

JULY 2022

"Haddon Rig"
2358 Marthaguy Road
Warren NSW 2824

Telephone: 02 6847 4405
Mobile: 0429 662 226
Web: www.haddonrig.com.au



HADDONRIG

2022 CALENDAR

AUSTRALIAN SHEEP

& WOOL SHOW:

July 15 – 17 BENDIGO, VIC

MARRA FIELD DAY:

July 22 MARRA HALL

NYNGAN AG EXPO:

August 6 NYNGAN, NSW

DUBBO NATIONAL RAM

SHOW AND DISPLAY:

August 23 – 24 DUBBO, NSW

SOUTH WEST SLOPES

FIELD DAY:

August 30 HARDEN, NSW

HADDON RIG ON-PROPERTY

RAM SALE:

September 8

"HADDON-RIG" WARREN, NSW

Interfaced with



www.haddonrig.com.au

Visit our website for all our updated news and to download upcoming Ram Sale Catalogue.

Dear Merino Breeder,

Haddon Rig has received over 800mm rainfall in the last 12 months, resulting in flooding through our creek system and in the Macquarie River country. This has caused some difficulty with moving sheep and farming activities, including sowing and picking cotton. However, as I say, there is more money in mud than dust, so we'll always take the rain!

With the end of COVID travel restrictions, we are able to get back on the road, having been to Walgett Show and the QLD State Sheep Show at Cunnamulla already this year. We'll be going to all the major events in 2022 including The Australian Sheep and Wool Show – Bendigo, SWS Stud Breeders Merino Field Day – Harden, The National Merino Show and Sale – Dubbo, Marra Creek and The Nyngan Ag Expo so we hope to see you as the stud team travels around the country with our display sheep.

In response to the demand from clients over the last few years, we will be increasing the number of Polls in our On-Property Auction in September to 275 Poll Merino rams and 130 Merino rams. There are some excellent rams for the Sale, including the progeny of PB 190678 purchased from Boonoke in 2020, which is a reflection of the strength of our ET and AI programme.

Australian agriculture continues to perform well, supported by strong commodity prices, a politically stable environment and continued global demand for quality fibre and meat. The EMI sits at around \$15.00/kg while the Merino lamb indicator is at \$7-\$8/kg, which means a return of \$170--\$200/head plus for Merino wethers. Dual purpose sheep still give the highest return per hectare and for DSE.

The industry has a great future if we deal with the short-term problems correctly and before they arise. To keep costs down at Haddon Rig this year, we have invested in improving our sheep yards for labour efficiency while also renovating our historic woolshed with new stands, catching pens and chutes, which all comply with the latest industry guidelines. We have also upgraded our shearers' accommodation, invested in an automatic sheep-jetter (requiring less labour and chemical), drones for water and stock monitoring, remote water sensor telemetry, variable-rate fertilizer and chemical application.

Finally, in April I attended the memorial service for Richard Jago who worked at Haddon Rig for more than 40 years as a Jackaroo, Stud Overseer, Sheep Classer and Stud Representative. The service was attended by many people from the bush, both young and old, who had known this outstanding man. He will be sadly missed by the Haddon Rig crew.

The Falkiner family would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff and all our clients for their hard work and support during a difficult past 12 months. With careful planning and a favourable seasonal outlook we believe agriculture has a strong and prosperous future for us all.

Kind regards,
George Falkiner

STUD UPDATE ANDY MACLEAN

How fortunate we are at Haddon Rig to be going into our third good season in a row.

The commercial and stud sheep have performed extremely well over the past 12 months.

On completion of our general lamb marking last year, we marked 119% of healthy lambs to ewes joined. Great seasons have presented us with some challenges including worms, flies and some foot abscesses in the pregnant ewes. We have kept in front of the worms with regular faecal egg counts and drenching when needed. The older sheep have handled it very well in big mobs and regular rotations through the summer. Young sheep have had four summer drenches - we had to give them a double knock down on the same day to clean them up and are now worm-free going into the winter.

As mentioned in Stuart's classer's report, we have invested very heavily in the Haddon Rig artificial breeding programme with some excellent results. The more embryo transfer we do, the more we are identifying the elite special stud Poll ewes that produce top quality progeny for our Stud. Out of the 42 top young Poll rams selected for the ram shed this year we have 21 ET rams in the shed. Both Poll and Merino rams look fantastic with the top end over 100kg in May and have been putting on 300g/day for the past month. Due to the consistent green feed and the great lambing last year the paddock rams also look fantastic and will present extremely well come September.

Two prominent sheep scanners have made comment about the above average fertility of the HR-blood Merinos to mutual clients. This is no accident, and it is a simple breeding policy we have focused on since the mid-1970s. A 50-year history of wetting and drying at marking, leading to the culling of dry and lambing and lost ewes added with the valuable post-join scanning in latter

days. Again in 2022, the mixed age Haddon Rig ewes scanned extremely well, 63% twins and 34% singles and only 3% dry after a 6-week joining. Our ewes continue to produce these figures every year.



Stuart Murdoch, Stud Classer & Andy Maclean with HRP 210602

STUD CLASSER REPORT

Our embryo transfer (ET) and artificial insemination (AI) programmes are paying dividends and enabling us to fast-track Haddon Rig's genetic progress. The results have filtered through this year's shedded rams, with 54% of the Polls being ET bred. One of HR's major goals for the ET programme was to have ET-bred daughters being selected as donor ewes. Excitingly, we have achieved that this year. Owing to their elite pedigree and background, these ewes will lift our breeding predictability exponentially and, importantly, allow us to pass on next level genetics to our valued clients.

The elite ET ewes are selected by using a combination of sheep classing, actual measurements, analysis of progeny (through DNA testing and our stud recording programme) as well as their projective ASBVs.

Haddon Rig's commitment to continually advance

Haddon Rig's \$65,000 purchase of Poll Boonoke 190678 has proved to be a shrewd investment by the Falkiner family. He sired 87 ram lambs in 2021 and 13 out of the 39 Polls in the ram shed are his sons. His February 2022 classing breakdown resulted in his

progeny having minimal wastage and breeding heavily towards the top end! Shed: 13%, Reserves: 32%, Auctions: 36%, Sales: 8%, and Culls: 11%.

HR has purchased another draft of stud ewes from Moorundie Park Poll Merino Stud to continue our drive to increase our pure Poll numbers quickly, meeting our clients growing demand and giving you the best quality sire selection possible.

The Moorundie Park Poll Merino Stud ewes have clicked well at Haddon Rig. They are bred by Geoff and Bernadette Davidson of Keith, SA with their focus being on (and closely aligned to ours) early growth rates, high fleece weight, soft white wools, fertility and ability to handle a variety of climates and rainfall.

On top of that, we invested an additional \$80,000 on semen and sires and programmed 1620 Polls and 760 Merinos for the 2022 AI programme.

Stuart Murdoch

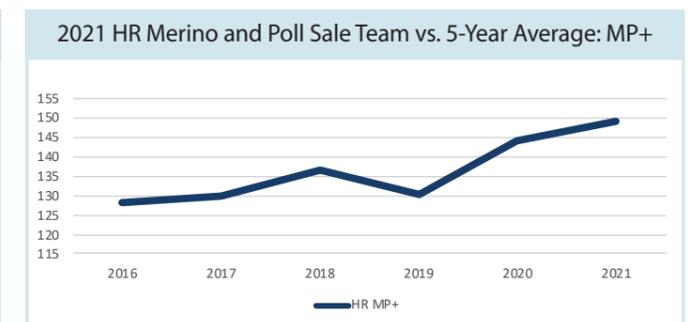
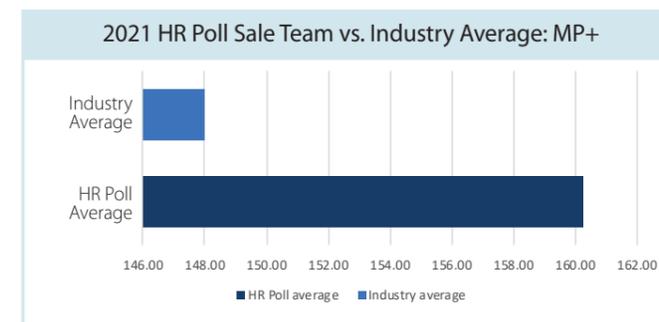
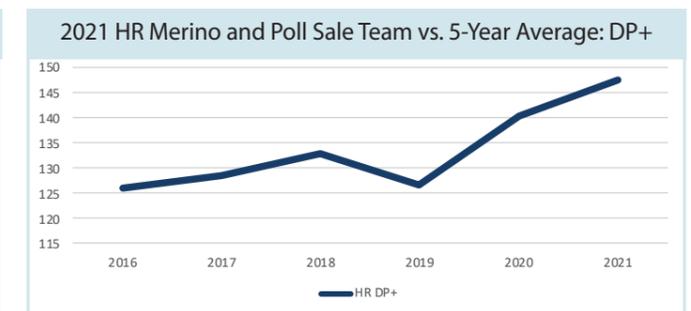
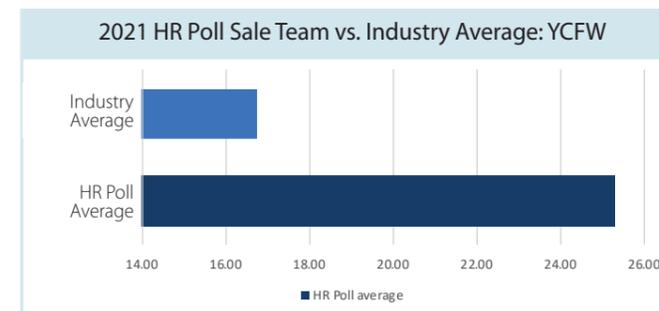
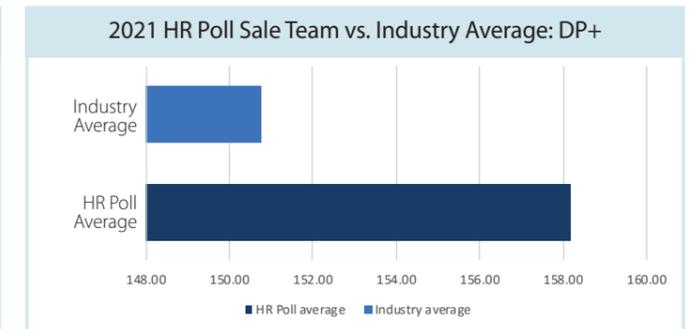
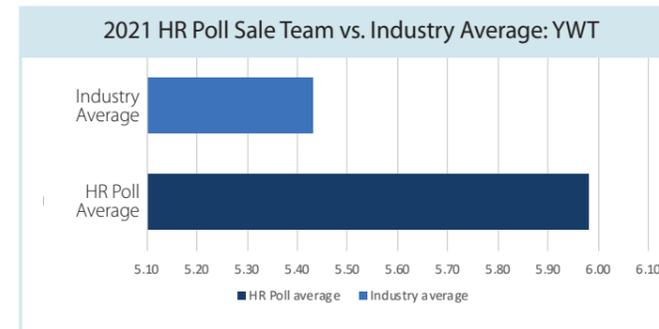
2021 ASBV ANALYSIS

We are pleased to say we have now completed full pedigrees on our Poll Stud and are working with MerinoSelect to track our progress over time and against the broader industry. We are very pleased with the results we are achieving, particularly for Yearling Weight (YWT), Yearling Clean Fleece Weight (YCFW) and both MP+ and DP+ indexes. We believe this a reflection of the strategic genetics and sires we are using as well as the ever-improving accuracy of our information and testing.

The graphs below reflect the averages for our 2021 Sale Team against the 2021 Industry averages, taken from MerinoSelect. As we work to incorporate our traditional breeding traits of

structural correctness, fertility, wool quality and cut and early growth, we are also focussing on improving the following ASBV traits:

- Yearling Weight (YWT)
- Post-Weaning Weight (PWWT)
- Yearling Eye Muscle Depth (YEMD)
- Yearling Clean Fleece Weight (YCFW)



2021 SALE REPORT

A new average record was set at the 2021 annual Haddon Rig Merino and Poll Merino Stud Two-Tooth Ram Sale at Warren on Thursday the 9th of September with a full clearance of 326 rams sold to average \$3047.

Rams reached a top price of \$20,000 for Merino sire HR 200531, sold to James and Jo Morris, Bonanza Merino Stud, Walgett. Bonanza Stud classer Andy McLeod said he selected the 115-kilogram sire for his large frame and correctness.

"He has very correct feet, legs and back with very well nourished and well crimped wool," Mr McLeod said.

The ram was a son of HR 180084, growing 20-micron wool.

Bonanza Stud also purchased the top price Merino ram from the 2020 sale.

A 130-kilogram Poll Merino sire sold for the second-highest price of the day at \$19,000.

HRP 200179 was purchased by the Carrigan family, Tyrone Merino Stud, Gurley, who also purchased last year's top priced Poll Merino ram. The ram tested very well for growth, growing 18.6-micron wool.

Rams sold to a field of 65 registered buyers as well as online active bidders via AuctionsPlus.

Rams sold to Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia.

The Stud doubled its Poll Merino ram numbers this year to offer a total of 327 Merino and Poll Merino rams at auction.

In the breakdown, 129 Merino rams were sold to average \$2759 while 197 Poll Merino rams were sold to average \$3237.

Haddon Rig Stud Principal George Falkiner said they were pleased to see solid buyer numbers at the sale.

"This is the best sale we've ever had, even under these trying conditions of not being able to exhibit the sheep except online," he said. "We're very proud that our continued investments in the best genetics and our efforts to refine our ASBVs whilst maintaining wool quality and size, are paying off. We're grateful to our clients for supporting the Stud and the Falkiner family, despite COVID."

"We're very excited about the future of Merinos and Poll Merinos, buoyed by strong prices for wool and lamb, and look forward to continuing to improve our product to deliver for our clients."

Volume buyers for the day included John Rae, Pentdale Nominees, Quambone who purchased 17 rams to a top of \$4000 and an average of \$2705.

The Kennedy Brothers, Coonamble also purchased 17 rams to a \$4000 top and average of \$2117.

Boridgere Farming, Canowindra purchased 16 rams to a \$5500 top, and average of \$3718.

The sale was conducted by Nutrien Livestock, Dubbo and Warren, and Elders, Dubbo with Paul Dooley, Paul Dooley Pty Ltd, Tamworth, guest auctioneer.

ON FARM UPDATE ROBERT LATHAM

We had a great cotton growing season all the way through, with a few showers over the summer. When it came to picking, we had high hopes but didn't expect the yields that we got.

Our average between both farms at "Boomanulla" and "Braemar" was 15.5 bales per hectare, after ginning. Very happy to see such great results.

In early October 2021, we started planting the 21-22 crop with 550 hectares planted between "Braemar" and "Boomanulla". It was a good growing season with a wet summer.

We are currently trying to pick but struggling to get onto the fields with such a wet April/May.

After a fairly wet start to the dryland planting program, we managed to get all crops planted which included canola, faba beans, lupins, wheat, barley and chickpeas. The mouse plague came through with a vengeance and soon we were spreading bait to try and minimise the numbers - it was hard to know if we were having a win or not!

Canola came off well at the start of harvest, with no rain. The wheat harvest started well but it just wasn't meant to be once the rain started.

We received 210mm of rain from October until the end of January, making a total of 580mm for 2021. On the upside to a long and wet harvest, grain prices remain strong with a good medium-term outlook.

We started harvesting wheat at "Rosewood", Forbes in the middle of January and finished in the middle of February. The average was fairly reasonable considering the crop had shelled out and had fallen over.

The 2022 planting was off to a good start with canola going in from the middle of April. It's now out of the ground and looking reasonable at this stage.

We are currently spreading wheat from the air as it is far too wet to be able to get a planter going. We have had more than 250mm of rain so far this year.

After such a hard and long year, I would like to thank the Haddon Rig team and contractors for putting in such a great effort. All the best for 2022.



HRP 200176



The top price Poll Merino ram of the Annual Two-Tooth Ram Sale was HRP 200176, sold to the Carrigan family, Tyrone Merino Stud, Gurley. Pictured is HR Stud Manager Andy Maclean, HR Principal George Falkiner, Auctioneer Paul Dooley and Brad Wilson, Nutrien Stud Stock.

HRP 200531



The top priced ram of the 2021 Haddon Rig Two-Tooth Ram Sale was HR 200531, sold to James and Jo Morris, Bonanza Merino Stud, Walgett for \$20,000. Pictured is Andy McLeod who purchased on behalf of the Morris family, HR Stud Principal George Falkiner, Auctioneer Paul Dooley and HR Stud Manager Andy Maclean.

IN MEMORIAM RICHARD 'DICK' JAGO



It is with great sadness we write of the passing of Richard 'Dick' Jago.

Dick was an integral part of the Haddon Rig team for 40 years, after coming to Haddon Rig in 1953 as a fresh 20-year-old Jackaroo.

He travelled extensively with Malcolm McLeod, who was HR Sheep Classer at the time.

Following Malcom's retirement in 1971, Dick took over the classing at Haddon Rig.

He bred some of the country's most historic sires, including the 1989 Supreme Exhibit at Dubbo, which sold for \$190,000 to Mike Gore from Queensland - more than four times the previous record for Dubbo.

Two years later, another sire sold for \$160,000 to the Underwood family at St George.

He will be sadly missed by the Haddon Rig team.

An excerpt from Clara Jago's eulogy.

"Dad classed 167 properties and 350,000 sheep a year and hard to believe he never had a bad day at work. He was so frugal he wouldn't buy a car with air-conditioning. Rather he would drive 4-5 hours in 40 degree heat, change his shirt and start the day working. He was a very hard worker all his life and he loved it."

He was sent to Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Brazil, India, NZ and South Africa. He drove 80,000 kms a year so he just loved being home."

Dad had a great love of animals, riding horses as Jackaroos in those early days and a love of the country. Dad's friendships spread across 5 states as his clients were his friends. He had a few special friends, one being Forbes Murdoch - the manager of Haddon Rig at the time. Those two managed to work together for over 40 years and I never heard them argue. They appreciated each other's talents and would even spend hours on the phone after days working together."

Stuart Murdoch then spent a year with Dad working and they became very close. I'm sure Stuart would be able to tell many of Dad's jokes sitting in the car with him for long stretches."

HISTORIC SHEARING SHED RENOVATION



Tom Saunders

One of the many improvements we are making to our infrastructure at Haddon Rig includes the renovation of our historic shearing shed.

The shed was built in 1897, constructed following the burning down of the original shed in shearing strikes in late 1895.

We approached local builder Tom Saunders to take on the project which he accepted, he expects to have this completed within six weeks. We really appreciate all Tom's hard work, he is doing an excellent job and is a great tradesman.

The renovations include:

- New catching pens with tilted drag and two-way gates
- New hardwood board
- Converting six left hand stands to right hand drag
- New pens made of cypress pine milled at Baradine
- Replace 200m² of old Cypress with new plastic floor panelling

We are renovating 11 stands with the aim to have 10 shearers and one learner on the board at each shearing.

It is costing approximately \$15,000 per stand, however we have received positive feedback from our shearing team already regarding the one stand we prototyped last year.

We evaluated pulling it down, however the historic value of the shed and its structural soundness prevailed.

A big shout out to Rob Ryan from Sheep Manure Extraction Services from Coonamble who has done a fantastic job. We recommend Rob and he can be contacted on 0407 495 278.



Rob Ryan and Team



George Fuller

IAN AND BELINDA DUNCAN "TORRAKINA" INVERELL

In wetter than average years, Haddon Rig Merinos have impressed clients Ian and Belinda Duncan.

In 2021, the Duncan's recorded 45 inches of rain for the year.

The Duncan family run 600 ewes at "Torrakina", Inverell where the average rainfall is 30 inches (60% of which falls in summer). This is a far cry from Ian and Belinda's previous life at Isis Downs Merino Stud, Isisford QLD where Ian managed 40,000 Merino ewes on 16 inches of rain and was a regular attendee at Haddon Rig Auctions buying stud rams.

Like many others, the Duncan's destocked during the drought years.

When it was time to boost the numbers again, they purchased a run of quality Haddon Rig blood ewes from long term Haddon Rig clients, the Francis Brothers, "Gobothery", Forbes.

"We bought mixed age scanned-in-lamb ewes and one and half year-old surplus ewes to restock," he said.

"We had everything going against us last year and had some concerns about how they might handle the extreme wet, but we were quite impressed - the Haddon Rig's do handle the weather," Ian said.

The Duncan's are also regulars at the Haddon Rig On-Property Sale, purchasing four rams per year for use at "Torrakina".

They have been selecting their sires with a focus on frame and wool cut, looking for soft, bright, low microning wools to suit their environment.

At the 2022 general shearing in February, the grown sheep averaged 6.5kg with the mixed age ewes testing 18.5 microns and the maidens 18 with a yield of 74%.

At this year's preg-scanning the maiden ewes had the great result of only 2% being dry.

"In our experience, the Haddon Rig rams have a lot more nourishment than others in the industry," Ian said. "We have also found their longevity to be better - our Haddon Rig blood ewes maintain quality wool and character as five and six year old's."

NICHOLLS FAMILY "ILLABUNDA" NYNGAN

In February, the Nicholls family, "Illabunda", Nyngan sold a fantastic draft of 560 Haddon Rig Poll Merino blood ewes for \$336 a head.

They were sold on AuctionsPlus, with enquiry from as far as Nimmitabel in the south as well as plenty of enquiry from local districts.

The ewes were 17-18 months old and cut 4.7kg of 17-9 micron wool in June 2021. They were purchased by a Gilgandra district producer.

FISHER FAMILY "ATHLONE" GULARGAMBONE

The Fisher family have been running a traditional Merino flock at "Athlone", Gulargambone for generations. For more than 70 years the Fisher's have used Haddon Rig genetics to complement their wool operation.

Paul and Annette Fisher along with son Jock and Kirsty run a flock of 4500 self-replacing Merino ewes which they hope to boost to 5000 head. Their ewes are cutting 7-8kg wool per head at March shearing and averaging 20-micron.

They have been selecting big, plain bodied rams with good wool cutting traits.

CLIENT TESTIMONIALS



Merino ewes sold by the Nicholls family, Nyngan
Photos: Phillip Wallace



Paul Fisher with son Jock and grandson Lachlan, "Athlone", Gulargambone at the Warren Show this year where they were awarded Champion Strong Wool Flock Ewe



haddonrig.com.au

Visit our website for all our updated news and to download upcoming Ram Sale Catalogue.

Like us on Facebook: Haddon Rig Merino and Poll Stud 

Follow us on Instagram: #haddonrigstud 

Follow us on Twitter: #haddonrigstud 

OUR TEAM



Hugh Helps, Connor Anderson, Paula Blake, Callum McLean, Andy Maclean & George Falkiner, absent is Kieran Smith



Caroline Coward
Our Chef/Cleaner who looks after everyone on our farm

PRINCIPAL

George Falkiner

M: 0418 474 262
E: george@haddon-rig.com.au

STUD MANAGER

Andy Maclean

M: 0429 662 226
E: andy@haddon-rig.com.au

STUD CLASSER

Stuart Murdoch

M: 0427 437 103
E: stuartmurdoch2@bigpond.com

FARMING MANAGER

Robert Latham

M: 0427 174 271
E: robert@haddon-rig.com.au

OFFICE MANAGER

Paula Blake

T: 02 6847 4405
M: 0439 588 899
E: paula@haddon-rig.com.au

STUD ADVISOR

Andy McLeod

T: 02 6884 9018
M: 0418 465 725
E: cmcleod13@bigpond.com

STUD MASTER

Forbes Murdoch

M: 0429 358 590
E: forbesm2014@gmail.com

STUD REPRESENTATIVES

Paul Kelly

M: 0427 476 367
E: paukelly6@bigpond.com

James Koster

M: 0427 546 873
E: jameskoster@bigpond.com

Scott Thrift

ELDERS STUD STOCK
M: 0417 660 260
E: scott.thrift@elders.com.au

Brad Wilson

NUTRIEN
M: 0417 467 911
E: bradley.wilson@nutrien.com.au