



2018 AUCTION RESULTS

AFA rams went to buyers in five states following the 2018 Wanganella & Poll Boonoke Auction. Offering 220 rams at the auction, 216 sold to a top of \$35,000 and an average sale price of \$3,292 with seven new clients purchasing rams.

The overall results for the auction were:

216 Wanganella & Poll Boonoke rams averaged \$3,292
Top price of \$35,000 for Poll Boonoke 170145
Top priced Wanganella ram W173900 for \$18,000
10 Shedded Wanganella rams averaged \$7,900
67 Paddock Wanganella rams averaged \$2,220
15 Shedded Poll Boonoke rams averaged \$11,267
124 Paddock Poll Boonoke rams averaged \$2,534

Operating in conjunction, the Haddon Rig Stud, Warren, NSW and the Cora Lynn Stud, Peak Hill, NSW went to \$35,000 to secure the top priced auction ram. Poll Boonoke 170145, a son of outstanding Poll Boonoke sire PB140948 and a double poll ram, was the 2018 Riverina Ram of the Year and had fleece measurements of FD 18.1, SD 2.7, CV 14.9 and CF 99.7 while his ASBV figures for the 23 August 2018 analysis had him in the top 5% for Yearling Clean Fleece Weight and top 10% for the MP+ and DP+ index.

The Cora Lynn Stud also purchased the second top priced Poll Boonoke ram; a son of PB150026 and weighing 128.5 kg, Poll Boonoke 170374 made \$20,000. He side sampled at FD 20.5, SD 3.0, CV 14.6 and CF 99.7 and his ASBV figures had him in the top 1% for Yearling Weight, top 5% for Yearling Clean Fleece Weight and DP+ index and the top 10% for the MP+ index.

The top priced Wanganella ram was purchased by Michael Keatley, Jamestown, SA for \$18,000. A Wanganella syndicate bred ram, W173900, had figures of FD 19.8, SD 3.0, CV 15.2 and CF 99.6 and he was in the top 10% for ASBV Yearling Weight and Yearling Clean Fleece Weight.

Gerald & Jodie Mullighan, 'Wyara', Clare, SA paid \$16,000 for the second top priced Wanganella ram, W170458. Sired by W130844, the Mullighan's new ram tested at FD 20.7, SD 2.9, CV 14.0 and CF 99.4 and was in the top 1% for his ASBV result for Yearling Clean Fleece Weight and the top 5% for Yearling Weight, MP+ index and DP+ index.



Top Priced AFA Auction Ram, Poll Boonoke 170145, held by Shannon Mitchell (AFA) and flanked by purchasers Andy Maclean & George Falkner (Haddon Rig) and Rob & Steve Lindsay (Cora Lynn).



Top priced Wanganella auction ram W173900 held by Chris Bowman with purchaser Michael Keatley.



Chris Bowman with buyers, Gerald and Jodie Mullighan, of the second top priced Wanganella ram W170458 held by Shannon Mitchell (AFA).

PRIVATE SALE

Rodney Kent of the Kurrajong Park Merino Stud at Delungra, NSW was not content with his \$10,000 auction purchase of Poll Boonoke 170341, convincing Forbes Murdoch and Justin Campbell after the auction to part with Wanganella Stud Reserve Ram W173192 for \$30,000. Weighing 138.5 kg, W173192 had figures of FD 18.7, SD 3.1, CV 16.6 and CF 99.8 and in the ASBV analysis results was in the top 1% for Yearling Weight, top 5% for DP+ index and top 10% for Yearling Clean Fleece Weight.



Forbes Murdoch (AFA), Jade Lane & Rodney Kent (Kurrajong Park Stud) and Justin Campbell (AFA) with W173192, a Wanganella Stud Reserve ram purchased post auction for \$30,000.



2018 Elders Riverina Ram of the Year - Poll Boonoke 170145
Justin Campbell & Shannon Mitchell (AFA), Clyde McKenzie (Elders), Alan Dawson (Judge) and Lachie Boyd (Elders)

RIVERINA RAM OF THE YEAR 2018

AFA exhibited the Riverina Ram of the Year for the sixth consecutive year in August 2018. Making it a fifth title for Poll Boonoke, with a Wanganella ram winning in 2013, notably the 2018 winner, Poll Boonoke 170145, was sired by the 2015 winner of the title Poll Boonoke 140948.

Judge Alan Dawson summed up PB170145 as a ram with tremendous width of chest and structural correctness that would grow into a big sheep and a stand out for wool production and overall finish.

HAY SHEEP SHOW'S PEN OF THREE RAM WEANERS

The Poll Boonoke entry in the Pen of Three Ram Weaners at the Hay Sheep Show held in June 2019 continued on an enviable record for the Stud in this special dual purpose class. At a show that attracts an outstanding lineup of young sheep from NSW, Victoria and South Australia for their first industry drop comparison, the Poll Boonoke Stud placed first in this class that is judged along dual purpose lines of 50:50 Wool and Meat. The win in 2019 makes it three wins out of the last six shows for the Poll Boonoke Stud, with placings in the top three for the other years.



PB180142, PB180147 and PB180137
Winners of Pen of Three Ram Weaners, Hay Sheep Show 2018
Justin Campbell, Shannon Mitchell, Lachie Barrett & Tom Lilburne

SEMEN SIRES

The ten sires included in the current AFA semen sire catalogue have amassed sales of almost 10,000 doses between them to both stud and commercial breeders.

Outstanding results are being seen from the Wanganella and Poll Boonoke genetic infusions as evidenced by the progeny that we have seen at shows, in sale catalogues (10.6% of the 2018 Adelaide ram sale offering were either sons or grandsons of AFA sires) and by the number of repeat buyers.

Semen can be ordered online via the AFA website or contact one of the Stud Team or the Boonoke Office to have a semen order form forwarded to you.

The new pricing structure for all AFA semen sires is \$50 per dose with a minimum order of 40 doses. In addition, the Purchaser is responsible for all despatch and freight costs associated with transferring the genetic material to the nominated breeding centre. Where possible orders are shipped in shared tanks to minimise costs, so early advice of your requirements assists in planning the most cost effective transfer for you.

Contact Angus Munro on 0437 929 195 for further information on our semen sires.



W170470



PB160612



PB170135



W150610



PB170759



PB150009



W160706



PB150026



PB160536



W130816

VALUED CLIENTS

Geoff Scott and Family made the trip to Boonoke in September 2018 from their Balranald district property 'Claremont' to select their annual draft of Merino rams. It was a bit different from their many previous trips though, because 2018 marked an extraordinary 50 years that the Scott Family had been buying rams at Boonoke.

Originally purchasing Boonoke Stud rams, and now Wanganella rams, 50 years is a humbling display of client loyalty and commitment to our Merino sheep. We are honoured by this unique association with the Scott Family and the Claremont flock.

Fifty years means the Scotts have seen two company owners sell out, the coming and going of Managers and Classers, the continued refinement of our Merino type to meet the demands of the industry and our customers, and a colossal number of different Jackaroos pushing up rams for them.



Selecting Rams at Boonoke for 50 Years - The Scott Family, Claremont Station, Balranald, with Chris Bowman.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:



Chris Bowman, Classer, with Tom & Bill Simpson and their top priced Merino wether lambs at the Hay Sheep Sale, September 2018.

Bill & Tom Simpson of Hay, NSW, on selling the top priced Merino wether lambs at the 2018 Hay Annual September Sheep Sale. Their Wanganella blood 2018 drop wether lambs topped at \$94.

Peter & Meegan McCarten & Family of Erigolia, NSW, on winning the Most Profitable Award for their Wanganella blood flock entry, classed by Michael Elmes, in the February 2019 Lake Cargelligo Maiden Merino Ewe Competition. Using standardised figures, the McCarten's return per head for wool and stock sales was \$307.

Wanganella clients **Graham & Kay Tulloch** of Girral, NSW, for topping the annual West Wyalong Sheep Breeders Sale in February 2019 for the third consecutive year. Their 2019 top price was \$232 for SIL 2017 drop ewes.

Fred, Louise & Colleen Donnelly of Condobolin, NSW, on being awarded 3rd place



Colleen Donnelly, Chris Bowman & Fred Donnelly with the Donnelly's Condobolin Show 2018 Grand Champion Fleece.

for their Poll Boonoke/Wanganella entry in the Don Brown Memorial Ewe Competition in February 2019. Classed by Chris Bowman, the Donnelly's were awarded the John Coy Achievement Award in 2017 and were Runners Up in the 2018 Competition. The Donnelly's also exhibited the Grand Champion Merino Fleece at the Condobolin Show in August 2018.

The **Sanderson Family** of Tambo, Qld, Wanganella clients who exhibited the 2019 Grand Champion Fleece at the Tambo Flock Show in April and the Charleville Show in May, while they had the Reserve Grand Champion Fleece at the Cunnamulla Show in May.

Wanganella Stud clients **Frank & Mish McKillop & Family** of Girilambone, NSW on their Grand Champion Fleece at the May 2019 Nyngan Show, which was also the Grand Champion Fleece at the Cunnamulla Show. The McKillops sold their top line of 11 bales of wool at 1573 c/kg greasy.



McKillop Family's Grand Champion Fleece, Nyngan Show, 2019.

Long time Poll Boonoke client **George Gowing and Family** from Ilfracombe, Qld, on showing the winning Pair of Medium Fleeces at the Longreach Show in May 2019.

Wanganella client **Bruce Spence** from Isisford, Qld, on his entry winning the Pair of Strong Fleeces at the 2019 Longreach Show.

The **Alfoxton Merino Stud** on their showing success at the Queensland State Sheep Show in May 2019, which included the Show's Supreme Exhibit, the Poll Merino Breeders

Group, the Grand Champion Poll Ram and the Grand Champion Poll Ewe. Alfoxton's ram 170095, sired by Poll Boonoke 150026, was the Supreme Exhibit and the Grand Champion Poll Ram. PB150026 was also the sire of Alfoxton's Grand Champion Poll Ewe and four of the five sheep in the Breeder's Group.



Fleece entered by the Turnbull Family into the AWN Open Fleece Show, Dubbo 2019.

Rob & Therese Turnbull & Family of Lightning Ridge, NSW, who received the Goodooga/Lightning Ridge district Kerry Ryan Memorial Fleece prize at the CWA Goodooga-Lightning Ridge Wool Day fundraiser in May 2019. The Turnbuls also entered fleeces into the AWN Open Fleece Show, Dubbo 2018, and received a 1st in the Strong Ewe/Wether Fleece and a 3rd in the Medium Ewe/Wether Fleece in the Flock Grower Section.

Ken McRae of Lockhart, NSW, for selling 196 shorn Wanganella blood Merino wethers for \$250 at the Wagga Wagga Saleyards on 13 June 2019.



Angus Munro with George Gowing and the Gowing Family's Winning Pair of Medium Fleeces at the May 2019 Longreach Show.

MEASURING UP

By Angus Munro

The Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association oversees the Merino Sire Evaluation program, which commenced in 1989, and is now also delivering the Merino Lifetime Productivity program, a 10 year project that commenced in 2015 and is funded by AWI and partners.

The Merino Sire Evaluation program currently operates at 9 sites across Australia. It seeks to compare the breeding performance of a sire by evaluating the traits important to breeders and commercial breeders of his progeny relative to the progeny of other sires.

Sires at each site are joined to an equal number of ewes by AI. The ewes are a uniform classed line representative of the sheep type generally found in the host site district. The progeny are all managed together under the same conditions for the duration of the trial. Evaluation of the progeny encompasses both measured traits and visual assessment.

Five of the Merino Sire Evaluation sites are hosting the Merino Lifetime Productivity program, which seeks to increase the understanding of the genetics and economic interactions across a diverse range of Merino types delivering high quality wool, lambs and meat throughout their life to help better understand and ensure Merino ewe lifetime performance outcomes.

Ewe progeny are wool sampled, visually scored, fleece & body weighed, carcass scanned, faecal sampled and classed by 2 independent classers annually. They are included in the sire evaluation trials for the first 2 years and then their performance continues to be recorded through 4 - 5 joinings and annual shearings.

AFA has 4 sires entered into current Merino Sire Evaluation sites, 3 of which are included in the Merino Lifetime Productivity project. Poll Boonoke 120020 was entered into the 2016 drop Temora trial while Wanganella 130816 is in the 2017 drop and Wanganella 150610 is in the 2018 drop Macquarie assessment groups. Both of these sites are part of the Merino Lifetime Productivity project. Poll Boonoke 150026 was entered into the 2017 South Australia Merino Sire Evaluation.

More information on the Merino Sire Evaluation program and the Merino Lifetime Productivity project, and ongoing trial site results and reports, can be found at www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au

Inclusion of sires in various industry evaluation trials is a part of AFA's commitment to measuring and evaluating the performance of our genetics, which subsequently assists with breeding decisions. Similarly, increasing the data included in the MerinoSelect database through genomic testing of all stud sires and inclusion of ewe data boosts the reliability and relevance of our ASBV information.

All of this information supports the decision making of our Stud Team as we strive for balance in our breeding program, which remains focussed on traits that influence commercial returns.

The NSW DPI 2018 sheep enterprise gross margin analysis indicates that sheep enterprises have shown a steady performance improvement over the last 10 years, which has been strongly influenced by sheep sales, but wool focussed enterprises have shown a considerable performance improvement over the last 5 years. The gross margin analysis further reinforces the AFA Stud's balanced breeding policy; each productive characteristic of our Merino has to be steadily refined to maximise market potential and options.

Extracted from: Macquarie Merino Sire Evaluation Site Report, Within Site Results, March 2019, 2017 Drop Post Weaning and Hogget Assessment, Sire Performance for a Variety of Trait Combinations, Number 12 - Progeny of Wanganella 130816

Figure 1a. Combined measured traits (DP+ index) and combined visually assessed traits for the site objective.

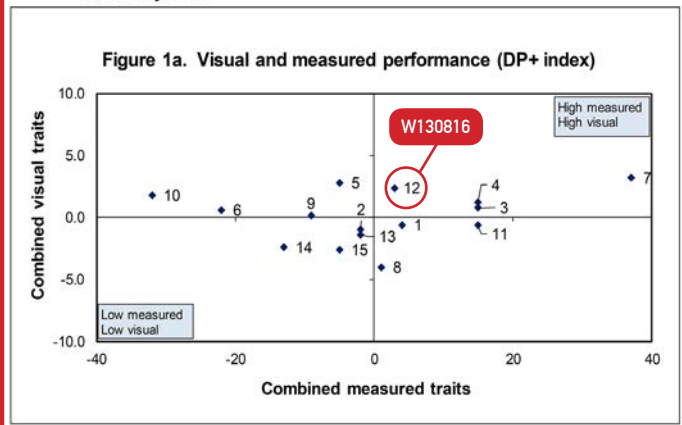
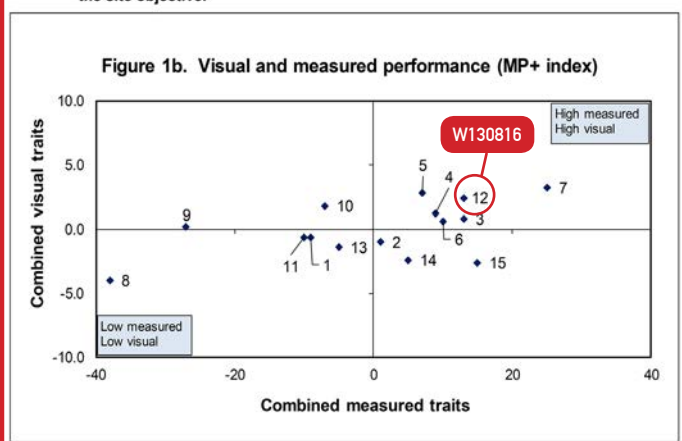


Figure 1b. Combined measured traits (MP+ index) and combined visually assessed traits for the site objective.



AFA STUD BREEDING NUMBERS

WANGANELLA

- 4,000 ewes joined
- 930 maiden ewes
- 90 embryo transfer ewes
- 730 artificial insemination ewes
- 3,180 paddock joined ewes
- 95 Wanganella Stud Sires

POLL BOONOKE

- 3,200 ewes joined
- 470 maiden ewes
- 200 embryo transfer ewes
- 930 artificial insemination ewes
- 2,070 paddock joined ewes
- 60 Poll Boonoke Stud Sires

SEE THE AFA RAMS IN 2019 AT:

Australian Sheep & Wool Show
Bendigo; 19, 20 & 21 July

Nyngan Ag Expo
3 August

Hamilton Sheepvention
5 & 6 August

Riverina Expo
Deniliquin; 16 August

National Merino Sheep Show
Dubbo; 27, 28 & 29 August

South West Slopes Stud Merino
Breeders Field Day
Harden; 3 September

Royal Adelaide Show
4, 5 & 6 September

You are welcome to arrange an on property inspection of our sale rams, semen sires and stud breeding stock at a mutually convenient time by contacting one of our Stud Team.

Wanganella & Poll Boonoke On Property Ram Auction at Boonoke, Wednesday 18 September
Wanganella & Poll Boonoke Private Grade Ram Selections, by appointment from Thursday 19 September



RAM SELLING 2019

Wednesday 18 September 2019
at 'Boonoke', Conargo
60 Wanganella & 140 Poll Boonoke Rams
Inspection from 9.30 am
Auction commences 12.30 pm

Pre sale day inspection of auction rams can be arranged by contacting one of the AFA Stud Team. Some of the auction rams will be included in the AFA displays at the various industry events during August and September.

Australian Sheep Breeding Values for the auction rams will be sourced from the MerinoSelect 21 August 2019 database analysis. An easy to print auction ram catalogue will be available online at www.austfood.com.au in early September, while a printed catalogue booklet will be available on auction day. If you would like a copy of the catalogue posted / faxed / emailed to you prior to the sale please contact Robyn at the Boonoke Office on 1800 675 729 or rsmith@austfood.com.au

We will be interfacing the sale with **AuctionsPlus** again this year so if you can't attend on sale day you can still bid at the sale via your phone. Buyers must ensure that they are registered with AuctionsPlus prior to the sale and you can register at auctionsplus.com.au. Enquiries should be directed to AuctionsPlus on 02 9262 4222 or info@auctionsplus.com.au

Agents in conjunction for the auction will be Elders and Landmark, Deniliquin with Elders to settle the auction this year. Rams are auctioned at prices exclusive of GST, with GST added to the invoice.

An Auction Rebate is available to Outside Agents. A 3% rebate is offered to Outside Agents who advise the details of potential purchasers prior to 9 am on sale day to the Boonoke Office or the Deniliquin Branch Office of Elders or Landmark and settle an auction ram purchase invoice on behalf of that client within 7 days. A 1% rebate is offered to Outside Agents who settle an auction ram purchase invoice on behalf of a client within 7 days.

For Auction Buyers unable to secure their total ram requirement during the auction, a **limited number of \$1,500 + GST rams** will be available for selection at the Ramshed after the auction to finalise orders, as will a selection of \$950 + GST flock grade rams at the Boonoke Woolshed. See one of the AFA Stud Team at the conclusion of the auction if you need to make a selection.

Buyers of **shedded rams** should be aware that after 6 months in the Ramshed some care is required to transition shedded rams out of this unique environment to ensure the productive health of your ram. Our Stud Team will be happy to assist with advice on this process.

FLOCK GRADE RAMS

Flock Grade Rams available for selection from Thursday 19 September 2019.
2019 grade prices are:
\$1500+GST, \$950+GST & \$700+GST

Appointments for private selections of Flock Grade Rams can be arranged by submitting a ram order form (an online option is available at austfood.com.au) or by contacting Angus Munro or the Boonoke Office with your ram requirements; we will then confirm a selection appointment date and time with you.

We highly recommend that you take your rams home after the auction or a private selection, but for those clients who need us to arrange the **freight** of your purchase we will pay half the freight cost and the rams will be delivered off shears.

The Wanganella & Poll Boonoke Merino Studs are Ovine Brucellosis Accredited Free Flocks and have an OJD MN3 Flock Status in the National Johnes's Disease Market Assurance Program. The Wanganella & Poll Boonoke Studs are Owner declared Footrot Free.

Australian Food & Agriculture Company Limited retains 50% semen marketing rights from all Wanganella & Poll Boonoke rams sold either by auction or privately, unless otherwise varied by negotiation prior to sale.

HAMILTON SHEEPVENTION RAM SALE

AFA will again be offering an early opportunity to purchase Poll Boonoke rams at the Hamilton Sheepvention Ram Sale on Tuesday 6 August 2019. A pen of 5 sale rams will be presented, contact Angus Munro on 0437 929 195 to review the Sale Team.



Poll Boonoke 180184 (PP)
 Sire: PB140948
 FD 20.6 SD 3.1 CV 15.0 CF 99.3



Poll Boonoke 181706 (PH)
 Sire: PB100001 Syn
 FD 18.4 SD 3.0 CV 16.1 CF 99.7



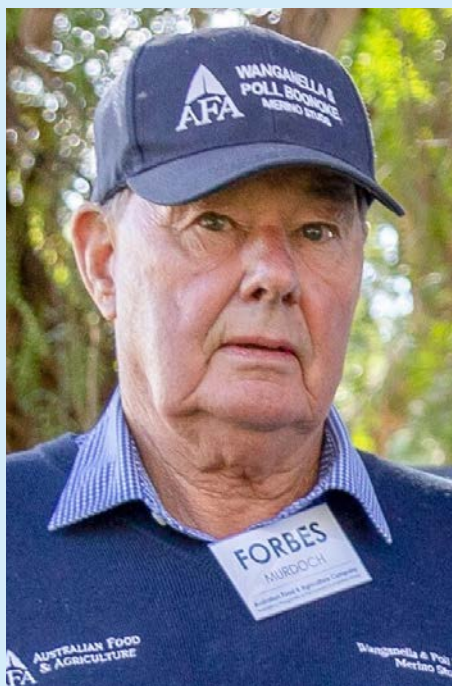
Poll Boonoke 181112 (PP)
 Sire: PB160536 Syn
 FD 19.5 SD 3.5 CV 17.7 CF 99.2



Poll Boonoke 181555 (PP)
 Sire: PB100001 Syn
 FD 19.2 SD 2.7 CV 14.1 CF 99.5



Poll Boonoke 181001 (PP)
 Sire: PB160536 Syn
 FD 18.5 SD 3.1 CV 16.8 CF 99.8



FORBES MURDOCH, OAM

A quiet and unassuming man, who was probably destined from birth to make his life in the Merino Industry, Forbes Murdoch's 50 plus year Merino breeding career was acknowledged in the 2019 Australia Day Honours with a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to the wool growing industry.

Raised at Terrick Terrick Merino Stud at Blackall, Queensland where his father was manager, Forbes started jackarooing at Athol, Blackall in

January 1959, moving in 1960 to jackaroo at Haddon Rig, Warren, NSW with then Manager AB Ramsey.

Forbes was promoted in 1963 to establish and manage Haddon Rig's breeding operation in Western Australia, where he was to remain for 12 years, returning to manage Haddon Rig, Warren in 1975; a role he continued in until his retirement in 2001. During his time at Haddon Rig, Forbes Murdoch became a well respected name within the Merino industry, the Haddon Rig bloodline increased its influence in the considerable medium and strong wool flocks around the country and the Champion ribbons won by the Haddon Rig sheep mounted up.

Immediately following his retirement in 2001 Forbes was recruited to class the Boonoke Merino Stud at Deniliquin, NSW. In 2004 Forbes was appointed Stud Master and Classer of the three Australian Food & Agriculture Company's (AFA) Merino Studs; Boonoke, Wanganella and Poll Boonoke. Forbes took these significant stud flocks and reinvigorated them to again achieve industry prominence and market relevance. He subsequently also continued his close association with the Haddon Rig sheep accepting the Stud Master's role there.

In November 2008, almost 130 years to the day after the Peppin's Wanganella flock was drafted up to complete the sale to Austin & Milllear, who retained the Wanganella name, and Franc Falkiner, to develop his new Boonoke flock, Forbes Murdoch had the notable task of classing AFA's two horned Merino studs back into a single horned Merino stud flock; the Wanganella Stud.

Colin Bell, AFA Chairman, says of Forbes

Murdoch's involvement with the Wanganella and Poll Boonoke stud flocks; "There is no doubt that we placed the future of our studs into safe and extremely capable hands when we brought Forbes onboard. There is also no doubt that there is nobody else in the modern industry to whom we could have turned, Forbes is a stand out for his skill, passion and natural Merino intuition and his place in our industry is unsurpassed."

Open to innovation and a willing adopter of new technology, Forbes Murdoch has combined his talent and experience to safely implement new initiatives that assist with improving breeding outcomes and sheep husbandry; always insisting that wool, both quality and quantity, had to be the primary focus and balanced up with other breeding objectives in the sheep he classed. His Merino Champions are too many to recollect and have included the Australian Supreme Merino. Through the Haddon Rig Stud, and now the Wanganella and Poll Boonoke Studs, Forbes has influenced the development and quality of a significant portion of the Australian Merino industry.

AFA's General Manager, Justin Campbell, observed that Forbes' influence in the Australian Merino industry extended far beyond the stud flocks that have been under his direction; "... with so many other seed stock breeders tapping into his knowledge and talent through genetic purchases for their own stud flocks." Justin further added that; "Forbes has proved himself to be an instinctive Sheepman with outstanding Merino breeding expertise and this award rightly recognises the significance of his career in the Merino Industry."

ASPIRING SHEEPMEN

The AFA Stud management team are fortunate to have two young dedicated sheepmen assisting with the day to day operations of the Stud. Tom Lilburne has been with the Stud for 2½ years, was appointed Stud Overseer in 2018 and was the winner of the Don McNeil Memorial Junior Judging Competition at the 2019 Hay Sheep Show. Lachie Barrett started as Stud Groom at the beginning of 2019. Making his first trip away with the sheep to Queensland in May, Lachie placed 1st in the Junior Fleece Judging and 2nd in the Junior Sheep Judging at the Longreach Show.



Tom Lilburne, Winner of Junior Judging at 2019 Hay Sheep Show



Lachie Barrett (centre), 1st in Junior Fleece Judging & 2nd in Junior Sheep Judging at 2019 Longreach Show

AFA STUD CONTACT DETAILS

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