



Dorper Sheep Society of Australia Inc.

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Western Region News

16th March 2015

NB: If this doesn't present as a clearly formatted table, try using "html" instead of "plain text" to format your email.

OR – use the pdf attached to this email

Otherwise contact Jill Wilson for advice or a different version - or just read it on the DSSA website

There are some attachments - If you are accessing the newsletter online .. just ask someone for the attachments if you want any of them

Great Wagin Woolorama

Wagin Woolorama (6/7 Mar) was a great event for Dorpers again this year. The show judge for Dorpers was Graeme Collins of Merribrook White Dorper stud in Milloo Victoria. There were 4 white dorper studs exhibiting and 5 dorper studs. This was an increase for D & WD while other breeds decreased. There was a great report in the Farm Weekly liftout last week, and there are also pictures on the society's Facebook page. All exhibitors went home with a ribbon, but the Whites were dominated by Riverside (Tim Stevenson) who won both Champion WD Ewe and Champion WD Ram. Champion Ram (and Grand Champion) was from Kaya (Adrian Veitch) and Champion Ewe from Dorper Stud Park (Loxley and Richard Fedec).

There was also a good Western Region meeting at Wagin .. you will already have received the minutes. There was a lot of discussion about a potential Western sale in Katanning in August lots of info about this below.

Katanning Sheep Expo 20/21 August - and potential Western sale

COLLIN HAS QUESTIONS FOR YOU BELOW – PLEASE GET BACK TO HIM!

Loxley Fedec and Collin Jeffery attended a meeting in Katanning last week to discuss the WA Sheep Expo. Here is a summary of his comments:

The Merino Breeders have agreed to provide seed funding again this year to the tune of \$25,000 so that the event can be sure of being able to fund the core requirements. As they did last year, The Merino people will supply personnel to administer the event and they will recover their costs from the overall revenue generated. They emphasise that this event is not a money making exercise for them and that they do not set out to make a profit. Rabo Bank is the major sponsor.

The event is planned for Thursday 20th and Friday 21st August; all sheep to be penned by 11.00am on the Thursday.

Quotes are being called for such items as Marquee hire. A marquee 10 x 74 M – for 34 sites has been planned but may need to be extended. The more sites, the lower the cost to individuals - \$800 per site is the current price but this is likely to come lower. Dorper and White Dorper breeders have already indicated the need for 10 to 12 sites. Whilst these are not firm commitments, it is highly likely that we will end up with at least that number of participants; which will provide a really good display of our Breed.

The rough budget for this event includes provision for \$4000 spending on advertising which will be matched by the Merino breeders and so press advertising will be to the extent of \$8000.

We have also agreed that \$25 from each site hire will be used towards the purchase of a loading ramp and this will be repeated each year until we have several and no longer have to rely on being able to borrow them.

Each Breed will be providing a lamb which will be slaughtered at WAMMCO and the chops BBQ'd at the event so that people can compare the taste of the products, the remainder of the carcasses will be auctioned with returns being donated to a charity.

Everyone will be invited to attend a cocktail party on the Thursday night with high profile guest speakers to be involved

For those who would like to engage in a little competition, Roy Addis (Landmark) is to attract sponsorship for an interbreed class of two rams (up to 2 tooth) – with cash prizes.

Potential Dorper Sale at Katanning

The Woolorama meeting considered the inclusion of a sale at Katanning and whilst they were all keen, they were reticent about holding the sale without other breeds being involved. At the Katanning meeting the Poll Dorset people indicated that their current focus was on the Perth Royal Show Sale, the Suffolks have a sale organised for Northam and so they are not expected to participate in a sale this year. The SAMMs would not take very much persuading and nor would the White Suffolk breeders.

Demand for Dorpers and White Dorpers is strong at present and Katanning would be an opportunity to hold a sale of high quality sheep. To participate in a sale it will be a requirement that you take a site at the Expo; the sale of a couple of your good rams or ewes could considerably offset the costs involved in attending. There will always be risk involved in conducting a sale but with there is a strong outlook for sheep meat it could be very worthwhile. A sale will attract more people to the event and contribute to the overall success.

An alternative venue for a sale is at the Perth Royal Show. We are, at present, trying to persuade the RASWA committee to find room for us in the second half of the Show (the Meat Sheep Section). To be part of the RASWA Sale and not be included in the second week is not likely to work. The RASWA committee has not been able to find a way of accommodating us yet but they have been asked to give further consideration to this matter. In terms of desirability of this venue; it has good facilities, the sale is run by the RASWA and the Agents and it is reasonably central for general access. To participate in the Sale it is a requirement that you must compete in the Show. This is a four day commitment and is not negotiable. In recent years the clearance rate of the breeds that are involved at the Royal Perth Show Sale have not been outstanding.

There are questions that we NEED YOUR responses to:

1. **Are you interested in participating in the WA Sheep Expo?**
2. **If you are intending to participate in the WA Sheep Expo, would you like to compete in the pair of rams competition (first prize could be in the order of \$1500 – not finalised yet though)?**
3. **Do you support the concept of holding a sale at the WA Sheep Expo?**
4. **Should a sale be organised for this year?**
5. **Would you support a sale at the Royal Perth Show?**

REPLY TO COLLIN – CONTACTS BELOW

It is very important that you take a couple of moments to respond to the above questions so that a representative sample of those wanting to be involved can be assessed.

Join us on Social Media – Facebook and Twitter

FACEBOOK: The society page name is Dorper Sheep Society of Australia Inc. There is also a Facebook page for the Western Region. You can send info through to the secretariat for the national one, or to Kyle (contacts below) for the Western one. It's a good way to get our message out, so join up and send in any news or pics!

TWITTER: Our tag: [@dorpersheepaus](https://twitter.com/dorpersheepaus) Twitter can be really good for sharing quick news and comments. Try it! You can also upload pictures really easily. Jill is managing the account for the Board at the moment and is happy to hear your comments or ideas.

Board matters – do you have anything you want to raise??

Tim and Jill are always happy to discuss Board issues with you, contacts below.

CONTACTS

Collin Jeffery, WA President: 08 9761 1806 0427611806 collin@bridgetowndorpers.com

Kyle Brits, WA Secretary: 0437 616 890 kylebrits@hotmail.com

Jill Wilson, National Board Rep: 0429 087 172 lumaniwhitedorpers@bigpond.com (also Dorper News or newsletter issues)

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