



PB200780 'BILL' - 2022 AUSTRALIAN SUPREME MERINO RAM



2020 Drop Poll Boonoke Stud Sire
 Sire: White River 160546 x N L134
 Dam: Poll Boonoke 130023 x WP110003
 2022 Testing: FD 20.2, SD 3.0, CV 14.9, CF 99.8, EMD 51.5, Fat 9.0
 BWT (16 mths): 126.5 kg Poll/Horn: PP

National Merino Sheep Show, August 2022
 Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Ram
 Grand Champion March Shorn Ram
 Champion NSW Ram
 Australian Supreme Merino Ram

Travel restrictions in 2021 limited the industry exposure for AFA's leading 2020 drop ram, Poll Boonoke 200780, but being the first short wool ram to be judged the Australian Supreme Merino Ram at the National Merino Sheep Show in Dubbo in August 2022 changed that.

Retained as a Stud Sire, and named in honour of AFA Stud Representative Bill Mildren who passed away in 2021, Bill is a full ET brother to Poll Boonoke 180874, who was judged the 2019 Australian Merino All Purpose Ram at Bendigo and the 2019 Riverina Ram of the Year.

Identified by the AFA Stud Team as an outstanding dual purpose ram, Bill's second drop of lambs are on the ground now and he had 15 impressive 2022 drop sons selected for the Ramshed intake this year, outdoing even the long time proven sire PB160612 with his 12 sons in the Shed. PB200780 semen is available.

LOOKING BACK ON THE LAST 12 MONTHS . . .

Being awarded the Australian Supreme Merino Ram title for 2022 was certainly a high point of the last 12 months, but there are plenty of other highs, and some lows, to reflect on.



PB211143 'CMB' with Chris Bowman and Tom Lilburne at Adelaide Royal Show 2022



PB211153 at Adelaide Royal Show 2022 after winning the Fibre Meat Plus Class.



PB211016, Champion Strong Wool March Shorn Ram, National Merino Show at Dubbo 2022.



PB221447 at the Hay Sheep Show 2023 held by Tom Lilburne.

After winning the Best NSW Entry in the Riverina Wool Australia Champion Hogget Merino Ram at the 2022 Hay Sheep Show, Poll Boonoke 211143 went on to win the Champion Australian Merino All Purpose Ram title at the Australian Sheep & Wool Show in July 2022, where he was also the Reserve Champion Fine/Medium March Shorn Poll Ram. Affectionately known as CMB, in memory of AFA Founder Colin Bell, who passed away in March 2022, PB211143 teamed up with PB211153 to win the Champion Pair of Merino or Poll Merino March Shorn Rams at the Royal Adelaide Show in September 2022, and was the Reserve Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Poll Ram. A PP ram testing at FD 20.1, SD 2.6, CV 12.9, CF 99.8, EMD 44.0 and Fat 8.0, CMB has been retained in the Stud as a true dual purpose sire.

Poll Boonoke 211153, with figures of FD 17.4, SD 2.7, CV 15.5, CF 99.7, EMD 49.0 and Fat 8.0, was the Elders Champion Hogget Ram at the Marra Field Day in July 2022, then the Elders Riverina Ram of the Year at the Deniliquin Sheep Expo in August and the Winner of the Fibre Meat Plus Class at Royal Adelaide in September, in addition to his pairs title with PB211143. He was subsequently the top priced ram in the AFA Ram Auction, selling for \$48,000 to the Ballatherie Poll Stud.

Poll Boonoke 211016 was the Champion Strong Wool March Shorn Ram at the National Merino Show, Dubbo in August 2022. This long bodied PP ram tested FD 19.5, SD 2.6, CV 13.3, CF 99.9, EMD 42.5 and Fat 6.5, and has been retained as a Stud sire.

The first outing for the 2022 drop show team was at the Hay Sheep Show on 17 June 2023. Poll Boonoke placed 2nd in the Pen of Three Ram Weaners and Poll Boonoke 221447 went through to be the Champion March Shorn Ram after winning his lambs teeth class and being judged the Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Ram.

2022 had been looking like a pretty good year season wise . . . and then it didn't stop raining. Combining the 332 mm of rain that actually fell over the AFA Deniliquin country during the three months September - November with the flood waters coming down even the usually dry waterways had us in real trouble. Stock and Staff alike had a tough spring and early summer, the young sheep doing it particularly hard, and we'll be spraying and slashing weeds for a long time.



We were lucky to save 430 stud hogget ewes that strayed onto a sandhill and became marooned. It was a big effort by the Stud Team to swim them to safety.

Sadly we have lost some good friends over the last year; they are greatly missed and we would like to acknowledge them and extend our deepest sympathies to their Families and Friends.

Long time Elders District Wool Manager, **Clyde McKenzie**, passed away in January 2023 following illness. He was a passionate sheep & wool man, a highly respected Agent and an endearing character who was always welcome in the AFA woolsheds and sheep yards. Clydie's enthusiasm, humour, plain speaking ways, common sense in all things and integrity made him a valued advisor to the AFA business, and he is remembered with great fondness and deep respect.

What a wealth of knowledge and experience was lost with the death of the founding Principal of the Kiawarra Merino Stud, **Ken Karsten**, in December 2022 at nearly 97 years of age. Ken was an outstanding Stockman with an intrinsic understanding of livestock, treasured family and community, knew the value of hard work and had a quiet pride in all that he had achieved during his life. It is fitting that Ken was posthumously awarded an OAM in the King's Birthday Honours List in June 2023 for his services to his community.

Running sheep into the yards for a **Paul Kelly** selection was never a problem; we knew the job would be done in a no nonsense, professional manner and his selection would be spot on. It was a pleasure to do business with Paul, we respected his Merino insight and perspective, and appreciated the many personal qualities that made him the fine man that he was. His tragic passing in May 2023 is a terrible loss for those that loved and admired him, and the Merino Industry at large.

Heidy Heath had become a familiar figure as she embraced the life she had come to share with Angus Heath at the Willandra Stud. Heidy's passing following illness made all of our hearts heavy for a beautiful girl's life ended far too soon and for her Family in their grief.



Clyde McKenzie



Ken Karsten

STUD OPEN DAY

THURSDAY 31 AUGUST 2023 • FROM 9.00 AM
BOONOKE WOOLSHED YARDS

2022 RAM AUCTION

The 2022 AFA Ram Auction featured the first offering of Poll Boonoke Prime rams, logged successful buyers from 5 Australian states plus Patagonia in Argentina, and reached a top of \$48,000 when Poll Boonoke 211153 was knocked down to Mark Peters from the Ballatherie Stud at Hillston, NSW.

The increasing enthusiasm for Poll Merino rams evident in 2021 prompted us to boost the Poll Boonoke auction ram offering in 2022 by 40 rams, inclusive of 20 Poll Boonoke Prime rams. The Prime rams averaged \$3,287 and topped at \$6,500. They were the first non mulesed rams offered by the Stud and their breeding focus leverages up the emphasis on meat characteristics.

231 AFA Rams of 235 offered sold:

To a top of \$48,000 & an average of \$4,568.18

- 14 Shedded Rams averaged \$16,214.29
- 221 Paddock Rams averaged \$3,816.82

45 Wanganella Rams of 45 offered sold:

To a top of \$19,000 & an average of \$4,511.11

- 4 Shedded Rams averaged \$13,750.00
- 41 Paddock Rams averaged \$3,609.76

186 Poll Boonoke Rams of 190 offered sold:

To a top of \$48,000 & an average of \$4,581.99

- 10 Shedded Rams averaged \$17,200.00
- 176 Paddock Rams averaged \$3,865.06



Poll Boonoke 210867 x PB1190678 & Poll Boonoke 211006 x WIL170018

FD 19.7, SD 2.6, CV 13.2, CF 99.9

FD 19.1, SD 2.4, CV 12.6, CF 99.9

Sold for \$32,000 & \$10,000

Purchased by Belka Valley Poll Stud, Bruce Rock, WA
Forbes Murdoch (AFA Stud Master), Peter Nadin (AFA Stud Overseer),
Phil Jones (Belka Valley Poll Stud Principal), Justin Campbell (AFA General Manager) & Alastair Provan (AFA Stud Principal).



Wanganella 210079 x W170470

FD 19.4, SD 3.0, CV 15.5, CF 99.5

Sold for \$18,000

Purchased by Tecka Merino Stud, Patagonia, Argentina
George Sinclair (AFA Stud Groom), Forbes Murdoch (AFA Stud Master), Justin Campbell (AFA General Manager) & Alastair Provan (AFA Stud Principal).



Wanganella 210704 x W190581

FD 18.9, SD 2.9, CV 15.3, CF 99.8

Top priced Wanganella Ram \$19,000

Purchased by Kiawarra Stud, Weethalle, NSW
Alex Karsten (Kiawarra Stud Principal), Angus Munro (Kiawarra Stud Classer) & Tim McMeekin (Elders).



Poll Boonoke 211153 x M190008

FD 17.4, SD 2.7, CV 15.5, CF 99.7

Top priced AFA Auction Ram \$48,000

Purchased by Ballatherie Poll Stud, Hillston, NSW
Stephen Chalmers (Nutrien), Mark Peters (Ballatherie Stud Principal) & Tom Lilburne (AFA Stud Manager).



Poll Boonoke 210203 x PB160612

FD 18.5, SD 2.9, CV 15.7, CF 99.8

Sold for \$17,000

Purchased by Tamaleuca Stud, Ouyen, Vic
George Sinclair (AFA Stud Groom) & Kevin Crook (Tamaleuca Stud Principal).



Poll Boonoke 210204 x PB160612 & Wanganella 210624 x W190581

FD 20.1, SD 2.6, CV 12.9, CF 99.8

FD 17.7, SD 3.1, CV 17.5, CF 99.8

Sold for \$20,000 & \$9,000

Purchased by Cora Lynn Stud, Peak Hill, NSW
Cora Lyn Stud Principals Kay, Stephen & Rob Lindsay and held by Oliver Cameron (AFA Stud Stationhand) and George Sinclair (AFA Stud Groom).



Poll Boonoke 211157 x M190008

FD 18.4, SD 2.5, CV 13.6, CF 99.7

Sold for \$16,000

Purchased by Mount Ascot Stud, Mitchell, Qld
Tom Lilburne (AFA Stud Manager).



Poll Boonoke 210912 x WIL170018

FD 21.0, SD 3.2, CV 15.2, CF 99.4

Sold for \$10,000

Purchased by Kiawarra Stud, Weethalle, NSW
Tim McMeekin (Elders), Alex Karsten (Kiawarra Stud Principal) & Angus Munro (Kiawarra Stud Classer).

CLIENTS OUT AND ABOUT

Merino enthusiasts keen to compare their flock performance, the **Sanderson Family** of Westbourne, Tambo, have notched up some notable results at various Queensland Shows in 2023, where there is always an impressive line up of sheep and wool from equally committed Merino breeders. In the 2023 Tambo Show Wether Competition, Westbourne's Merino Wether Teams were the Champion and Reserve Champion Teams in both the Milk Teeth and Open Classes. They also had the highest value single fleece in both classes. At the 2023 Blackall Show, Westbourne had the Champion Ewe of the Show and the Champion and Reserve Champion Pen of Flock Ewes. At the 2023 Longreach Show, Westbourne had the Grand Champion Fleece of the Show with a 9.2 kg fine fleece. Westbourne's team entry in the Isisford Sheep & Wool Show 2023 Milk Tooth Wether Competition placed 2nd and included the competition's Champion Wether with a combined fleece and carcase value of \$237.06. Westbourne's ewes also made their mark at Isisford, taking home the ribbons for the Grand Champion Flock Merino Ewe and the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Pen of Flock Merino Ewes. Purchasing Wanganella rams for 10 years, Chris Bowman is the Westbourne flock classer. Congratulations to the Sanderson Family.



Winning Westbourne ewes at the 2023 Blackall Show. Photographed with Dominic Mohr (Head Steward Flock Ewe Section, Blackall Show), Craig Sanderson (Westbourne, Tambo) and Angus Munro (AFA Stud Breeding Manager)



Westbourne's Grand Champion Fleece at the 2023 Longreach Show

Another classing client of Chris Bowman's are **Ian & Deb MacDonald & Family** at Blackall, who have been buying Wanganella & Poll Boonoke rams for in excess of 10 years. We love the enthusiasm of Merino breeders in the Blackall district, so when you exhibit the Grand Champion Fleece at the Blackall Show you know it is an accomplishment. The MacDonald Family achieved this accolade in 2023 with a remarkable 9.6 kg fine fleece. Continuing their fine record, at the 2023 Longreach Show two Lilyvale fleeces won 1st place in the Fine Pair of Fleeces Class and at the 2023 Barcardine Show they exhibited the Champion Fine Wool Fleece. Congratulations to the MacDonalds.



Ian & Alister MacDonald with their Grand Champion Fleece at the 2023 Blackall Show.

Long time investor in AFA Merino genetics, the **Tecka Merino Stud** of Patagonia, Argentina, had an outstanding showing in February 2023 at South America's prestigious Comodoro Show. Exhibiting the Supreme Champion Ram at this competitive event was a thrilling result for the Tecka Team and we were very pleased to note that their Champion long wool horned ram Tecka 204549 is a maternal grandson of Wanganella 150931. In an endorsement of Tecka's venture into Poll Merino breeding, via a Poll Boonoke embryo transfer program, Tecka Poll X210309 was awarded the Champion ribbon in the 6 month wool category and Tecka Poll X210291 was named the Reserve Champion. Both rams are sons of the highly influential stud sire Poll Boonoke 160612 and their dams are Poll Boonoke 120892 and Poll Boonoke 130050 respectively. It is an honor for the Poll Boonoke Stud to have been selected as a foundation for Tecka's Poll Stud initiative.



Tecka 204549



Tecka Poll X210291 & Tecka Poll X210309

Long time purchaser of AFA genetics, the **Paynter Family** of Wando at Winton went out on a high at the 2023 Winton Show, having recently sold Wando to Andrew Forster. A Wando entry in the fleece section won the District Medium Fleece ribbon and then went on to be the Champion District Fleece and the Champion Flock Ewe Fleece of the Show. It was also the Highest District Commercial Value Fleece. Wando also placed 1st in the Weaner Fleece class and were subsequently the Most Successful Exhibitor in the Wool Pavilion. In the sheep pens, Wando ewes placed first in the 2, 4 and 6 tooth single ewe classes and were the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Ewes of the Show. We wish John & Donna & their Family every happiness in their lives post Wando and Andrew great success in his new endeavours at Wando.



Andrew Forster & Reg Kavanagh

It is highly likely that we are not aware of all noteworthy results achieved by client flocks over the past 12 months at local shows and competitions, but there are a few more that we would like to acknowledge. **Dominic & Vicki Burden** of Highfield at Carcoar, NSW received the Encouragement Award in the 2023 Bathurst Ewe Competition. **Joe & Bel McKillop** of Pemberley at Isisford, Queensland exhibited the winning Strong Wool Fleece at the 2023 Longreach Show. The **Doneley Family** of Dunraven, Barcardine were awarded the Champion Hogget Fleece at the 2023 Barcardine Show, which follows up their 2022 show results of the Champion Fleece, Champion Local Fleece and Champion Medium Wool Fleece. AFA's commercial flock located at Burrabogie, Hay, NSW, managed by **David Marshall** and utilising Wanganella rams, placed first in the Pen of Five Medium Wool Ewes and in the Hay Merino Breeders Pen of Five Merino Ewes classes at the recent Hay Sheep Show. Merino Breeders, Stud or Commercial, are generally passionate about their endeavours and competitive when they step outside their gates to compare their product to others in their district, so congratulations to everyone who has achieved success at their chosen industry event.



BUYING WANGANELLA & POLL BOONOKE RAMS IN 2023

AFA RAM AUCTION **45 WANGANELLA & 190 POLL BOONOKE** **Wednesday 13 September 2023**

At 'Boonoke', Conargo
Inspection from 9.00 am • Auction at 1.00 pm

Auction Catalogue

An easy to print catalogue will be available online from 1 September. A printed catalogue booklet will be available on auction day. Contact Robyn at the Boonoke Office on 1800 675 729 or email rsmith@ausfood.com.au if you would like a copy of the catalogue forwarded to you.

Auction Agents

Elders and Nutrien, Deniliquin will be the Agents in conjunction for the auction. Elders will settle the 2023 auction. Rams are auctioned at prices exclusive of GST, with GST added to the invoice.

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 Auction Agents, and settle an auction ram purchase 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.

AuctionsPlus

The 2023 Ram Auction will again be interfaced on AuctionsPlus. Potential Buyers wanting to use AuctionsPlus must ensure that they have registered and completed the AuctionsPlus Buyer Induction Course. www.auctionsplus.com.au

Pre Auction Inspection

The Auction Team will be available for inspection at the Stud Open Day at the Boonoke Woolshed on 31 August 2023. If you are unable to attend, please contact one of the AFA Stud Team to arrange a pre auction inspection.

Topping Up

For Auction Buyers unable to secure their total ram requirement during the auction, a limited number of \$1,900 + GST rams will be available for selection at the Ramshed after the auction to finalise orders. See one of the AFA Stud Team at the conclusion of the auction if you need to make a selection.

ASBVs

Auction rams will be displayed with ASBVs sourced from the MerinoSelect 21 August 2023 database analysis.

Auction Ram Videos

A video for each auction ram will be prepared and made available via YouTube; with links accessible on the AFA website and the AuctionsPlus website. If you contact the Boonoke Office links to the videos can be forwarded directly to you.

PRIVATE SELECTIONS OF GRADE RAMS

Appointments available from
Thursday 14 September 2023

2023 grade prices are:
\$1,900 + GST, \$1,200 + GST & \$900 + GST

Appointments to select Flock Grade Rams can be arranged by submitting a ram order form (an online option is available at ausfood.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 at the Boonoke Woolshed Yards.

Ram Deliveries

We highly recommend that you take your rams home with you after the auction or a private selection, but for those who require it we will arrange district deliveries of rams and they will be delivered off shears.

Health Status

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

Semen Marketing Rights

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

ORDERING SEMEN

Semen is available from a selection of leading AFA Stud Sires. Semen orders can be placed online at ausfood.com.au or contact one of the AFA Stud Team to discuss sire options and have an AFA semen order form forwarded to you. Domestic semen price is \$60 + GST per dose and the minimum order is 50 doses. The purchaser will also be invoiced for semen despatch and freight costs. International semen price available on application.

POLL BOONOKE PRIME RAMS

The second draft of Poll Boonoke Prime rams will be available this ram selling season; both in the auction lineup and through private selections. They are the result of a specially bred and selected Poll Boonoke family where there is a greater emphasis on carcase attributes and they are non mulesed.



ausfood.com.au

instagram: [wanganella.pollboonoke](https://www.instagram.com/wanganella.pollboonoke)

AFA STUD CONTACT DETAILS

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instagram: [wanganella.pollboonoke](https://www.instagram.com/wanganella.pollboonoke)

YouTube: [Wanganella Poll Boonoke](https://www.youtube.com/WanganellaPollBoonoke)

SHEEP GENETICS ANALYSIS ENHANCEMENTS

As a provider of genetic evaluation services operating in a dynamic environment of increasing data and computing capacity, Sheep Genetics implement a regular program of analysis enhancements. Their most recent enhancements for MERINOSELECT have included updates for: genetic parameters; partitioning of genomic and pedigree information; SNPs used in genetic evaluations; and the creation of 5 new MERINOSELECT indexes.

The new Merino Indexes are released as research indexes for the first 12 months and will replace the current Indexes in 2024. Indexes summarize a combination of selected production traits for a production system into a single number to aid in selection decisions. The new Merino Indexes and the weighting of traits for each Index are as follows (extract from Sheep Genetics MERINOSELECT Research Indexes).

Trait	Maternal + Lamb	Sustainable Merino	Sustainable Merino - HR	Wool Production	Fine Wool
Clean fleece weight	●●	●●●	●●●	●●●●	●●●
Fibre diameter	●	●	●	●●	●●●
Lamb growth	●●●	●●	●●	●	●
Carcase composition	●●	●	●		
Adult weight	-●	-●	-●		
Worm egg count			●●		●
Reproduction	●●●	●●	●●	●	●
Breecch wrinkle	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●
Dag			●●		
Condition score	●●	●	●	●	●

Please note, the negative symbol associated with the Adult Weight trait in the above table is an indication that bigger ewes incur higher feed costs, and there is a trade-off that bigger ewes also produce more lambs which reach sale weight faster. In other words, the indexes aim to increase reproduction and lamb growth while limiting increases in mature size.

Current MP+ users are likely to lean towards the Wool Production (WP), Sustainable Merino (SM), or Sustainable Merino High Rainfall (SMHR) research indexes. Current DP+ users are likely to lean towards the Sustainable Merino (SM) or Maternal Lamb (ML) research indexes.

sheepgenetics.org.au

TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE

In his second year with the Stud, Oliver Cameron has taken up the role of Stud Groom in charge of the Ramshed. The Longreach district is home for Oli, so he was pretty happy to accompany our ram display team for the 2023 Blackall & Longreach Shows, but he copped a ribbing for 'only' winning the Cattle and Wool Junior Judging titles at the Longreach Show. He managed to redeem himself with the Sheep Junior Judging title at the recent Hay Sheep Show. This means Oli will compete for the Junior Judging title at the Sydney Royal next year so he'll no doubt be sticking pretty close to Forbes, Chris & Angus at the various stud classings between now and then.

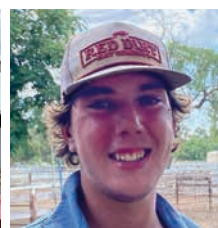
Joining Oli in the Stud Team this year are Richard Branson from Crookwell, who has spent a couple of years working at home and in shearing sheds, plus Harry Ryan from Merriwagga and Charlie Shingles from Winmalee, who are both in their first jobs out of school. It is terrific to have another lineup of keen young men working and learning in the Stud Team; they have some big days ahead of them as we get through Ram Selling and the spring workload.



Oli Cameron



Richard Branson



Harry Ryan



Charlie Shingles

SEE THE AFA STUDS IN 2023 AT:

14 - 16 July

Australian Sheep & Wool Show
Prince of Wales Showground, Bendigo
Show & Display Teams

22 July

Marra Field Day
Marra Hall

5 August

Nyngan Ag Expo
Showground, Nyngan

22 - 23 August

National Merino Sheep Show
Showground, Dubbo

29 August

South West Slopes Stud Merino
Breeders Field Day
Showground, Harden

31 August

Stud Open Day
Auction Ram Preview
Woolshed Yards
'Boonoke', Conargo

5 - 6 September

WESTECH Field Days
Showground, Barcardine

6 - 8 September

Royal Adelaide Show
Showground, Adelaide

13 September

Wanganella & Poll Boonoke
Ram Auction
Ramshed Munro Plot
'Boonoke', Conargo

CONTACT THE STUD TEAM TO ARRANGE AN ON-PROPERTY INSPECTION OF STUD STOCK.