

Wal's Message 2026

So, what a difference a year makes. In our area we have had one of the best Autumn and Winters for a very long time. This is in stark contrast to last winter which was the worst I have seen in my time here at 'Beverley'. I know this also happened to many clients, particularly in NSW.

The wool market is now back up to where Stuart McCulloch and I and the AWI Board had it in 2018. This time the wool price is coupled with high mutton and lamb prices making our businesses very viable once again.

The Chinese market has surprised everyone, and retail has been stronger than envisaged.

The world seems to be settling down after the Trump tariffs, and the new ownership of Schneider seems much more active having purchased some 7 lots of our ewe wool through the year.

I think we are in for a very profitable future as wool supply cannot be quickly increased and those that have stuck to Merino sheep will reap the benefits.

I am repeating a paragraph from Bruce McLeish & Andrew Dennis' article from our newsletter last year which has proved correct and is a good insight for us to remember:

Most people in the trade believe that the wool industry is long overdue for an upcycle and this would be welcomed by all and sundry. There is no one in the entire production pipeline who believes that current wool prices are too high, particularly with the Australian Dollar hovering around the mid-sixties keeping the USD price relatively flat. Typically, the wool market will rise and fall every five to eight years and the upswing generally adds between 50 to 100% to the base price. So, as we have seen in the past adding between 5 and 10 dollars to current prices at some point in the next year or two would not be out of the question. Of course then customers will start to complain about high prices, look for cheaper alternatives, usage will drop and so the cycle will turn down again, but that is normality for the wool market, or has been for the past 50 years anyway.

This year I have asked Mark Quartermain of Fox & Lillie to provide his thoughts on the market and the future and his article can be found on the rear of this newsletter.

Merryville Meats

In our breeding over the years, as well as breeding for heavy cutting, high quality fine wool sheep, we have always been focused on the total package which means larger framed and earlier maturing sheep. This is coming out now in our client's flocks.

Stephen Kelly, AWN, Horsham, has sent the results of the Girvanlea flock run by Kevin, Josh and Joel Pymmer. They report the sale of 473 Merino lambs, average weight 29.63kg, sold for \$350.73 with a \$22.50 skin for an average of \$373.23 per head. Stephen advised "they were very good merino lambs run on bean and lupin stubble and finished on grain feeders. This is the best result that has been achieved for merino lambs this year".



Grand Champion Merino Ram of the Show

Grand Champion August Shorn Ultrafine Wool Ram
Australian Sheep and Wool Show 2026 (Bendigo)

Photo Credit: Jodie Rintoul – Farm Weekly

**MERRYVILLE
ON-PROPERTY
UNHOUSED
RAM SALE**

Friday 11th September 2026
1pm at 'Beverley', Boorowa

Enquiries:

Wally Merriman 02 6385 3333

George Merriman 02 6385 3282

Nutrien, Boorowa 02 6385 3174

Elders, Boorowa 02 6385 4200

Sydney Royal Show 2026 Results

- The Schute Bell Badgery Lumby Perpetual Award - Most Successful August Shorn Merino Sheep Exhibitor
- The Sir Frederick McMaster Memorial Perpetual Trophy - Most Successful March Shorn Merino Sheep Exhibitor
- Most Successful March Shorn Poll Merino Sheep Exhibitor

Supreme Awards

Supreme Junior Merino

Grand Champion Awards

Grand Champion Ultrafine Wool Poll Merino Ram
Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Merino Ewe

Reserve Grand Champion Awards

Reserve Grand Champion Superfine Wool Merino Ram
Reserve Grand Champion Superfine Wool Merino Ewe
Reserve Grand Champion Fine Medium Wool Merino Ram

Champion Awards

Champion Ultrafine Wool August Shorn Merino Ram
Champion Ultrafine Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ram
Champion Superfine Wool August Shorn Merino Ewe
Champion Fine Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ewe
Champion Fine/Medium Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ewe
Junior Champion March Shorn Merino Ram
Junior Champion March Shorn Poll Merino Ram

Reserve Champion Awards

Reserve Champion Superfine Wool March Shorn Merino Ram
Reserve Champion Fine Wool August Shorn Merino Ewe
Reserve Champion Fine Wool March Shorn Merino Ram
Reserve Champion Fine Wool March Shorn Merino Ewe
Reserve Champion Fine Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ram
Reserve Champion Fine/Medium Wool August Shorn Merino Ewe
Reserve Champion Fine/Medium Wool March Shorn Merino Ram
Reserve Junior Champion March Shorn Merino Ram



Grand Champion Ultrafine Wool Poll Merino Ram
Champion Ultrafine Wool March
Shorn Poll Merino Ram



Supreme Junior Merino
Junior Champion March Shorn Merino Ram
Reserve Grand Champion Fine Medium Wool Merino Ram
Reserve Champion Fine Medium Wool March Shorn Merino Ram



Grand Champion Fine Medium Wool Poll Merino Ewe
Champion Fine Medium Wool March
Shorn Poll Merino Ewe

Merryville 2025 On-Property Ram Sale

Merryville 2025 On-Property Ram Sale

Merryville’s 26 th Annual On-Property Ram Sale was held on Friday 12 th September 2025 at ‘Beverley’ Boorowa, where 123 rams were offered to a top of \$5,750. Rams sold to buyers from NSW, Victoria, and Queensland to average \$2,171.

David Zouch, Bigga, purchased the top-selling ram at \$5,750 on behalf of new Merryville clients Kate and John Bowman, Kangiara, Bowning. Merryville 7419, sired by ‘Giant Test’, had a current micron of 18.8, a standard deviation (SD) of 2.9, with a coefficient variation (CV) of 15.4. Mr Zouch described the ram as “a very special ram, he’s got a long staple, beautifully covered with a lovely stylish wool, crimped right from tip to toe.”

Mr Zouch also selected another ram, Merryville 7844 for the Bowman’s. This Ultrafine wool ram was sired by the same ram as Merryville 7419 and had a current micron of 18.0, a SD 3.0 and a CV of 17.8.

The second-highest priced ram, Merryville 7962, was purchased for \$5,500 by a local, repeat buyer, Noel Donges of Young, NSW. The 2023 drop ram was by Brilliant Example Syndicate and had a current micron of 18.0.

Tony & Winsome Price, Boiga View, Pyramul, NSW paid \$4,750 for Merryville 7959, a two- year-old son of Francesco Ultra Syndicate. The Ultrafine wool ram’s weaner micron was 15.8 while his current tests were 17.3 micron, 2.6 standard deviation (SD), 14.9% co-efficient of variation (CV), 99.8% comfort factor (CF) and 16.0 spinning fineness (SF). The next lot, Merryville 7855, was also purchased by the Prices for \$3,750 being another two-year-old son of Francesco Ultra Syndicate. The Price family have been buying rams from Merryville since 1966 with a focus on producing wool for the Italian spinners.

Merryville 7932 and Merryville 7667 were both Ultrafine wool, two-year-old rams secured by the Burey family of ‘Tareela’ Guyra for \$3,250 and \$3,500. Merryville 7932 was sired by Giant Test Supreme with a current micron of 18.0, SD 3.3, CV 17.5%, CF 99.0% and SF 17.6. Merryville 7667 had a current micron of 18.0, SD 2.6, CV 14.6%, CF 99.6%, SF 16.7 and was sired by Ringmaster Syndicate.

Volume buyers at the sale included repeat clients the Pymer family of Girvan Lea Pty Ltd, Wonwondah, Victoria who purchased nine rams for an average of \$2,833 425 while JA Fitzgerald, Harrow, Victoria, took home five rams for an average of \$2,750.

Armidale Merino Ram Show & Sale 2026

Merryville sold two rams for \$10,000 at the 81 st Armidale Merino Ram Show and Sale in February 2026.

James Feilen, Merrigang Pastoral Cooma, bought M212491 who was judged the Champion Fine Wool Ram of the show section. Sired by Giant Test Syndicate, this ram had a current micron of 17.5, SD 17.5, CV of 15.5% and a CF of 99.9%.

A syndicate of Bill and Margie Doak, Box Moor Merino Stud, Bundarra, and the Carlon family, Shalimar Park Merino Stud, Walcha, who bought a semen share in the ram, purchased Merryville’s M21247 at \$10,000. Sired by Giant Test, it had a micron of 18.4, SD 2.9, CV 15.6% and CF of 99.6%.

Merryville won the Champion Pair of Rams at the Armidale event.

2026 AUSTRALIAN SHEEP & WOOL SHOW Australian Fleece Competition

Congratulations to Merryville client Thor Burey (Guyra NSW) on his success winning the Champion Ultrafine Fleece (15.6-16.5 micron).

Also, congratulations to Peter and Jayne Lette (Conrayn Merino Stud) for their success in the 2026 competition.

Merino Junior Judging Competition

Congratulations to Maxwell Pohl-Skillecorn who won the 2026 Merino Junior Judging Competition. Max has now registered a new Merino Stud in Victoria, ‘Merryglen #5130’, with foundation ewes being gifted by Merryville Stud to Max in 2024.

Merryville Stud Structure

The Current Breeding Families

STYLE:

All micron tests shown are on full feed.

ULTRA FINE

This type traces back to the original Ravensworth sheep and is about 80 years old. The sheep range from ultrafine (it is not uncommon for some to be tested to 14.0 micron) to 16.5 micron. Pure Saxon wool with style and high spinnability.

Average of Adult Ewes

16.5 mic

4.5 kg cut/hd

Sires Used:

Ringmaster Ultra 2nd

15.6 mic

Francesco Ultra

15.0 mic

Francesco Ultra 2nd (Big BV)

15.5 mic

Grand Champion Merino Ram Bendigo 2026

Grand Champion Ultrafine Wool Ram Bendigo 2026

SUPER FINE

This type traces back to the original Ravensworth sheep and is about 80 years old. The sheep range from ultrafine (it is not uncommon for some to be tested to 14.0 micron) to 18.5 micron. Pure Saxon wool with style and high spinability.

Average of Adult Ewes

17.5 mic

5.5 kg cut/hd

Sires Used:

Ringmaster Superior 14th

18.4 mic

Grand Champion Superfine Wool Ram Sydney 2017, cut 12.9kg

Merryville Giant Test Super

18.2 mic

Grand Champion Superfine Wool Ram Sydney Royal 2021, cut 12.5kg

Brilliant Super 14th

17.2 mic

Not shown

Giant Test Supreme

18.6 mic

Grand Champion Superfine Wool Ram Sydney 2022, cut 12.7kg

FINE

Larger framed, heavier cutting, 66s 70s type, staple length 90mm, white - highly crimped wool, genetic source of the Merryville Commercial Flock and represent about 40% of stud numbers.

Average of Adult Ewes

18.5 to 19.0 mic

6.4 to 7.3 kg cut/hd

Sires Used:

Giant Test

17.4 mic

Grand Champion Fine Wool Ram Sydney Royal 2015, cut 16kg

Grand Monarch 43rd

19.0 mic

Supreme 14

18.6 mic

Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Ram Sydney 2016. Cut 15.5kg

Supreme 15

17.6 mic

Grand Champion Fine Wool Ram Sydney 2019. Cut 15.5kg

Grand Monarch 44th

19.2 mic

Junior Champion Sydney 2025 (Tom Culley Memorial award)

Brilliant Example Syndicates and fine-testing

Uniform Syndicates of young rams for progeny testing.

Giant Test Syndicate

MEDIUM

Large framed ewes with 64s type wool. Main families are Uniform and Grand Monarch which trace back to Wanganella ram ‘Sire Francis’ 1929.

Average of Adult Ewes

19.0 mic

7.4 kg cut/hd

Sires Used:

Grand Monarch 42nd

18.9 mic

Not shown, reserved as a 2 tooth. 3rd season

Uniform 41st

19.4 mic

Reserve Champion Sydney Medium Wool ram 2006

Magnussen Syndicate

18.5 mic

Medium Wool Ram Sydney 2013. Top performer in Sire Evaluation Trials

MURGHA

The Murgha stud was established with ewes bought from the Murgha dispersal sale pure Wanganella blood. Highly regarded at the time, esteemed studs such as Uardry, Koonawarra and Pemcaw can trace their origins back to the Murgha dispersal sale. The sheep have been joined to Merryville medium types and are like a separate family in the Merryville medium type.

Average of Adult Ewes

19.0 mic

7.4 kg cut/hd

Sires Used:

Sons of East Mundulla

19.4 mic

East Mundulla by WA Purple (contains Merryville blood) out of a Collinsville Olympic ewe (Merryville background)

Magnussen Syndicate

18.5 mic

Medium Wool Ram Sydney 2013. Top performer in Sire Evaluation Trials

POLL MERINOS

The type and style of the Merryville Poll Merino sheep mirror the Merryville horned types and families

SUPERFINE

Average of Adult Ewes

Sire Used:

P17.6

17.6 mic

Grand Champion Super Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram Sydney 2022. Cut 12.0kg

Ringmaster Poll

17.2 mic

Otway Falkiner Perptual Trophy group Sydney 2022. Cut 11kg

FINE

Average of Adult Ewes

19.0 mic

6.5 kg cut/hd

Sire Used:

Uniform Poll 14th (Bolte)

17.3 mic

Champion Fine Wool Poll and Grand Champion Poll in Sydney 2019. Second in his Objective Measurement class with a fleece weight of 13.2kg valued at \$254.2. Sired the Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Merino Ram Sydney 2023. Sired the winner of the Ram Production Class Sydney 2023

OM Performance

19.3 mic

Winner of the Ram Production Class Sydney 2023, Cut 16.5 kg

FINE/MEDIUM

Average of Adult Ewes

19.3 mic

6.8 kg cut/hd

Sires Used:

Uniform Poll 17th

17.8 mic

TW7.63

18.6 mic

Purchased in Adelaide. Sired top-priced Ram 2022 Bendigo \$20,000. Sired Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ram Sydney 2023

Merryville Regal

18.5 mic

Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram Sydney 2022. Cut 15.2kg

Merryville Poll Merinos

The Merryville Poll Merino Stud continues to perform at the highest levels achieving the Grand Champion Ultrafine Wool Poll Merino Ram and the Grand Champion Fine Medium Wool Poll Merino Ewe at the 2026 Sydney Royal Show. These results build upon our awards from 2025 of the Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Merino Ewe, the Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ewe and the Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Merino Ewe.

At the 2023 Sydney Royal Show we exhibited the Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Merino Ram, the Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ewe and the Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Merino Ram. We also repeated our success of 2022 by winning the Otway Falkiner Cup for a group of Five Poll Merino sheep. These awards earned Merryville the Most Successful March Shorn Poll Merino Exhibitor of the show.

Our Reserve Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram placed first in the Ram Production class. This ram cut 16.5kgs at 19.3 micron with a yield of 74.2% and the highest fleece value of the competition at \$185.09. A Merryville Poll Merino was first in the Ewe Production class and was the highest scoring ewe of the Ewe Production classes. This ewe was the Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ewe.

Merryville Bolte sired both our Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Merino Ram and the Ram Production class winner/Reserve Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram.

Merryville was pleased to be awarded the Otway Falkiner Perpetual Cup for the Best Exhibit of Five Poll Merino Sheep in Sydney 2022. A Superfine Wool Poll Merino Ram, ‘Ringmaster Poll,’ was a part of this group and is now a Poll Sire for Merryville. He cut 11kg of wool at 17.2-micron.

We also now have a dual-purpose line for those who want to do fine wool Merino lamb production. Our sire Merryville Regal was Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram in Sydney 2021. He weighed 155kg at 2yo and cut 15.2kg at 18.5-micron.

Covid caused the cancellation of the 2020 Sydney Royal Show, but Merryville returned in 2021 with great success in the Poll Merino classes. After claiming the Grand

Champion Superfine Wool Poll Merino Ewe, Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram, and Ewe and then the Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Merino Ram, Merryville was awarded the Most Successful March Shorn Poll Merino Exhibitor.

Merryville was awarded the Most Successful March Shorn Poll Merino Exhibitor in Sydney 2019. “Merryville Bolte” contributed to this success being awarded the Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram and then the Grand Champion Poll Merino Ram. This ram also placed second in the 6 teeth and over Ram Objective Measurement class. His results included a 13.2kg FWT, 17.3-micron fleece valued at \$254.23. The 122kg ram had the second highest fleece value and third highest EMA.

Merryville Poll Merino Stud exhibited two grand champions in Sydney 2018 with the Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Ram earlier judged champion March-shorn and growing 18.4-micron wool with a 2.8-micron SD, 15.2pc CV and 99.8pc CF.

At the 2017 Sydney Royal Easter Show ‘Merryville Cas’ was the Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ram. This poll ram went on the win his Objective Measurement class cutting 15.8kg at 18.1 micron. No poll ram has ever cut this sort of weight at this micron.

Merryville Poll Stud’s results at the 2016 Sydney Royal Easter Show included the Most Successful Exhibitor in March Shorn Poll Merino Section, Grand Champion Poll Ewe, Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Ewe, Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ewe and Junior Champion March Shorn Poll Ewe. In the Objective Measurement class, a Merryville 2 tooth poll ram had the highest eye muscle depth at 40.0 mm, with a fat depth of 3 mm.

In the Objective Measurement class at the 2015 Sydney Royal Show, Merryville’s Junior Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ram placed third with a 19.5-micron fleece. This was the highest yielding and most valuable fleece of the class at 82.1% and \$125.39, respectively.

Merryville is continuing to strengthen the genetics of its Poll Merino Stud.

Performance & Production

Increasingly shows are including Performance Classes in their schedules to give a more objective view of a sheep’s value. These Performance Classes use objective measurement for both wool and meat, looking at Frame & Confirmation, Body Weight, Fat Depth, Eye Muscle Depth, Staple Strength, Coefficient of Variation and Fleece Value.

Merryville Stud has proven the profitability of both its rams and ewes in the Objective Measurement Classes at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in recent years.

Performance & Production Continued ...

Merryville continued their success in the Performance classes in Sydney 2025:

Merino & Poll Merino Ram		Micron	Cut	Fleece Value	Yield	EM	Fat	BW
1st	Merryville Highest scoring Merino Ewe Highest Eye Muscle	18.1	11kg	\$136.03	80.1%	39	9	80.5kg
2nd	Merryville Poll Highest scoring Poll Merino Eve	17.1	9.9kg	\$126.06	79.2%	35	8	85kg
3rd	Merryville	17.5	10.1kg	\$125.85	78.4%	36	7	82kg

Merryville placed first, second and third in both the Ram and Ewe Merino Production classes in Sydney 2023 with these impressive results:

Merino & Poll Merino Ram		Micron	Cut	Fleece Value	Yield
1st	Highest scoring Ram of Ram Production classes Highest fleece value of all Production classes Reserve Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram Champion Fine Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ram	19.3	16.5kg	\$185.09	74.2%
2nd	Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Merino Ram Champion Fine/Medium Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ram	19.2	13.5kg	\$169.09	81.5%
3rd	Placed 3rd Fine Wool March Shorn Merino Ram	17.6	12kg	\$174.00	78.5%

Merino & Poll Merino Ram		Micron	Cut	Fleece Value	Yield
1st	Highest scoring Ewe of Ewe Production classes Highest fleece value of Ewe Production classes Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ewe Champion Fine Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ewe	17.1	10.5kg	\$156.92	82.0%
2nd	2nd Ultrafine Wool March Shorn Ewe 6 teeth & over	16.2	8kg	\$128.88	79.9%
3rd	Reserve Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Merino Ewe Champion Superfine Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ewe	16.5	10kg	\$156.26	76.1%

The fleece yields of the 3 Merryville entries in the Production Classes in Sydney 2022 were of merit. In the Merino or Poll Merino Ram, 6 teeth and over class, a Fine/Medium wool ram had the highest yield of the class at 80.0%. Another Merryville ram in that class had a yield of 76.6% while a Poll Merino Ewe in her 6 teeth and over class had an impressive yield of 81.8%, the highest of all the production class entries.

Merryville’s Reserve Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ewe in Sydney 2021 also competed in the Merino and Poll Merino Ewe Production 2 to 4 tooth class. This ewe had the highest poll merino fleece weight. Her fleece yield was 76.1%, micron 17.5, SD 2.9, CV 16.6 and CF 99.7

In 2019 Merryville placed second in the 2 to 4 tooth Ram Objective Measurement class with a 15.5kg FWT, 17.6-micron fleece valued at \$261.51. This ram was the heaviest cutting 17- micron ram, had the highest subjective points and the third highest fleece value in the class. Along with Merryville Bolte’s success in the OM class, another Merryville Medium Wool Poll Ram had the highest EMA and fourth highest fleece cut of the class.

In 2017 a Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ram was the winner of the OM 6 tooth &Over Ram class. ‘Merryville Cas’ cut 15.8kg of 18.1-micron fleece at a yield of 83.5% for a total fleece value of \$277. The 121kg ram had an eye muscle depth of 32mm.

In the Sydney 2016 Objective Measurement 2 to 4 tooth class, Merryville had the second highest fleece value for ‘Merryville 14’ (the Supreme Merino Exhibit) with a 15.4kg, 18.5- micron fleece with a yield of 72%. A Merryville 2 tooth poll ram had the highest eye muscle depth at 40.0 mm and a fat depth of 3 mm. This ram also had the second highest poll fleece value of the class.

In Sydney 2015 ‘Merryville EM Cas’ placed second in the Ram 6 tooth and over class with a 125.5kg ram with 18.8-micron wool, a fleece yield of 74.9% and fleece value of \$138.06. A younger poll ram in the 2 to 4 tooth class placed third in his class. With a 19.5-micron fleece this was the highest yielding and most valuable fleece of the class at 82.1% and \$125.39, respectively. In the 2 to 4 tooth Ewe class Merryville secured second place with a 17.7 micron, 12.5kg fleece valued at \$108.23.

Merryville Stud recorded a record wool weight of 18.36kg in the performance class of the 2015 Dubbo Show and Sale. The ram won the class with a micron of 17.8, SD of 2.9, CV of 16.8% and CF of 99.8%. The fleece was valued at \$155.33 and received 160 points from a possible 160 for the fleece value. The eye muscle depth and fat depth also obtained maximum points.

The Objective Measurement Class for Rams 6 tooth and over at Sydney in 2013 was won by a Fine/Medium ram from the Merryville Uniform family during his first showing. This ram weighed 113.5kg after shearing a 12.4kg fleece of 18.1-micron wool yielding 75.2% and valued at \$116.66. The ram’s total value was \$409.00 and its eye muscle measured 42mm with a fat depth of 4.2mm. This eye muscle measurement was the highest in the class. Merryville’s entry in the Ram 2 to 4 tooth class also had the highest eye muscle measurement of 41mm.

Merryville won the Objective Measurement Class at Dubbo in 2013 with a ram cutting 14.6kg wool with a micron of 17.4 and 139kg body weight. The ram scored a perfect score for his fleece which was valued at \$126.44. This follows on from Merryville’s Castellon ram which cut 14.8kg at 19.2 micron in 2012.

In 2012 in the performance classes at Sydney Merryville placed 1st and 3rd with two rams. The prize-winning ram was a 4 tooth while Merryville’s 6 tooth ram came third. Both rams scored top in their class for eye muscle depth.

Vale

Stuart Beveridge OAM



This year we saw the passing of Stuart Beveridge OAM who has been a friend and a mentor to me all my life in the Merino Stud industry.

I was very honoured to be asked to present Stuart with his life membership to the Australian Association of Stud Merino Breeders at the 2019 Merino National Show in Dubbo.

Stuart never used his positions for any personal gain and always acted in the best interests of the Stud Merino Industry and will be sorely missed.



Owen “Max” Maxwell Rayner

In October 2025 we saw the passing of Max who, with his family, have been clients and friends over many years of my time in the industry.

Max, with the help of Gai and Andrew, conducted the successful Grathlyn Merino Stud. He served on several boards including the NSW Stud Merino Breeders’ Association for many years.

Andrew advises me that the progeny of the last sheep he bought from us heads their team for this year’s Bendigo Show. A great legacy for both of us.



Craig Heath

In December 2025 Craig tragically died in a farming accident in western Victoria.

His father, Glenn, was a client of ours in the Gippsland region. Craig moved to our area in Boorowa and managed the Narra Allen Station for six years and married Caroline Wells. During this time our friendship increased to the extent where Tina is the Godmother of young Angus.

Craig was a great support for Caroline and Ross in the running of the Willandra Merino Stud and would have been extremely proud of the success that Angus and Ross achieved at the recent Bendigo Show.

Our sympathies go out to Caroline and the family.



Peter Acyroyd

I have recently been advised of the death of Peter Ackroyd.

Peter, or Lord Peter, as we used to call him, was an Advisor for AWI on one of our first Marketing programs, being the Campaign for Wool.

Through Peter’s influence, he brought royal patronage and the story of the sustainable properties of wool production to the public.

He will be sadly missed in the industry.

FLOCK RAMS

- Free delivery in most areas.
- All Sheep vaccinated.
- Available Mid- September.
- In all grades to suit your stud or flock.

SIR W. MERINO - WOOL, WORN EVERY DAY

When people ask why I started Sir W. Merino, the answer is that I grew up admiring the fibre and the industry around it. The sheep shows, the yards, shearing shed, ram sales, mustering with Dad - Merino has been the family trade for close to 150 years, since long before I came along. But growing up, I hardly had any Merino to wear. When I got my first Merino t-shirt as a sample from Woolmark, and wore it day after day with no smell, I knew this was something I had to do.

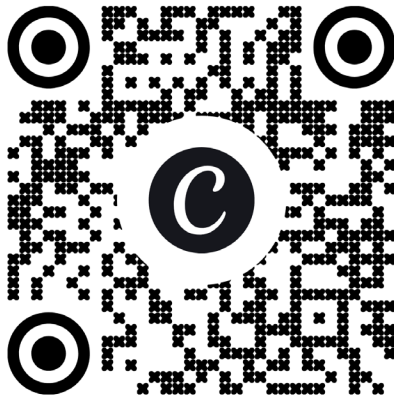
So in 2022, from my bedroom in Austin, Texas, I started Sir W. Merino - a small clothing brand built to put Australian Merino into shirts people can live in. Polos, button-ups and tees that work just as well travelling or at the office as they do on a weekend.

The name is a nod to where it all began. Merryville was founded by Sir Walter, so - "Sir W." is for him. It felt right that a brand built on our family's history with wool should carry his name.

What makes Sir W. different is simple: we're not a fashion label that discovered Merino, Sir W. is a woolgrower that decided to make something with it. Many big brands just use Merino when they feel like it, sometimes not at all in certain years; we focus on Merino full time.

As for what's next - the goal is to keep growing steadily, introduce Sir W. to more people (particularly here in the States, where Merino is still a well-kept secret), and keep flying the flag for Australian wool a long way from home.

Learn more at sirwmerino.com



What growers should watch heading into December 2026

Australian wool growers are heading into 2026/27 with supply once again shaping as the key driver of price. For Merino producers, particularly those offering 18 micron and finer wool, tight supply conditions are likely to put more pricing power in growers' hands, with these finer clips expected to outperform broader types. With the contraction of supply, rather than relying on one selling day or one market channel for the whole clip, a more balanced approach is likely to deliver better returns. Growers should consider spreading wool sales across auction, private dealer channels, direct exporter arrangements and forward selling where suitable. Auctioning up to around 80% of the clip may be sensible, rather than placing the full year's work into a single sale.

The long-range outlook whereby producers focus on lamb production while maintaining a Merino flock base, means wool prices would likely remain elevated.

Conversely a decision to produce more wool does not automatically mean earning more. A 10% lift in wool production could place enough pressure on prices to reduce overall gross returns. Prices would be more likely to ease if producers shift back towards expanding wool production in response to today's higher prices. Even then, the market is not expected to return to the lows seen in the previous cycle.

It is interesting to note that with record-low sheep numbers heading into 2026/27 making a lift in wool production unlikely. In theory this should support fine wool prices, particularly if demand holds near current levels. The overall probability points to an unchanged to higher market by December 2026, with a stronger bias for finer Merino types. Growers are encouraged to focus on timing, market choice and risk management rather than simply chasing more production.

Wishing everyone a great Spring/Summer season.

Mark Quartermain
Wool and Livestock Representative
Fox & Lillie Rural