

Hello Members,

Recently I was talking to John Burrows, whom many of you will know, is a passionate breeder and supporter of Dorset Downs. As we feature Dorset Downs in this newsletter I thought it would be appropriate to mention how great it was to meet up with a young sheep breeder who is committed to his breed and its promotion.

It got me thinking about the good things that can result from having a sheep/cattle stud, whether of just half a dozen breeding females, or of larger numbers.

With various extra stresses such as RMA requirements, Work Safe requirements, mortgages, fluctuating prices for product etc, a passion or hobby that gets you away from the farm and socialising with others is vital to wellbeing.

Considering pedigrees, discussing plans for your stock, taking the opportunity to travel to see other breeder's animals (not necessarily your own breed) on breed tours and participating in a bit of friendly rivalry at the local show, are all ways for farmers to de-stress and enjoy their animals instead of it being just big mobs of faceless sheep/cattle that tend to be treated as a commodity, rather than as individuals.

Showing is the ideal way to get more time with the children too; they can help with show preparation, and mum or dad has the opportunity to explain the finer points of the animals too - very educational.

By encouraging farmers to take up stud breeding as a relaxation/hobby, even in a small way, we will also help to keep our breeds numerically stronger (thereby aiding the retention of individual breeds in NZ).

Running a stud does not have to be super expensive – a lot of good animals sell for not much more than works' prices. Although there are some fees involved, they are about the cost of an evening out with a couple of bottles of wine at a good restaurant. A bit of book/computer work recording animals will keep your brain active too!

Breed Tours and meetings are also a great way to see the country. Most breeders are hospitable and can offer the occasional night's accommodation and a look around their flock if you are passing through. Many become lifelong friends.

*Helen McKenzie*

**Editor**

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## ASSOCIATION NEWS & VIEWS

### From The President

This will be my last President's Piece as I am due to retire from the position at the end of June.

As we all know the demand for rams and the popularity of the various breeds under the umbrella of the NZSBA can change very quickly. Sometimes the change happens because of meat and wool market demands and at other times it comes about because of breed or individual breeder marketing and media exposure. Change in breed can also come about because a consultant or advisor says that, 'it looks by my calculations and assumptions, that it will be financially rewarding and a good thing to do'!

I would just like to say that a change of breed on some properties is not in all instances the right recipe for increased prosperity. The range of genes available within any breed varies from the very best to those genetics which will not perform to a very high level of production at all. I would suggest that in some cases, on some properties, the investment in better genetics within the original breed may well have provided a better level of sheep income than that which a straight out change of breed has achieved.

I'm sure that this debate will go on for years to come.

As a final note it is interesting that the next ovine boom and the most profitable part of a sheep in the immediate future is its milk. This is about to happen as the poor old dairy farmer is having trouble getting anyone to pay any coin at all for the milk out of his cows!

Good luck with the breeds you are passionate about. Every breed will have their time in the sun, just as they have had in the past, it's just a matter of when!!

*Ian Stevenson*

**President NZSBA**



### From The General Manager

Thanks to the Dorset Down breeders for supporting the Feature Breed section this time.

The month of May has been the window when most of our breeds have met. Some have had conferences, whilst others just had meetings.

Breed Committees are made up of men and women all passionate about their particular breed and looking for a point of difference that differentiates them from other breeds.

Good photos of your sheep, and articles, are needed for the newsletter to be viable. If you've got a sale or dispersal coming up let the Editor know so it can be featured.

## MR PETER COSGRIFF RETIRING



After 33 continuous years Peter is retiring as Treasurer of the New Zealand Sheepbreeders' Association.

In 1983 Peter, who had a Suffolk Stud at the time, was approached to be Treasurer of the Association.

I met Peter when he was my lecturer at Lincoln University, and little did I know, I would be working with him years later.

Peter has been tremendous in always finding the time to drop into the office throughout the year to discuss Sheepbreeders' as well as world, affairs.

I will miss Peter, and wish him and his wife Pat all the best.

*Greg Burgess*

*General Manager NZSBA*



### COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS

Commercial advertising is being sought in order to defray the production costs of this newsletter.

Stud related advertising for members will remain free.

It is hoped to have more advertising from outside the membership. If you know of any ovine, or rurally focused businesses that you think may be interested, please draw this to their attention.

**For enquiries re rates for ads please contact:**

Greg Burgess, General Manager, NZSBA

☎ (03) 358 9412

Email: [nzsheep@clear.net.nz](mailto:nzsheep@clear.net.nz)

## Feature Breed

# DORSET DOWN SHEEP

**Brief History** [*Thanks to NZ Dorset Down History Book*]

The Dorset Down was developed as early as the 1820's when Southdown rams were crossed with either Berkshire, Hampshire or Wiltshire ewes. By the time of the first flock book being published in 1906 it had been known as a distinct type for nearly 100 years in Dorset and some neighbouring counties.

The first importation of the breed into NZ was made by Mr JCN Grigg of Longbeach, Canterbury who bought 5 ewes and 2 rams out from England. Unfortunately the breed was not continued with for any length of time and it was not until 1947 when Mr JD Henderson of Winton, Southland imported 10 ewes and a ram from England from several flocks that the breed got re-established. A second importation of 7 ewes, 4 ewe lambs and 2 unrelated rams, was made by Mr FG Butt in 1950. Mr Butt had bought Henderson's flock when he gave up.

There were further imports that same year and up until 1954 when an outbreak of scrapie in Mid Canterbury halted the imports from Britain.

In 1957 there were there were 10 registered flocks, 9 of which were founded on imported stock and one of NZ bred sheep – a total of 289 ewes.

In the later 1950's two lots of ewes were imported from Australia which had a limited number of flocks too.

By 1960 24 registered flocks were recorded with a total of 548 ewes. About half of these flocks were in Canterbury with the rest scattered – eight in the North Island and 4 elsewhere in the South Island.

During the 1960's there were several more importations from Australia totalling 39 ewes.

By 1970, the number of registered flocks had increased to 102, mating 5145 ewes.

The Dorset Down was now accepted as a very worthwhile terminal sire breed.

Currently there are 49 registered flocks in New Zealand with about 5,700 ewes.



## Notes from the Dorset Down chairman's report

On farm, ram sales have been very strong again. A lot of private sales have been strong depending on area if affected by drought or dairying.

Congratulations to the Canterbury Club for a very successful Show and a very good line up of Dorset Downs. A sound ram fair to follow 2 weeks later.

Thanks to all Clubs. I feel the Breed is in good heart with Clubs staying positive in tough times. Much of this is due to the 3 ram lamb trials from 32 studs. It gives great comparisons and kept everyone motivated. Thanks to Donny Maclean for correlating all the information.

*AK Bain*

## BREED CLASSIFICATION

Medium-large size. Rapid growth rate. Early maturity. Meat breed. Rams are in demand as sires for terminal crossing with other breeds for the production of prime export lambs.

**Location:** It is suitable for a wide range of climatic conditions, and found throughout New Zealand from lowland pastures to hill country.

Bodyweight
Ewes: 65-80 kg (143-176 lb) Rams: 100-130 kg (220-286 lb)
Meat
Carcase lean, high-yielding. Lean red meat.
Breeding/Lambing
110-140 percent
Numbers
About 5,700 registered ewes
Wool
Dense, Down type. Full-handling and springy. Staple length: 50-75 mm (2-3 inches). Fleece weight: Range 2-3 kg (4.4-6.6 lb); Average 2.5 kg (5.5 lb). Uses: Frequently blended with other wools to give extra elasticity and crispness. Also used in the production of high quality hosiery, fine knitting wools, bedding and furniture fillings, papermaking and felts.

Below: *Dorset Down stud sire, Okaruru 148/14, purchased by John Burrows' "Marnoch Stud"* Photo: John Burrows



## 'THE KING OF MEAT BREEDS'



*[Supplied by the NZ Dorset Down Breed Society Secretary]*  
Dorset Down Stud sheep were introduced to New Zealand from Dorset, England in the early 1950's. They are a meat breed sheep with dark brown faces, ears & legs and short, fine, white, body wool.

They are the "King of the meat breeds" because they are a medium to large sheep producing an early maturing, lean, high yielding, very meaty carcass. Ideal for cross breeding to produce prime export lambs.

As the sheep industry has changed over the years so too has the Dorset Down to best meet the farmers' requirements. More sheep farms are on hill country now so the emphasis is on mobile, resilient sheep, while retaining the solid muscle structure for heavy weight early maturing lambs.

The Dorset Down breeders in New Zealand have three clubs. North Island, Central & Southland; ranging from Warkworth to Gore.

Each of these clubs has an annual ram lamb trial with a view to identifying sheep and families of sheep with quick weight gains & high EMA.

Those club members wanting to participate send a few ram lambs to a central location in spring, where they are all grazed together for 3-4 months. Usually there are between 40-60 lambs per club. This year the North Island & Southland clubs exchanged 6 lambs as an added point of interest. The rams are weighed at intake, then monthly throughout the trial and scanned at the trial's end. Results are weighted to take into account the age of the lamb at intake. These results are then shared with keen interest between breeders and buyers alike.

Over the years that the trials have been running the benefits have been evident. The weights & EMA, the quality of sheep, the profile of the breed and the camaraderie of the stud breeders have all had a huge impact on the future direction of the breed. Many of the rams that go into the trials go on to sell as stud sires at the ram fairs.

The North Island club has taken its ram lambs to the Central Districts Field Days for the past three years to showcase the sheep & publicise the results of the trial. All results are on display so the public can see the sheep and his statistics. The weights and quality of the lambs speak for themselves resulting in increased interest and sales.

The Dorset Down breeders have an annual conference at a different location each year culminating in an annual dinner. A bus tour is arranged visiting studs in that location as well as other places of interest. This year it was in North Canterbury where six studs were viewed between Rangiora

and Cheviot. It was a real eye opener for those from other parts of NZ to see the severity of the drought in this area. It was a credit to the Dorset Downs viewed that they were coping with the conditions very well. Along the way gardens, wineries, pubs, tenpin bowling, put-put golf, Kate Valley Landfill and hot springs were also enjoyed.

There are strong friendships within the whole Dorset Down breeders group as well as good natured rivalry. There is a Challenge each year for the "Shield", Canterbury versus the Rest, which hasn't been seen for a few years now but is still fiercely contested. It is usually some sort of sporting activity.

The tour lasts three days and is a great way for the Dorset Down breeders to see how others are managing their studs, and meeting the challenges that face sheep breeding in general, by sharing ideas for ways to improve what, and how, the sheep are presented to the prime lamb producer.

Dorset Down sheep are well represented at A & P Shows and have had a good deal of success in the Interbreeds and All Breeds sections throughout the country.

Dorset Downs are a versatile, hardy, high producing sheep which are recognised as a very early meat producing sire well suited to hill & flat land farming throughout New Zealand.



## SOUTH DORSET DOWNS

This offshoot of the Dorset Down breed was established not long after the re-introduction of the Dorset Down breed to New Zealand. Southdown ewes were mated to Dorset Down rams. This cross was renowned for the early maturity of its carcass with its larger carcass very suitable for the export trade.

The breed stood alone for several decades but within the last twenty odd years flocks have graded back up through Appendix Flocks and are now entered in the Dorset Down registry of the NZ Sheepbreeders' Association flockbook. In 1980 there were around 200 registered flocks.



*South Dorset Down ram*

*Photo: "NZ Sheep & Their Wool". NZ Wool Board 1983*

### 2016 NORTH ISLAND DORSET TRIAL FINAL REPORT – TOP TEN

Lamb Tag	Birth Date	Birth Rank	Rear Rank	Wt1 Growth Gm/Day	Wt2 Growth Gm/Day	Scan wgt	EMA	EMA Rank	Life Growth	Life Growth Rank	Trial Rank
Duncraigen 140	14/09/2015	2	2	541	193	72	19.05	18	395.95	1	1
Anui 300	22/09/2015	1	1	494	141	64.5	19.35	17	360.61	2	2
Braemoar 57	2/09/2015	1	1	500	172	71.5	19.05	18	359.46	3	3
Lakeside 5085	15/09/2015	2	2	406	169	65	18.48	20	357.56	4	4
Braemoar 51	2/09/2015	1	1	468	193	66.5	21.29	7	332.43	8	5
Anowai 514	18/07/2015	1	1	391	186	79	23	3	320.35	12	6
Anui 47	27/08/2015	1	1	430	200	69.5	19.65	15	337.70	5	7
Anui 45	27/08/2015	1	1	392	183	69	19.65	15	335.08	7	8
Anui 97	30/08/2015	1	1	406	169	66.5	20.45	10	327.13	9	9
Braemoar 43	2/09/2015	1	1	400	228	64	20.68	9	318.92	13	10

## FARM FACTS

### Beef+ NZ Compendium, 2015

#### Sheep numbers at 30 June 2014

19.7 million breeding ewes

9.8 million ewe hoggets, dry ewes, wethers & rams

29.6 million sheep wintered

-24.7 % on 2004

-4.0 % on 2013

'People who wonder whether the glass is half empty or half full miss the point.

The glass is refillable.'

*Anon*



## STUD PROFILE #1

**“Marnoch” Flock #386, Rangiora, North Canterbury.**

**Owned by John Burrows**



*John & Alyth 29/12  
at Hawarden show*

I established my Dorset Down stud in 2005 on the purchase of 12 ewes from Helen Langs' Glasnevin stud. Since then ewes have been added from Bob and Marilyn Masfield's Okaruru stud and David King's Dalness stud.

My interest in the Dorset Down breed goes back to when my parents Tom &

Fiona had a Dorset Down stud.

As a 17 year old starting out in the stud breeding game I feel that I was particularly lucky to not only have the support of my parents but the tremendous support of fellow Dorset Down breeders. This support has been invaluable in getting my flock of 118 ewes to where it is today. When you have support from the likes of Bob Masfield, Alistair Busch, Guy Latham, Helen & Jimmy Lang, Ian Stevenson, Tony Ellis, Colin Smith - to name a few, it was easy to be guided in the right direction.

I feel that the Dorset Down breed has a lot of intuitive ideas to help the sheep industry move into these testing times. The Ram lamb trial that now has three sites - Canterbury, Otago/Southland and North Island is a good test for these young ram lambs. The main goal is to find the sheep that have that superior growth rate from weaning to the ideal prime lamb weight. After all, this is the characteristic that the commercial farmer requires in the present high pressure environment - quick growth rate, off mum and gone, preferably at 12-16 weeks!

I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to be involved in this breed and to have been given the responsibility of holding the position of Vice Chairman of the breed and the breed's representative on the New Zealand Sheep Breeders Association Council.

Showing is a big part of my stud's operation. I feel that by showing, you not only get to mingle with fellow breeders, but it also gives you a chance to benchmark your sheep against the best of the breed. The one class that I think is a standout for our breed is the Double Crown Ram Hogget at

the Canterbury A & P Show. This class offers true commercial reality, in a showing environment, whereby the Ram Hogget's autumn EMA data is part of the judging, as well as the commercial viability of the pair of Hogget's. The highlight of my stud was winning the Supreme Champion Dorset Down at the Canterbury A&P Shows 150th Anniversary Show.

The sheep we are breeding for the modern farmer are a lot different from the type of yesteryear. Today, we as breeders, have a lot of tools at our disposal that help us breed a far superior commercially viable sheep. Performance recording, DNA foot scoring, EMA scanning, CT scanning - to name a few, all give us a far better picture into breeding the right sheep for the purpose intended.

As well as sheep breeding, I am a partner in a sheep conveying business. We have an annual throughput of over 400 thousand sheep as well as docking approximately 60,000 lambs. This business is mainly in the Mid/North Canterbury area and gives us a great insight into the sheep industry at the coal face.

## STUD PROFILE #2

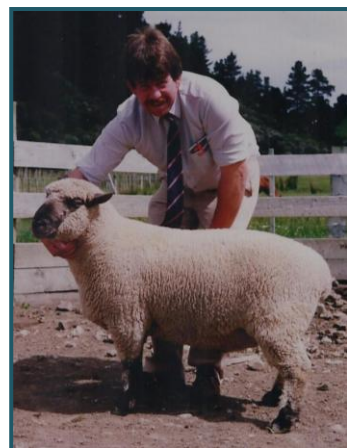
**“Makaretu” Flock #200, Pahiatua.**

**Owned by Barry H Wilton**

*Barry inspecting an  
imported Shropshire ram  
in his stock agent days in  
1987*

### BAZZA'S BAA'S

It all started in November 1998 when I set my woolshed up as a Tourism destination.



I had been introduced to pedigree sheep by my late father, who had a pedigree Romney stud. In 1969 my brother Allan, and I, started our own Romney stud and in 1974 I started my Dorset Down stud, “Makaretu” which I still run today. So from a young age I was taught what a good sheep looked like, and what a not so good sheep looked like.

To start “Bazza's Baa's” I needed to find as many different breed of sheep as I could. They needed to be pedigree sheep and they needed to be good examples of their respective breeds. At any one time I had up to 23 different breeds, all females, that were mated to a Dorset Down ram. You can imagine the different looking lambs that were born, and raised and then sold as prime lambs. I soon learnt there were some good ewes that crossed well with the Dorset Down, and some that were average.

My tourism venture also included shearing some sheep (visitors could also try their hand at shearing) and I had

some ladies that would help me out with wool spinning and felting of the wool straight off the sheep's back.

My first woolshed experience was in November 1998, when 50 pupils from my old Ballance Primary School arrived for a one and half hour show. They loved it, and my tourism days had started.

During the time that Bazza's Baa's was open for tourists, I had people enjoy my Tourism Show from over 35 different countries around the world.

Tourists from schools, Probus groups, caravan and motorhome clubs, kindergartens, religious groups, sheepbreed association groups, Massey University and the Pacific College, just to name a few.

Perhaps one of the most interesting groups I had was in August 2004; 28 players and coaches from the American under 23 Women's Rugby Team arrived in my woolshed for a show, and yes, I was in heaven! They and I had the time of our lives and one and a half hours turned into three hours. After they had bought every woollen garment that was for sale in my shop, they finally went home. That was tourism at its very best.

I've had mainly group bookings, 60 people at any one time, but also people just passing and coming in from the road after seeing my large yellow and black sign at the gateway.

You know when you have tourists for a second or third time that you must be doing something right, and in fact one of the comments in my visitor's book was, "better than Rotorua".

All good things must come to an end, and in October 2015, Bazza's Baa's finished, after seventeen years and thousands of tourists.

Barry Wilton



## **New Zealand Sheepbreeders' Association**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Date:** Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2016

**Venue:** Sudima Hotel, Christchurch

**Time:** 2.30pm



## **CUSTOMISED MINERALS**

**Your Farm - Your Needs - Your Product**

### **RAM MOLASSES BLOCKS**

**Improve sperm quality, reduce lameness**

**High quality protein 6–8 weeks improves testicle tone and boost semen production. Approximately 60 days prior to joining, rams will be producing the semen used during mating. Covers the high zinc (lameness), cobalt and selenium (fertility) requirement of rams.**

**Cost: 30 L block (plastic Bin) \$58**

### **FERTILITY MOLASSES BLOCKS**

**Improve daily gain with high energy and extra protein**

**Ewes should be moved to good grazing (sward height > 6cm) three weeks before tupping. If sward height is < 4 cm then concentrates should be given.**

**Composition: Calcium 6%, Magnesium 3%, salt 7%, 14 ppm Selenium, 2800 ppm zinc, 32 ppm iodine, 8 ppm cobalt, 20% RUMEN BYPASS FAT (extra energy).**

**Cost: 30 L block (plastic Bin) \$59**

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[INFO@NUTRIMIX.CO.NZ](mailto:INFO@NUTRIMIX.CO.NZ)**

*Below: A sight to gladden any Dorset Down breeder's heart – a yard full of ewes on show on the Canterbury tour earlier this year.*



## STUD PROFILE #3

### “Anowai” Flock #385

Owned by AA & HN Hallgarth, Hastings



*Anowai stud Dorset Down ewes*

Our property is 83 Hectares of rolling contour in dry summer country at Maraekakaho Hawkes Bay. It was bought in 1993.

Our farm, plus the 2 farms on our east & west boundaries, were part of the original Salisbury Station which the Government purchased after WWII for soldier's resettlement.

Most of the farm is deer fenced, with a central lane, including a crossing over a narrow but deep gorge near the back of the farm. Trough & dam water in summer in addition to small winter creeks.

We run the following stock:-

200 mixed aged breeding hinds with 175 fawns at foot.

160 mixed sex 18 month deer.

25 rising 2 year beef heifers.

59 stud Dorset Down ewes.

21 DD stud ram lambs.

33 DD stud ewe lambs.

The stud sires we used this year are Sherwood 57/14 and our homebred, Anowai 565/15.

The Anowai Stud was started in 2005 with ewes from Okaruru stud. Over the years ewes have been bought from B Wilton, T & L Ellis & Dunvegan Estate.

We have had great success when showing sheep at A & P Shows in the lower North Island. We've twice won the Supreme Champion Sheep of the Show; also winning Supreme Champion Dorset Down, Champion Dorset Down Ram, Champion Dorset Down ewe & 1st & 2nd ram hogget at the Royal Show held in Hastings last October.

Enquiry & inspection welcome phone (06) 874 9899

*Arthur & Helen Hallgarth*



## DORSET DOWN TOUR OF NORTH CANTERBURY MAY 2016

In early May approximately 30 Dorset Down breeders form all over the country assembled in Christchurch for their annual tour. This year it was the turn of North Canterbury breeders to host the tour. After assembling on Sunday afternoon, and registration, an informal get together was held at the motel.

**Day 1** started bright and early-on the bus and over the Waimakariri to Tim Stokes' Sinai stud. This was followed by a short trip up the road to John Burrows' Marnoch stud at Horrellville. After a welcome smoko another short trip to the bustling metropolis of Cust; a short walk around the village and the obligatory visit to the historical Cust Hotel! From there it was on to Colin and Liz Smith's Bankhead stud which also took in lunch.

Then on the bus and back into Christchurch for the annual challenge, Canterbury v The Rest - this year being ten pin bowling, and after several close games, Canterbury came out on top!

**Day 2** saw another early morning start - this time up the road to Waipara. First stop was Tony and Lois Ellis' Upton stud. Just down the road we took in a visit to Pegasus Bay Winery and gardens. Then just around the road to Helen Lang's Glasnevin stud -viewing sheep and morning tea. This was followed by a visit to the Kate Valley Landfill which took in the rest of the morning. After lunch at the Waipara Hall it was on to Beverley Forrester's to view her restored historic Karaka woolshed and display of black & coloured wool and garments made out of this wool. After an entertaining day it was off to Hanmer Springs for some much deserved R&R.

**Day 3** we had an early start for the second part of the challenge - mini golf - which was won by Canterbury as well! Then it was on the bus again and back down the road to the Stevenson family's The Gums stud. This was via Waiau and the scenic Leader Road to their property at Leamington Valley, Cheviot. We then continued onto Christchurch and wrapped up a very interesting and enjoyable tour.



## FERAL SHEEP BREEDS IN NEW ZEALAND

Sorry, Part 2 won't be until the next issue

“Commonsense is a flower that doesn't grow in everyone's garden”

Anon



## NZ ENGLISH LEICESTER SOCIETY'S AGM & FIELD DAY 2016



*Young English Leicesters on show at the Field Day.*

This very successful day was held at Margaret and Ron Manson's Hororata property in April 2016



*Society members checking out the rams at Manson's*

### ENGLISH LEICESTER CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2016

My report is rather short this year, as not being a sheep breeder anymore, I am out of touch with the farming scene. We have two muttuns (cull two tooth ewes) and two fat wethers.

Last year Allan was supposed to judge at the Royal Show in Hastings. They told us there were no sheep entered, so we took leave from the farm a couple of weeks later, then on our way home from Gisborne we called into Gavin and Theo Henricksen's home to see them, and view all the sheep. They informed us that they took sheep to the Show and someone else judged the sheep and their ram got Champion All Breeds, in the Sheep Section. A bit disappointing for us not to be there. However it was lovely to inspect their Leicester flock consisting of about 90 ewes, 25 hoggets with lambs at foot and about 20 ram hoggets. They are very foot conscious because of their constant battle with wet grass so everything that has a problem is got rid of. We enjoyed our time there and their sheep are very true to the breed, good frames and evenness in the wool.

If you got the "NZ Farmer" of March 21st, this had a wonderful article written about Cleardale Station and among many reports that Ben Todhunter and Donna Field alluded to, they fully advertised the English Leicester, with total support for the cross over their Merino ewes for good Halfbred sheep. It was a great advertisement for our Breed. I hope some people out there in the sheep world read it and are thinking of perhaps making a change of breed. Congratulations to the Todhunter family for this article.

I have joined Creative Fibre Ashburton (formerly Spinners & Weavers) again and there is still a need for our beautiful wool so do not give up. The craft world needs fleeces and I only have two now. That will not go far. There are people overseas needing our lustre wool too.

Please keep up your Leicester breeding.

*Pam Tait*

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### SHROPSHIRE & RYELAND BREEDS' 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Shropshire and Ryeland breeds both held their AGM's recently in Dunedin with several breeders for each breed meeting for the first time. A combined Annual Dinner was attended afterwards.

It was so successful that it was decided we would do the same again next year when both AGM's will be held in the Wairarapa. With small numbers of breeders scattered throughout the country it is very hard to get them all together in large enough numbers to make holding AGM's feasible, especially for the Ryelands.

Next year it is hoped to have a flock tour of the two Wairarapa based Shropshire flocks and the one Ryeland flock.



# CHAROLLAIS SHEEP GENETICS NZ SOCIETY

The 5<sup>th</sup> AGM took place on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Peter, Mary and Matt Ponsonby's "Douglas Downs" farm, Lawrence. There were thirteen members in attendance.

Topics discussed included the following:-

## **Breed to Continue with Participation in CPT Trial**

It was agreed that the breed needed to be included in the CPT Trial for the information that is gained from it, and that rams should continue to be nominated.

## **Across Flock Selection List**

– "That 7/8 and purebreds be included in the selection list."

## **Charollais Definition**

"That if a 7/8 (88%) ram is used for stud purposes then the ram must be inspected if the progeny are to be purebred status.

## **Protocol changes for importing germplasm from EU.**

The Meeting was informed that the Protocol has changed and now sheep and goat Germplasm (embryos and semen) can be imported from the EU. Unfortunately, Australia does not accept this new science, and has put barriers in place for New Zealand exports to Australia should properties come into contact with any imported germplasm.



*Society members looking over the crossbred ewe flock at Ponsonby's*

Below: Charollais ewes in the race awaiting inspection

Photos: Nigel Jay



# WINNERS OF THE NZ EWE HOGGET COMPETITION – 2016

## **Willie & Phillipa Menlove**

The Ascot Park in Invercargill provided this year's venue for the 20<sup>th</sup> winner of this competition being announced amongst an audience of over 160. At the end of a most enjoyable night Willie & Phillipa Menlove, the Perendale breed section winners were named this year's Overall Winners of the NZ Ewe Hogget Competition, and received prizes to the value of over \$10000, and will host a Field Day later in the year.

The evening was a very special occasion with it being the 20<sup>th</sup> year, and founding members Messrs Noel Hamilton, William Mitchell, and George Fletcher discussed the beginnings and how this 'grass roots' competition evolved from a Southland West Otago competition to a National Competition.

The Honourable Nathan Guy delivered an interesting and positive speech and invited the competition to the Beehive next year.

In accepting the Alliance Cup, the RAS medal, and a cheque totalling \$8000.00, Willie thanked the organizers of the competition, and fellow finalists, and said this competition isn't about winning, but about improving farming as farmers should always be learning.

## **Overall Winner –**

Willie & Phillipa Menlove, Lumsden

**Runner up:** Allan & Leean Woodrow, Waikana

## **Breed Awards**

**Romney:** Craig & Fiona Tomlinson, Waipara

**Composite:** Dave & Melissa Bullmore, Balfour

**Crossbred:** Peter & Shona Bennett, Matawai

**Perendale:** Willie & Phillipa Menlove, Lumsden

**Fine Wool:** Allan & Simon Paterson, Ranfurly

**Coopworth:** Tom Whitford

## **Special Awards**

### **Merial Ancare Flock Performance Award**

Dave & Melissa Bullmore, Balfour

### **Tru-Test Flock Phenotype Award**

Willie & Phillipa Menlove, Lumsden

### **Overall Best Quality Wool Award**

Allan & Leean Woodrow, Waikana

### **Ballance Agri-Nutrients Young Achievers Award**

Tom Bowie, Masterton

### **NZ Sheepbreeders' Large Flock Award**

Willie & Phillipa Menlove, Lumsden

## A BIT OF HISTORY

### The Corriedale boom

#### The Sydney Sales

The Press, 10 July, 1937 *National Library, Papers Past*

Under the principal heading a Sydney paper publishes the following from its stock writer:-

If an expert were asked what was the outstanding development now in progress in the sheep breeding industry of Australia, he might, without much fear of contradiction, say the extension in use of Corriedales and the keen demand and interest taken in that breed by other countries.

Several factors are involved in the rapidly rising tide of enthusiasm for the famous Australian-evolved Corriedale sheep. It is probably the best-paying proposition when judged from the three important points of wool, mutton, and the ability to rear fat lambs. The wool seems to be of particular merit, for, no matter how fashion may change, the fleece has its eager group of purchasers. Then a big influence is exerted by the spirited purchasing of the sheep by Japanese representatives. There is no embargo on the shipment of the breed, and this external enquiry not only helps to maintain general values of the Corriedale, but strongly influences the decisions of a new breeder as to what type of sheep he will take on to his property. What could be better, he reasons, than an ideal dual-purpose breed for which there is international competition?

The men to whom this vogue of thought is common are numerous, and their strength is largely accounted for by the severe handling wheatgrowers got when grain slumped for several years. This experience gave a fillip to mixed farming which was of great benefit to the state, and incidentally to the demand for Corriedales, for one of the chief advantages they possess is the ability to return profits no matter the season. When conditions are not favourable for the rearing of a fast-growing lamb it can be carried over to maturity with the prospect of satisfactory prices in both auction markets - fats and wool.

The spotlight is on the Corriedale and events of the last week or so have shown that breeders intend to keep it to stay there. There was an excellent display at the sheep show, and not the least impressed were many merino men. When the pens were being judged, no fewer than 45 of the big square framed animals were on parade. Dr Sukamaku, manager of the sheep farm of the Governor General of Chosen, Japan, probably described this sight in the best terms. He simply said "beautiful". A feature of the day was the admiring interest focused on the breed by Dr Sukamaku's countrymen.



#### Notes From The Chairman's Annual Report

Despite the low sheep prices, ram sales have been solid throughout the country.

It is with great regret to lose Ray and Margaret Gudex as they have sold their stud to a North Island buyer, but the stud will continue all be it in new hands. Congratulations on a great sale Ray, but you will be sadly missed. Ray has been involved with Hampshires since the 1990's and has always been an enthusiastic and passionate breeder. Thank you Ray for your time and effort spent on the Breed Committee. We will especially miss your jovial demeanour and your never-ending supply of jokes. On behalf of us all I would like to wish you and Margaret all the very best.

Congratulations and thank you to all who continue to support our Breed through the show arena and ram fairs. It is satisfying to receive a prize or two but more importantly it brings Hampshires into the public eye.

The tour this year is around four Canterbury studs. Thank you for letting us view your animals and giving up your time. A special thank you, to Rita and Geoffrey, for helping to organize this tour. I really appreciate and needed your assistance.

M J Mouat

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**The closing date for next issue of the newsletter will be 20<sup>th</sup> August for the September 2016 Newsletter.**

**The next feature breed will be CORRIEDALES.** If you want to be part of this section, photos and stud histories are accepted at any time.

Email or post to the Editor – see front page for address details.

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