



# Dorper Sheep Society of Australia Inc.

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## Western Region News

8<sup>th</sup> May 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

### Perth Royal Show – Dorper showing now at end so that you can enter the sale

Collin has done some great work organising with the RASWA for the Dorpers to be moved to the end of the show ... now with the "meat breeds" instead of merinos ... Tue 29Sep – Fri 2 Oct. This re-scheduling also enables us to access the Royal Show's Ram and Ewe Sale at the end of the same week.

Penning will be on the afternoon of Tue 29<sup>th</sup> Sep, Inspection 10am and Judging from 2pm on Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Sep, All Breeds presentation on Thur 1<sup>st</sup> Oct, and ram and ewe sale at 1pm on Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct.

Notes from Collin:

- It will be essential for those who wish to sell ewes or rams at the RAS Sale to include the sale sheep as part of their show team. The only exception to this rule applies to the various judges who may enter sale sheep and have them on display and yet, for obvious reasons, their sheep will not be included in the Show.
- To access the sale (ewes, rams or both) a member will need to obtain a show schedule and enter the sale sheep in the appropriate categories as show exhibits. This may just be one sheep or it could be several; that's up to the individual.
- It is possible that we, as breeders, may enjoy a much better attended show as a result of the opportunity to sell at the RAS Sale; please give this some serious thought.
- Collin Jeffery will be judging the Dorpers and White Dorpers this year.

### Stewards – volunteers needed!

Collin is keen for 2 or 3 people to put their hand up to act as stewards for the show on the afternoon of Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Sep. Contact Collin to volunteer. You can still show sheep if you are a steward.

### Katanning Sheep Expo Thur 20 / Fri 21 August

Also from Collin:

There will not be a sale this year at the WA Sheep Expo at Katanning, but it is hoped that within a couple of years it will be a major venue for a multi-breed sale.

However, the Katanning Sheep Expo provides members with opportunity to display examples of their sheep and sell genetic material &/or sheep by private treaty. It is an event aimed at promoting the entire Sheep Industry and is open to all breeds, sheep industry suppliers and service providers. The event will not include other distractions such as Side Show Alley or large WOW-factor machinery; the emphasis will be on sheep.

Sites will be available to display within a big marquee that will be sectioned into bays down each side of the central walkway. The sites will be 5 metres wide and 4 metres deep. The cost of each site has not been finalised and will depend upon numbers of participants (the more there are, the lower the cost) and various sponsorships. Participation costs will include the site, sheep bedding (not pens) promotional activity directly about the WA Sheep Expo & also in conjunction with the Merino Week. Our Society will also undertake some promotion of the breed and the members who commit to attend. It is a prestigious event with the emphasis on quality.

The enthusiasm shown earlier this year suggests that members will take up at least 10 sites and this will make an impressive display of Dorpers and White Dorpers.

As further information becomes available, we will pass it in to the membership.

### Regional AGM – early to mid August – keep it in mind

The National AGM will be held at Dubbo this year to coincide with the National Sale on 1<sup>st</sup> September. For constitutional reasons we need to hold our Regional AGM 2 - 8 weeks prior to the National AGM – ie between the end of July and about 18<sup>th</sup> August. The date and venue TBA.

At our local AGM all positions will be made vacant and nominees called to fill the positions of President, Vice President and Secretary, plus a number of committee members. Please consider nominating or your preferred nominees. (*Collin says he's keen to do something other than President over the next term .. so someone else step up and give it a go! - JW*)

There will also be 1 x National Board membership for a two year period due to be elected.

Note from Jill on the National Board position:

*This is the position I have held for the last ~3 years – I am happy to continue ... but I am also happy to stand down if there is someone keen to do it. I have found it enjoyable ... and you might too. It involves about 2 face-to-face meetings a year and several teleconferences ... plus a willingness to use your brain (and occasionally brawn) for the services of the society. If you are interested in finances, strategy, marketing, corporate management, shows, classing, breed standards, lambplan, animal husbandry ... etc etc ... or just Dorpers!!! think about giving it a go. Let Jill, Collin or Tim know if you are interested and we can fill you in more.*

## Courses

A few dorper courses are planned for this year. They are not yet finalised, so this is just a “heads up” so that you can plan:

### **Northern NSW – late July 2015**

Amarula have nominated to conduct a course at their property “Glenavon” at Gravesend, with Justin Kirby and Freddie Dreyer (Namibia) as course leaders - probably around 27-30<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Southern NSW / Vic – early September 2015**

Andrea van Niekerk of Dell Dorpers & African & Dumisa White Dorpers is planning a course (Junior & Senior) from Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The instructor will be Mr Rickus Van Der Merwe (South Africa). At Moama, NSW on the NSW/Vic border.

### **WA – possibly September**

Adrian Veitch of Kaya in Narrogin is hoping to conduct a course this year too – Junior, Senior & Judges exams. He was thinking of July with Freddie Dreyer but may need to change it to September, maybe with Rickus Van Der Merwe. Adrian would like to hear from you if you are interested as he would like to gauge numbers. His contacts are: 0427 948 339 [adrian@allstockwa.com.au](mailto:adrian@allstockwa.com.au)

### **For anyone new, below is an explanation of the different courses**

#### **Junior Course – suitable for beginners**

The junior course is run over 4 or 5 days and participants can expect to spend about 40% of the time in the classroom on theory and 60% of the time in the yards looking at sheep. There is a theory exam at the end of the week and a practical test which involves ranking Rams and ewes using the Dorper Breed Standard.

#### **Senior Course – for those who have passed the junior course**

The senior course is exactly the same format as the Junior course and people may attempt the senior course only after passing the Junior course. The difference is in the practical exam which involves a far more rigorous testing of one's ability to place functionally sound sheep in the correct order and correctly identify animals with undesirable faults according to the breed standard.

#### **Judges – you can become a judge after passing 2 senior courses and a judges exam**

Judges are qualified to be appointed by the Dorper Society Board after successfully completing two senior courses and a Judges exam.

#### **Inspectors – chosen from qualified judges**

Inspectors are chosen from Judges by the Dorper Society Board from qualified Judges. Inspectors are able to class animals according to the Breed Standard.

Courses are hosted by members of the Dorper Society who have enough animals and the appropriate facilities to ensure a good education experience. The courses are run by Inspectors approved by the Dorper Society.

## Reminders

### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Dorper Liftout in National Rural Press**

If you haven't yet advertised there are a few places left – contact the secretariat, contacts above

### **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July - Dorper Sheep Society of Australia National Show**

Venue: Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo VIC Click on the following for more information:

[Schedule for the National Show and the Southern Region Sale](#)

[Accommodation in Bendigo](#)

[National Sheep Health Statement](#)

## **Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd - Dorper Sheep Society of Australia National Sale**

& incorporating information sessions, and the DSSA national AGM

Venue: Dubbo Showground NSW

More information to follow

You can always catch up on planned events by checking at

[http://www.dorper.com.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=19&Itemid=53](http://www.dorper.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19&Itemid=53)

## **Regional Forums on Lambplan – one in York planned but no date set yet**

Sheep Genetics is once again holding Lambplan updates around the country. Topics:

- How is an ASBV calculated
- What is an index, and how to understand indexes
- How to use the website including uploading Dashboard and uploading your sale and semen catalogues and printing pen cards
- Data quality
- How to get management grouping right

They will be in June in Qld, NSW, Vic & SA - one is also planned for York WA but the date and venue are not yet set. Forums cost \$33 inc GST per business unit. If you are interested contact [info@sheepgenetics.org.au](mailto:info@sheepgenetics.org.au)

## **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](mailto:collin@bridgetowndorpers.com)

**Kyle Brits, WA Secretary:** 0437 616 890 [kylebrits@hotmail.com](mailto:kylebrits@hotmail.com)

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

**Tim Stevenson, National Board Rep:** 0427 008 096 [timandsteph@westnet.com.au](mailto:timandsteph@westnet.com.au)

