flat-bed (computer driven) knitting machine for whole-garment knitting and construction.
- Soft furnishings expanding to include lampshades and insulating wall cladding.
- New ways to incorporate wool into denim jeans.

Austrade has also indicated strong and growing Chinese demand for AUS/NZ lamb and beef products which are perceived as nutritious, chemical-free and ethically produced. Combined with an increase in improved refrigeration at home and online grocery purchasing, China will continue to drive strong growth. I'm confident the long-term market outlook for lamb is promising, with foreign buyers continuing to benefit from the low Australian dollar.

INNOVATION ON FARM

Back at Haddon Rig, the new sheep yards are proving to be a great success allowing quicker processing and increased labour efficiency. We also dug a 2km irrigation pipeline with 6-inch welded poly pipe to replace earth channels and cut down water transmission losses. In our 2017 cattle program, we purchased 100 Angus heifers in-calf to a Wagyu bull to breed some Wagyu F1's, which we are currently trialling against our Angus herd.

CHECK YOUR CYBERSECURITY

I'd also like to take this opportunity to provide a few words of caution around cyber security. This year we were the victim of cyber-hacking and we observed a number of other small/medium sized businesses who had also been targeted. Do not make online financial payments to any new/alterd bank accounts without double checking their validity first and please be vigilant with your anti-virus updates and regularly change all passwords.

You will see from our stud calendar that 2017 will be a busy and exciting year for the Merino and Poll Stud and we look forward to catching up with you at your local venues.

I wish you all the best for 2017/18.

George BS Falkiner





HADDON RIG ON-PROPERTY 2-TOOTH SALE AND AUCTION REPORT – 2016

Recognition of the depth of breeding in Haddon Rig Merinos was exemplified by new and valued returning buyers from four states at our 33rd on-property sale in 2016. With a top Merino price of \$11,000 and an average of \$2626 and Poll Merino rams selling to \$6000 and averaging \$2804, Haddon Rig was very pleased with the sale result.

One of Haddon Rig's longest running daughter studs, Bonanza, Walgett, purchased the top-priced ram. Bonanza principal, James Morris, said his flock's success with Haddon Rig blood was not only due to the fact it was "extremely well suited" to his area, "these sheep are very even, there is great depth in their breeding and they are not dressed up or over fed".

Buying one Poll Merino and 13 Merino rams, Frank and Arthur Bragg of Rossgole Pastoral Company, "Rossgole", Aberdeen, paid an average \$3371 and a top of \$4000. Mr Bragg said fertility was high and averaged 115% to 120% and he had marked up to 140%. The sale was conducted by Elders, Dubbo and Landmark Wilson Russ, Warren and Dubbo, with Andy McGeoch, Orange, selling for Elders and John Settree, Dubbo, for Landmark.

For all of you who were at last year's Ram Sale, it was a proud moment to be celebrating 100 years of the Falkiner family at Haddon Rig. A highlight of the day was special guest, Alexandra Ramsay, Grand-daughter to James Richmond, who first sold the property to my own grandfather FBS Falkiner in 1916. Alex is also married to David Ramsay, grandson of Haddon Rig's legendary Manager Mr AB Ramsay, who ran HR with my father from 1931-1965. It was great to see a mix of generations with such strong ties to the industry on the day.

The 2017 On-Property Sale is to be held on Thursday, 7th September. With extra demand for our Merino and Poll rams, Haddon Rig will be increasing the top end of the Grade rams into our Auction to offer a better sale, more numbers for selection and a lower average. We are looking forward to seeing you there.



Top priced Poll Merino ram purchased by the Wilson Family, Myall, Lightning Ridge for \$6000



Top priced Merino ram purchased by James & Jo Morris, Bonanza, Walgett for \$11000

STUD CLASSER'S STUD & INDUSTRY REPORT

– ANDY MCLEOD

With the excellent autumn the Warren district is having, this year's one year old Merino and Poll Merino rams will present well for the Haddon Rig On-Property Auction sale and private selection. 1200 Poll stud ewes were joined in 2017 joining, so the Stud will be well placed to meet our clients' demand for Poll Merino next year.

The breeding and selection criteria for the Poll Merino at Haddon Rig is largely the same as the horned Merino: large frame, long body, correctness of frame, good constitution and importantly, wool cut and wool quality.

Having the two Studs gives Haddon Rig another dimension without favouring either way. Congratulations to all clients for sticking to this great industry, you are now being rewarded financially for your hard work, effort and loyalty.

Over the many years I have been writing this article, the industry has been constrained by a combination of drought and/or low commodity prices. However, the last two and a half years, especially the last 12 months, have been very good, with an unprecedented combination of high wool and Merino Sheep prices, perhaps the best I have ever seen. Over the last 12 months, the season has been fairly good across Eastern Australia, although now from Bourke into Central Queensland, it has been very dry, almost to drought conditions.

Haddon Rig's breeding direction has always focused strongly on constitution, body size and especially wool cut. The benefit of this for our clients is readily apparent, with client feedback and the media reporting good sheep sales and wool results with some clients receiving \$2500/bale.



HADDON RIG STUD REPORT – ANDY MACLEAN

With Haddon Rig's large commercial base, returns per hectare over the last 10 years have been exceptional. Maintaining our quality breeding program and consistent Stud Merino flock numbers has enabled us to ensure solid returns of up to \$128.64/hectare for the HR Stud Merino Flock.

PROGRESS IN OUR POLL STUD

Working closely with Forbes Murdoch, classed by Andy McLeod and due to continued demand, Haddon Rig has invested heavily in the size and quality of the Poll Merino flock.

In 2016, Haddon Rig purchased three top Stud Sires at the Poll Boonooke on-property sale, including the superb Poll ram PB 5-338 (sired by WP-003 "Real Deal") for \$44,000. I believe that PB 5-338 has the softest, most productive skin of all the Poll Merino rams Haddon Rig inspected in 2016 and that PB 5-338 will be instrumental in improving the production base of our Poll Merino Stud. These rams were joined to a portion of our HR Poll Stud ewes. Their lambs are hitting the ground now and look very promising in size and quality.

AWARD WINNING MERINOS CONTINUE TO PERFORM

Haddon Rig continues to maintain the integrity of our Merino Stud, performing extremely well at two of the major Australian Merino shows in 2016. HR 5-95 sired by HR 3-136 came 2nd in the lambs teeth medium wool class & all-purpose class in Bendigo. HR 5-95 went onto win Champion March shorn Merino ram and progressed to win Reserve grand champion Merino ram at the Dubbo National Merino show. HR 5-29 sired by EM 137 came 2nd in the lambs teeth strong wool & lambs

teeth strong wool all-purpose class at Bendigo. This is a great result considering there was over 25 rams in each class.

STRONG YIELDS AT SHEARING

Fleece wool sold from our AI ewes at the start of December was exceptional: 20 microns, 99.4 CF, 74.7% yield, staple length 107mm sold for 1139 cents/kg which meant returns of over \$2220/bale. At these prices, with AI ewes cutting over 8kgs/head, each ewe averaged \$72.60/head. In 2016, Haddon Rig sold wethers at under 12 months of age for \$130-\$160 per head and returns from surplus Merino breeding ewes returned in excess of \$170/head.

At general shearing in December, our mixed age ewes came off the board extremely well, averaging just under 8kgs of wool/head and close to a 3-score condition. With wool cuts being a little lower due to the tougher start and an extremely wet winter, microns were also back a bit. This increased our cents/kg in our top lines to 1280c/kg (1729c clean), this meant a return of over \$2484/bale.

In October, Haddon Rig weaned 111% of lambs from all ewes joined. Now in June-July 2017 we are seeing the benefit of last year's great lambing, selling the first 700 wethers for \$6.20 kg/head, averaging \$145/head. The next 1500 have been contracted to go on the 10th July @ \$6.30 kg/head. After shearing these wethers in May and combining the carcass & wool values, this makes breeding merinos very profitable.

Although most of our clients enjoyed a bit of a break in the season in 2016, a large area has slipped back into drought. I really hope these areas receive substantial rain soon and wish all of our clients the best for the rest of 2017.



Colin Bell of AFA and George Falkiner with PB 5-338 (\$44,000)



HR 5-95, Champion March shorn Merino & Reserve Grand Champion Merino ram, Dubbo Nationals 2016





HADDON RIG CLIENT RESULTS

– STUART MURDOCH & ANDY MCLEOD

ROBERT PERRY – ‘Bonnie Doone’, Marthaguy

April 2017 Narromine Sheep Sale:
Congratulations to Robert Perry from ‘Bonnie Doone’, Marthaguy who topped the Merino section of the sale with a pen of 219 3 1/2 year old Haddon Rig blood ewes selling for \$181.00. Robert purchased Bonnie Doone in 2013, starting with cast for age ewes from parents Kevin and Rosemary Perry, of “Inverness”, Warren.

JASON AND LEONIE RIDLEY – “Greenoble”, Girral

Well Done to Jason and Leonie Ridley, “Greenoble”, Girral, who placed 2nd in the West Wyalong Ewe Competition.



Jock Fisher, champion strong wool flock ewe, 2017 Warren Show

WALGETT WETHER TRIAL 2017 – 40 YEARS STRONG

Haddon Rig clients outshone the competition at the 40th annual Walgett Wether trial with three of our flock clients winning trophies. This year’s event was another showcase of the versatility and profitability of our Merino industry as well as being a tremendous networking day.

Doug and Annette Wilson – ‘Myall’, Lightning Ridge:

2nd place Wool, Highest Value commercial fleece (11.6 kg of 18.9 micron at \$117). *Purchased sires from the 2016 HR 2-Tooth auction sale, including the top-priced poll merino ram for \$6000.*

Bill and Bronwyn Colles – ‘Eurabah’ Come by Chance:

3rd place Wool (Average 8.2 kg of 19.4 micron at \$80.84). *Purchase the majority of their sires from the HR 2-Tooth auction and HR top grade rams.*

Ray and Marion Pike and James and TBC Pike – ‘Yaraldool’ Come by Chance:

Most even team (Average 9.1kg of 20.5 micron at \$76.86). *Purchase flock sires at HR 2-Tooth and HR top grade rams. Special congratulations to Andy McLeod who classes all three placed flocks.*

Haddon Rig would like to congratulate Adrian and Rosie Newton – Combadery, Walgett and their classer Robert Campbell for taking out the overfall 1st place of the trial. Their team of wethers averaged \$84.68/ fleece. The Newton’s need to be commended for entering a team every year for the past 40 years, this is an outstanding effort.

Congratulations also to Brennan O’Keefe and all involved for continuing to run the annual trial, it is always a very well run and informative day out.



Angus Munro & Andy Maclean, Andy got 1st place in the Blade Shearing at the Hay Sheep Show, June 2017



BRED WELL, FED WELL DAY AT TRILBY, LOUTH

This year, George, Andy and Stuart Murdoch attended the Bred Well, Fed Well day hosted by long-term Haddon Rig clients, Garry and Liz Murray at Trilby Station, Louth. The day was a great success: highly informative and a good opportunity to pick up valuable management tips.

THE KEY TAKE-HOME MESSAGES WERE:

1. Develop a Written Breeding Objective (Merino Mission Statement): This will enable you to make strategic and smart decisions and ensure improvement in your flock e.g. If your goal is to increase wool cut from 6kgs to 7.5kgs; ascertain what micron will best suit your environment and the best balance between wool cut and lambing percentages.
2. Use ASBV's or the 3T's: Jason Trompf of JT Agri-Source spoke about using ASBV's to select rams. HR calls it the 3 T's. Teeth, Toes and Testicles. To assess each animal for its ability to survive and breed in different environments, Andy McLeod evaluates each ram's constitution and conformation (The Double C). If the ram does not pass this simple test, it does not make it into our grades.
3. Scanning for twins: Geoff Duddy of Sheep Solutions discussed methods to manage and feed ewes to increase their production capacity and get more lambs (twins) on the ground. Haddon Rig consistently scans 60% twins and 35% singles. The twin bearing ewes are lambed separately and are monitored to ascertain feed requirements to optimise the lamb (and ewe) survival rates. If supplementary feeding is needed, HR uses feed grain via self-feeders. The extra stock numbers allows us to make management choices to further improve our sheep operation.
4. Twins or Maidens: Jason Trompf discussed the importance of being aware of progeny born as a twin out of maiden ewes. The majority of twins will not be as big or carry the same wool density as singles, as they have not had the same nutritional start, but genetically they may be a good purchase option.
5. Keep classing simple and balanced: With all sheep selection methods, where you direct your focus is where your results appear and this can be to the detriment of other important traits in your flock so be mindful to take a balanced approach and combine visual classing, objective measurement and ASBV's.

Haddon Rig recommends your attendance at a future Bred Well, Fed Well event and passes on its thanks to the organiser of the day, Don MacDonald, principal of MacDonald & Co Wool Brokers and Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) for their support.

– STUART MURDOCH



HADDON RIG FARMING REPORT

– ROBERT LATHAM

Starting with a short follow up on the 2016 Winter cropping season, it soon turned into a very wet season with 350 mm of rain from June to October. This rain led to water logging in some of the crops, with chickpeas suffering the worst - losing about 40% of the sown hectares. Otherwise, Haddon Rig had an exceptional 2016 harvest with good yields and a great harvest team.

The start of the 2017 season has taken off well so far with rainfalls totalling 110 mm in March. We started the season planting faba beans on the 12th of April and moving onto the canola on the 18th and lancer wheat on the 20th. Thankfully, the moisture profile was good enough to plant the canola straight into moisture with NDF disc planters. We now have our chickpeas and wheat in and fingers crossed for a good growing season for our dryland crops. We are also planning on double cropping the cotton blocks after picking to utilise the remaining moisture and hopefully leftover nitrogen.

In our efforts to combat high weed populations this year, especially annual rye grass – we have planned to plant certain crops in specified areas. We also speed tilled about 4000 hectares this year to control fleabane and windmill grass throughout the summer. We have been very active in the fight against weeds this year using a variety of different tactics. The planned percentages are 30% canola, 18% chickpeas and faba beans, 40% wheat and 12% long fallow. Hopefully 2017 will be a great year for all areas of farming.





2017 ON-PROPERTY SALE, THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER



2017 TOP MERINO AUCTION HR 6-175

SIRE: Wang 816	ASBV's
MICRON: 19.2	Y CFW: 21
SD: 3.0	Y WT: 4.6
CV: 15.6	DP + INDEX: 143%
CF: 99.4	MP + INDEX: 149%
WEIGHT: 99kg (June 17)	



2017 TOP POLL AUCTION HRP 6-9662

SIRE: HR P 3-7	ASBV's
MICRON: 21.9	Y CFW: 15
SD: 3.4	Y WT: 2.3
CV: 15.5	DP + INDEX: 131%
CF: 98.4	MP + INDEX: 140%
WEIGHT: 101kg (June 17)	

HR COTTON REPORT

– SAM HANKIN

Congratulations to all at the end of another season. The 2016-17 season has proven to be a tough year for everyone involved in the industry. With a wet start, water became plentiful for Haddon Rig, ground preparation and planting of 700ha began later than preferred, but we achieved our target. Temperatures rose through November, December providing perfect growing conditions and establishing a good plant stand and early fruit count, but the late January - February heat wave proved too much for all growers causing yield loss right across the valley. Some worse than others.

With picking finished, our final yield results are still to be determined, but are expected to be down significantly compared to previous years at 10-11 bales. Ground prep for 2017-18 season is underway and ahead of schedule, so hopefully a well-earned break is on the horizon. Good luck to all for the upcoming season.



Farming Manager, Robert Latham's children



HADDON RIG – 2017 GALLERY



Visitors at the 2017 ram shearing



2016 On-property sale



2017 HR sowing



Dougal & Susan McLeish



Supreme exhibit, 2017 Warren Show, HRP 6-619



Reserve Grand Champion Ram, 2017 Warren Show, HR 4-104



Grace, Eleanor, Olivia & Florence Falkiner, 2016 On-property sale



2016 On-property sale



March shorn rams in March 2017



March shorn Poll Rams in July 2017



2017 HR Team – George Falkiner, Andy Maclean, Tom Mitchell, Shannon Mitchell, Will Hacker & Matt Kelly



HR cotton bales in the field





CALENDAR DATES:

BENDIGO SHEEP SHOW:
14th – 16th July, 2017

DUBBO MID-STATE MERINO FIELD DAY:
26th July, 2017

RABOBANK NATIONAL MERINO SHEEP SHOW – DUBBO:
22nd – 24th August, 2017

SOUTH WEST SLOPES FIELD DAY – YOUNG:
Thursday 31st August, 2017

HR ON-PROPERTY FIELD DAY AND 2-TOOTH MERINO & POLL MERINO RAM AUCTION:
Thursday 7th September, 2017

Inspections welcome anytime. Grade rams available after the HR Sale.

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