

## Turning heads at Seymour Alternative Farming Expo 2016

The Seymour Alternative Farming Expo was on again this year from Friday 19 till Sunday 21 February and the Southern Region had our marquee set up promoting the breed and members studs. This is the first year I have helped out at the expo and I was lucky enough to be accompanied by other southern region members: Jacinta from Kerardo Valley, Shaelene from Kyolna Park and Jenny from Olsen Park. Apart from the lack of rain, the weather was fantastic all weekend which helped with the festive atmosphere of the event.

There was quite a bit of interest in our Dorpers and White Dorpers at the event. I had two radio interviews and there was normally always one or two people asking questions at our stand. Our breeds, being low maintenance and high yielding, are arguably the most suitable for hobbyists so not surprisingly we had lots of interest from that group of people. It is exactly the same breed characteristics that make Dorpers a great commercial sheep as well, so I was happy to see growing interest displayed from commercial producers with a number of “thinking about making the change” and “I have heard some good things about these guys” discussions taking place.

I brought Dorpers for the display and Jacinta and Shaelene brought Whites. Having good animals there really helped turn a lot of heads and get some conversations started. People noted the length and depth of muscling of the animals and were not at all surprised that they would have such a high yielding carcass. Talking about the fertility and annual lambing percentages possible with the breed really wowed a few people. I pulled my animals out of the paddock the night before and while they are good shedders it was helpful having natural looking sheep there.

It's always enjoyable talking to people about something I love and the chance to do it for three days was a bit of a treat. What made it better was that it was clear that the people we spoke to were genuinely impressed with the breed. All in all it was positive for the breeds as well as an enjoyable weekend. A special thanks to Jacinta, Shaelene and Jenny who were great company and fantastic ambassadors and Rebecca Dalla for sorting out all the logistics and expo arrangements.

**David Ambrens**  
*Split Rock Dorpers*



Your Southern Region Representatives:

**Southern Region President:**

Bruno Trazzera

**Southern Region Vice President:**

Andrea Van Niekerk

**General Committee Members:** Jenny Hewitt, Shaelene Knight, Emma Davis.

**Federal Board Representatives:**

Rod Chalmers & David Hewitt

**Secretary & Treasurer:**

Rebecca Dalla

**Events Committee:**

**Chair-** Bruno Trazzera

**Events Members:** David Hewitt, Andrea Van Niekerk, Shaelene Knight, Emma Davis, Jacinta Contardo, Brad McIntosh, Chris Evans and Poss Scholz

# Events around the region:

## JUNE-

15-17<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**Holbrook Sheep and Wool Fair NSW**

**Dorpers & White Dorpers are the feature breed**

Enquiries - Shirley Breasley 02 6036 2317

## JULY-

15-17<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**DSSA National Show held at Australian Sheep and Wool Show Bendigo, VIC**

Enquiries – [www.sheepshow.com](http://www.sheepshow.com) [www.dorper.com.au](http://www.dorper.com.au)

15<sup>th</sup>- White Dorper judging followed by sale inspections & pizza night

16<sup>th</sup>- Dorper judging followed by annual dinner- location to be advised

17<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Southern Region Supreme Dorper and White Dorper Sale Bendigo, VIC**

Enquiries – Bruno Trazzera [bctrazzera@bigpond.com](mailto:bctrazzera@bigpond.com)

## AUGUST-

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> August

**Hamilton SheepVention VIC**

**DSSA holding promotional stand at this event**

Enquiries - <http://www.hamiltonshowgrounds.com.au>

10-12<sup>th</sup> August

**LambEX Albury NSW**

[www.lambex.com.au](http://www.lambex.com.au)

30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> August

**DSSA NATIONAL SALE Dubbo, NSW**

Enquiries – [www.dorper.com.au](http://www.dorper.com.au) z

## OCTOBER-

4-6<sup>th</sup> October

**Elmore Field Days, VIC**

DSSA holding promotional stand at this event

Enquiries - [www.elmorefielddays.com.au](http://www.elmorefielddays.com.au)

Wangarratta Show 9 + 10

<http://wagarattashow.org.au/>

Mildura Show, 13 -15<sup>th</sup> <http://www.mildurashow.org.au/>

Benalla Show 14 + 15

<http://www.benallashow.com/>

Bendigo Agricultural Show 21 + 22<sup>nd</sup> October

<http://www.bendigoshow.org.au/>

# Agfest 5th, 6th,7th May 2016

## Dorper Sheep Society of Australia - Site: 115



### Dorpers on display at Agfest.

- Herbie's new trick, just for Agfest.
- Mum, Bree and Herbie's sister Helga.
- Dutchess keeping an eye on things.

We were well manned over the three day event, we had members from as far as Victoria to the Derwent Valley near Hobart to help over the three days.

Special thanks to Lorraine and John Banks-Baaramu White Dorpers,

Julie and Doug Parke - Strathmore White Dorpers, both from Victoria.

The locals were:

Janet Ainscow - Chatswood Dorpers.

Jo and Jim Lyall-Brocburn Dorpers.

John and Portia Barnes—Derwent Dorpers.



Agfest had a bumper crowd of 58,285 attend this year and generating more than \$26 million for the state economy. We had plenty of enquiries for all over the country, as a lot of mainland visitors attend the event while holidaying in the state.

Lots of questioned asked and answered, still plenty of interest in both the Dorper and White Dorper. Tasmania has a lot of hobby farmers, they like the fact that either the Dorper or White Dorper are such a low maintenance sheep. Another successful Agfest Dorper Sheep Society Australia Display, this year Paul and I appreciated the company of other breeders who also loved talking about their sheep. See You Next Year, Thanks.

**Liz & Paul Dujmovich, Riverstone Dorper Stud.**

# Farm World

Lardner Park, April 7-10

Four days of Farmworld with no rain! Whilst it was great to have a dry Farmworld, unusually for Gippsland, we really could have done with a good drenching this year. There were huge crowds on all days and our volunteers were kept busy. We would like to thank the following members for giving up their time and preparing sheep for public display.

- Emma Davidson of Bearbung Dorpers, Lardner
- Murray & Linda Cornwall of Bunderra White Dorpers, Thorpdale
- Jean Purcell of Cloverdowns Dorpers, Pearcedale
- Dave Ambrens & Beth of Split Rock Dorpers, Beaconsfield Upper
- Doug & Julie Park of Strathmore White Dorpers, Mirboo North
- Paul, John & Lorraine Banks of Baaramu White Dorpers, Mardan

This years 'Guess the weight of the ram' competition was split into a junior and adult section. The juniors got closest to the mark, within 100gms. It is very well supported and causes much fun as family members are stood beside the ram as a point of comparison.

David's Dorper Ram behaved impeccably over the four days. We were able to introduce a little more drama into the event this year with the ram walked through the scales in the neighboring stand and the event announced over the loud speaker system.

May serious enquiries were fielded and the sheep on display impressed visitors to the stand.

Everyone went home tired and weary, but happy to have flown the flag for Dopers and White Dorpers.

## **Paul Banks of Baaramu White Dorper Stud**

### Notes from the National board-

- Board held a meeting 11-12<sup>th</sup> February in Armidale NSW.
- Nicky Turner has left the EO position and is now in another role, Lisa Burr is her replacement
- The DSSA financial situation has improved with the accounts at that time \$15,000 ahead of previous years
- Board held negotiations with ABRI which led to \$20,000 savings per year
- The GST for the DSSA is going to be centralised instead of each region being separate
- Website for online registrations is undergoing changes to make it easier for ALL regos to go online
- All registration certificates are going to be available to download off the website instead of hard copies sent to members
- Prime Dorper Lamb brand- board is trying to gain traction in market place by inviting joint venture initiatives with processors. Strict rules and regulations will be in place to ensure brand quality assurance.
- DSSA ceased membership with the South African Dorper Society. This doesn't affect members
- Lamb Plan nucleus flocks to create some benchmarking in the Dorper breeds to be created in the near future. DSSA putting \$5000 towards this project

*If you have any enquiries about board matters contact Southern Region Delegates- Rod Chalmers or David Hewitt.*