



## WA STUDS PAY \$70,000 FOR POLL BOONOKE RAM

Heading to Bendigo in July for the 2019 Australian Sheep & Wool Show as a potential Poll Boonoke Stud Sire, Poll Boonoke 180137 returned home our highest priced ram of recent times and destined for Western Australia.

The Manunda and Kamballie Poll Studs partnered up to purchase PB180137, paying \$70,000 for the ET bred son of the former Riverina Ram of the Year Poll Boonoke 130028. His dam, PB140214, is a granddaughter of Poll Boonoke 100001, who sold for \$50,000 in 2011.

New owners Wayne & Pippa Button and Shayne & Lisa Mackin were keen to secure PB180137 for his combination of wool characteristics and carcass attributes, asserting that a ram of his quality didn't come along often.

Weighing 119.5 kg when he went to Bendigo and with tests of FD 19.1, SD 3.6, CV 18.8 and CF 99.0, Wayne Button described PB180137 as "... a big, square, long ram with plenty of meat and in terms of his wool ... an outstanding, heavy cutting, sirey wool." Semen is available.

### NEW AFA STUD MANAGER

**Joe Gerritsen** recently joined the AFA Stud Team, starting work in early July as Stud Manager. Joe will be responsible for the day to day management of the stud flocks, the presentation of sale livestock and will work closely with the Stud Management Team to ensure our breeding strategies are implemented and results achieved.

Originally from South Australia, Joe's 23 year career in the agriculture industry has seen him working in various capacities in livestock operations in SA, NSW,

Queensland, Victoria and WA, as well as spending some time wool classing.

Joe is a keen dog breeder and trialler and has moved to Boonoke with his wife and two young children.

Joe's arrival coincided with the start of the busy lead up to ram selling, but with plenty of support available from the rest of the Stud Team we know that Joe will quickly be across his new role and we look forward to you meeting him during the spring.

Joe's contact details are 0488 601 603 and [jgerritsen@austfood.com.au](mailto:jgerritsen@austfood.com.au)

Given Joe's recent arrival, Angus Munro and Justin Campbell are your best points of contact for any queries re ram selling this year.



### VIEW OUR SALE RAMS

COVID-19 has restricted our ability to display our 2019 drop rams, but at the time of going to print we expect to present rams for your inspection at the:

- Dubbo National Ram Sale & Exhibition - 25 & 26 August, Dubbo
- Riverina Merino Studs Open Days - Wanganella & Poll Boonoke displaying at Boonoke on 3 September.

And to sell rams at the:

- Adelaide Ram Sale - 11 September, Adelaide
- AFA Ram Auction - 16 September, 'Boonoke', Conargo

Additionally, check our website, Instagram and YouTube for photos and videos and contact the Stud Team to arrange a visit to Boonoke to inspect our sale rams.





#### **Poll Boonoke 180874**

2018 Drop ET Ram, PP

Sire: WR160546 x NP100134

Dam: PB130023 x WP10003

FD 19.0 SD 2.8 CV 14.7 CF 99.8

*Photo by studstocksales.com*



#### **Wanganella 180446**

2018 Drop ET Ram

Sire: HR150095 x HR130136 x W100019

Dam: W150773 x W130844

FD 17.1 SD 3.1 CV 18.1 CF 99.8

*Photo by studstocksales.com*

AFA invests considerable time and resources into attending a selection of Merino shows each year because the Stud Management Team believes that the comparative opportunity is important to both our Team and potential buyers of Merino genetics.

We elect to run with housed young March regulation shorn rams as it means the rams are given every opportunity to express their genetic potential; restricting the rams to 7 months in the Ramshed minimises the cost; the system overlaps with the preparation of the top end auction rams; and it ensures that our young sires are available for inclusion in our joining program rather than being held in the Ramshed as an August regulation shorn ram.

In 2019, our first show outing was the Hay Merino Sheep Show in June. As reported in our 2019 Newsletter, the Poll Boonoke trio of 180142, 180147 and 180137 were successful in winning the **Pen of Three Ram Weaners**, a dual purpose class judged on a 50% wool and 50% meat ratio.

AFA then attended the 2019 Australian Sheep & Wool Show in July at Bendigo, where Poll Boonoke 180874 was a stand out. Continuing to highlight our breeding focus on dual purpose qualities, PB180874 placed first in his Two Tooth Medium Wool Class in the Australian Merino All Purpose Ram Section and then went up against all of the other class winners to ultimately be judged the Show's **Champion March Shorn Australian Merino All Purpose Ram**.

In the Poll Merino section, PB180874 placed first out of the 46 rams entered into the Two Tooth Medium Wool March Shorn Poll Ram class. He then went on to be the **Reserve Junior Champion Medium Wool Ram** and the **Reserve Champion March Shorn Medium Wool Poll Merino Ram** (the Champion being a six tooth Darriwell ram who was a grandson of Poll Boonoke 130028).

At the Elders Riverina Sheep Expo in August, Poll Boonoke 180874 continued both his own showing record and that of the Stud when he was awarded the **Elders Riverina Ram of the Year** for 2019, making it 6 consecutive years for Poll Boonoke rams and this title. Judge Ken Noakes described PB180874 as having 'an essence of uniqueness.'

The final show event for 2019 was the National Merino Sheep Show held at Dubbo in August. In addition to PB180874 being awarded the **Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Poll Ram** and the **Grand Champion March Shorn Poll Ram**, Wanganella 180446 was judged to be the **Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Ram** and Wanganella 180380 the **Reserve Champion Strong Wool March Shorn Ram**.

Unfortunately COVID-19 restrictions have meant that most of our normal showing and display opportunities in 2020 have been cancelled. This makes it difficult for us, and other Merino breeders, to present our 2019 drop rams for inspection prior to ram selling in spring. We will have information online for you to access and are happy to organise on-property inspections, so please contact the Stud Team to book an appointment.

20 years ago on 1 July 2000, AFA Owners Colin, Lewis & Andrew Bell and Alastair Provan purchased the F S Falkiner & Sons holding; 123,000 hectares of country north of Deniliquin comprising the properties Boonoke, Warriston, Peppinella, Wanganella, Zara and Barratta, and including the Wanganella and Poll Boonoke Studs. The AFA operation now totals 225,405 hectares with country in the Coonamble, Deniliquin and Hay districts of NSW and incorporates stud and commercial Merino breeding, prime lamb production, Hereford cattle breeding, irrigated and dryland cropping and a feedlot.

**Contact one of the  
AFA Stud Team to arrange  
an Inspection of the  
Wanganella & Poll Boonoke  
2019 Drop Sale Rams.**



**AFA RAM AUCTION 2020**  
**60 Wanganella & 140 Poll Boonoke**  
**Wednesday 16 September 2020 at Boonoke, Conargo**  
**Inspection from 9.30 am, Auction at 12.30 pm.**  
**Auction will be interfaced on AuctionsPlus**

## RAM SALE 2019

### \$26,000 TOP TWICE AT 2019 AUCTION

THANK YOU to all Buyers, Underbidders and their Advisers, for your support at our 2019 Auction.

There is no doubt that most of us went into spring 2019 worn down from a tough year and anxious as to when the season would break. Our auction demonstrated that no matter what else is impacting on our clients' businesses, their commitment to balanced, productive Merino genetics to advance their flocks does not waiver.

From the 75 on site and 36 AuctionsPlus registrations the final wrap up was 45 return buyers and 7 new buyers with 14 buyers being Stud breeders. 189 of the 190 offered rams sold to a top of \$26,000 with an overall auction average of \$3,673.

The auction results can be further broken down to:

- 19 AFA shedded rams averaged \$11,211
- 170 AFA paddock rams averaged \$2,831
- 8 Wanganella shedded rams averaged \$6,875
- 51 Wanganella paddock rams averaged \$2,544
- 11 Poll Boonoke shedded rams averaged \$14,364
- 119 Poll Boonoke paddock rams averaged \$2,954



**Lot 3 - PB180823 x PB160536 \$20,000**

FD 19.7 SD 3.1 CV 15.7 CF 99.7 YCFW 26.1 YWT 8.2 MP+ 157 DP+ 151  
Purchaser: Castlebrook Poll Stud, NSW

Photographed with Shannon Mitchell, David Menzies (Castlebrook) & Clyde McKenzie (Elders)



**Lot 10 - PB181312 \$7,000**

FD 21.0 SD 3.5 CV 16.7 CF 99.6 YCFW 26.3 YWT 8.6 MP+ 160 DP+ 160  
Purchaser: Almondvale Stud, NSW

Photographed with Shannon Mitchell, Peter Routley (Almondvale) & Paul Routley (Almondvale). Almondvale also purchased PB181018 for \$5,000 at the Hamilton Sheepvention Sale 2019



**Lot 1 - PB180142 x PB130028 \$26,000**

FD 20.8 SD 3.8 CV 18.0 CF 99.0 YCFW 34.4 YWT 9.0 MP+ 162 DP+ 158  
Purchasers: Wiringa Park & Woodyarrup Studs, WA

Photographed with Forbes Murdoch, Ricky Power (Landmark) & Angus Munro  
(Photos by studstocksales.com)



**Lot 4 - PB180147 x PB130028 \$17,000**

FD 20.3 SD 4.4 CV 21.7 CF 97.5 YCFW 36.5 YWT 8.9 MP+166 DP+ 159  
Purchasers: The Yanko & Winyar Studs, NSW

Photographed with Shannon Mitchell, Allan Dawson (Winyar), Ian Cameron (The Yanko) and Michael Elmes (Smart Stock)



**Lot 18 - W180001 x W130750 \$4,000**

FD 18.8 SD 2.8 CV 14.9 CF 99.8 YCFW 21.6 YWT 5.1 MP+ 154 DP+ 147  
Purchaser: Longdale Park Stud, Victoria

Photographed with Nicola & Rodney Kirk (Longdale Park) & Shannon Mitchell

Sale photos by Bel's Rural Photography





**Lot 2 - PB180271 x PB140948 \$26,000**

FD 19.6 SD 2.9 CV 14.8 CF 99.8 YCFW 25.1 YWT 8.1 MP+ 174 DP+ 168  
Purchaser: Collandra North Poll Stud, SA

Photographed with Shannon Mitchell, Braden Southern (Elders), Graeme Lawrie (Collandra North), Chris Vordemaier (Rodwells) and Sydney Lawrie (Collandra North). Collandra North is classed by Chris Bowman.



**Lot 12 - W180789 x W151992 \$18,000**

FD 21.2 SD 3.2 CV 15.1 CF 99.3 YCFW 19.1 YWT 6.4 MP+ 141 DP+ 142  
Purchaser: Cora Lynn Stud, NSW

Photographed with Shannon Mitchell, Steve Lindsay (Cora Lynn), Andrew Bell & Rob Lindsay (Cora Lynn)



**Lot 5 - PB180136 x PB130028 \$22,000**

FD 18.5 SD 3.1 CV 16.8 CF 99.8 YCFW 27.4 YWT 6.9 MP+ 150 DP+ 145

**Lot 8 - PB180360 x PB150009 \$21,000**

FD 19.5 SD 3.2 CV 16.4 CF 99.8 YCFW 28.2 YWT 10.5 MP+ 166 DP+ 169  
Purchaser: Haddon Rig Stud, NSW

Photographed with Tom Lilburne, Andy Maclean (HR), George Falkiner (HR), Shannon Mitchell, Andrew Bell, Stuart Murdoch (HR)



**Lot 117 PB181481 x PB100001 Syn \$21,000**

FD 19.7 SD 3.6 CV 18.2 CF 99.1 YCFW 34.0 YWT 8.1 MP+ 179 DP+ 171  
Purchaser: HW & EJ Rowling, NSW

Photographed with Shannon Mitchell, Harry Rowling, Eric Rowling & Michael Elmes (Smart Stock)

In addition, the **Woolkabin Stud**, Katanning, WA purchased W180004 for \$10,000 and W180747 for \$4,000; the **Kiawarra Stud**, Weethalle, NSW purchased W180382 and W181040 for \$6,000 each; and the **Gundarimbah Poll Stud**, Parkes, NSW, purchased PB180261 for \$4,750 at the AFA Auction and PB180184 for \$6,000 at the Hamilton Sheepvention Sale 2019.

**RIVERINA MERINO STUDS  
ON PROPERTY OPEN DAYS  
WEDNESDAY 2 & THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2020**

The Wanganella & Poll Boonoke Studs will be displaying at Boonoke on Thursday 3 September 2020 as part of a two day Riverina Merino Studs Open Day initiative.

On display at the Boonoke Ramshed will be our shedded auction rams and a selection of paddock auction rams. Rams will be available for inspection from 8.30 am until 3.00 pm.

For catering purposes it would be helpful if you could advise your attendance to Robyn at [rsmith@austfood.com.au](mailto:rsmith@austfood.com.au)

**SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINE FOR VISITORS**



**WANGANELLA & POLL BOONOKER MERINO STUDS**



# RAM SELLING 2020

Agriculture is classed as an essential service in NSW, therefore livestock auctions and inspection days are permitted. So, at the time of going to print, we anticipate that our auction and private ram selections will proceed as normal in 2020, with necessary distancing and hygiene practices implemented to keep us all safe.

As opportunities to display our 2019 drop rams to the industry have been restricted in 2020, we encourage you to contact one of our Stud Team to arrange an appointment to inspect our sale rams at Boonoke at a mutually convenient time in the lead up to the auction. We will continue to make videos and photographs available on our website and via Instagram and YouTube, but we appreciate that this is not the same as your own hands-on scrutiny of the rams so we would welcome your visit to Boonoke.

**AFA RAM AUCTION 2020**  
**Wednesday 16 September 2020**  
**at 'Boonoke', Conargo**  
**60 Wanganella & 140 Poll Boonoke**  
**Inspection from 9.30 am**  
**Auction commences at 12.30 pm**  
**Auction interfaced on AuctionsPlus**

As has become our practice, we will be interfacing the sale with AuctionsPlus again this year. If you are unable to attend on sale day or prefer not to come into contact with groups of people in the current circumstances, you can still bid at the sale via your phone. Buyers must ensure that they have registered, and completed the

Buyer Induction course with AuctionsPlus at least 48 hours prior to the sale. You can register at [auctionsplus.com.au](http://auctionsplus.com.au) Enquiries should be directed to AuctionsPlus on 02 9262 4222 or [info@auctionsplus.com.au](mailto:info@auctionsplus.com.au)

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

Australian Sheep Breeding Values for the auction rams will be sourced from the MerinoSelect 21 August 2020 database analysis. An easy to print auction ram catalogue will be available online at [www.austfood.com.au](http://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](mailto:rsmith@austfood.com.au)



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.

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 auction day to the Boonoke Office or the Deniliquin Branch Office of Nutrien or Elders 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.

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. Talk to our Stud Team if you require advice on transitioning the rams out of the shed.

## FLOCK GRADE RAMS

**Flock grade rams available  
for selection by appointment  
from Thursday 17 September 2020.**  
**2020 grade prices are**  
**\$1500 + GST, \$950 + GST**  
**and \$750 + GST**

Appointments for selections of Flock Grade Rams can be arranged by submitting a ram order form (an online option is available at [www.austfood.com.au](http://www.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 require it we will arrange district deliveries of rams and they will be delivered off shears.

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

## ADELAIDE RAM SALE

AFA intends to offer an outstanding 2019 Drop Poll Boonoke Sire at the Adelaide Ram Sale on 11 September 2020. Please contact one of the AFA Stud Team if you wish to inspect PB190678 prior to his despatch to Adelaide. Videos and photographs will be available on our website, Instagram and YouTube.



### Poll Boonoke 190678

x Willandra Poll 170018

2019 Drop March Blade Shorn Shedded Ram

FD 19.7 SD 3.1 CV 15.7 CF 99.7

Poll Factor: PP

Body Weight 3 July 2020: 125.5 kg

ASBVs 21 July 2020:

YWT 9.8 YCFW 28.7 MP+ 160 DP+ 163



Stud Master's Comment: With a strong constitution, this dual purpose type ram has a notable sirey outlook, his strong head is nicely covered and he has a good dry poll. This superb looking ram has an excellent length of body and a broad topline. He is very wide through the chest; and his body width and depth is outstanding. He is right up on his feet, has a solid rear end and displays a good width between his hocks. This ram is growing a high quality medium wool that is very even, bright and exhibits style and soft handle.

**New users of AuctionsPlus  
need to register and complete  
a buyer induction course in  
order to bid at the auction.  
It is suggested that you do  
this at least 48 hours before  
you intend to bid.  
[www.auctionsplus.com.au](http://www.auctionsplus.com.au)  
and select SIGN UP.**



## BILL MILDREN - SHEEP STALWART

By Chris Bowman - AFA Stud Consultant  
& Commercial Sheep Classifier

Bill Mildren is a graduate of the old school of pastoral and Stud Merino breeding management. His broad based training, in conjunction with Bill's natural affinity for sheep and people, clever thinking, perceptive insight and dedication to excellence produced a long and distinguished pastoral career for Bill, who has now reduced his sheep pursuits, but not his interest in an industry that has been a life long passion.

Growing up in Queensland, where his father managed big runs stocked with both sheep and cattle, Bill went to jackaroo at the Raby

Stud at Warren in NSW when he left school. Two years at Raby culminated in a stint in the Ramshed, where his focus was on the preparation of sale rams.

From Raby, Bill continued his education at 'Buckin' at Nyngan and then at 'Zara' at Wanganella, which at that time was the base for the Poll Boonoke Stud.

The natural progression for a keen young sheepman who had proven himself through hard work and commitment was to an Overseer role, which Bill duly took up at the Isis Downs Stud at Blackall, Queensland.

In 1963, Bill returned to NSW, having been offered the Overseer role at the Wonga Stud at Jerilderie under the mentorship of Tom Culley. This was to be a pivotal time in both Bill's Merino education and career; he subsequently went on to build up a classing run that took in four states, thousands of sheep and made him a familiar and respected identity in the sheep industry.

Bill was unwavering in his desire to breed better Merinos that satisfied industry requirements, and he took a great interest in the promotion and marketing of them. At the end of every sale, Bill would work out a full break down by sire with price averages, where the rams went, who the new clients were and where the potential for new business lay.

Although Bill has a great working knowledge

of Merino history and the characters that have contributed to it, he was never a slave to it; preferring to concentrate on producing a type of sheep that resulted in profitable flocks for his clients.

I am fortunate to have had a long association with Bill, we worked closely together at Uardry for 15 years, and then subsequently at AFA for 7 years. I especially admired Bill's ability to communicate with people across all generations; in particular he enjoyed working with young people, was happy to share his knowledge and skills with them, but was equally keen to learn and discover from them and therefore has been an early adopter of industry innovations.

Bill has been an integral part of the AFA Stud Team, a steady and experienced source of advice for stud management and marketing issues that we have all valued. An organised man and always concerned for his clients, Bill had been working on a succession plan for his retirement, having arranged that I would class for his Victorian clients and Angus Munro his northern clients.

Bill will no longer be clocking up enormous hours driving to visit clients and attend industry days, and he will have more time to study up on his other passion of horse racing, but I have no doubt that he will remain as current as ever on the status of the sheep industry and a strong sounding board for all of us.

## SEMEN SIRES Semen orders can be placed online at [www.austfood.com.au](http://www.austfood.com.au)



### POLL BOONOKE 180832

2018 Drop Poll Boonoke Stud Sire (ET)

Sire: Poll Boonoke 160536 x Poll Boonoke 130020

Tested	FD	SD	CV	CF	BWt	EMD	FAT
2019	20.3	3.0	14.8	99.8	112.0	45.0	8.5
21/7/20	YFD	YCFW	YWT	YEMD	YFAT	MP+	DP+
Result	-1.3	26.9	5.3	0.4	0.1	167	165
Acc %	76%	66%	74%	65%	58%	39%	37%

A modern dual purpose sire with exceptional muscle depth and width. With a dry poll and pure muzzle, PB180832 is a very square sheep and stands perfectly on all feet. He is covered in a rich, soft, white wool of well aligned crimp.



### WANGANELLA 180380

2018 Drop Wanganella Stud Sire

Sire: Wanganella 130844 x EM137

Tested	FD	SD	CV	CF	BWt	EMD	FAT
2019	21.5	3.1	14.4	98.2	108.0	40.0	5.0
21/7/20	YFD	YCFW	YWT	YEMD	YFAT	MP+	DP+
Result	-0.4	35.6	9.4	0.1	0.0	172	171
Acc %	75%	63%	70%	62%	57%	43%	43%

A deep barreled sire who stands squarely on all feet; he has a great sire's head with wide set horns and a pure muzzle. A gutsy, rich, strong wool with lustre and nourishment. He has a wool type that is very hard to find, coupled with his exceptional wool cut.



### POLL BOONOKE 160612

2016 Drop Poll Boonoke Stud Sire

Sire: JCS120102

Tested	FD	SD	CV	CF	BWt	EMD	FAT
2019	8.9	2.8	14.8	99.5	113	41.0	7.0
21/7/20	YFD	YCFW	YWT	YEMD	YFAT	MP+	DP+
Result	-0.5	33.5	9.0	1.8	0.2	186	209
Acc %	95%	92%	96%	94%	90%	62%	57%

Tall sire with a broad, straight top line. He has a pure muzzle, coupled with a dry poll head. Stands squarely on all four feet. Wool is white and extremely soft with character and lustre.

## AFA STUD CONTACT DETAILS

Wanganella  
& Poll Boonoke  
Merino Studs

**Justin Campbell**  
General Manager  
0427 262 956  
[jcampbell@austfood.com.au](mailto:jcampbell@austfood.com.au)

**Joe Gerritsen**  
Stud Manager  
0488 601 603  
[jgerritsen@austfood.com.au](mailto:jgerritsen@austfood.com.au)

**Angus Munro**  
Breeding Manager  
0437 929 195  
[amunro@austfood.com.au](mailto:amunro@austfood.com.au)

**Forbes Murdoch**  
Stud Master  
0429 358 590  
[forbesm2014@gmail.com](mailto:forbesm2014@gmail.com)

**Chris Bowman**  
Stud Consultant & AFA Commercial Classifier  
0429 935 101  
[chris.bowman@westnet.com.au](mailto:chris.bowman@westnet.com.au)

**Scott Counsell**  
Queensland Stud Representative  
0427 512 384  
[lyndon1894@bigpond.com](mailto:lyndon1894@bigpond.com)

**Boonoke Office**  
"Boonoke" Conargo Road  
Deniliquin NSW 2710  
Freecall: 1800 675 729  
Facsimile: 03 5884 6701  
Email: [admin@austfood.com.au](mailto:admin@austfood.com.au)

**Stud Principal**  
Australian Food & Agriculture Company  
[www.austfood.com.au](http://www.austfood.com.au)  
instagram: [wanganella.pollboonoke](https://www.instagram.com/wanganella.pollboonoke)  
YouTube: [Wanganella Poll Boonoke](https://www.youtube.com/WanganellaPollBoonoke)